

PRUNING OF ROSE BUSH REQUIRES CARE THIS YEAR

Growers Are Confronted With Peculiar Season and Damage Will Result Unless Judgment Used.

By Sheila Childs Hargreaves

IN ORDINARY seasons, the time for giving the rose bushes particular attention is from the middle of January on until the first of March, but in such a season as this it is hard to say definitely just when they should be pruned, or when early spring planting may safely be attempted. The object is to do this preliminary work after the severe storms of winter are over and just before growth starts in the spring.

Should pruning be done too early a severe storm may cause considerable dying back of the bearing wood, and then the work will have to be done all over again and too large quantities of wood will have to be removed. On the other hand, too late pruning allows the bush to expend energy in growth which is wasted by the pruning of the unnecessary wood. So judgment is required to do this work properly, for pruning really depends upon weather circumstances. In view of the fact that the winter season so far has broken all records it might be well to wait as long as possible, for we do not know what a week may bring forth.

Owners of choice, tender bushes have been uneasy for fear the extreme cold spell early in December killed the roses, but this is not likely, especially if the hilling up with manure had been done before the storm caught them. Some bushes that were in exposed locations where the wind blew the snow off, leaving the stalks completely exposed to the weather may be badly damaged and in the case of tender bushes set recently some may die, of course, but well established bushes will be benefited by having weak canes killed back, thus throwing the energy to the more vigorous shoots; the result will be a more vigorous growth in the spring with fine blooms. In fact, blooms have always more substance and better coloring in seasons when the bushes have been subjected to more or less freezing the previous winter.

COLD HAS ITS BENEFITS

While no sane person would desire very cold weather in this climate, still when it comes we may be thankful for some few advantages which follow in its train. A heavy snow fall is said by farmers to do as much good to the soil as fertilizer. The freezing loosens the soil and renders cultivation easy. East-westerners who are in this climate complain that the soil is heavy and apt to scur through lack of freezing in the winter. Last, but not least, many unexpecting insect pests which are in the habit of wintering safely just beneath the surface of the ground have perished ingloriously. So the prospect for extra fine roses as well as bumper crops of fruit and vegetables this summer is good.

The hilling up of roses, which was mentioned in the article on fall care of roses is generally done about December. This manure properly worked in as soon as the ground can be cultivated in the spring will furnish the necessary fertilizer. In case this was overlooked fertilizer should be applied as soon as possible in order that it may be available to the bush before growth starts in the spring. It must be remembered that the plant food in fertilizer is not available until the rains wash the substances down to the ground, so that the feeding rootlets may take it up. Some commercial fertilizers, such as nitrate of soda, are quicker than others but, generally speaking, time must be allowed for the nutritious substances to become incorporated in the soil. It must be borne in mind that the rose is a cross feeder and the soil is not apt to be enriched for several days when a load of cow manure is spread, or less, if it can be obtained at all. There are, however, many good reliable commercial fertilizers which are being used with good results. Bone meal is always beneficial.

BONES NOURISHING

In setting roses it is a good plan to bury old bones underneath so that they will furnish nourishment for years to come. Bones which are buried near the roots of growing bushes with good results, providing they were placed deep enough so that dogs would not dig after them and ruin the bushes. There are many fertilizers which are allowed to go to waste by careless, inexperienced gardeners. The compost heap will furnish valuable food for the roses as well as the other plants. To this heap anything from the garbage that will decay may be added as it accumulates—bones, feathers, vegetable parings, leaves gathered from the street—all this vegetable and animal matter is covered with layers of soil, will furnish a mine of fertilizer for years. The rotted material may simply be dug from the bottom when it is needed.

