

COOS BAY TIMES

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GET THE HAPPIEST HABIT

MEN and women should make it a part of their daily work to put as much as joy and as little bitterness as possible into the lives of those about them.

HENPECKED.

There's nothing spoils a mortal's life like living with a nagging wife. The husband who is daily stung and badgered by envenomed tongue, can only bear his load of grief and long for death as a relief.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received for the clearing and grading of a portion of the Coquille-Marshfield County Road in Road District No. 3, from Coalado to Davis Slough, according to the plans and specifications on file in the Office of the County Clerk.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award the contract to a bidder not the lowest, should they deem it for the best interest of the County.

All bids to be filed with the County Clerk on or before the 20th day of March, A. D., 1916, at the hour of Ten o'clock, A. M., on which day such contract will be let. A certified check for five (5) per cent of the amount of the bid to be deposited with the County Clerk with bid to be forfeited to the County in case contract shall be awarded and the contractor shall fail, neglect or refuse for a period of ten days after such award is made to enter into a contract and file his bond, to the satisfaction of the County Court as required by law.

Dated at the City of Coquille, Coos County, Oregon, this 29th day of February, A. D., 1916. ROBERT WATSON, County Clerk.

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Suggestions for City Beautiful

MOTHER'S GARDEN

EDITOR TIMES: That spring verse by "Darn Fool" last Friday attracted my attention, because if the city did go to all the trouble and expense of sowing MH Slo' fill with oats and then when it was nice and green, the folks who have cows would take them there to graze, it would be like many almost unbelievable kindnesses, I've seen my dear old mother do, that others took so great advantage of.

Then again, I've heard her dubbed something very near that too, for spending so much time and strength on her flowers, for of course every man of us knows you can't eat flowers, unless at some function where candied violets or frascasseed carnations were the "dainties" served.

But it wasn't mother I started in to tell you about—it was a Coos Bay garden grown on the west side of the hill too, where the sun rises a good bit later than on the east side of the divide.

Say ten years ago, Mother, in a dying condition had to go back to nature, or die—(no need to feel badly tho', for what I am telling you about, made her strong and well); clearing was commenced just at odd times. I was quite a small boy then and used to be afraid the bears would get me when I was going thru the dense forest growth on this once logged off tract. There were two forests fallen one embedded in the ground.

The great white cedars used for shakes and pockets had been all charred and fallen by the great fire of long ago; one buried in the ground that was four feet through and another, five feet through on top of it and over both, with roots reaching down over eight feet on either side

was a great spruce stump whose rings proclaimed it over fifty years old.

Such was the condition of every inch of the ground's covering, the fallen timber, stumps and the new growth.

Followed months of determined clearing—something like digging for buried treasure—always a question as to what you'll find.

Part of this particular spot was porous as a sponge and the other was springs and muck and all had been shut away from the sun for hundreds of years. If the land could have been folded over once and well mixed it would have saved lots of work.

Reclaiming the soil has been accomplished by all sorts of enrichment.

Sowing the land to rye and spading it under in the spring—clover the same—while bones of everything used for food, lie buried about shrubs and trees; iron shavings are great for roses—Chickens, cows, horses, and pigs have all helped, while mice, rats, cats or anything ready to be buried, found their death contributing to the life of this garden.

Mother soon found that boughten things didn't grow as well as those exchanged by friends and it finally grew to be a sort of mania with her and most every where she visited, some new cutting would be put away to "make root" upon her return. So now standing in one spot, I can look about and see a hundred different things growing, that to her mean the faces, character, life and moving incidents of friends far and near.

It is a happy tho', that when you call, for in our damp climate you can start most anything from cuttings. —LOVER OF BEAUTY.

SMALL LOTS WILL PROVIDE GARDENS FOR BIG FAMILIES

(Special to The Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.—Even the smallest back yard may be made to yield a supply of fresh vegetables for the family table at but slight expense if two or three crops are successively grown to keep the area occupied all the time, according to the garden specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. People who would discharge a clerk if he did not work the year around will often cultivate a garden at no little trouble and expense and then allow the soil to lie idle from the time the first crop matures until the end of the season. Where a two or three crop system is used in connection with vegetables adapted to small areas, a space no larger than 25 by 70 feet will produce enough fresh vegetables for a small family. Corn, melons, cucumbers and potatoes and other crops which require a large area should not be grown in a garden of this size. Half an acre properly cultivated with a careful crop rotation may easily produce \$100 worth of various garden crops in a year.

