



WEEDING is a constant occupation in any nursery as Susan Melvin demonstrates. Susan and husband John

decided to try the nursery business in Boring about 1 1/2 years ago "because we like to be outside," Susan says. (Post photo)

## Clackamas County leads in nursery stock production

by Bernadette Bischke staff writer

Nursery production in Clackamas County is a growing business. A total of 2,853 acres and 4,370,645 square feet of greenhouse space makes Clackamas County the largest producer of nursery stock of 26 Oregon counties.

There are 17 retail and wholesale nurseries listed in the Sandy-Boring area. And with spring here, they're all busy.

"Actually, all the time in a nursery can be busy," said Susan Melvin, partner in Melvin's Nursery, Southeast Church Road, Boring. "Early spring is always busy," she added.

"Spring is a busy season for retail sales. Right now we are busy fertilizing and repotting," the nursery-woman said.

The Melvin Nursery has a little less than ten acres with about one-half of the land planted. The 60 by 15 foot greenhouse can hold up to 5,000 grafts, depending on size.

"We emphasize the grafted plant," Mrs. Melvin said.

In the grafting method of propagation, an understock (root stock) with a good root system is selected for the parent plant, she said. Plants are grafted for the desired end product according to color, leaf shape and speed of growth.

A slow growing plant is desirable, Mr. Melvin said,

adding that "all plants are grafted in the same family."

When the desired plant has been selected, a cut is made on the parent plant and a slip from the plant to be propagated is attached, she said.

Mrs. Melvin and her husband John have been in the nursery business for about 1 1/2 years. "We wanted to be outside and have a business of our own. In this area, the nursery business is a good one," she added.

Bill McCoy of McCoy's Nursery, 11333 SE Bluff Road, Sandy, has been around the nursery business for a long time. "I started when I was a kid. The business was run by my father. I was away from it for awhile but I've been active in the business for about the last seven years."

Right now McCoy's Nursery is "getting towards the end of the shipping season."

"We start shipping shrubs to warmer climates around the first of February, depending on the weather, and are busy until about the end of April," he said.

McCoy's Nursery covers 60 acres with 50 acres in field stock and five acres holding container stock. He also has 6,000 square feet in greenhouse space.

"We specialize conifers," he noted. "Better than 90 percent of our stock is shipped to other areas."

McCoy's wife Beverlie is also active in the business. They maintain three full-time employees and up to 20 on a seasonal basis. The McCoy's utilize two methods of propagation—cuttings and grafting.

Cuttings are taken from new growth on established plants. "We get the cuttings in December and January—usually we're done by the first part of February," McCoy said.

The cuttings are dipped in a hormone solution, scored with a knife and then planted in a growing medium. McCoy uses Perlite—a form of sand that has been exploded. The containers of cuttings are placed on heat cables and kept at a temperature of 68 degrees.

"It takes about eight to ten weeks for the cuttings to root," McCoy explained. He added that there was more emphasis on the grafting method of propagation. "And," he smiled, "the demand for unusual plants is very strong."

## Development proposed

A conditional use request to build a 16-lot planned unit development in the Government Camp area will be considered by the Clackamas County Hearing Officer on April 20.

Thompson, Hall and O'Doherty have applied to

develop the property for single family residents. A spokesman for the Clackamas County Planning Department said the proposal will require the taking of exceptions to the statewide planning agricultural and forest goals

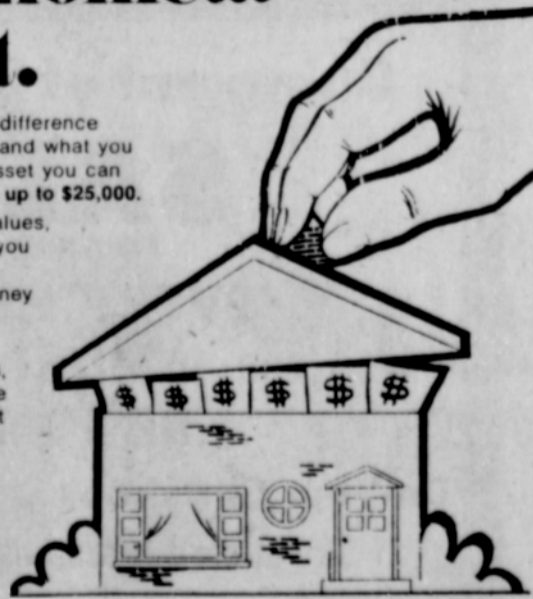
of the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

The property, presently zoned recreational residential, is located on the south side of Highway 26 approximately 100 feet east of its intersection with the Multnomah crossing.

