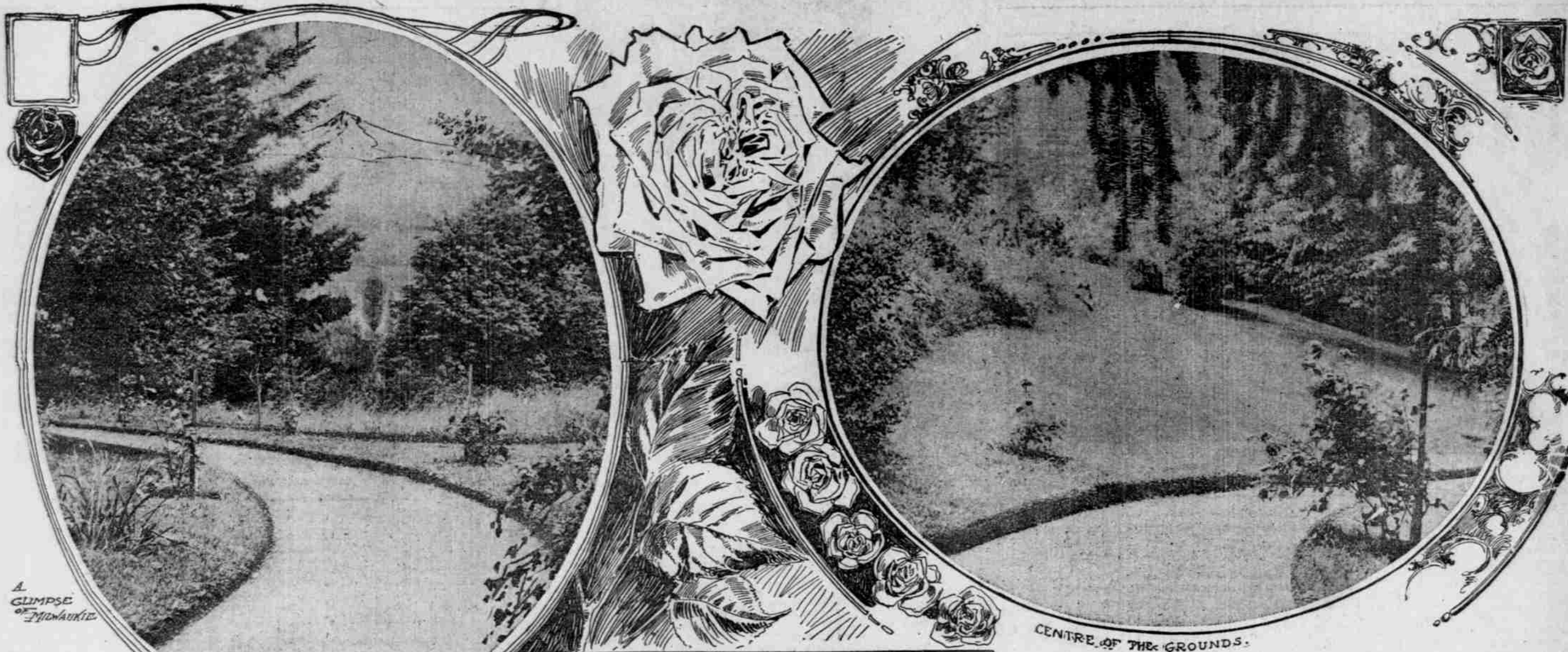




HANDSOMEST ROSE GARDEN IN OREGON

SUBURBAN HOME OF WILLIAM S. SIBSON, ON THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE



ORDINARILY it is not safe to employ the superlative in making a comparison; therefore when it is stated that the finest roses in Oregon are grown by Mr. William S. Sibson, the question naturally arises. By what authority are the products of his garden declared to be superior to any and all others? Mr. Sibson is an amateur rosarian. In Portland there are at least a dozen men and women deserving the same designation. These are agreed on the question that Mr. Sibson's roses are more nearly perfect than theirs. Further there are the roses themselves, and in his garden and at the rose shows they tell their own story of incomparable beauty. His home on the Riverside Drive, adjoining Mr. Charles E. Ladd's country place on the south, and up the hill from Rivers (the old White House) station on the Southern Pacific line. A copse of living green conceals the flower beds from those who pass by on cars or along the highway. Illustrations on this page show but faintly the beauty of the lawn and of the flowers. Oregon roses can be only feebly pictured even with colored inks on finest book paper.

Mr. Sibson's method of forcing so as to produce his famous roses has been given in detail before the Portland Rose Society, who published his talk in pamphlet form. In his garden may be seen every variety suited to the climatic conditions and the soil of Western Oregon,

i. e., those that attain perfection, and only those. Most attractive is his hedge of La Frances, a crescent nearly as long as a city block, all the bushes of uniform height, each so cultivated that it will produce approximately the same number of blossoms as its neighbor and each rose in the proper season almost perfect. This hedge adorns the upper border of a sloping, closely mowed lawn that makes an ideal, unbroken foreground.

Of roses, the La Frances is hailed everywhere as the queen. However, it has been held by many intelligent rosarians that if the Caroline Testout had the exquisite fragrance of the La Frances, it would be the peer of all pink roses. Mr. Sibson has a sport from the La Frances that took the form and color of the Caroline Testout and retained the fragrance of its progenitor. It is a strong bush, and if the owner were inclined toward commercialism in rose culture a small fortune would await him. He has named this rose—the only one of its kind so far as known here—the Mrs. W. S. Sibson. If it should ever "get on the market" it will be one of the world's famous roses.

No doubt every one who takes real interest in rose culture would like to produce the equals of Mr. Sibson's garden, and many have asked for his secret. There is no secret. His success is due to intelligent forcing of the bushes, which he explained to the Rose Society. This information is obtainable in the pamphlet published by the society.