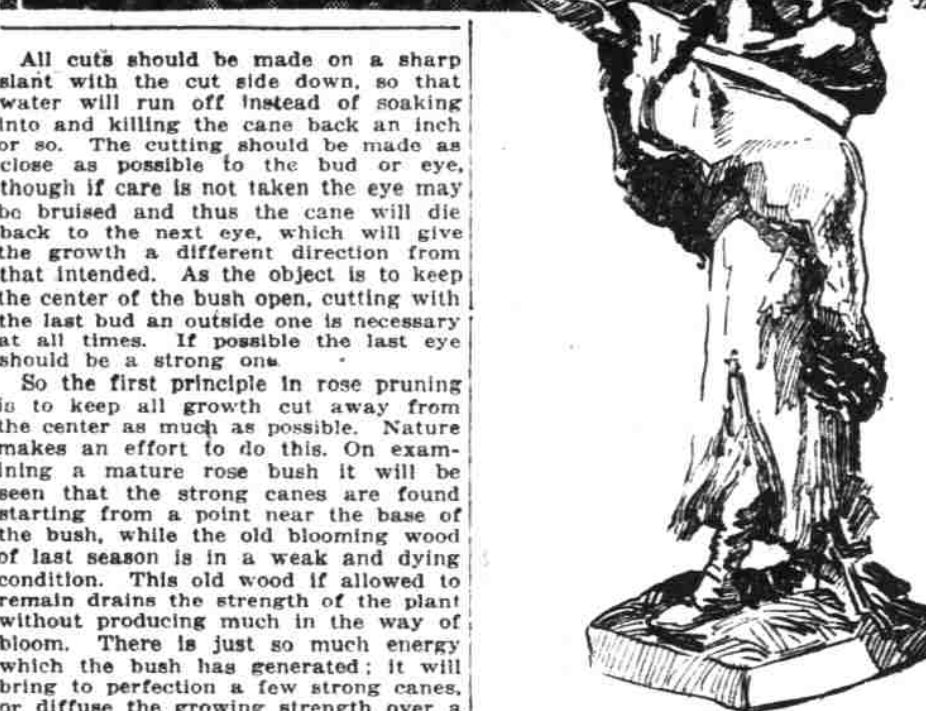
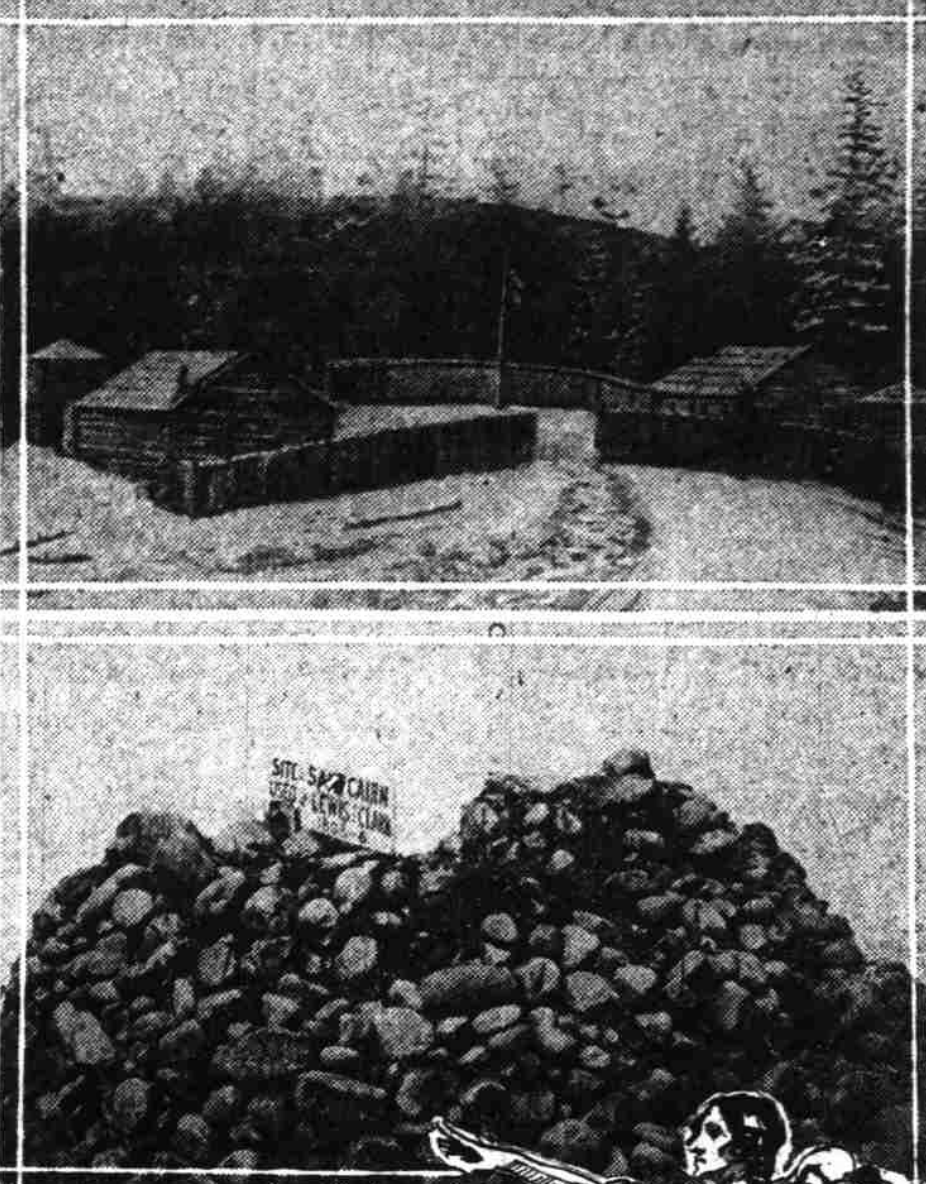
Detailed directions for rose planting, given in the fall article on roses, may be applied to spring planting. The sooner bushes are in place in the spring the better; if it is possible to have them planted before growth starts, there will be very little setting back. Roses may safely be set until April 1, after that time they will make little growth if they survive the summer. Cuttings also are made the same in the early spring as in the fall, if shaded and given plenty of water they will make good growth, though fall is the ideal time for all cuttings.

