

Rather Ride Than Milk at Chore Time

Sister, Brother Take Canter to Keep Fit; Rhythm Important

Mrs. Wiggs can just take a back seat for cabbage fame, 74-year-old Felix Comegys indicated as he told about his own cabbage patch with an Amity, Polk county, address.

Fifteen thousand dollars realized from one and a sixth acres over a period of 25 years is almost shypard wages with a lot more fun and a lot less expense, Comegys explained. There wasn't even fertilizer put on the soil in all that time, he added.

Even originally the Polk county patch grew cabbage — skunk cabbage — with cattails thrown in for good measure. That was about the time the Lake Labish drainage received so much publicity, Comegys decided he'd have his own little lake garden. He cleared and drained the spot and planted vegetables. Cabbage out-did itself. Thereafter it became a cabbage patch. The fine solid heads, grown from plants set out in June and July, were "peddled," Comegys tells, at Salem. Most of them, he adds, went for kraut.

Figures entered conscientiously by Comegys, even before the years of income tax bookkeeping, showed that one year alone cabbages had brought \$870, and most averaged between \$500 and \$700. Never was there a failure. The soil produces as much cabbage today as it did when first opened.

Veteran Takes Over

"But I've retired from cabbage growing," Comegys said. "I planted a cover crop there last year. Bending up and down may be good for the figure but it isn't convenient with arthritis."

"I had noticed Comegys walked with a stiff leg. It came on gradually five years ago, he explained in passing.

"Now I've turned the cabbage patch over to Phil for pin money," he smiled.

Phil, whose surname, it developed, is Stiles, is a veteran of South Pacific battles. He had worked on farms in the neighborhood before the war. His job had been kept open. He makes his home with Orville Kurtz, a neighbor, who farms the Comegys land as well as his own, making a sizeable ranch of 720 acres.

Felix Comegys and his sister, Mrs. Ida C. Doneen, live on a combination of ancestral ranches. The main part was taken as a land claim by their paternal grandfather, Jonathan Comegys, in 1850. Ten years later he died and was buried on the farm where



Felix Comegys and his sister, Ida C. Doneen, think there is no age limit to riding horseback. In fact, they indicate, riding sort of keeps the age limits away. The two, shown here on their horses, Romie and Goldie, live on the land donation claim of their grandfathers' near Ballston, in Polk county.

his grave is still tended by his two grandchildren. Their father, William, married a neighbor girl, Lovina N. Ball, and continued to farm the claim. Lovina's parents were even earlier settlers, arriving in 1848 and settling where the community of Ballston is now situated. A portion of the Ball ranch has been bought by the Comegys.

Mrs. Doneen has not always lived in Polk county. She taught school and then married. For over 30 years she and her husband ranched in eastern Washington, where he was also in business. Ten years ago when she was widowed she returned to the old homestead to help care for her aged mother and keep house for her brother who had never married.

Likes Horse Raising

"Horse raising was my most interesting ranching," Comegys reminisces. "In the early days we mostly grain farmed. But on June 21, 1907, I bought my first Clydesdale from the Ladd and Reed farm. In 1913 I furnished five mares for the judging class at the state college."

Showing at the state fair highlighted each year. Once, Comegys recalls, he sold a mare for \$800 at the fair. Many others were sold down through the years at slightly less.

I arrived at the Comegys ranch around 3 p.m., just in time to see Mrs. Doneen and her 78 years flip gaily on Golden Star, which she dubs "Goldie," and canter happily about the rather large barnyard. Brother Felix was soon at her side on Romie, a spirited pinto.

"Doesn't that tire you?" I asked

Packing Companies Cover Inspector Cost In Linn County

Gordon Schwalen, Salem, has been appointed Linn county's deputy horticultural inspector. Frank McKennon, chief of the division of plant industry of the state department of agriculture, has announced.

Schwalen will have headquarters in the county agricultural office at Albany and will be responsible for the enforcement of the cherry fruit fly control. He will start his new duties by making a survey of the county to determine available spraying and dusting equipment and locating owners of cherry trees.

Expenses of the inspector are being financed for 2½ months by the Associated Frozen Food Packers, Inc., of Albany, the Spencer Packing company of Lebanon and Roy Fitzwater, Lebanon.

as she drew sharply up at my side. "Oh, no," she answered rapidly. "not any more than riding in a car. I like to ride in both a car and on a horse. You have to get the rhythm of the horse or the car. Then you never get tired."

