

Books, Art, Gardening and Current Opinion Gain Attention

Electric Shock Peril Stressed

Recent Tragedy Reminder of Necessary Caution Says PGE Manager

W. M. Hamilton, division manager of the Portland General Electric company, has written The Statesman to warn users of electricity against some of the hazards, as follows:

"The recent tragic death of Ralph McCallough in Portland, due to his coming in contact with an electric circuit while standing in water in a flooded basement, prompts me to write you suggesting precautions that should be observed by everyone to guard against the possibility of having a similar tragedy overtake them or their family."

"Electric energy has a strong tendency to go into the earth. This tendency is most graphically demonstrated by lightning when it strikes a tree, a building, a person, or an animal."

"It should always be borne in mind that practically all plumbing fixtures are connected with the earth by pipes, which are excellent conductors of electricity."

Pipe Is Conductor

"Therefore, as the insulation of ordinary electric lamp sockets and fixtures may become defective in time, a person should never take hold of a lamp socket, fixture, or wall switch while also touching in any way a plumbing fixture or piping, as by doing so, one may complete a circuit from the electric wiring to the ground and receive a shock."

"This applies to washing machines, ranges, and other appliances."

"Likewise, one should never touch any electrical circuit, fixture, or appliance while standing on the earth, particularly if it is wet or even damp. If it is, therefore, obvious that electrical equipment while standing in water, even though the water may be in a fully concreted basement because water is a good conductor of electricity, and water-saturated concrete is also a conductor."

"Therefore, one should avoid contacts with electrical circuits that are not thoroughly insulated while standing on concrete, particularly the floor of a basement, as although there may be no water standing on top of the concrete, it is frequently impregnated with moisture from the earth."

Special Precaution

"The safety of an electric installation issued by the state department of labor contain special rules for the installation of electrical equipment in basements and other concrete floor structures where the concrete floor is in direct contact with the earth. If such equipment is installed and maintained in accordance with these rules, there is practically no danger of a person receiving a serious electric shock from contact with electric appliances and fixtures as are normally used in such places."

"As an illustration, all electric lamp sockets used in such places should be of the porcelain shell type instead of the ordinary brass shell."

Should Be Grounded

"To secure the highest degree of safety, washing and ironing machines and ranges should be thoroughly grounded to water piping which extends into the earth, when used in a basement, and the wiring should also be enclosed in conduit and the conduit thoroughly grounded where a person might otherwise come in contact with the wiring while standing on the concrete floor."

"The foregoing are some of the principal precautions which should be taken, but if one wants to take full precautions, they should have the wiring and equipment in their basements and similar premises inspected by a thoroughly competent electrician who can advise them of the kind of work that should be done to make their electrical installation safe."

"Similar warnings to this have been issued before, but occasional repetition is needed to prevent recurrences of such tragedies as the death of Ralph McCallough and others who have suffered similar fates."

Sage of Salem Speculates

By D. H. TALMADGE

A January Toast

Again we begin a New Year's trail, And what we plan we may do or fail.

In the same old way, Things may be better or not so good, And few will do as they would if they could.

But some day they may, So here's to him whose courage is strong, Who keeps his faith as he goes along.

And yields not to fear: The planets swing true around the sun, And our works will count when they are done, And what is a year? More days of plodding along the trail.

A venture or two to win or fail, Whom I will stand the quest; So again to him who falters not, Who makes the best of whatever his lot.

And death's but a rest!

Sunday Night Sadness

What quality there may be in a Sunday night that makes it different from other nights of the week I do not know. Years ago I attributed the sadness of Sunday night to too much food and too little exercise during the day. With the years has come much testimony to bear out the belief that physical causes do not lie at the bottom of it. It is something else.

I have spoken of the matter to many people, practically all of whom have a sad disposition, and seldom on other nights. I have read of characters in books who were thus affected. And I have known a country editor in the middle west who wrote a column for his paper each week, which he printed in the "Sunday Night" and which fairly dripped melancholy.