There are two objects in pruning rose bushes: to stimulate the plant to produce more and better roses and to keep the bush in the symmetrical shape. It will be noticed that the principles of pruning are the same whether the work is being done upon fruit trees, berries or roses. The first thing is to determine just what the object of the cutting is and why, never making an aimless cut. To the experienced rose grower pruning is a very simple matter, but it is no uncommon thing to hear the beginner wall that he can never learn to prune roses, as if it were some deep and mysterious process.

SCISSORS MUST BE SHARP

Before starting to do any pruning attention must be given to the shears. There are many cheap rose shears on the market, which cannot be depended upon to keep an edge. Shears made of a good grade of steel, which are well set will be an economy in the long run. The cheap ones, besides jagging the bark of the bushes, have a way of breaking when cutting a tough cane.

EARLY OREGON SCENES



Above—Fort Clatsop, headquarters of Lewis and Clark during the winter of 1805-6. Center—Salt cairn at Seaside, where Lewis and Clark made salt. Below—Statue of Sacajawea, the Indian woman who guided Lewis and Clark on their trip to the Pacific coast.

All cuts should be made on a sharp slant with the cut side down, so that water will run off instead of soaking into and killing the cane back an inch or so. The cutting should be made as close as possible to the bud or eye, though if care is not taken the eye may be bruised and thus the cane will die back to the next eye, which will give the growth a different direction from that intended. As the object is to keep the center of the bush open, cutting with the last bud an outside one is necessary at all times. If possible the last eye should be a strong one.

