

Park-Like Garden Is Old Time Picnic Grounds

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

"In the old days when Farmington was a village this was a favorite picnic area," explained Mrs. Clarence W. Morrison of Ruth Street.

She stood on the terrace behind her trim white clapboard and stone house and gestured across the broad sweep of emerald lawn to the small stream meandering through the little valley.

"That's known as Farmington Creek, and it's a branch of the Rouge River," she said. When Mrs. Morrison was a girl, Farmington families would chug down Grand River Ave. in their model-T Fords, cross the clattering plank bridge on Nine Mile Rd., and park near the huge water willows that lined the stream. Children waded in the clear sparkling water or swam in the chest-deep pool at the bend in the stream.

Upstream, above the bridge, was the cavernous brick and

stone building that now houses the Lacaille Winery. In former years, it was a power plant and turn-around for the interurban street car. City folks would often ride the interurban to Farmington to spend a day in the country.

She plans to construct an arching half-moon oriental-style bridge and envisions a small pagoda on the roof of a nearby tool shed.

Mrs. Morrison says she does her thinking in the garden and plans as she works. As she gets ideas she carries them out.

Her success, though, is due to the fact that she enjoys spending her days feeding and weeding and cultivating and that she has a feeling of affection for her plants. Her yard and garden show that she truly "garden with love."

MRS. MORRISON cherished pleasant memories of the Farmington Creek picnic spot and in 1939 welcomed the opportunity to purchase some of

the property.

It's with a glint of pride that Mrs. Morrison, who was then Mary Nett, tells about building the sturdy log house that stands on the north side of the creek near the bridge. She did the work herself, living in a small shed on the property.

"It was a beautiful summer," she recalls, "no housework to do!"

Mrs. Morrison enjoyed her rustic house in its rustic setting, but developed a beautiful lawn around it and planted some interesting shrubs and attractive flowers. In 1947 she sold the log house and built another

house on the crest of the hill on the south side of the creek, again doing her own carpentry, and cement and stone work.

There's nothing "home-made" looking about the results. The house, the cement patio, and the terrace steps all look professional.

Petite Mrs. Morrison is a woman of many talents, wielding a needle as skillfully as a hammer or trowel. She has been a dressmaker and now creates slipcovers, spreads, and drapes for her interior decorator husband. However, she emphatically declares that her primary interest is gardening, and in summer she devotes

all her time to her garden. TWENTY YEARS of devoted care has resulted in one of the finest lawns and gardens in the area. The stream, edged with a thick carpet of wild plants, serves as a foil for the smooth expanse of lawn that slopes down in a series of flowing terraces. The lawn is partially shaded by tall trees which give a gracious park-like effect.

The upper terrace, behind the house, is bordered by a long curved rose bed. Blue pink Peace, McGredy's yellow, coral Fashionette and pink Bevetions are the featured varieties.

There's also a plant of the oddly tinted pale lavender call-

ed Sterling Silver, and a newly planted Peace rose tree. For accent there is a tall clump of purple delphinium, and as an edging Mrs. Morrison has planted a ribbon of variegated-leaved hosta.

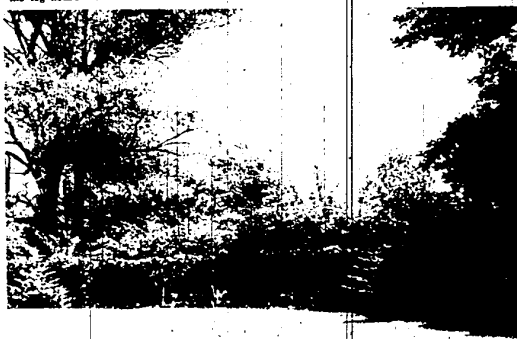
At the side of the house is what Mrs. Morrison calls her experimental garden—a mixture of peonies, lilies, day-lilies, tritons, and a wide variety of other plants. Mrs. Morrison says that she collects plants whatever she goes, either as gifts from friends or rescued from hostile situations.

These are put in the experimental garden and if they prove satisfactory are given a home in some other part of the yard. Among her rescued specimens Mrs. Morrison points out a 10-foot cedar that she found in Petoskey pushing up through a crack in some cement paving. It was a four-inch seedling then.

A huge blue spruce was also a four-inch baby when she planted it 14 years ago. Two shapely little redbuds which were laden with flowers this spring were started from seeds just four years ago.

A beautiful big weeping willow, which dominates the front lawn, was a two-foot branch given her by a friend 25 years ago. Mrs. Morrison rooted it in a glass of water and it has survived three transplantings, the last in 1948.

HER CURRENT PROJECT is an oriental garden which she is constructing this summer. It will feature a large stone lantern with a smaller one nearby and a fountain. White pebbles will be used for ground cover and the plants will include azaleas, Japanese andromeda, and a variety of lush native ferns.



STACKED CORD WOOD makes an unusual screen between the manicured lawn and the "wild" area in this section of the Clarence Morrison garden.



IN FORMER YEARS this spot on Farmington Creek was a favorite picnic area. Today it is a part of the garden behind the Clarence Morrison home on Ruth St.

3 Science Courses Set At Cranbrook

Three new courses for young people will get under way early in August at Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. Beginning Aug. 5, the Institute's research associate, James A. Fowler, will conduct a five consecutive Saturday course "Beasts with Backbones." Junior high school students will study fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Trips into the field are planned which will include identification and collection of the various animals studied. The class meets from 10 a.m.

to noon. Fee is \$12. An A, B, C (Algae, Beetles and Cardinals) four-week natural science course for junior high students will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. beginning Aug. 7. Students will be helped to become more aware of and familiar with common local plants and animals. Instructor Velva Pinney has planned a variety of activities to develop field observation, laboratory experience and simple classification. The fee is \$10. For students who have com-

pleted the fifth grade, a four-week course in "Introduction to Astronomy" will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, Aug. 8 to 31 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Topics include identification of constellations, bright stars, the sun's family and nebulae. Martha Schaefer will use the planetarium and has scheduled a night session for constellation identification and the use of the telescope. Fee is \$10. For registration and further information call 644-1600, Ext. 285 on weekdays.

Additional pictures of the Morrison garden may be found on page 8.



MRS. CLARENCE MORRISON shows the height of a maroon and white lily growing in her "experimental garden."

That book
you've
been
asking
for...

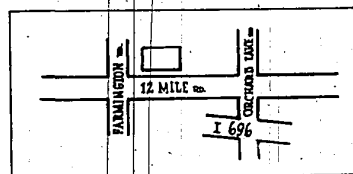


It's here
in a
F s i e
new
edition

Did you know that the S & H Ideabook is America's most popular book?

Over 30 times as many people read it last year as the best-selling fiction and non-fiction books combined. And Great Gifts are the reason the Ideabook has such a great following. Great Gifts you get without charge, just for saving the famous S & H Green Stamps you get with every purchase you make at DEMERY'S. Next time you're shopping at Demery's pick up your free copy. And visit the S & H Redemption Center right next door.

Thanks Farmington! you've made us feel very welcome during our first year.



Demery's

Farmington Road at 12 Mile
DETROIT AND BIRMINGHAM