Once, in the gloaming of a Sunday night, I met up with a hobo in Portland. He was standing, a disconsolate figure, on the aqueduct at 42nd street. Beneath were the tracks of the O. R. & N. He was watching for an eastbound freight train, and his heart was heavy in his bosom. He said he had the mulikrubs. Always had 'em Sunday nights. Didn't know why.

Aunt Eliza Tinkham, I remember, could hardly get for the sun to set Sunday night. Aunt Eliza held to the belief that the Sabbath day, in the meaning of the commandments, ended at sunset. And she declared that there were Sunday nights when she thought she'd fly into smithereens before the sun set, so she could relieve the sadness by relating to the family clothes ready for wash day, which, of course, was Monday. And there, you see, it is again.

O, well, it isn't a very sad sadness. There are times, in fact, when it is rather a sweet sadness. Perhaps it is a creation of religion, and a letting down of the bars, so to speak, to thoughts pertaining to other days.

I reckon it doesn't greatly matter.

A "Flu" Item

A chill and a hot water bottle. Battled for two solid hours. And which one the other would throttle.

And which would be sent to the showers.

Was settled at last by a blanket. Which quite discouraged the chill.

Which rendered a shivery "Blank It!"

And doc' he sent in no bill.

Accounting for the Delay

It is sometimes said in a grievous tone of voice that it is a shame a man or a woman should die before he or she is given credit for his or her quality. Only after years, frequently many years, does fame come, and the famed one has long since been in the grave. This, I think, is particularly true of the ones who have accomplished great things in the higher arts. Temperamental people, these, in whom an interest can be temperamental people. It is wrong, of course, quite unjust. But it is in full keeping with the nature of the genus homo, and there is probably no remedy for it. If any would have proof let them, from anybody, made up from strivers for higher attainment, choose one individual who seems to them deserving of praise he or she is not being accorded, and publicize this individual to the exclusion of all others of like ambitions. The result of such an experiment will, I am sure, be illuminating to the strivers for justice.

Scatterings

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Winfield Scott, The Soldier and

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Gardens Have "Winter Beauty" if not Neglected; All-American Seed Awards Reviewed

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Too many gardens are entirely neglected during January. Too frequently, in driving through the country we see pieces of limbs, small pieces of other debris lying about the lawn just where the last gust of wind has left it.

Gardens have a certain beauty of their own. Broken branches or a few dead shoots should be cut away at once. Not only cut away and let lie on the lawn, but also carried away.

I hope you sprayed your roses with Bordeaux before the first of the year. Now in January get your lime-sulphur, winter-strength and give a good spraying to your rose bushes. While you are at it, also spray your lilac bushes, your wild currant (if you have one on your lawn). A dose for your flowering cherry and other flowering trees will also prove beneficial.

In pruning, be very sure to leave no jagged edges. Cut away the dead wood, and cut a little higher than the out. This gives the tree more chance at air circulation. Remember, I am not suggesting a general pruning at this time. Such a pruning should come later. Now just cut away broken branches or branches you know.

Add Rose Bushes Now

During good January days you'll be adding an extra rose bush or an extra shrub. Do not overfertilize when you plant. If the soil is very much on the clay order, add some sumus to the soil at planting time. I believe that it is beneficial to add a half bushel of bonemeal to soil in which you are planting your lilac shrubs. Yes, if you intend to add a new lilac for the spring, do so now.

If you want to add brightly colored berries to your garden, plant the berries now to make your own selections of those that carry their berries long on the bushes.

Inspect Rock Garden

Following the heavy rains, make a thorough investigation of your rock gardens. Likely, some of the plants have been washed out, and they should be reset at once. Those of you who start in small greenhouses or in indoor flats, should get your delphiniums and other perennial seeds underway. Anchusa, snapdragons, sweet Williams, many of these will gain a lot of time if given a start now.

What America's seed awards for 1933 are now out. There are a number of gardeners who wish to grow these each year. Such gardeners should remember there are also others who have the same thought. The seeds should be ordered at once. Frequently there isn't a large supply of seeds of these All-Stars.

