

Puttering IS AN ART!



M. C. WILLIAMSON

"THE Man with a Hoe" would be my nominee as the Patron Saint of Puttering. Painted long before the world ever heard of PWA or WPA, this masterpiece depicts a statuelike repose and an unhurried tranquillity which, to me, seem to be the essence of the art of puttering. Because puttering is an art. You might even say it is a fine art, when it is an end in itself and not essentially a means to an end.

Speed up the tempo, energize the hoe, and you have work. And who is interested in work as an avocation? After eight hours or more a day, harnessed to the high-speed wheels of modern business, most of us want to relax and take things just as they happen to come.

As for me, I want to putter. I relish a complete change of pace, occupation, and environment. This change can be effected quickly and easily when I lay aside the plans and problems of the office and take up the plans and problems of a home owner; when I can trade my business habiliments and tools for some old clothes and garden implements.

Of course, puttering produces a certain amount of by-product in accomplishment. You can't wield a hammer or a hoe, even in the most lackadaisical fashion, without producing a certain result. This article concerns the results of three years of purposeful puttering. It is presented in the hope that some of the ideas may prove of interest and value to fellow-putterers.

And if you must putter, here is a rough formula that may help you to avoid a back-ache. Devote one third of your time to a contemplation of the job to be done, another third to doing it, and the remaining third to admiration of the finished result. The first step is important because a well-planned job is more speedily consummated. The last is your reward for a job well done. I am still figuring how to dispense with the second step.

Our half-acre lot is a sort of challenge to the putterer. As described in *THE AMERICAN HOME* for October 1935, it is 70 by 350 feet, and situated on a hill. It stretches back from the street about 150 feet and then drops away in a comfortable slope to a lower level. There is a little three-acre wood just off the lower extremity, and beyond that are a number of small truck farms. In summer we live on our porch and in the "back-yard," which starts at the house and ends, seemingly, at the horizon. So it is not surprising that most of our puttering projects have this yard and its contiguous hill as focal points.

Before we discuss details, let's have a bird's-eye view from the brow of the hill. On the extreme right is a sturdy swing and on the left an arbor seat. Some steps follow a ridge leading downward and to the right, terminating in a circular terrace with a built-in seat and fireplace. Farther down you will see a slide for the youngsters.

The steps were a natural evolution because before the house was built there was a path which invited conversion. Then

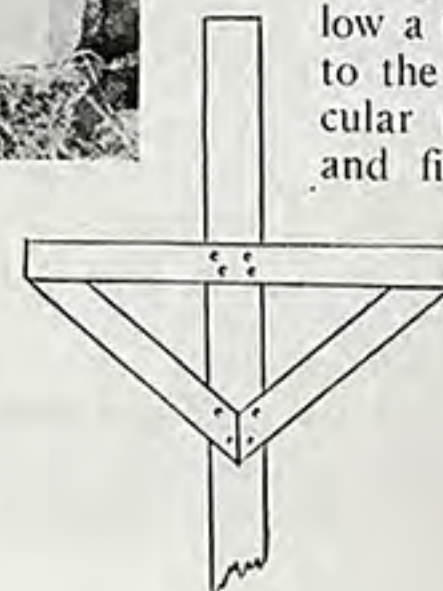
[Please turn to page 87]



Puttering about with hammer and saw resulted in the swing, slide, arbor seat, and terrace bench which you see in the photographs above. These and many other things on the author's half-acre hill lot are well worth the effort if you are a fellow putterer



There's nothing fancy about this fireplace with its back and sides made of large stones, but it's easy to build and it really works. You put charcoal on the lower coal screen and steaks on the top one



Bewise - Alkalize

An Alka-Seltzer Tablet in a glass of water makes a sparkling pleasant-tasting solution. Drink it and it gives quick relief from Head-aches, Sour Stomach, Distress after meals and other common ailments. It also helps overcome excess acid condition so often associated with these troubles.

