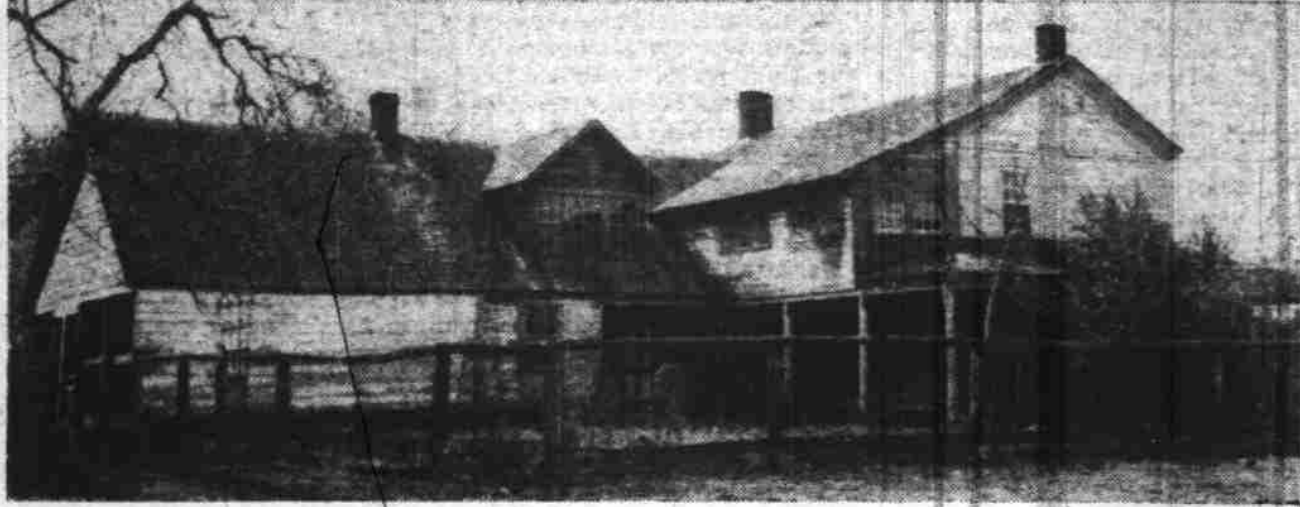




Frank Bowers, one-time cartoonist, (left), Mrs. H. H. Paget, former school teacher, and Robert Rieher, all-time farmer, pictured at right, are three of the grandchildren who still live on grandfather's land donation claim, out in the Waldo Hills. Mrs. Paget's home place carries No. 1 of Oregon land donation claim patents.



One of the many interesting old Waldo Hills farm houses which has stood the years is this one built in 1851 by Ralph Geer. Doors and windows were brought around the Horn and were found to be too small for casings. The pioneer carpenters then had to put extra strips around to make the two match. Homer Davenport, world famous cartoonist, once lived there. It now stands vacant.

Waldo Hills Farms Still Support Members of Old Families; Crops Changed

Fabulous Tales of Production of Middle of Century Recalled by Descendants of Original Owners
By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm and Garden Editor

What was good enough for grandfather had been good enough for the grandchildren—if grandfather had treated it right. Which in most cases he didn't do, Waldo Hills farmers have learned.

These Waldo Hills farmers, in some instances grandchildren of original settlers, claim grandfather's choice of location is certainly good enough for them. There is nothing in the line of farm scenery, they point out correctly, much easier to look at than the rolling westward slopes of Waldo Hills.

But grandfather shouldn't have grain-farmed his land in pieces, and father shouldn't have followed so closely in grandfather's footsteps. They should have learned about crop rotation and erosion. They should have thought of the grandchildren. There are places in the Hills which would furnish the state college perfect illustrations of what happens if the landowner isn't interested in erosion-prevention. There are other acres which were so run down, when grandson took over, that he had difficulty in raising 15 bushels of wheat to an acre.