1933 Seed Awards

This year's awards went first to Petunia Salmon Supreme, a light salmon in color, and the plant itself grows about a foot high. It is one of the very best budding petunias. The flowers have white throats and are about one and a half inches in diameter and the petals are unruddled. It did not win the gold medal award as did the 1932 flaming velvet petunia. Those who have not yet grown the latter should order some seed at once.

Second on the 1933 list is a snapdragon, the Celestial. Strange enough it is not of the run-of-the-mill variety, so if you order it (and many will) prepare to spray. It, too, is salmon in color, but of a deeper salmon than the petunia. Celestial is of the larger dwarf varieties.

New Yellow Pansy

Coronation Gold is a grand new yellow pansy which occupies third place on the new list.

These first three on the list are creations from Holland.

England has developed the fourth lister for us. This is Golden Crown City. It is much larger than its predecessors.

The Calendula, orange Fantasy, a sea-brown growing 20 inches tall, and Orchid Beauty, another Petunia, a light lilac, frilled and heavily veined, are other awards of merit choices.

A special mention goes to Gaiety, a fringed, rose colored petunia; Dwarf Red Bedder, and Topaz Rose, both petunias.

The recommended list includes the salmon-rose aster, Illusion; the 100 cent double chrysanthemum, Flowered marigold; Golden West Marigold; the forget-me-not, Ingrid; another petunia, Blue Gene; the golden, dwarf snapdragon, Psyche.

Adventure in Garden

Don't just turn the pages of your seed catalog hurriedly, and make the same old purchases. Go to the store and look at the plants. Of course the products you found entirely satisfactory you will want to repeat, but do a little adventure, too. You know the old proverb, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." This applies to gardening also.

Do you need some shade around your home in double quick time? A fast growing tree that has none of the undesirable root characteristics of other fast-growing trees like the Poplars, is a Chinese elm. It is as hardy as an oak and its rapid growth is remarkable. It attains a height of about 45 feet and it is suitable for street planting, for windbreaks, or as an individual specimen upon the lawn.

Some actual figures on growth of the elm are: a 6-foot elm in four years attained a height of 30 feet; a 4-foot tree in five years at-

THE ART SCHOOL

To the Editor:

Coincident with the effort to establish an art school here, there arises occasional talk of what good will this do Salem? How will it benefit us? If it were a beet sugar factory we could answer readily. At any rate, let us try, the figures pointing to the close of a five year period: Prestige to Salem, \$ 750,000 Plant, equipment, 50,000 1000 persons with a thorough art cultivation, 5,000,000

Total, \$5,800,000

This is a low estimate and does not include the artists who might be developed, nor the many appreciators of art who would fringe the outer circles of cultivation. The security is sound and unassailable. And by that time holding companies without suspicion, will have been formed to look after that class of capital. But if we wished to liquidate immediately there is always the auction block. Listen! "How much for this culture—your art—Athenian—sound in every particular? How much do I hear? \$5000? I hear \$5000. Going at \$5000. Go-go-go—ingest, once— it is a good investment."

But there is another view, and the past rises before us like a dream. That far off town of Athens—its stainless art is white and shining still. Still Orpheus turns—Eurydice departing. . . . And Venice, queen of all seas—where is its boasted trade? Ask phantom ships on painted oceans where? Where is Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, Paul Veronese? In every beauty loving heart in all the world. The waves of Venice break upon the shores of England—and there is Turner. In Spain a young man copies Titian: a gift from Titian to Velasquez. . . . And Barbizon, that straggling village of Barbizon—because Corot and Millet and Diaz and Daubigny painted there—is lifted high above mortality, and is one with Athens and Venice. . . . And Lowell, Massachusetts, in a little house, was born the painter who painted My Mother. And people come full sun and soils not too rich. It is useful for rockwork, dry walls or banks, edging to borders and is nice for cutting.

The clove pink (D. Caryophyllus) is useful in a border or rockery. This one takes more moisture than does the hardy pink, but watering should not be overdone.