So the first principle in rose pruning is to keep all growth cut away from the center as much as possible. Nature makes an effort to do this. On examining a mature rose bush it will be seen that the strong canes are found starting from a point near the base of the bush, while the old blooming wood of last season is in a weak and dying condition. This old wood if allowed to remain drains the strength of the plant without producing much in the way of bloom. There is just so much energy which the bush has generated; it will bring to perfection a few strong canes, or diffuse the growing strength over a large area, producing quantities of weak wood. As nature is always on the side of the strong, the thing to do is to forestall nature's selection by determining which are the strongest canes and then removing all the others.

There will be, say, 10 buds on each of these remaining canes, and by cutting off five of them the sap will go to the remaining five, with the strongest growth at the top of the cane. The canes to be left are determined by the state of their maturity; it will be found that some of the canes, while strong in appearance, have a green, immature color, showing that they started late last season and so have not properly ripened. A mature cane will be brown, like the old wood.

DEPENDS ON BUSH

The number of canes to be left will depend somewhat upon the bush and the judgment of the pruner, anywhere from three to six is a good general rule. Strong growers such as Frau Karl Druschki, Caroline Testout, or Ulrich Bruner, may have more canes left and more eyes to the cane than those of weaker growth. It stands to reason that a strong, vigorous plant can produce more wood than a weak one. Also pruning stimulates growth, so do not be afraid to give weak bushes drastic treatment. Some successful rosarians leave only two or three eyes to the cane on roses which they intend for exhibition.

The cutting back of climbing roses is rather different from the bush forms; in most cases it really amounts to little more than thinning out, removing the dead and interfering canes, so as to let the light in and air circulate through the interior of the vine. It must be remembered that the Wichuriana ramblers, such as Dorothy Perkins and Hialeatha, make growth one year which blooms the next. These roses receive most of their pruning just after the blooming season is over, though all dead and weak wood should of course be cut back in the spring. Sometimes the growth can be shortened, a little, to advantage, depending upon the way the vine is to be trained.

Tea climbers and Noyettes need very little pruning other than cutting out wood which is too old to bear. Sometimes it is necessary in training them to cut away portions so that they will conform to their limitations. The measure of success to be attained with climbing roses is determined by the policy followed in training as much as in pruning.

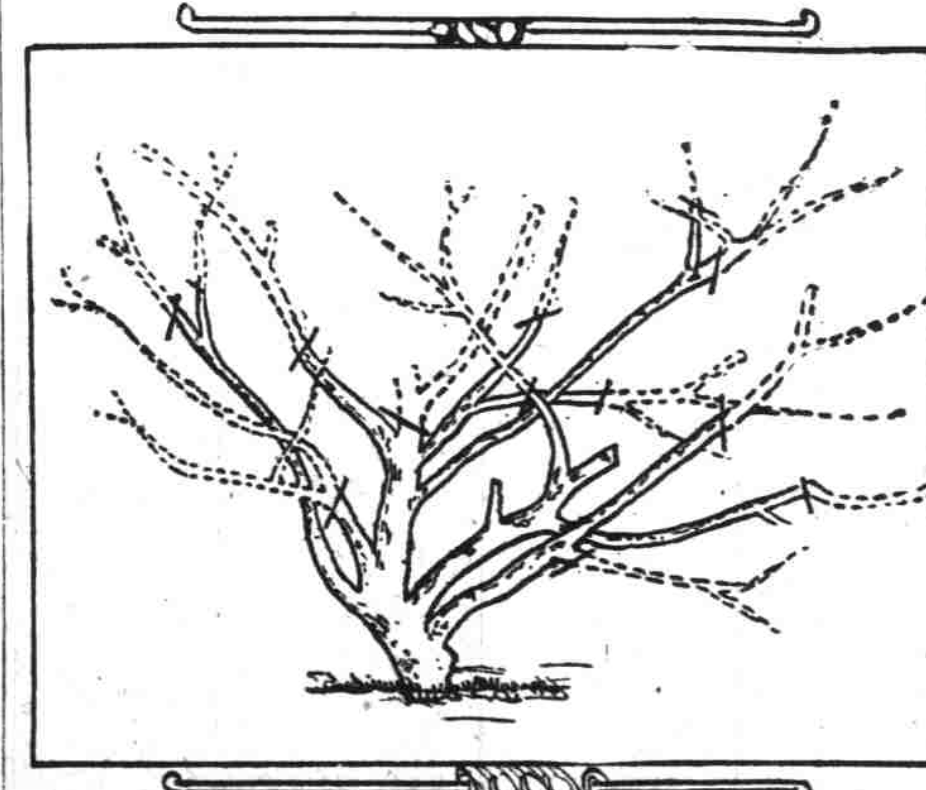
In order to reduce the number of surviving insect pests as much as possible all wood removed should be burned at once, never left lying where it fell. Insects rarely deposit eggs on the lower portions of a rose bush, so if drastic cutting is followed and the waste destroyed, the pests and diseases will be greatly reduced. The rose is subject to many diseases as well as pests which are held in check largely by means of preventive sprays which are applied freely through the fall, winter and early spring. Bordeaux mixture is the spray for the dormant season. It may be mixed at home—directions have been repeatedly given in these columns—or if only a small quantity is so to be used it is less trouble to buy the prepared mixture. There are good commercial sprays which are of use through the growing season as well. Articles on spraying will follow in the proper season.

