

## Along Azalea Row

By RUTH B. SMITH

Some people go by the calendar and suddenly discover it is high time to get outside and feel the earth on one's hand. But up in Washington three weeks ago the nights were still down to freezing and the daffodil growers weren't even willing to predict when their blooms would be ready for the annual parade and showing. This hardly seemed possible when those in our area, for the most part had been gone so long. We do live in a marvelous climate, in spite of winds and rains—and are plenty lucky to be here!

Recently a woman commented, "How blue the sky was today!" and the answer, "Was it? You must have had time to notice but I was too busy!" No one in Brookings, home-maker, logger, office-man, gardener, nor "in the lilies" should ever be too busy to look sky-ward or sea-ward. Today the whales were spouting and a big

ship passed on the horizon. It would do your own soul and that of the one to whom you write a letter, good just to mention what you had seen out your window that day. One person says she makes a habit of looking out at the sea and sky in at least two directions both morning and evening while another says that he always has to check on the heavens before he goes to bed. Even though on bended knee in the garden, it pays to stop the digging once in a while and appraise the changing world around you.

Do you know how many gardeners there are? No one actually does, of course, but the national estimate is thirty million—and that is an increase over the estimate of only five years ago. There has been a shift from the crowded cities into the country, with the result that even sociologists or politicians professional people and laborers, who didn't much care to know the difference between a daphne and a dahlia are now fast becoming gardeners of promise.

Never has the gardener had so many aids at his disposal. The rule of thumb used to mean that the gardener got from his garden just what he put into it, in planning, backache and blisters. But now the picture is changing. The bewildering products of the chemical laboratories, manufacturing plants and professional seedsmen all help the lazy gardener to secure amazing results. It is almost as hard to choose among the chemical "assists" as it is to

choose the colors and kinds of plantings you want.

Back to the original theme of planting time. Did you know there are really those who still swear by according to the phases of the moon? In spite of this chemical age and the modern scoffers, there are those who cling to the theory and can prove it. I had to find out why, and which moon phases to follow, and here it is in a nutshell.

Well it seems that moisture is necessary for a seed to germinate and the moon, as it approaches the "full" phase "pulling," just as we know it does affect the tides, also pulls moisture toward the earth's surface, nourishes the seed—and here comes the germination. Simple enough, isn't it?

It seems that, way back in 1926 an experiment with maize was first conducted by a German society, the Anthroposophical Agricultural Foundation. One plot was sown two days before the full of the moon, the second at full moon. Carefully watched, the Number One seedlings broke through the ground in short order, but two days later the anticipated Plot II seedlings did not show. Not until eight days had elapsed did anything appear. Those two days difference in sowing, with the aid of Mr. Man in the Moon, made a difference of eight days in the germination and the second ones never did catch up. Experiments continued over a period of nine years; the finest seeds available were used and practically every form of vegetable and flower was tried. This really seems conclusive proof that moon planting pays off in the end.

In case you, too, want to experiment for fun or in earnest, the next full moon will be May 17 so your seeds should go in on May 15. Send the results of your experiment to the new Garden

Club president, Mrs. Harvey or better still, make a specimen of contrasts for the Flower Show.

Well I had intended writing an erudite article on a very heavy topic but "just like a woman" rambled right off garrulously. Now there's only space to pass on Dean Collins recommendations for attracting the humming birds to your garden. Plant Monarda ("Bee balm" or "horse mint," so-called.) It has a red bloom full of honey, attractive to the humming bird. Fuchsia, heliotrope buddleia also attract them as does the currant—ribes sanguineum. Start planting now for the joy of seeing the humming bird at close range.

## Crescent Dance Recital Features Brookings Students

Bonnie Kay Mincer's dancing pupils of Brookings will take part in a dance recital to be given in Crescent City, Friday evening, May 14, in the Crescent-Elk auditorium.

Bonnie Kay is the instructor at Fike's Dancing School in Crescent City, and the recital will include her students from there as well as from Brookings and Klamath.

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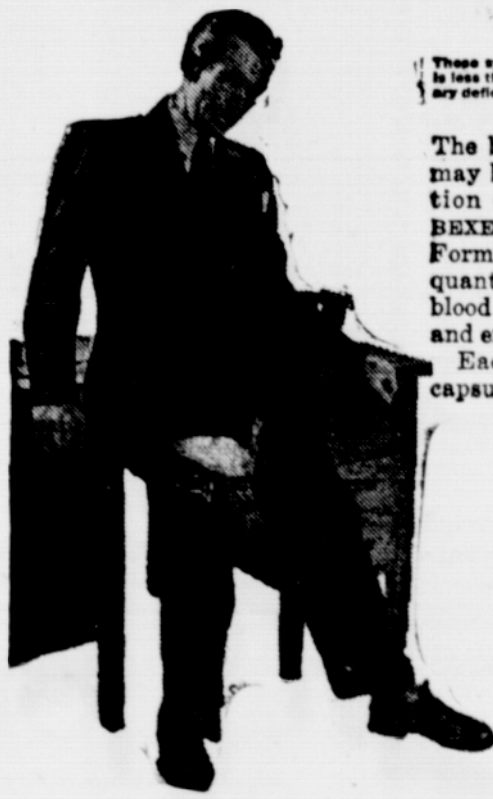
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