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### Cottrell

Monday, April 17  
Tuna-noodle casserole  
Mixed vegetables  
Hot biscuits w-honey  
Crunchy carrot sticks  
Pineapple  
Milk

Tuesday, April 18  
Barbecued chicken  
Mashed potatoes  
Gravy  
Buttered corn  
Cucumber wheels  
Cherry cobbler  
Milk

Wednesday, April 19  
Weiners  
Pork and beans  
Hot rolls w-butter  
Buttered carrots  
Cucumber slices  
Fruit cup  
Milk

Thursday, April 20  
Hamburgers  
Tater logs  
Lettuce w-dressing  
Pickles  
Crispy celery sticks  
Vanilla pudding  
Milk

Friday, April 21  
Fish portions  
French fries  
Catsup  
Buttered green beans  
Cole slaw  
Peaches  
Choice of milk

Saturday, April 22  
Hamburgers  
Tater logs  
Lettuce w-dressing  
Pickles  
Crispy celery sticks  
Vanilla pudding  
Milk

Sunday, April 23  
Hamburgers  
Tater logs  
Lettuce w-dressing  
Pickles  
Crispy celery sticks  
Vanilla pudding  
Milk

Monday, April 24  
Tuna-noodle casserole  
Mixed vegetables  
Hot biscuits w-honey  
Crunchy carrot sticks  
Pineapple  
Milk

Tuesday, April 25  
Barbecued chicken  
Mashed potatoes  
Gravy  
Buttered corn  
Cucumber wheels  
Cherry cobbler  
Milk

Wednesday, April 26  
Weiners  
Pork and beans  
Hot rolls w-butter  
Buttered carrots  
Cucumber slices  
Fruit cup  
Milk

Thursday, April 27  
Hamburgers  
Tater logs  
Lettuce w-dressing  
Pickles  
Crispy celery sticks  
Vanilla pudding  
Milk

Friday, April 28  
Fish portions  
French fries  
Catsup  
Buttered green beans  
Cole slaw  
Peaches  
Choice of milk

Saturday, April 29  
Hamburgers  
Tater logs  
Lettuce w-dressing  
Pickles  
Crispy celery sticks  
Vanilla pudding  
Milk

Sunday, April 30  
Hamburgers  
Tater logs  
Lettuce w-dressing  
Pickles  
Crispy celery sticks  
Vanilla pudding  
Milk

### Menus

#### Sandy

Monday, April 17  
Weiner wraps  
French fries  
Catsup  
Buttered corn  
Fresh apple  
Milk

Tuesday, April 18  
Chicken & noodles  
Seasoned peas  
Cranberry sauce  
Hot roll  
Sliced peaches  
Chocolate milk

Wednesday, April 19  
Beef stew  
Cracker  
Pear half  
Peanut cup  
Cinnamon bun  
Milk

Thursday, April 20  
Beef ravioli with meat sauce  
Green beans  
Fruit salad  
Bread and butter  
Chocolate bar cookie  
Milk

Friday, April 21  
Bologna sandwich with lettuce  
Potato chips  
Chicken noodle soup  
Apricot halves  
Milk

#### Welches

Monday, April 17  
Beef and noodles  
Carrot rings  
Roll-butter  
Half banana  
Milk

Tuesday, April 18  
Taco  
Buttered corn  
Frosted grahams  
Orange lemon slush  
Milk