One secret of growing fine roses is in constant cultivation during the growing season and then, too, much depends upon the way water is applied, as a thorough soaking twice a week is all that is necessary, but it should be thorough, a light sprinkling every night does more harm than good. After the blooming season is over water should be withheld until the bushes have had a chance to rest.

Card Long Delayed

London, Jan. 17.—(U. P.)—A Bishop's Stortford bride received on her wedding day a postcard, mailed 14 years previously, making an appointment. The postoffice did not attempt to explain the delay.

HOW TO TRIM ROSE BUSHES



Method of clipping plants so as to make a dressy appearing bush which will bear well. Note that branches showing a tendency to criss-cross are eliminated.

LEWIS AND CLARK FINISH LONG TRIP TO PACIFIC COAST

Expedition Spends Winter Near What Is Now Seaside; Hoped for Ships Are Not Found.

(This is the seventh of a series of articles on Oregon and its history, written for The Sunday Journal by J. B. Horner, professor of history, Oregon Agricultural college, and author of "Oregon.")

By J. B. Horner

The day was August 12, 1805. Captain Meriwether Lewis and three companions were standing beside a westward flowing spring on the summit of the Rocky mountains. The spring "had never been seen by civilized man." It is one of the head springs of the river that flows through the land of the Shoshones into the Columbia—one of the small beginnings of the river later discovered by Captain Clark and named in honor of Captain Lewis. Concerning this spring it might have been said as of the spring of old: "There is a river the spring whereof shall make glad the City of God."

After Captain Lewis and his companions made an extended detour in the vicinity of the long sought spring, they returned in company with some Indians to the Jefferson river, where they joined the main party. When Sacajawea saw the Indians, she began to dance and to demonstrate every evidence of the most extravagant joy, sucking her fingers and pointing to the Indians to indicate that they were of her native tribe.

Of this meeting we learn from the Lewis and Clark journal. "While Sacajawea was renewing among the women the friendships of former days, Captain Clark went on, and was received by Captain Lewis and the chief, who, after the first embraces and salutations were over, conducted him to a sort of circular tent or shade of willows. Here he was seated on a white robe, and the chief immediately tied in his hair six small shells resembling pearls, an ornament highly valued by these people, who procure them in the course of trade from the seacoast. The mocassins of the whole party were then taken off, and after much caution the smoking began. After this the conference was to be opened.

