

Along Azalea Row

By Ruth B. Smith

I commend to you, if you are a Rosarian or just one who enjoys roses, the whole of the 1954 American Rose Annual. But this particular date calls for something different—or just a blank column—as an APRIL FOOL, so I borrow this bit for your pleasure.

The Seven Ages of A Rosarian
First, the Greenhorn, gawking at a rose plant in the super mart
Two blackened twigs he sees, gooey with wax;
Dry earth, dry roots in tinfoil squeezed,
And on the outside there's the image of a rose in color gay,
It's called—but what's a name?
He doesn't know the difference anyway.

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The price, cents sixty nine, he pays and off he goes,
To find: a gorgeous picture is his only rose.

And then the Quester, seeking the genus Rosa at the flower show,
He sees a Peace, he blinks his eyes,

Entranced with its hue, its shape, its size,
And yet, bethinking of that chain store rose so poor,
He leaves for home with just a pamphlet on manure.

Then the Visitor, who in his neighbor's garden treads,
And now his lethargy, his doubts, his fears he sheds,
He ohs and ahs, says, "Tell me, please,
What are the names of all these hybrid teas?"

An Imitator now, forth dashes he to buy

The dozen plants that so have ta'en his eye,
Because it's June, he gets them a la pot,
And some of them will live and some will not.

With what he has, he sweats the summer through,
Perhaps half breaks his heart,
E'en learns a thing or two.

And now the Scholar, as winds of winter blow,

He cons the catalogues, thinks, "Now I know—
You simply gaze upon the pictures, read the gush,

Vandals Cost State Plenty

Vandalism in Oregon State Parks and along Oregon highways cost the state \$29,076 in 1953, the Oregon State Highway Commission was informed at its last meeting in Portland.

In state parks one of the most expensive items vandalized was shelters, costing \$1,266 last year. In some cases roofs were torn off, windows broken out, and walls defaced by writing and carvings.

Most expensive item on the list of highway vandalism was the cost to repair and replace signs, signals, electric fixtures and sign posts. This item cost the highway department \$17,365 in 1953. Most of the damage was done by deliberate shooting, breaking or defacing this expensive highway equipment.

Other examples of vandalism in State Parks included the defacement and cutting of tables and benches. At Harris Beach State Park, for instance, six portable tables were thrown over the bluff onto the beach twice and nearly completely demolished. The replacements were finally secured to the ground so they couldn't be moved. Other types of damage was to benches torn up and thrown from locations along trails down steep banks and tables chopped up for firewood.

Though vandalism is a continuous and vexing problem to highway department crews, the cost of highway vandalism throughout the state is estimated to be quite small and measures are being taken to reduce it even more, according to highway department officials.

And up and pick the plants that sound most lush."

Another spring, and twenty hybrid teas
Are added to the ones that didn't freeze.

Rosarian—he deems it only fair to call him that;

He talks, and now just sometimes through his hat;
He finds exactly what it costs to know

The plants that will and those that will not grow
Sufficient blooms to make 'em earn their keep;
What fancy names should be re-labelled: "Sleep."

At last, the Expert, uttering wise saws

Through beard that's waved o'er many a blackspot spot,
Blue ribbons has he won, he's A.R.S.,

"Speak, maitre," plead the neighbors, "speak once more."

He makes his gracious visits, diagnosis

Just what the heck it is that ails the roses.

"Aha!" he cries, "Yon darkened cane a worm ate."

"Dear madam," he intones, "just use the Fermate."

He speaks of Bourbons, species roses, Chinas too,

He gravely states: "The blood that's Gallica turns petals blue."

He'll hybridize you this and bud you that—

But now, ah now, he's never talking through his hat!

—Leonard L. Eyster.

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OFFICERS IN EUREKA

Mrs. L. G. Stafford, President of the Pacific Bulb Growers Association, and Mrs. W. W. Wollam, Secretary, spent several days last week in Eureka on business for the association.

BACK FROM WYOMING

Mr. Dale Allsup returned recently from a week spent in

Wyoming. The combined business and pleasure trip included a visit with his parents.

WEEKEND IN GRANTS PASS

Mrs. Mildred Byrne and daughter, Joan, spent last weekend in Grants Pass visiting Mrs. Byrne's mother, Mrs. Anna Muchmore who is at the Fruitdale Rest Home there.

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