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the pink.

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"He's not just another duffer. He's chairman of the greens committee."



THE POTTING SHED

by Mary B. Good

So you think you've got a handful.

How would you like to take care of 50,000 plants
in a hotel lobby — poor light, low humidity, every-
body mauling the merchandise?

If you've been to the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel,
you can't help but notice the indoor garden showplace
— \$70,000 worth of grape ivy trailing expensively
over 10 floors of balconies and sky-bridges, and
oodles of lush, tropical plants gracing the space.

What a bonanza for the firm that got the contract
to install all that greenery! Tropical Plant Rentals,
Priarie View, just about cleaned out the national grape
ivy supply to do the job in May, 1971.

In addition, the Hyatt job carries a \$1500 a month
maintenance contract and a \$350 flowering plant
change every three weeks, according to Florist Re-
view magazine. (Mother always told me to go into
the florist business, but no, I had to take up the pen
instead of the trowel.)

The big job at the Hyatt is not without its problems.
It took seven men three days to clean the ivy for Christ-
mas. With automatic plant waterers attached to water
hoses, the gardeners were able to water a half floor
at a time. Normal maintenance calls for a gardener to
work at the hotel two and one half days a week every
week.

Romantic but dimly lit restaurants like The Other
Place and Hugo's take their toll of the large, specimen
plants. Even in the swimming pool, the plants have
a hard time hanging on; chlorine gas periodically
knocks off the touchy tropicals.

After a look at the problems of professional gar-
deners, thank your lucky lupine you've only got a
few hardy houseplants to coddle.

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