30¢ & 60¢ PER DOZ.
 TAKE IN THE NATIONAL BARN DANCE SATURDAY NIGHT AT DRUG STORES SODA FOUNTAINS

Alkalize with Alka-Seltzer AT ALL DRUGGISTS

OH BOY I WAS IT SOME PARTY! AT FOUR, I HIT THE HAY, BUT THANKS TO ALKA-SELTZER, I FEEL O.K. TODAY.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SUFFER FROM HEADACHES ANY MORE, WITH ALKA-SELTZER HANDY AT EVERY DRUGGIST'S STORE.

WHEN UPSET STOMACHS THREATEN TO BREAK IN ON MY DAY, I TAKE AN ALKA-SELTZER AND ON THE JOB I STAY.

O-Cedar POLISH

O-Cedar is undiluted—saves you money—as it cleans, polishes, preserves your furniture, woodwork and floors.

O-Cedar POLISH MOPS · WAX

Do This If You're NERVOUS

Don't take chances on products you know nothing about or rely on temporary relief when there's need of a good general tonic like time-proven Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made especially for women from wholesome herbs and roots.

Let Pinkham's Compound help build up more physical resistance and thus aid in calming jangled nerves, lessen distress from female functional disorders and make life worth living.

For free trial bottle tear this out and send with name and address to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., 409 Cleveland St., Lynn, Mass. Over 1,000,000 women have written in reporting glorious benefits—Pinkham's MUST BE GOOD!

Lydia E. Pinkham's
 VEGETABLE COMPOUND

Puttering is an art!
 [Continued from page 28]

a job-lot of flagstone from a house wrecker provided the necessary materials, which the mason obligingly broke up into smaller rectangles of more appropriate size. It was no trick to cut out the sod and set the stones in place, flanked by a narrow flower bed. These steps became more practical when they were widened to about three feet, and converted into a series of terraces with up-ended stones serving as retaining walls for each successive level. Last summer these terraced flower beds were the most colorful spot in our garden. After extending the steps downward about fifty feet, we decided that they needed a terminal. So we built a circular terrace fifteen feet in diameter and swung the steps around so that they approached it from the side. This terrace has served as a nucleus for a number of other projects. Most useful is the fireplace—not a fancy brick and mortar proposition of ambitious design, but nevertheless thoroughly practical. To tell the truth, it represents only a couple of hours work.

While our house was being built, I had devoted some of my spare time to assembling a collection of sizable stones which have served many useful purposes. The largest and most regular were employed for the back and the two sides of the fireplace, and proved big enough to give the desired elevation. The open front faces west, to take advantage of prevailing winds. Fortunately, this is the down-hill side, which increases the apparent overall height.

A rectangle of heavy coal screen holds the charcoal a few inches above the ground level to afford a good draft. This happens to be supported by strips of scrap-iron which were given two right-angle bends and driven into the ground. (Bricks would serve the purpose just as well.) A larger piece of the same screen covers the top, providing room enough for several steaks or ever-so-many "hot dogs."

Any boy will tell you that you need water to sail a boat. A wading pool was called for, and the center of the terrace seemed a good place to put it. For economy and rustic beauty we again drew on our stone pile, using flagstones for the bottom and fieldstones for the sides. Mortar between the stones made the pool reasonably watertight. Lampblack in the mortar gives it a slate-gray tone that is much more attractive than the straight mixture of sand and cement. Of course, it's not much bigger than a bathtub, but neither the boy nor the baby ducks have raised any objection to the size.

When the terrace was first layed

Sam has it in his house - says it's wonderful!

DURAY Amazing New Kind of WALLPAPER

GUARANTEED

WASHABLE 3 YEARS!

Tell Lucille to check this up!



200 BEAUTIFUL PATTERNS

● When you feel DURAY's rich, velvety surface and see the many smart patterns, you'll hardly believe this amazing wallpaper is truly washable... *actually scrubbable*... with plain soap and water. Yet, DURAY's written guarantee says *it is* washable, for 3 years... a guarantee backed by a million dollar concern.

DURAY is paint-coated... its surface the equivalent of at least 2 coats of fine baked-on enamel. But DURAY is wallpaper. It comes in rolls, is put on walls like wallpaper. DURAY's surface is impervious to ordinary household dirt. Grime, soot, fingermarks don't penetrate. They wash right off without streaks, rings or watermarks. Rooms keep their fresh new-paper look for years with plain soap and water!

