

# Gardening Today

Taken from the Men's Garden club calendar for November:

The question "Can Men Arrange Flowers?" was answered by Carl Starker of Jennings Lodge, when he spoke before the Garden club at a recent meeting. Among the highlights of his discussion were these underlying principles of arrangements:

**Little Madsen**

The first consideration in the successful arrangement of flowers is the proper kind of container. It should not be too highly decorative or too highly colored. Soft pastel colors on containers are very satisfactory. The container should not in design, color, decoration or size, detract the focal point of interest from the floral part of the arrangement.

Next step is the selection of the proper holder. Mr. Starker selected as first choice the needle holder which is a block of pointed needles set in a heavy base. He showed another type—a square or rectangle of cross-sectional wire which has the virtue of permitting use of the four sides as well as the top and with different stem lengths. With these an arrangement with smaller flowers toward the top and larger blooms near the base can give a better balance.

Starker stressed the vital value of foliage as the background and seed pods and berries to tone up arrangements. Dramatic or interesting foliage does much to give distinction to an otherwise mediocre arrangement, he added.

Next comes the mental picture of what the arranger wants to create. All plans will inevitably fall under some geometric form such as a triangle effect, a rectangle oval, semi-circle, arc, or so on. Both sides of an arrangement should appear to balance so that overloading of one side may not, to the observer, threaten to upset the arrangement. Large flowers should be toward the center or the base. Each arrangement must be a self-contained unit, inclusive of all its parts—container, flowers, foliage, and its relation to the space designed for it. There should be one dominant point of interest to which the observer's eyes naturally go as the

focal point of attention. This may consist of one flower or a group of flowers toward the center or base.

**Questions and Answers**  
M. G. C. writes that "it is now past 9:15 on the morning of September 13 and I do not have my peonies planted. Can this still be done?"

Ans.: While experts claim peonies should be planted at no other time, some of the rest of us do make them grow if planted during the fall. However, plant them as early as possible now. Give them a location where there is sun. Dig deeply, fill in good fertile soil. Plant with topmost bud two and a half inches below surrounding soil level.

Mrs. B. S. B. sends me a specimen of plant to be identified with the question of when to prune.

Ans.: The shrub is aucuba, familiarly called "Golddust tree." It is best pruned by repeated pinching of tips during summer. If you have to cut old wood, do so in the spring just after active growth starts.

O. P. F. asks why some object to using sawdust as a mulch for rhododendrons and strawberries. Some say it is injurious to soil.

Ans.: It serves as a good mulch, but if dug into the soil before it is somewhat decayed, it uses up nitrogen rapidly. Your plants need the nitrogen. If it is dug in early (the first year or two) you should add nitrogen fertilizer to soil.

T. M. A. sends specimen to identify and wants to know where it will best grow.

Ans.: This is *Abelia grandiflora* and it prefers a light, peaty soil, likes sunshine and doesn't mind warm weather. Pruning should be done in the spring.

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## HEAR RONALD JONES

President OREGON FARMERS UNION

Tonight 10:15 p. m. **KGW**

**"THE BASIC SCHOOL FUND IS NECESSARY"**

Paul Ad., Basic School Support Fund Committee  
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### Halloween Party Held For Mt. Angel Juveniles