But in grandfather's time tales of production were fabulous. The Oregon Statesman, ever eager to report farm progress, carried in an 1851 summer issue a story of Ralph Geer bringing to the office "a stool of wheat, the production of one grain, comprising 257 stalks, averaging 60 grains to the stalk, making a total of 15,420 grains," and in November of the same year, the report was continued "Farmers have harvested and a better one never covered any ground—everything wears the smile of prosperity—in numerous instances the snug log cabin is giving place to the more comely and convenient frame house."

Bushels per acre also piled high—up to 125 or more. "Grain Rush" started in late '40s.

From 1847 to 1855, covers the big early settlement of Waldo Hills. Farmers hurried to clear and plant little patches of ground into wheat. The patches grew larger and larger as the tales of production grew in size, until almost the entire Waldo Hills was one large waving green of grain. Wheat continued to be the staple crop for years, reaching through grandfather's time, down to after the first world war. Perhaps the first world war educational bonus set the thought. Perhaps farmers who had made good on wheat farming wanted their sons to have advantages they had lacked. Perhaps it was just the restlessness of the times—whatever the cause, Waldo Hills farm boys began attending Oregon State college and returning, to notice that the old farm wasn't what she used to be. Even the best of the Hills farmers were struggling to raise 30 to 40 bushels of wheat to an acre. So little by little the "good" farmers turned from wheat, growing only the little they needed for their farm. Today, perhaps more grass than any one other crop is grown. This, Waldo Hills younger farmers point out, has a number

of good points. It furnishes grazing, it chokes out Canada thistle, it prevents erosion and it furnishes, through seed, a cash crop each year. While much of the acreages of the pioneers of Waldo Hills have passed to strangers, to later settlers and to relatives of the pioneers, there are still some owned, and even some tilled, by grandchildren of the holders of the land donation claims.

Land Claim No. 1 Still in Family
Mrs. H. H. Paget and Mrs. J. C. Currie, daughters of King L. Hibbard, still live on small acreages of their grandfather's, King Hibbard, land donation claim, and this claim was the first certificate to land in Oregon taken, under the donation act of 1850. Hibbard was a native of Ontario and came to Waldo Hills in 1847. He settled on his claim in the Hills, April 1, 1848. And in spite of the day, his granddaughters state, he wasn't fooling. He stayed on that claim a long, long time.

"Grandfather Hibbard," Mrs. Paget told me this week when I found her gardening on the spot where the pioneer house had stood, "had the usual 640 acres. He was chiefly a stock and grain farmer. He raised wheat and his wheat went largely into his cattle which in turn went into Oregon City for market. My father was born here."

But the third generation of Hibbards were not farmers. Much of the acreage was sold. Today, only the two Hibbard sisters are living on any part of the old claim. Mrs. Paget has 40 acres, and raises mostly filberts. Across the rural road from the Paget home, stands the Currie home. Mr. Currie, a retired salesman, and Mrs. Currie also raise nuts and a few sheep.

A couple of miles from the Hibbard farm, on the south corner of Garden Road and the Stayton highway, lay the old Ralph Geer donation claim. Geer was first, last and always a farmer. In 1846, he sold his farm in Knox county, Illinois, and a year later came to Waldo Hills and settled on the farm of which 400 acres are still owned by two grandsons.

Fruit Trees Sold From Geer Nursery
While one does not associate fruit with Waldo Hills farming in 1845, Geer had visions of huge orchards in that section. In 1851, records show, Geer, at his "Fruit Farm Nursery," had 8000 apple and 1000 pear trees "in all 60 varieties." His November, 1851, catalogue showed 42 varieties of apples, 15 of peaches, five of peaches and six of cherries. On the old Geer farm today, still stand a few (Continued on page 9)

Co. Agent Is Believer in Use Certified Seed

Use of only certified seed potatoes is much more important than seed potato treatment in avoiding crop losses and disappointment. This is advice from the Marion county agent, W. G. Nibler. It is especially, he adds, aimed at Victory gardeners who are not experienced planters of the soil.