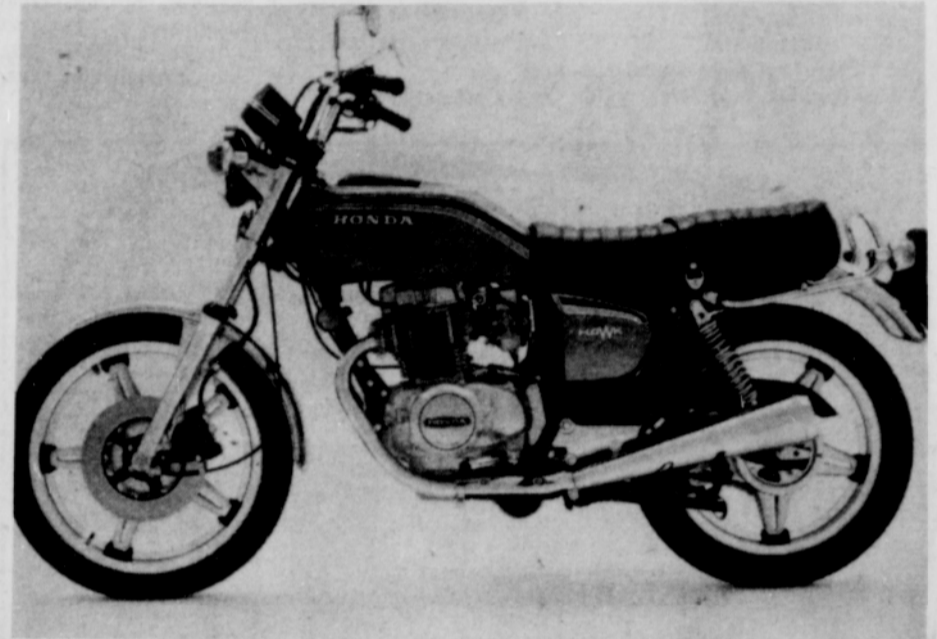
Wednesday, April 19  
Bean w-bacon soup  
Crisp vegetable chunks  
Bread-butter  
Maple bar  
Milk

Thursday, April 20  
Oven fried chicken  
Potato salad  
Hot French bread  
Half apple  
Milk

Friday, April 21  
Toasted cheese sandwich  
French fries-catsup  
Tossed salad  
Strawberry shortcake  
Milk

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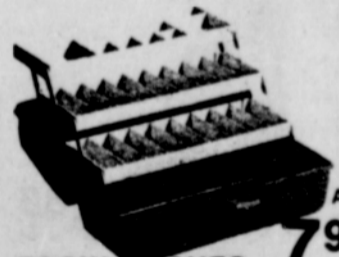
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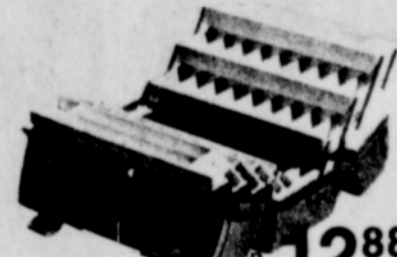
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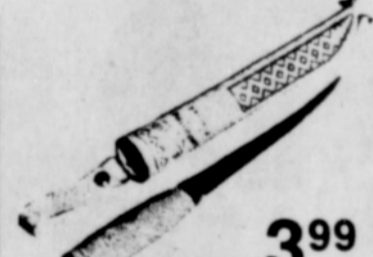
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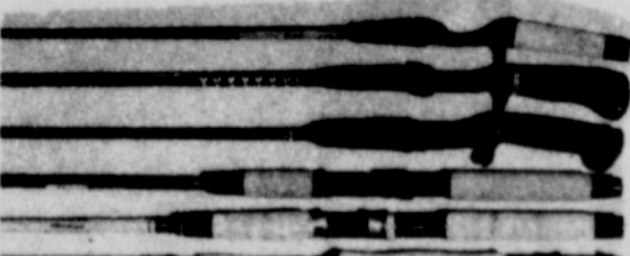
B. Adventurer 6 tray tackle box with hip roof style top. 46 compartments. 663-1394



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