Mrs. Doneen uses — has always used, she says — a sidesaddle, and has two black riding habits.

"Mine aren't quite long enough to suit early styles," she laughed as she adjusted the skirt to cover the stirrup.

However, I pointed out, it did cover her ankles and shoes.

"But they used to hang down at least two feet below. My mother's was very long," she protested, adding guiltily, "the horse and I got tangled in that much skirt, so about 50 years ago we shortened it some."

Dairying on the Comegys' farm is "out."

"You have to be home at certain times to milk when you have cows," both explained in almost one breath. "We like to go. Chickens can scratch for themselves. But there is no way of getting out of milking. Oh, in the old days, sure, we had cows. Nobody thought of farming without cows. Now it is cheaper to buy the milk than to raise it — and an awful lot easier. Besides, chore time is an awfully good time to go riding."

It was chore time now. I am sure that Ida and Felix felt younger than I as I crawled into the car and they, silhouetted against the western sky, galloped off down the lane to look at the pastures.

Shows at the state fair highlighted each year. Once, Comegys recalls, he sold a mare for \$800 at the fair. Many others were sold down through the years at slightly less.

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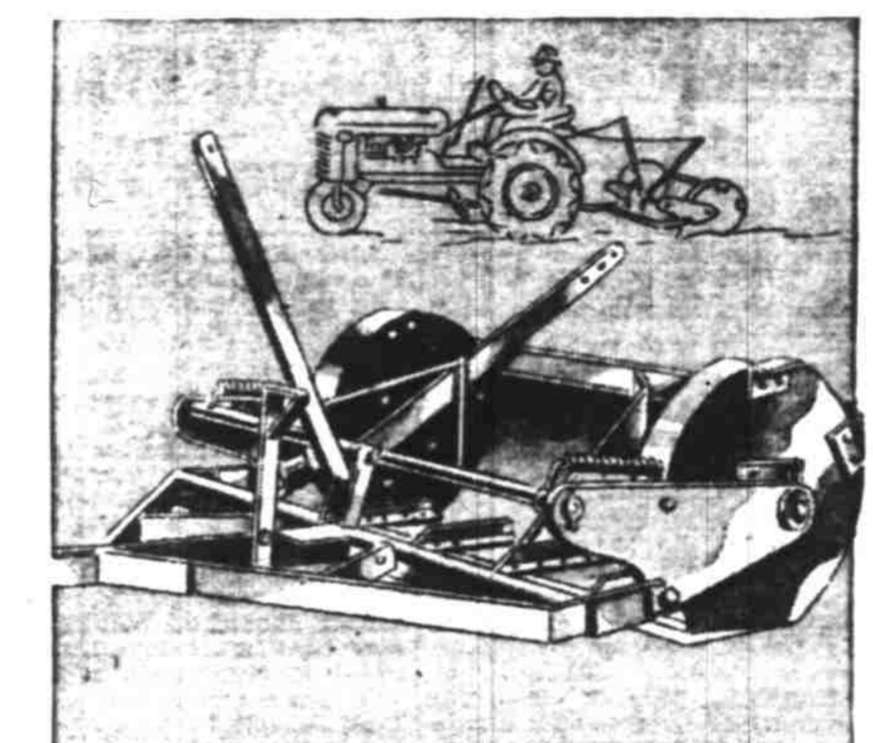
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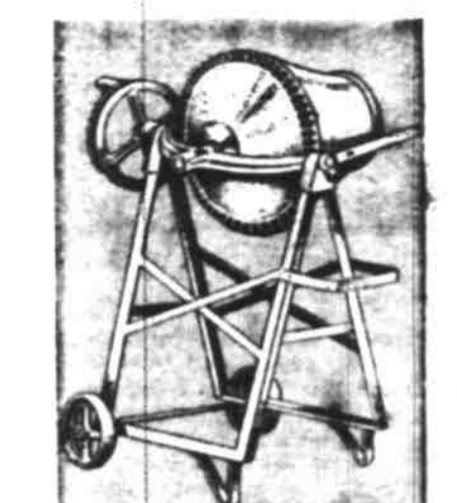
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