Safety Valve

No Alliance Proper

To the Editor:

In answer to an editorial of the Capital Press dated December 13 and headed "The Grange Election," it was stated that the issue seems to be over the alliance of the Grange with organized labor. That is partly true, but what the granges of the rural districts are opposed to is the alliance with any political group. We have no right under grange law to unite with such, and I think a very foolish move to take sides in a battle between two opposing labor unions. I have in my possession a letter addressed to me as master of Salem Grange, No. 17, and signed by Ben T. Osburn, as executive secretary. In which he says (I quote):

"We particularly desire that the farmers of Oregon shall understand the issues in the present struggle for their interests. I wish to quote further from an address of National Master Taber in the January Country Gentleman in his article, "The Long Look Ahead," in which he says:

"In regard to political alliance with organized labor the thought that the farmer could do better achieve his objectives by forming a political alliance with organized labor is not, to my way of thinking, sound or practical."

That is just what the farmers in Oregon are thinking to do a neither practical nor advisable. I have no quarrel with organized labor, in fact I believe in it; but I am opposed to the grange forming an alliance with labor.

You know that the national grange will meet in Oregon in November so, friends, sisters, and brothers, let's be able to meet the national master and all the visitors from the 35 states with clean hands and pure hearts and not be smeared with some political alliance that will take years to overcome.

Yours, truly,
M. E. TOWNSEND,
Master Salem grange.

Among the New Books

Reviews and Literary News Notes

By CAROLINE C. JURGEN

In the January "Hygeia" is listed a group of 28 "Rational Resolutions for the New Year." The list of hazards is compiled from Red Cross, National Safety Council, Metropolitan Life Insurance company and other sources.

In the same issue of the magazine is another appropriate article called "The Common Cold," written by Lowell C. Wormley. It tells its readers how to combat the cold, what to avoid, what to know its approach and why it can happen to you. No disease, says the author, "incapacitates more people during March and October" than does the common cold. Some of the preventative suggestions include getting proper rest, avoiding overeating, and drinking sufficient water. Eight precepts are given. In closing, the author says, "Remember that though the common cold may be 'familiar,' it should not be treated with contempt."

We are also reminded of the health programs sponsored by the American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting company. The program on January 12 deals with modern attitudes toward and prevention by community cooperation of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough. The Hygeia gives the entire list of programs.

Colour in the Canadian Rockies. By Walter J. Phillips and Frederick Niven. Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1937. \$4.00.

The Canadian Rockies have challenged many great artists and it is fairly safe to say that seldom has the challenge been answered more successfully than by Mr. Phillips. Not only the color, but the form, the topography and the very atmosphere are faithfully portrayed.

In the text, Mr. Niven has wisely avoided word-pictures, and tells of journeys made by car, by pack-horse, and on foot, along lonely mountain trails, as well as in haunts beloved by the tourists. His story is full of old-timers, trappers, cowboys, campfires, the tap of horses' hoofs and the murmur of mountain streams.

The Birds of America. By John James Audubon. The MacMillan company, \$12.50.

Some readers may remember early in last fall we made mention of this book to come off the press. It is off now and one of the finest of its kind. We have no interest in it as a temperamental people. It is wrong, of course, quite unjust. But it is in full keeping with the nature of the genus homo, and there is probably no remedy for it. If any would have proof let them, from anybody, made up from strivers for higher attainment, choose one individual who seems to them deserving of praise he or she is not being accorded, and publicize this individual to the exclusion of all others of like ambitions. The result of such an experiment will, I am sure, be illuminating to the strivers for justice.

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STORIES OF Master Painters

by HOWARD SIMON

In 1798 one of Vermeer's luminous masterpieces was sold for 1550 florins. Fifteen years later it was again offered for sale. This time it commanded 2,125 florins. And its value continues to rise. Today this small picture of a milkmaid, or any other canvas from his hand, could not possibly be acquired for less than a million dollars.

