

# Alice Burlingame tribute planned

A tribute to garden writer and horticultural therapy pioneer, Alice Wessels Burlingame, is being planned for the Baldwin Public Library in downtown Birmingham. A bench, tree or a special garden will be constructed to honor this fine lady. Area residents are invited to become involved with this project.

Nursery Inc., in Pontiac, is donating the landscape plan for the library, so the wheels are already in motion. As many of you know, Alice Burlingame, my predecessor, began writing this column in 1948, continuing to do so for 39 years and never missed a deadline. She talked to many garden clubs and other organizations and always inspired those who heard her. She visited schools,

garden with many of the students and extended her enthusiasm to senior citizens. She was an excellent recruiter, got her friends involved with her many activities and believed that one should never be lonely — there was always the garden in which to dig or a houseplant that needed care. She often remarked that horticultural therapy was as therapeutic for the volunteers she recruited as it was for the clients with whom they worked.

Her awards are numerous. She received the highest recognition from the American Horticultural Therapy Association and most recently an award for her work from the American Horticultural Association. The Michigan Horticulture Citizens of Honor which comes through the Governor for outstanding contributions to Michigan, was presented to her.

She is also a Fellow of the Garden Writers Association of America, and has been given a distinguished achievement award from almost every organization of which she was a member. With Dr. Donald Watson, she co-authored "Therapy through Horticulture," followed by her "Hoc for Health," both guides for horticultural therapists.

Besides working with clients, she helped train 125 occupational therapy students from Wayne State, Eastern and Western universities in horticultural therapy practices. Now agricultural colleges offer a degree in the subject. She is a charter member of the American Horticultural Therapy Association headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md.

## Arts in camp program part of camp program

Detroit Dance Collective announces its 12th annual Summer Camps of the Arts, held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 18 through July 6 at Huntington Woods Recreation Center, 26325 Scio, Huntington Woods. This interdisciplinary arts program for children 7-11 is taught by professional artists. The fee for the three-

week session is \$255, dents of Huntingtion plus a \$2 pool card. Woods. For information There is a \$10 sur- and reservations, call charge for nonresi- 548-0654 or 548-0948.

I'm sure many readers will recall being inspired by this wonderful lady, as through the years she demonstrated her concern for others and in preserving this land for future generations.

Alice is best known for her work in horticultural therapy. In fact, she

was a pioneer in the field at what is now Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac. Before medication for patients and before it was fashionable to be a volunteer, especially in a psychiatric hospital, she was there, willing and able to work her magic. She demonstrated her compassion and love for people in many ways.

One of her goals was to create "pockets of beauty" in many places for all to enjoy and she promoted the flowering crabapple tree as the symbol for Birmingham.

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