In fact, Nibler continues, home gardeners may well omit potato seed treatment entirely and in any event they are advised not to attempt the use of cumbersome, tedious and poisonous corrosive sublimate treatment that commercial growers use for control of potato scab and rhizootonia.

Certified seed potatoes have been grown carefully from disease-free seed and have been inspected regularly during the growing season to eliminate diseased hills. Such diseases as mosaic and wilt, which reduce yields to practically nothing are carried in the seed potato itself and cannot be detected by looking at the seed, Nibler explains. While treatment may aid the appearance of the resulting crop by controlling scab, the treatment will have no effect on the worst diseases from a yield standpoint.

Potatoes may be planted in the home garden as soon as the soil warms up and is dry enough to spade six or eight inches deep without puddling. Early varieties suggested for home gardeners are Bliss, Triumph, Irish Cobbler, Early Rose, Earliest of All and White Rose. Late varieties include Burbank, Netted Gem and Katahdin.

Nibler recommends that each seed piece have at least one eye, weigh one and a half to two ounces and be as blocky in shape as possible. Cut seed potatoes may be sprinkled with land plaster. They should not be exposed to direct sunlight for any length of time and the cut seed never treated with corrosive sublimate.

Potatoes in the home garden are usually planted three to five inches deep, although early potatoes may be planted slightly more shallow than late varieties.

Eugene Growers Top Records in Pack of Registered Cases

Gross sales for the Eugene Fruit Growers' association in 1944 topped all records in the history of the 37-year-old cooperative, registering \$4,858,760.61 on a pack of 1,402,838 cases. Its annual meeting was held during the past week. Reports also revealed the membership at 1752.

Cattle Sale Planned By Nash Brothers

Norman and Merritt Nash of Salem are planning a registered Jersey sale for April 10. The two men came to Salem from Coos Bay about two years ago. Particulars of the sale have not yet been completed, but it is understood the herd will be cut down at least by 35 head. There still will be 30 head of milk cows left on the farm on the Turner-Salem road.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden — BY LILLIE L. MADSEN

"Cascade" Name Given New Fiber Flax to Be Released for Production

A new variety of fiber flax, named the Cascade, has been released for field production to increase seed. It is expected to be available in 1946 for planting part of Oregon's commercial acreage. With the release of this new variety a program of seed certification for fiber flax, first of its kind in the United States, will be undertaken by the state college extension service.

Desirable characteristics found in the new variety are exceptionally high yield of straw and fiber, good percentage of fiber in straw, immunity to rust, resistance to wilt and tall growth habit.

Release of this new variety comes at a time when the flax industry in Oregon is seeking means by which to reduce production costs to meet expected postwar conditions. All indications so far, reports Chet Otis, assistant specialist in the college farm crops, are that this new variety is far superior to Riga, Concurrent and Martin, varieties now most commonly used.

Thirty pounds of Cascade has been turned over to Washington County Flax Growers association

In Salem Markets

In the Salem Market — Farms — Lambs, \$19.50; ewes, 4 to 6 cents; cows, beef type, 8 to 12 cents; dairy type, 5 to 9 cents; veal, 12 to 14 cents; hogs, \$15.75.

G. W. Ray, who has been with the Valley Packing company for a number of years, is now the buyer at the plant. In that capacity he is taking the place of Claude Steunloff, who is devoting his time to other interests.

Ray reports that hogs and lambs, with emphasis on hogs, continue short. Beef is not yet plentiful, but not far below normal as is the

Farm Bulletins

March 18 — at the Louis McAllister home at Jefferson, the Marion County Jersey Cattle club March meeting. No-host luncheon at noon.

March 22 — Polk county livestock growers meet at the Dallas city hall, at 8 p. m. hog supply.

to be sown under conditions to produce the maximum seed yield this year.