Their posthumous prices are in vivid contrast to the sums that were a grave concern to the young painter of Delft. Six florins with him required installment plan payment, for it is recorded that this fee was paid by him to the Guild of Painters "within two years."

Once, the story goes, Vermeer quarreled with a man named Houbraken. Unfortunately for Vermeer, Houbraken became his headmaster and the compiler of an exhaustive history of Dutch painting—that was exhaustive but for the single painter, Vermeer. If the omission was made with malice aforethought and the quarrel in mind, it came close to accomplishing its petty purpose. The Houbraken book was regarded as authoritative. Vermeer, left out, meant he was of no importance. And within 50 years of his death, Vermeer was quite forgotten.

False Clines

By the time a more interested biographer sought to discover the details of his life, it was 1818. There were a thousand false clines to confuse him, for Jan Van der Meer, as it stood in his lifetime, is the most common of Dutch names. It happens that the pictures speak more eloquently. But what is lost is the story of the man, Vermeer. We only know from his work that he was a simple, earnest and honest worker whose craftsmanship achieved perfection. There are only 27 extant canvases of his today. It is not likely that there were many more, for the care and loving tenderness of his brush must have meant long painstaking hours and days. And his life was short. We might have known as much of the mind and heart and daily life of Vermeer as we know of his hand and eye and what stands as unornamented record in the ancient church of Delft.

There is first, "On October 31, 1632, a child Joannes. The father is Reynier, son of Jan. The mother Dignum, daughter of Balthazar; the witnesses are Pieter Brammer, Jan, son of Heyndrick, and Martha, daughter of Jan."

Then 21 years later, "On April 5, 1653, Johannes, son of Reynier Vermeer, cellate, living at the market place married to Catharine Bolenes, maiden, from the same locality."

Apprenticeship Long

He had, at 15, entered a studio in Delft as apprentice painter. It was the period when the craft guilds were strongest and nourished the fledgling talent of many a master. But the rules were strict. In order to sell pictures, they must have come from the hand of a master craftsman and to be ac-

Husbands Dinner

Guests of Guild

LEBANON—Members of the fellowship guild of the Presbyterian church entertained the husbands at a dinner Wednesday night at the church, with 100 present.

Mrs. Homer Dowd was chairman of the dinner committee and was assisted by Mrs. Ella Sanders, Mrs. Jack Haek, Mrs. E. A. Smith, Mrs. David Reed, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Harry Fredericks. Each woman present was presented with a lovely fibre flower corsage made by Mrs. Dowd.

A number of out-of-town guests were present, including Dr. Q. Breen of Albany college and the church pastor, and Mrs. Breen, Mrs. E. L. Clark and Mrs. Ed Bohle had charge of the social program.

Appoint Lee Stillwell

Marshal for Monmouth

MONMOUTH — Lee Stillwell was appointed night watchman and city marshal of Monmouth at a special council meeting at a night, (Friday night). There were 12 applicants for the post.

Stillwell is a member of the American Legion. He has lived in Monmouth and at Dallas for several years, and is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Mason of this city.

The death of Verd Schrank Dec. 19, created the vacancy.

Program Planned

By Pioneer Club

PIONEER—The Pioneer Sewing club met at the home of Mrs. A. Brown Thursday for an extra meeting to make up for last month. The members brought quilt blocks and decided on a new getting up a play and program to be given later. The committee to work on it is Mrs. G. C. Dornhecker, Mrs. Johnnie Keller Jr. and Mrs. Darrel Bird. President Mrs. Fred Fox had charge of the meeting. Guest of the meeting were Mrs. Walter Kruger of Liberty and Mrs. Clifford Brown of Dallas. The next meeting will be held January 20, at the Tom Keller home with Mrs. Johnnie Keller, Jr., assistant hostess. The members answered to roll, call with a favorite flower and the history of culture of it. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

S. S. Adoloff of Eugene is spending this week at the Robbins home pruning the orchard.

Shaw Schoolhouse to Be

Scene of Party Tuesday

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