

HOW WE MADE "ARCADIA"

The Story of How a Tumbledown Place Was Made Into One of Real Beauty—The Advantage of Having a Plan and Then Sticking To It—First Prize Letter

By Mrs. L. L. Hobbs

WHEN five years ago we decided to build our present home there could scarcely have been found in the entire community a more forlorn spot than the one chosen. The site selected for the dwelling is on the extreme eastern limit of a small farm, most of which is still in woodland. While nothing had been done to change the grounds from a state of nature to a state of grace, much had been accomplished toward destroying a naturally beautiful location. A small cottage which it was necessary to move was surrounded by a beautiful grove of fine old white oaks, and these were the deciding element in our choice.

A few feet from where we wished to locate the house an old road had cut its hideous way, making a gully red and deep,—in some places fully four feet below the level of the land. Immediately beyond this old road the land sloped upwards and was elevated at the highest part some four or five feet beyond the altitude of the place selected for the building. Our object being to so place the house that as few trees as possible would need to be removed, we were of necessity pushed quite near this old road. The new public road is located on the eastern limit of the lot, and is from 50 to 100 feet further east than the old road was. As it passes the little hill above mentioned it goes through a cut some five or six feet deep, making an ugly gulch with staring red banks.

Getting Rid of Ugliness

THE first care of my husband was to make good roads and walks, to fill up the hollow of the old road and to level the ground and sow grass seed. The earth from the basement was put into that part of the old road most distant from the house and the part immediately in front was filled by levelling the little elevation. Trenches were dug for the roads and walks, being leveled as necessary. These were filled with crushed stone, pounded down so as to furnish a solid foundation; gravel and cinders were then added, and on the front walk a top-dressing of Mount Airy granite was given.

At first, we set aside six acres for lawn, rose garden, vegetable garden, orchard, and small fruits. The poultry yard is beyond this and is a fine enclosure of some four acres, mostly woods, with strips for forage.

The yard proper has a front of 390 feet. This extends along the public road. The southern limit is 370 feet; the northern 240 and the western line extends between these two. The house is situated quite a little to the south of the center of this plot and directly west of it is the building which contains the pump and engine room, the laundry, wood house and shop. This is 66 feet from our dwelling and connected by a good walk.

This gives an idea of what I had to work upon when I assumed charge of planting and decorating our place. I knew to begin with that I did not know just how to plant our grounds in the most effective manner, and was desirous of making all my additions subservient to the lovely trees with which nature had dowered us.

As I had quite a quantity of shrubs, roses and bulbs which it was necessary to move at once, and as I had no notion of setting shrubs and then being obliged to dig them up and move them to the desired situation, I appealed to my friend Miss Fort, of the State Normal College, for advice; and she told me that shrubs and collections of plants should form a kind of frame for the setting of the house and that an open space in front of the building was necessary for the

best effect. This bit of advice was invaluable to me. I at once began my borders by setting the shrubs I had where they would remain, and to these I have been constantly adding. The climbing roses were planted on a trellis at the back of the open space between our house and the cottage, and before this as a background, my rose garden has from year to year been increasing its dimensions.

It soon became clear to me, however, that if I expected my groupings to yield the best results I must have a good well arranged plan from which to work. The nearby nursery had a landscape gardener, and to him I sent a sketch of our grounds and asked for advice. He drew a plot of the place, putting in shrubs, vines and evergreens to suit the location, and sent me a list of the shrubs used with their prices. This plot was furnished without charge, but I was expected to buy my shrubs from that nursery, which was entirely fair.

Many of the shrubs and trees were indigenous and I could get them from our own woods, some I could furnish

is a wire trellis 375 feet long and 4 or 5 feet high densely covered with Dorothy Perkins roses which were one glorious riot of bloom last June. In front of this hedge I have a bed of dahlias which show to fine effect on the background of rich green rose leaves after the roses are gone. Along the western boundary, between this hedge and the wood house, is another privet hedge untrimmed, which completely hides my drying yard and the vegetable garden from view. Over the woodhouse I am training a Wichuriana rose. Beyond the wood house still on the western boundary, a hedge of sweet briar roses extends to the central road. On the north side of the road is our small fruit garden with an abundance of strawberries, dewberries, raspberries, blackberries and grapes.

