

# PEERY MEDICALS

BY W.K. PEERY

People coming to Oregon and the other Northwest states often remark on the freedom from restrictions the women here seem to enjoy. This is true, in a sense, but the difference is not so marked as it was during Oregon's pioneer days.

Our pioneer mothers came from homes that bore much of the influence of the old South and its pseudo-chivalry toward all womankind. In those days it was taboo for a woman to wander by herself through the woods or the streets of the town. In periods of pregnancy she was virtually a prisoner in her own home. To be seen abroad under these conditions was nothing short of shameful effrontery.

Our grandmothers were virtual slaves, with their husbands the masters. It was of small concern whether she could read or write. Her job was to make soap, dip candles, wash and card wool, spin it and weave it into clothes for the entire family. Giving birth to ten or more children was incidental. She cooked, washed, and knit socks, long into the night sometimes, after the men had been tucked sweetly into bed.

The trip across the plains started a new era in the life of our grandmothers. They drove the oxen across the plains while the men herded the cattle and hunted for game. In return for her contribution, the men helped gather fuel, make camp and cook the meals. Already grandmother was getting ideas. This family cooperation was a new thing in her life. She liked it.

And grandmother did not stop with driving oxen and standing watch, where occasion required. In an emergency she did not hesitate to wield a squirrel gun to hold off hostile Indians. She was no longer a clinging vine to be carefully shielded from some imaginary disrespect. She was a partner with her man and

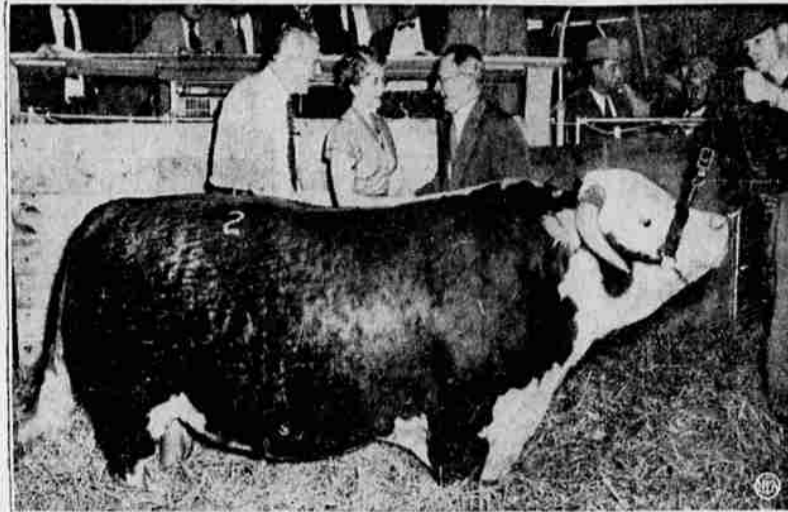
as such, grandma began to stand up for her own rights.

The final blow that sent grandpappy for a loop was when grandma became financially independent. While grandpa received his three hundred and sixty acres of homestead, grandma got exactly the same. What is more it was in her own name. If her husband became restless and wanted to sell out and move on, his pioneer wife had him on dead center. All she had to do was refuse to sign her name to a deed and grandpa was helpless. It was hard on grandpappy but he had to take it. Women were no longer chattels, like they had been in the south. They could call their souls their own, and ask no odds.

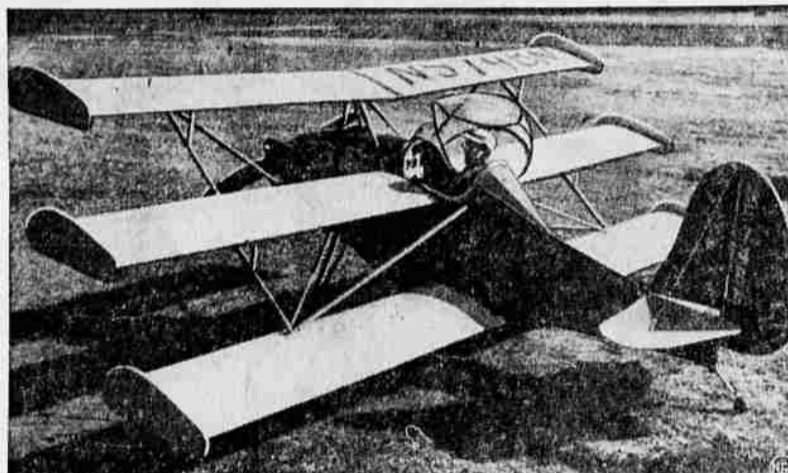
But there was more to it than just the privilege of owning three hundred and twenty acres that was all her own. She was liberated from much of her household drudgery for the simple reason that grandpappy was learning to do housework. Here it happened. There were Indians and a few white renegades about which made it unwise in many instances to leave the women unprotected at home. The husbands must often be far from the house clearing land, making fences or breaking new ground.

The wife would accompany her man to the woods where she would wield an axe, pile brush or lay up fence. And at night? Like as not while mother was caring for the children, the father would be starting a roaring fire in the fireplace, carrying water, or peeling potatoes.

These were factors that changed the social complexion of the Oregon home. Mrs. Duniway and Mrs. Waldo carried the emancipation of their sisters still further. They campaigned openly for votes for women. The women eventually got all they were after. And grandpappy? He would like it if he were here today.



**ONE FOR THE MONEY**—A record auction price of \$100,000 was paid for this bull, Hillcrest Larry 25th, one of the youngest sires ever to get the Register-of-Merit designation. It was bought by Ralph Fair, of Boerne, Tex. The three-day auction dispersed the famous 650-head herd of Hillcrest Farms, Chester, W. Va., to settle the estate of the late C. A. Smith, the owner. Fair and Mrs. Fair are shown being congratulated by C. A. Smith, Jr.



**FLYING "FLEA"**—A triplane called the "Flea" may soon be sold in "build-it-yourself" kits for less than \$1000. George Frisbee, its inventor, demonstrates the plane in Milwaukee, Wis. It still has to pass several CAA tests before he'll be able to market the Flea. The plane is 17 feet long, has a 20-foot wing span and reportedly travels about 100 miles per hour.

**OVERNIGHT PHOTO-FINISHING**

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## Schwabe Given Flight Training Refresher Course

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Marine Corps Tuesday assigned Col. Frank H. Schwabe, the principal in the corps' recent inquiry into his signing of a false germ warfare confession while he was a prisoner of war in Korea, to take a flight refresher course.

The decision of the inquiry court was not to file charges against



**NEW OFFICER**—Clarence D. Johnson, of Roanoke, Va., is the new president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. He was chosen to succeed Richard L. Bowditch at the organization's 42nd convention.



**MILLIONAIRE PLANS SEX TRANSFORMATION**—John Cabell (Bunny) Breckinridge, 50-year-old San Francisco millionaire, holds one of his three Siamese cats as he tells newsmen that he is going to Denmark in August to be transformed into Catherine Cabell. He said after his operation he will return to the United States to marry "a young man from up North." (AP Wirephoto)

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