DURAY IS NOT EXPENSIVE

DURAY costs no more than any good quality wallpaper, only 45c to \$1.00 roll. But you get the added benefit of complete washability. Ask your wallpaper dealer or decorator about DURAY's written 3-year guarantee.



Terms of Written GUARANTEE that DURAY IS Washable for 3 Years

● The makers of DURAY guarantee in writing that ordinary household dirt, soot, grease, smudge, fingermarks will wash off DURAY's surface with soap and water without streaking, fuzzing, or watermarking. DURAY's paint-coated surface is as washable as any surface painted in the ordinary manner, and is guaranteed to be so for 3 years from date of purchase. If DURAY fails to live up to the guarantee, the makers will supply, free of charge, sufficient DURAY to re-paper the rooms in which DURAY was used, no matter the size of the rooms, or how many rolls are required.

Send the Coupon

CLOPAY CORP., 1241 Clopay Square Cincinnati, Ohio

Please send samples of DURAY, the new kind of wallpaper that's guaranteed washable 3 years. I want to convince myself that DURAY is REALLY washable, as you say it is.

Name.....
 Address.....
 City.....State.....

DURAY
Scrubable
WALLPAPER

Actually Scrubbable WHEN!!!

In writing too - They must mean it

Looks mighty good to me!

12 rolls 75¢ a roll 84 60 \$9.00

Swell for Junior's Room

REASONABLE!



WHEN YOU WANT
YOUR MENUS TO BE NEWS—
Give this handy helper a chance!

That's all it takes! For DEL MONTE Fruit Cocktail makes any meal a "headline event!" Thriftily and easily, too—with treats like the five tempters shown here—and dozens of others. And how you'll enjoy them—every one! For this gay combination brings you all the appealing goodness of five luscious fruits. Gorgeous peaches. Mellow pears. Tart-sweet pineapple. Dainty seedless grapes and brilliant cherries. All nicely proportioned—ready to serve—no work for you. Try it today. See how much new zest and sparkle DEL MONTE Fruit Cocktail adds to your meals!

Del Monte

FRUIT COCKTAIL

You'll like Del Monte Fruits for Salad, too!



Even hamburger is "news"—served with warmed Fruit Cocktail.



And for breakfast—Del Monte Fruit Cocktail on your favorite cereal.

A gay cake sauce, too. Warm the cocktail. Thicken the syrup slightly.

Need a warm-day dessert? Serve Del Monte Fruit Cocktail, frozen.



out the outside edge was supported by a semi-circle of stones. This worked fine, but the foot-high wall of dirt on the inside of the circle seemed unfinished. A stonewall was needed. Since my seemingly interminable collection was petering out, and all the monoliths were gone, we had to use the smaller stones which remained. Here again mortar served to hold them together. The experts say a three-foot foundation is necessary for masonry—and maybe so for a real job—but my little amateur wall, with no foundation, has weathered its first winter with flying colors. You can see it in the picture of the stone seat. This seat, by the way, was a natural. It was only necessary to cut out a piece of the bank and set the last of the flagstones in place.

Close by the terrace is a water outlet that has saved innumerable steps. This was installed, at a neighbor's suggestion, when the house was being built. It is a little thing worth remembering when building on a deep lot.

Originally our lawn stopped where the hill began. The hill itself was reasonably smooth and covered with a wild grass of some sort, with occasional spots of clover. Experimentally, the first year, we smoothed this turf with a rake on a stretch ten feet wide. It thrived surprisingly well. Last year we widened it to the terrace, with similar results, so this year we are carrying it all the way down. It has been enlightening to us to discover how well a wild lawn can be tamed without the work and expense of a new job.

