

### In The Mailbox:

Editor, Pilot: The joy ride seems to be over in the lily industry—times of 50c yearlings and \$1 commercials are past and no more can one look for exorbitant profits from an acre of ground.

Until this year lily growers have been more or less interdependent, one on the other; the larger growers for labor to work their fields and the smaller growers for the wages on which to get by until they had salable crop.

Now, there are rumors that some of the larger growers wish to run the smaller growers out, and that two methods are to be used in so doing, namely: Reduced expenses and underselling. They may be able to undersell for a time but after a few years, if they neglect their fields by lack of cultivation, weeding, spraying and roguing, these men will have lost their inside track on the trade and will be looking

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Virginia Murphy

*Lively as a kitten*



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They cannot expect to chase to eastern districts looking for connections for the sale of their stock, thereby neglecting fields, and then have their trade complacent over inferior bulbs caused by such neglect. They will not long be able to offer as an excuse that business called them east when it is common knowledge that the call came when lilies needed care.

Naturally they will have their fields somewhat cleaned up when an eastern buyer arrives here, but how can they or any other dealer guarantee bulbs raised in such a manner, when the dealer sees these bulbs not more than twice a year?

It will not be long now until forcers demand good bulbs. To whom will these growers, who, by neglect and pinch-penny practices, have let their stock run down to whom will they then turn for an outlet?

Myself, I think there is still a golden opportunity for those of us who labor diligently in our fields, not only to make a living by lily culture, but eventually to gain some of the business of the larger growers.

Though some forcers may become cynical after having bought bulbs that did not measure up to their expectations, and this, of course, will harm all of us. Still they may be brought back to a buying mood when they can know that their bulbs, coming from people who dare chance an iron-clad guarantee.

The salvation of the lily industry can be summed up in one short sentence: Good bulbs fully guaranteed at a fair price commensurate with the law of supply and demand, their bulbs well advertised. In this connection, why not have an annual lily week and have Pathe or some other picture news service on hand? No better advertising can be found.—P. D. Stark.

### V. F. W. News

The local V. F. W. and Auxiliary have started construction of their new post building. This a big project and when completed will be an asset to the community. Situated as it is the plans are to make it an attractive asset, also.

A great deal of work and cash have already been expended in getting as far as the veterans have, considering their comparatively small number of locally available members. Much more work is necessary to get the structure boxed in before winter. Many people have volunteered to help, and a plan is in the work to divide the membership into squads to work under a leader on assigned days.

The building committee, Jim Rulla, C. McCulloch, and Vernon Hanscam, are responsible for the job and all working beyond their regular employment, assisted by volunteers of which there could be many more veterans.

A census of eligible VFW and Auxiliary members of the vicinity shows there should be a much large group registered for work. Commander Henry Horst and Auxiliary members of the vicinity, especially urge these to think the matter over quite seriously, asking themselves if they are in favor of a new example of our community's progress, if they are sure they or theirs will never make use of the building when done, and can they honestly enjoy it when they know they neglected to help those who have worked hard and long and freely to build it.

The veterans have spent a great deal of time and some cash trying to promote, nationally, the sale of their lily bulbs for financing the job without passing the hat in the community. It is still too early to judge what the results may be but the current national VFW monthly carries a long story about the local plan to about two million veterans.

1947

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