CHIEF MUCH MOVED

Glad of an opportunity to converse more intelligibly, they sent for Sacajawea, who came into the tent, sat down, and began to interpret. When in the person of Cameahwait, the chief, she recognized her brother. She instantly jumped up and ran and embraced him, throwing over him her blanket, and weeping profusely. The chief was himself moved, though not in the same degree. After some conversation between them, she resumed her seat and attempted to interpret for us. Her new situation seemed to overpower her, and she was frequently interrupted by tears.

The influence of Sacajawea's presence was in evidence. The Indians rendered valuable assistance to Lewis and Clark by trading horses to them for trinkets and by manifesting much good will toward them in other ways. But there were many difficulties to be overcome. One of the immediate difficulties was the long distance they had to travel in a northwesterly direction over an unknown route to the Clearwater river, for they could proceed by boats westward. Also the party at times endured much suffering brought on principally by the scarcity and inferior quality of food, and by unbalanced rations—their diet being roots, horse meat, dogs, crows, and wolves in sparse supply.

Carried by the current in canoes from October 7, Lewis and Clark reached the mouth of the Columbia, November 11. Jefferson had instructed them to "learn upon reaching the Pacific if there be any port within your reach frequented by the sea vessels of any nation, and to send two or three trustworthy people back by sea," or if "the return of your party by the way they went will be immediately dangerous, then ship the whole and return by sea—either by Cape Horn or by the Cape of Good Hope." Failing of this opportunity to return by sea, they built Fort Clatsop on the Netel river—now called the Lewis and Clark—about two miles above its mouth. The officers were engaged in preparing their journals and collecting data for a report upon the natural history, ethnology, and trade of the coast. The hunters killed some elk and obtained other food by various means; they might, frequently trading with the Indians for dogs and fish. Some of the party went a few miles west, to where Seaside now is, to procure salt. Here they constructed a salt cairn, which in recent years has undergone restoration, but which is one of the oldest evidences of civilization in the Oregon country.

THANKFUL FOR WHALE

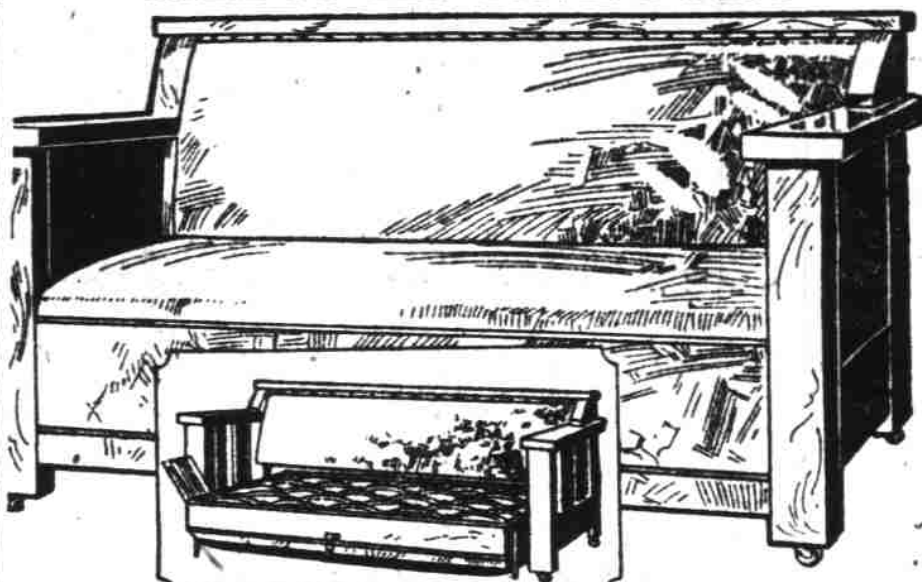
All were living by chance. Sometimes they were bountifully supplied, other times they were reduced to want. Once they thought themselves very fortunate in being able to trade for a quantity of whale blubber, which the Indians had taken from the carcasses of whales ashore. The Lewis and Clark party, being unable to sight a ship on which they could go home, began their return by land, March 25, 1806. The funds set apart for the expedition were nearly exhausted by this time. But the two leaders were skilled in the use and preparation of herbs; and these remedies were bartered at private sale for the necessities charged by the Indians for horses, dogs and other necessities. The explorers were delayed by snow in the Rocky mountains. But they journeyed on and returned; hence they journeyed steadily exactly six months until they arrived at St. Louis—Lewis having returned by the Yellowstone river, while Clark came by the route traveled the previous year.