From the beginning we have adhered strictly to a landscaping plan which called for group plantings of deciduous trees, evergreens,

the shovel and trowel and turn to the hammer and the saw. While you can buy a ready-made swing, you may prefer, as I did, to make your own. The design illustrated does offer certain advantages not to be found in the store variety. It is larger, sturdier, and occupies less "floor-space" in the yard. The construction is fairly obvious from the photograph. Uprights are 4 by 4 feet and the horizontal members and braces 2 by 4 feet. The upright is set about three feet in the ground, and this part should be well painted, preferably with creosote or tar. This swing has seen steady service, and never seems to lose its appeal.

The slide has been almost equally popular. Here our problem was simplified as the hill provided the necessary incline. Neither steps nor framework were needed—just a long sturdy plank and two side-rails, supported by four cradles. If you decide to build a slide just remember that the slicker the finish, the faster the ride, and splinters are tough in certain places.

The garden seat was a cooperative job of planning and construction, as it straddles our lot line. Our neighbor had a bittersweet vine, which covered a concrete power-line pole and evidenced a decided attachment to our nearby Boliana poplar. To discourage this entangling alliance, we suggested the community seat. With our neighbor's help, the job was completed and set up in a day. The style was adapted from a design in *THE AMERICAN HOME*.

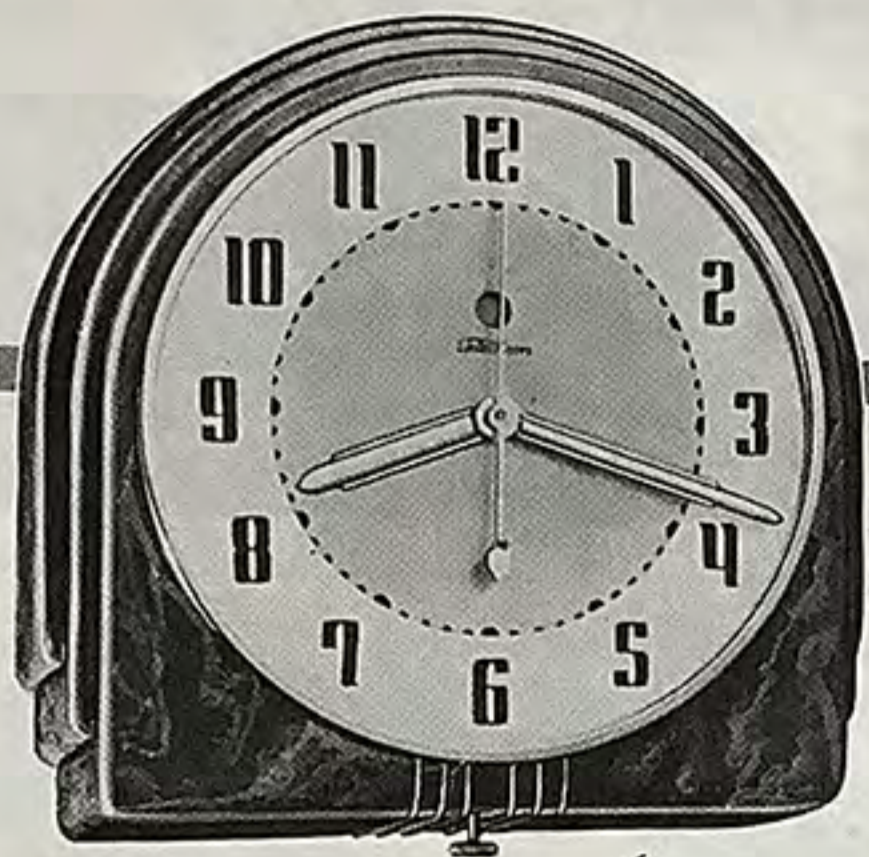


lilacs, and other shrubs in specified locations in the yard and on the hill. One worth-while addition, however, has been a planting of forsythia on one side of the steps and a grouping of Norway spruce on the other.

But maybe your tastes run to carpentry rather than gardening and landscaping. So let's lay aside

Obviously, the amateur gardener cannot give all his time to such developments as these. But they do afford a pleasant interlude to the endless routine of seeding, fertilizing, rolling, planting, pruning, mowing, cultivating, and watering. And when the job is finished, you can lay aside your tools with satisfaction, knowing you have added something to the beauty or utility of your garden.