Experts Tell of Quality Fleece

While good care will not change a poor quality of fleece into one of high quality, the value of any clip can be increased by superior preparation, H. A. Lindgren, livestock specialist, reports. Preparation of the wool for sale involves tying of fleeces, sorting, packing the wool in bags and lettering each bag with a description of the contents.

Some of the points emphasized in preparing wool for market include: keep fleeces on clean floors, use branding paint as sparingly as possible, tie each fleece securely with paper twine with flesh end of the staple showing and with as much of the shoulder and side wool on the outside as possible. Wool tied with binder twine is discounted 10 cents per pound. Take all tags and stained pieces out of the fleeces and pack with sweepings in a separate bag. Pack separately wools containing burrs or foxtail or other vegetable defects, to avoid lowering the value of the entire lot as much as three cents per pound. Pack ewe, yearling and ram fleeces separately and request separate appraisals on each. Dry wet fleeces before packing to avoid mold, stains and weakened fibers.

Berry, Vick Named By Wool Growers

Two new members have been appointed to represent the Pacific Cooperative Wool growers, one in

Yamhill and one in Clackamas counties. Charles A. Berry, McMinnville, will handle wool in Yamhill, and Leonard Vick, Molalla, will represent the growers in Clackamas county.

Piles! Ow!!

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Be wise as he was. Use same formula used by doctors adjacently at noted Thornton & Minor Clinic. Surprising QUICK palliative relief of pain, itch, soreness. Helps soften and tends to shrink swelling. Get tube Thornton & Minor's Rectal Ointment—or Thornton & Minor's Rectal Suppositories. If not satisfied with this DOCTORS' way, low cost is refunded. At all good drug stores everywhere in Salem. At Fred Meyer's.

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Equals most famous and costliest Fine for all surfaces, specially linoleum. Shines as it dries; seals floors with a bright wear-resisting finish! Contains Carnauba, most durable wax known!

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Self-polishing... shines as it dries. Seals floors with a glossy wear-resisting finish!

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Polishes to a bright, wear-resisting luster! For autos, furniture, floors! Easy to apply!

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Make pots and pans shine with less effort! Needs no scrubby abrasives! Save at Wards!

Scratch Remover Polish 4 oz. 15c
Removes scratches from wood like magic! Use on light or dark finishes! Easy to use!

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24-oz. bottle! Cleans as it polishes! Preserves and protects the finish. Contains Cedar Oil!

No-Rubbing Cream Polish 25c
Fine for furniture and woodwork! Easy to use. Just spread it on and wipe dry. 8 ounces!

White Floating Soap 2 for 9c
Equal to famous high-priced brands! Easy to find in bath! For face, woollens, fabric!

Equine Finest Soap Chips 19c
Makes rich, fast forming suds! For dishes, laundry, scrubbing. Easy on the hands. 2 1/4-oz. box.

Cotton Yarn O-Cedar Oil Mop 1.79
Treated to hold dust! Handle swings down to keep full mop surface on floor at all times!

4-ply Yarn Oil-Treated Floor Mop 69c
Cleans floors easily and quickly. Good quality 4-ply yarn, oil treated. Removable pad.

Fiber Scrub Brush 25c
Durable white Tampico bristles firmly set in hardwood block. Eases heavy household duties!

Durable Household Corn Room 1.25
Most resilient corn—wears longest. 5-sewed to hold strands firmly. Enamelled wood handle.