REJOICING IN EAST

Upon the return of Lewis and Clark there was much rejoicing throughout the United States. The humblest of its citizens had taken a lively interest in the issue of this journey, and looked forward with impatience to the information it would furnish. The anxieties, too, for the safety of the corps had been kept in a state of excitement by lugubrious rumors circulated from time to time on uncertain authorities and contradicted by letters and other direct information from the time they left Mandan towns, on their ascent of the river in April of the preceding year, 1805, until their actual return to St. Louis.

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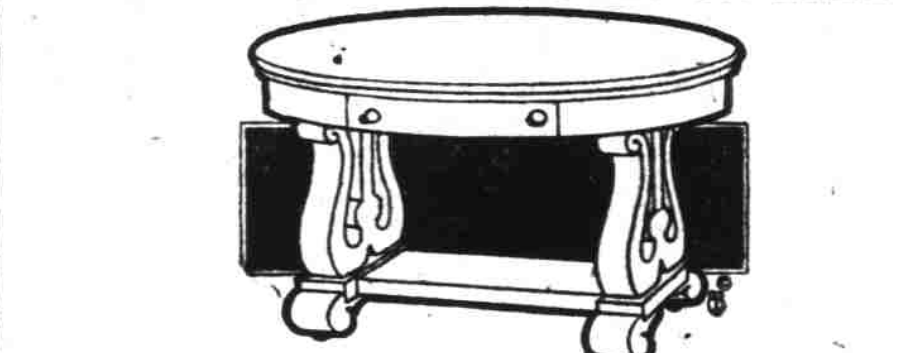
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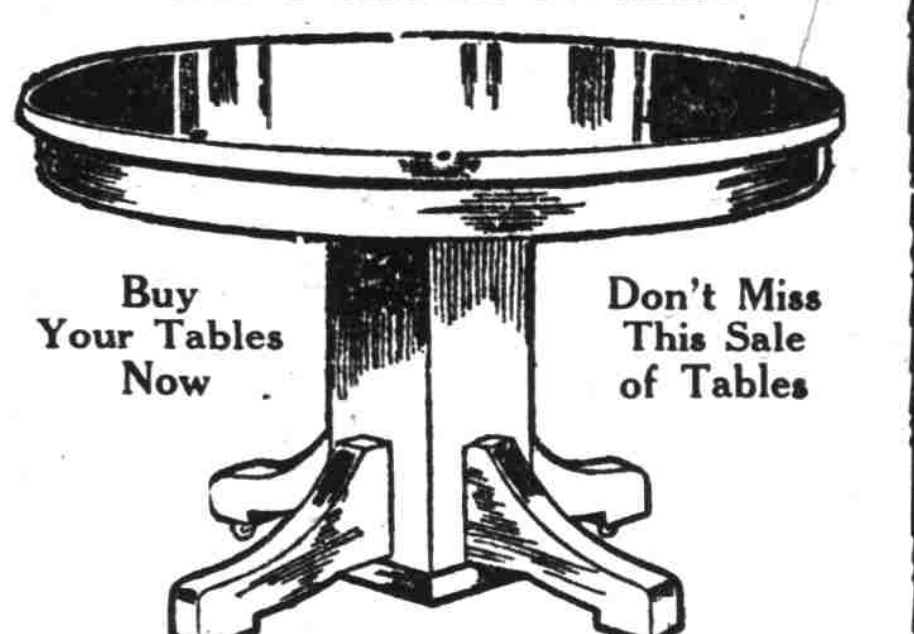
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