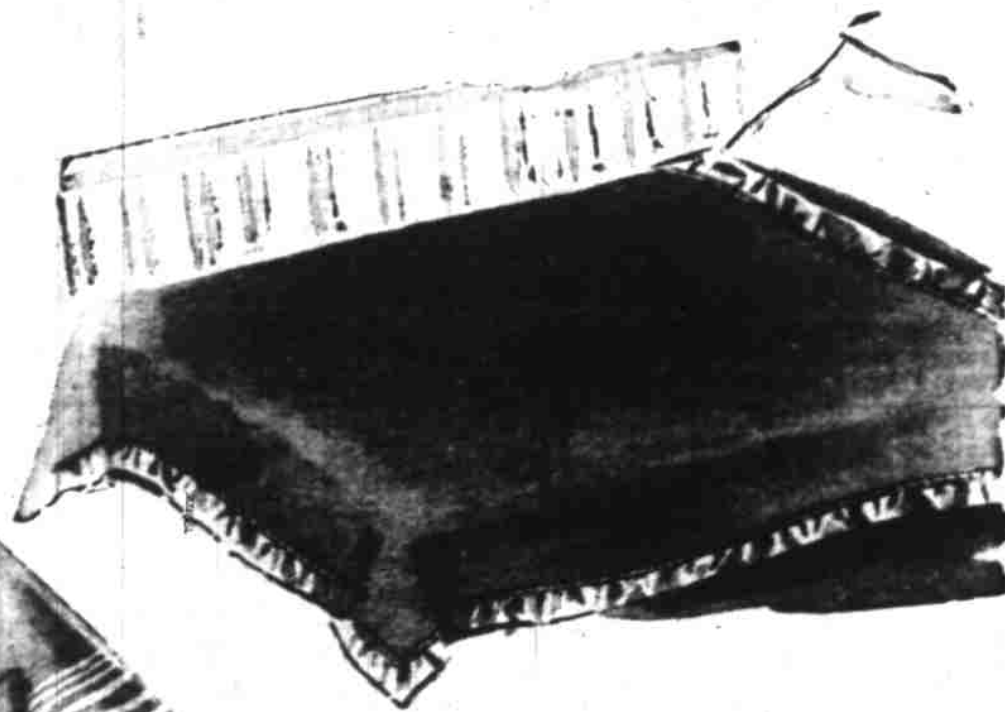
MT. ANGEL — Women Foresters entertained juveniles Thursday night with a Halloween party at St. Mary's club rooms. Fifteen youngsters in costume attended. The prize for the best costume went to Kathleen Stolle dressed as a gypsy. Mary Lou Schmaltz as a cowboy won the most original prize, and Donna Diehl carried off the one judged the most comical. The Rev. John Cumiskey was judge.

Later the juveniles were all initiated and Mrs. Joseph Platz was taken in as a social member.

Prizes were awarded to Mrs. A. P. Miller, Mrs. John Klot and Mrs. Alfred Huber. Rooms were decorated with autumn leaves, pumpkins and candles, and a Halloween supper was served by Mrs. Ed Hammer and Mrs. Leonard Fisher.

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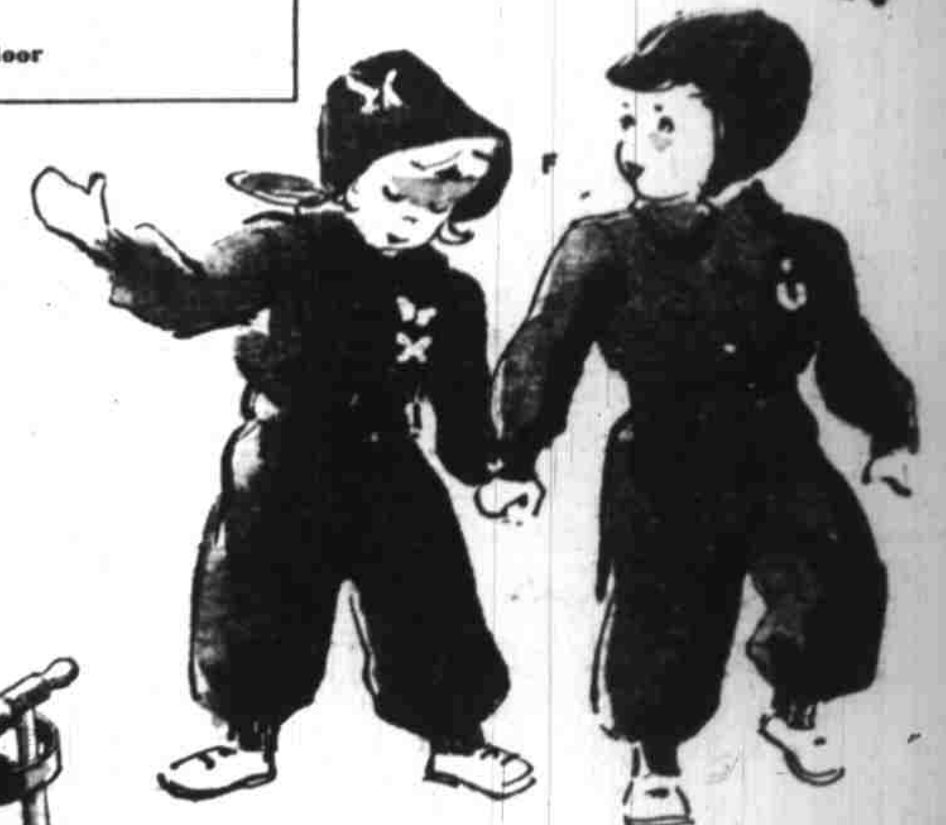
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