When to Work Soil

If the garden was not broken in the fall it should be plowed in the spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Small areas may be worked with a spade, pushing the blade into its full depth and turning the soil to break the clods. Heavy soils should never be worked when wet. Overzealous gardeners, ready to seize the first warm spell as a favorable opportunity to go out and work the heavy clay soil before it is dry, are not only wasting their energy, but are doing a damage to the soil from which it will take years for it to recover. To determine when heavy soils are ready for plowing a handful of earth should be collected from the surface and the fingers tightly closed on it. If the ball of compact earth is dry enough for cultivation, it will fall apart when the hand is opened.

A garden spot near the house is often more desirable than a plot which is in better thit but located at an inconvenient distance. A garden which is near the house will receive many a spare hour of care from adults and children which otherwise would be wasted. Where there is ample room for a garden site, the slope of the land should be carefully considered. A gentle slope towards the south is most desirable for growing early crops, while it is a decided advantage to have the plot protected from the north and northwest by either a hill, a group of buildings or a board fence.

Drainage of the garden is of great importance. The land should have sufficient fall to drain off surplus water during heavy rains and yet not be so steep that the soil will be washed or gullied. The surface should be nearly level so the water will not stand in hollows. Where the natural slope of the land does not prove sufficient drainage, ditches

may be dug or a tile drain put in. This will prevent waste water from the adjoining land from washing over it. Such water may carry weed and grass seed into the garden, which are later culled out with difficulty.

How To Fertilize

The soil in the average back yard is not only lacking in plant food but also has been packed until it is hard and unyielding. To loosen up such soil and make it suitable for garden produce requires that careful attention be given to its preparation. After spading the inclosure thoroughly, the upper three inches should be made fine with the use of hoe or rake. Stones and rubbish should be removed and clods of dirt broken. It may then be marked off for planting in conformity with the general plan of the garden.

Barnyard or stable manure is the best fertilizer because it furnishes both plant food and humus. An application at the rate of from 20 to 25 tons to the acre of well-rotted manure is very satisfactory. This should be applied after plowing or working with a spade, and distributed evenly over the surface and later worked in with a hoe and rake. On many soils it is advisable to apply commercial fertilizer, especially phosphate, in addition to the manure. An application of 300 to 500 pounds of acid phosphate to the acre is usually sufficient. If additional potash is needed, which is often the case with sandy soils, this may be economically supplied in the form of wood ashes. If the wood ashes are unleached they should be distributed over the garden, using 1,000 pounds to the acre. If they have been wet, or leached, 2,000 pounds should be used. An application of 100 pounds to the acre of nitrate of soda may be used in the spring to start the plants before the nitrogen in the manure has become available. It should be borne in mind that commercial fertilizers will not yield good results unless the soil is well supplied with humus. Sod or other vegetation which has overgrown a garden spot may be used to advantage. It should be turned under with a plow or a spade and will aid in lightening the soil and providing humus.

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advertising does both when the advertising appears in

Coos Bay Times

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S. S. Adeline Smith

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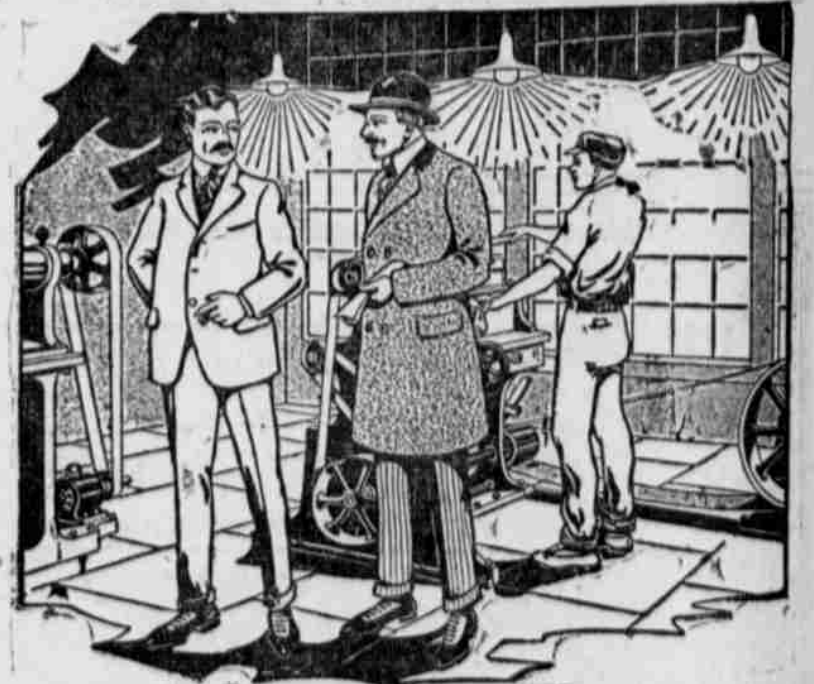
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