I have already spoken of the rose trellis and of the rose garden. These extend along the western boundary of the lawn from the road to the cottage garden and here all summer long there are roses of many kinds blooming constantly. Dr. Van Fleet and Silver Moon occupy the fence between the cottage garden and the rose garden, and are gorgeous beyond expression. Along the northern limit of our lawn, between us and the yard of the cottage, I have a hedge of Rugosa roses 200 feet long. Inside of this is a bed of Trumpet Major daf-



"ARCADIA," FARM HOME OF DR. AND MRS. L. L. HOBBS, GUILFORD COLLEGE, NORTH CAROLINA

from my own stock. Of course I could not buy all those needed at once, nor have I yet completed my plantings, but every fall and spring I make additions and it is most interesting to study the charts and see what I can do each season. Now I have a beautiful Amoor River privet hedge along the entire front of the place, the outside ugly bank sodded, and quite a number of creeping rose bushes planted which root along the bank and help hold the sod and form a ground cover. On the opposite side of the road, which is not on our land but is in plain view from our front porch, we have planted honeysuckle, which is slowly growing and we hope will soon hide the unsightly bank.

Back from the front on the southern limit of the lawn running west

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About the house we have shrubs of various kinds—euonymus, spirea, abelia, and vines, jessamine and roses. I determined at first to have no backyard, and this portion of the prem-

BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS

NOTHING adds more to the farm than beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees. The varied colors, hues and delightful fragrance of flowers; the cool green of the swaying foliage; the restfulness and beauty of a well-kept lawn—all these add to the value of the home and elevate the esthetic side of the inhabitants.

A tree is a noble theme. "In all the range of nature there is no object which so inspires the tender and finer emotions and which would leave the earth so bare of loveliness if it were to be removed." The stately oak is idealized as the monarch of the forest—the aristocrat among trees. The pecan tree, with its symmetrical form and graceful branches, adds much to the beauty of the farm. Then, too, in time bounteous crops of nuts are produced to add joy to the fireside during the long winter evening.

Make plans to make the farm more endearing to the boys and girls. Prepare a lawn, plant out trees and shrubbery, for beautiful surroundings are strong links that bind the young folks to the old home.—C. J. Hayden.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

ises is the most attractive of all. About the kitchen steps shrubs and vines are growing, and there is nought to indicate that this is less honorable than the more conspicuous places. A capacious chair swing occupies a delightful location beneath a large cherry tree; the grass is greener and the trees more abundant and the shade more delightful than in front. A Gainsborough rose climbs over the latticed back porch, and fig bushes are planted on the south side.

I should like to say a few words to encourage all women to make the effort to adorn their premises, and not be deterred if the undertaking seems formidable, because a little now and a little then will bring wonderful results.

It is best, no matter how small one's area is, to have a well considered, definite plan to work towards and not stick things down here and there and makes one's place look as if the shrubs had been shaken out of a pepper box. If we know what we want and where we want it, it is not a difficult matter to get the shrubs. Many of our native plants are most beautiful in borders—dogwoods, red buds, elders, fringe trees and others. These can be had for a little work. Many others propagate themselves rapidly—privet is easily rooted, Dorothy Perkins roots itself amazingly, lilacs sprout up in quantities—those that I bought have now so increased that I have enough to finish my plantings; forsythias root themselves from the limbs, crape myrtle comes up abundantly, dahlias increase so rapidly that one does not know what to do with the tubers. Again, any one who has shrubs and plants, when it is possible to divide them, is glad to give a lift to a neighbor who is trying to beautify her place. More than half the satisfaction of having a lovely lawn is in the pleasure others derive from it and in the attractiveness thus added to the whole community. For it is true that nothing makes a neighborhood so inviting as good homes and well kept grounds.

How We Beautified Our Home

FIRST, we built a new house of eleven rooms, two-story with an eight-foot gallery all the way across the south and west, above and below. This makes it delightfully cool and pleasant, as well as pretty. We painted the house white, with green trimming. Then we built a yard fence 100 by 160 feet. We used paling and a one-foot base board, and painted it solid white on the inside, the palings white on the outside and the base board light green.

This winter we have ordered and planted three orange trees on each side of the yard; also one grapefruit on each side, two Ponderosa lemons, one on each side, and two palms, one in each corner of the front, three Arborvitae for each side of the walk, eight umbrella chinas for the backyard. We also have some chrysanthemums, 24 roses, two different kinds of honeysuckle, with quite a collection of flowers of different kinds, such as carnations, pinks, pansies, phlox, poppies, nasturtiums, sweet peas, both dwarf and climbing, verbena, Dusty Miller, Blue Bells, Cape Jessamine, cosmos, morning glories and moon flowers.

In the back we built a three-foot concrete walk from the back door to the gate and on out to the well, and intend building walks around the house and out in front, but haven't done so yet.

We have also planted an orchard and vineyard as a background for the house. We planted 125 grapevines of several different varieties, two dozen peach trees, of two or three kinds, some dewberries, blackberries, and thirty-two plums of two kinds. We are planning to have some fruit as well as flowers.

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