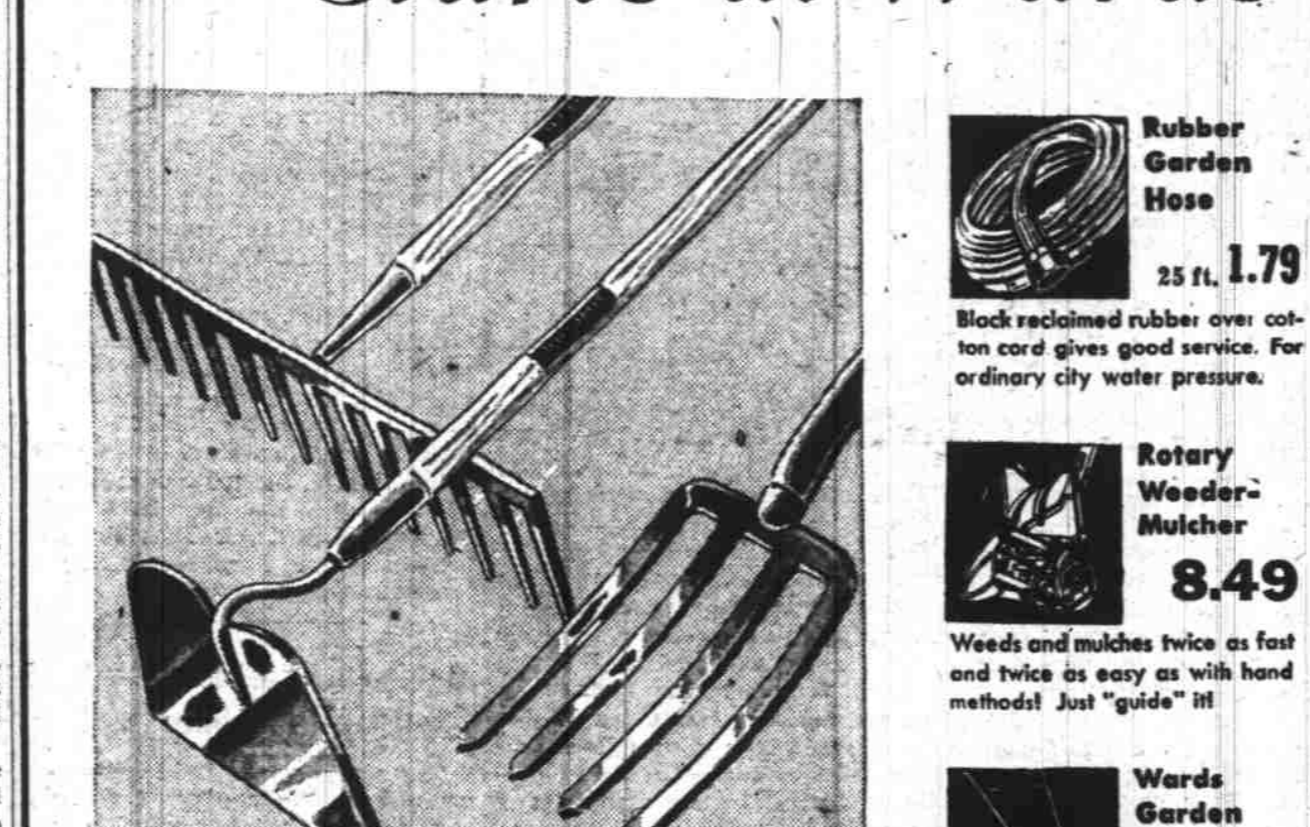
All-Purpose Scouring Brush 25c
Has numerous uses... for sprinkling clothes, cleaning vegetables, etc. Stiff fiber bristles!

Fine Cotton Yarn 8-oz. Wet Mop 38c
Saves cleaning time! Fine cotton yarn head is permanently attached to 48-inch wood handle!

- Wards Stove Top Dressing, non-inflammable.....20c
- Wards Floor and Furniture Wax.....qt. 59c, gal. 1.59
- Wards Metal Polish, 16-oz.....25c
- DuPont Refrigerator Polish, cleans, polishes, waxes, 8-oz.....37c
- Wards General Purpose Cleaner, paste, 1-lb.....25c
- Nox-Odor, absorbs refrigerator, kitchen and other odors.....50c
- Wards Toilet Bowl Cleaner, 1 lb. 10 oz.....25c
- Mop Handles, good quality.....19c
- Toilet Bowl Brush.....29c

'Dust Master' Dust Mop 1.50
Chemically treated. Flexible handle attachment for getting into corners where ordinary mops will not. Washable. Complete with handle.

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