“ THEY'RE SO ATTRACTIVE AND
THEY COST SURPRISINGLY LITTLE ”



ADMINISTRATOR is a new wall clock in brown molded plastic. A practical design with many uses in the home. And it costs only **\$3.95**. **Buffet** is the same design with a different dial and in a wide selection of colors. In ivory, white, black, green or red, it is priced at **\$3.50**. Remember that four or five Telechron clocks in different rooms will provide your home with a complete synchronized timekeeping system. The same time all through the house!



CORONADO is a simple and effective design for a modern room. The attractive case has light-colored wood flutings over brown mahogany. Numerals are outlined in black on a white and cream-colored dial. Priced at **\$6.75**. Other Telechron clocks range in price from **\$2.95** to **\$17.50**.



KIRKWOOD is a handsome model in beautiful vertical-grained wood. It offers a really outstanding value. Ten and one-half inches wide. It's an ideal design for mantel or table. And its modest price is only **\$6.50**. Telechron is the best known name in the electric clock field.



VAGABOND will bring the salt air right into your home! It's the perfect clock for the ship-lover. Fashioned of mahogany and fitted with metal spokes. Priced at **\$9.95**. Every Telechron clock is equipped with the superior self-starting Telechron motor, sealed in oil for quietness and long life.



OLYMPIC, distinctively modern, has front and top of Burma Padouk, and ends of walnut. For desk, table or mantel. Priced at **\$9.95**. Telechron clocks are sold by good jewelry, electric, gift, department, drug and hardware stores. There is a design for every place and purse.

WARREN TELECHRON COMPANY • ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
IN CANADA, THE CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.

Schools, hotels, hospitals and office buildings are synchronizing their time with efficient Telechron commercial systems

Telechron
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

SELF-STARTING ELECTRIC CLOCKS



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Sullivan, Salt Lake City, Utah

CONTENTS

National Edition

MAY, 1939

VOL. XXI, No. 6

Cover: Color Photograph from Black Star	
Before You Build	Leicester K. Davis 9
Seaside Gardening	Arthur F. Murphy and Nelva M. Weber 14
A Hospitable Oregon Home	Elsie Doty Sopp 16
It Cost Exactly \$92.00	Albert E. Idell 19
When Your Family Moves Outdoors!	20
A Pool Where Nothing Else Would Grow!	Milly Goodfriend 22
Some Like 'Em Hot!	23
Pinch-Hit Barbecue Pits	Hi Sibley 24
A City Doctor Restores an Historic Farmhouse	25
It's Your Turn to Move!	Elisabeth Sheldon Faris 27
Puttering Is an Art!	M. C. Williamson 28
Invitation to the Garden	H. D. Eberlein and C. V. D. Hubbard 29
Could This Be Your Problem?	Margot Reyburn 32
You Just Nibble at This Border all Summer Long!	Jean Hersey 32
In the Shade of an Old Oak Tree	33
Would You Like to See the Garden?	Marion A. Buckelmueller 34
Many People Prefer a Roof Over Their Heads	Cameron Clark 35
And We DO Mean Miniatures!	Edith Mason and Edith Waas 36
Taking Spring Inventory for Summer Comfort	37
How Do You Suppose Screen Doors Got That Way?	43
Revolutionary Materials in the Home of Mr. & Mrs. James T. McCraw	44
No Room for a Garden? Nonsense!	Elizabeth Low 46
Everything So Clean	48
It Looks As If Electricity Has Come to Stay	Melville M. Greig 49
Entertain on the Plank	Corinne Updegraff Wells 50
Welchacres	Letitia Rockmore Lange 55
Where Once a Schoolbell Rang	Dorothy N. Packard 61
Windmill Cottage	Paul R. Ladd 66
An Outdoor Living Room	74

[Please turn to page 6]



Home of Mrs. George P. Blackburn, Paris, Texas



Home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Florence, Cedartown, Georgia

Wisteria-covered gate at farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hahn, Hazen, Arkansas

Home of Mr. and Mrs. William Simmons, Rhinebeck Township, New York

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Miller, Anderson, Indiana

