

## Soil Gives To World's Oldest Art

By Lillie L. Madson  
Farm Editor, The Statesman  
"Agriculture is the world's first industry. Pottery is the oldest art. The soil is the base for both. Care in selecting the right clay for pottery is just as important to its success as selecting the right soil is to the crop's growth." Says Ivan Houser, who was assistant to Gutzon Borglum while the latter fashioned the national Mt. Rushmore Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

But Houser has now come back to his native Oregon to make some of the most attractive pottery one has the privilege to view.

He was born in Pendleton and near the end of the Willamette valley while studying art at the University of Oregon from where he was graduated in 1925. For a time he studied in New York and worked in some of the eastern studios, sculpturing, before going to South Dakota. Houser admits it was because the colony history of Aurora attracted him that he chose that location for his studio and shop. The old red feedmill on the north side of the highway caught his eye and here he fashions his Old Colony Town pottery which carries the name of Aurora to many far places.

**Simple Methods Used**  
All pottery, whether ancient or modern, has been and is made by the simplest methods, Houser explained as he showed me around his place of work and business. All around were bowls, vases, cups, lamp stands, plates in soft shades of green, red, blue, yellow. Having seen Oregon's soil produce so many marvelous things, it was still difficult for me to believe that these pieces came out of the same soil that grows carrots and feeds livestock.

But clays vary greatly, the artist pointed out. The potter's clay must be workable, plastic, of good behavior in firing and able to take a good glaze.

The workshop itself had somewhat the appearance of a bakery. I thought, as I watched the potter take a lump of clay from a mixed mass on a large board. He formed it into a broad-sized loaf, sawed it into a round, and then he repeated the process taking some little time. Then the piece was kneaded much as bread is worked and placed on the potter's wheel, one of the most ancient of tools.

**Potter Throws Urn**  
Houser controls the rotation of the wheel with his foot, leaving his hands free to manipulate the clay. Under my eyes, the wheel whirred and the urn was "thrown". This part completed, the piece was removed from the wheel and set aside to dry. When it is about "bone dry" it is ready for the kiln.

Houser uses two types of kiln. One an electric kiln indoors in which pieces are fired for eight hours, and the other a huge brick affair which will hold from 1800 to 2000 pieces, depending upon their size and in which they must be fired for 18 hours. The heat is maintained at from 1800 to 2100 degrees. F.

Glazes are one of the tricks of the art, Houser said. They are put on to waterproof the article, and one must never forget that glazes are as varied as the kinds of pottery and each kind of pottery is at its best with its own appropriate glaze.

**Potters Decorate Wares**  
Since the time of the most primitive pottery making, the potter has decorated his wares with color. It is interesting to note, that the colors, too, come from the earth and that the "earth colors" are the most beautiful of all, as he referred to the metallic oxide, cobalt, iron and others.

But the color of the piece is to a great extent dependent upon the color of the clay. Therefore, white clay is sought for clay that goes into the Colony Town Pottery.

Some red clay from Willamina and clay from Washington. Some red clay from Molalla is also being used, and other Oregon clays are being tested.

Houser disposes of most of his articles through dealers. Oregon tourists do not stop and buy at roadside shops as they do in California and on the Atlantic coast, Mr. Houser said.

While teaching art is really his profession, Mr. Houser likes best, he says, to work with his hands in his Colony Town plant.

## Valley Farmers to Appear on Radio

Oregon's growing frozen food industry will be featured on the American Broadcasting Company's network farm show, the American Farmer, originating from Albany Saturday morning, August 14.

Approximately 187 radio stations throughout the United States will carry the program. Fourteen minutes of the half-hour program will consist of an on-the-spot visit to the newly renovated PictSweet freezing plant on the outskirts of Albany.

Scheduled to take part in the program are Earl Britton, Eugene, and Bob White, Chicago, representing the network; O. E. Mikesell, Linn county agent; Prof. Tom Onsdorff, department of food technology, Oregon State college; Plant Manager Clyde Rushing, Albany; Claude Ammon, Albany, and Willis Carter, Lebanon. The two latter are farmers.



## Willamette Valley Farmer

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



A lump of Oregon clay; a whir of the potter's wheel; a few simple manipulations by the potter's hands and you have what you see here, Ivan Houser with his beautifully formed urn. However, the art lost all its apparent simplicity when the farm editor tried it. (Farm photo for The Statesman.)

## Crop Reports Show Honey Harvest Down

Bee colonies in the United States are fewer than last year and honey production is expected to be less. The movement of some grass seeds from farms in surplus producing areas is at a faster rate and at higher prices than last year, the USDA reports show this week. Movement of the 1948 crimson cloverseed crop from farms was fast. By August 1, 80 per cent of the crop had been sold by growers. This was the same rate of movement as the 5-year average but was six per cent faster than last year. Prices to growers, at \$23 a hundredweight for clean seed in the last half of July were at record high levels. The 1947 price was \$17.20 and the 1942-46 average was \$13.25.

The number of bee colonies in the United States was estimated in July to be 5,716,000. That was three per cent below a year ago. This is the first year of decline after four successive years of increase. Last winter's loss of colonies was about 20 per cent.

**Bee Colonies Less**  
The main flow of honey from sweet clover and clover was drawing to a close the latter part of July in many of the important producing states. Indications were that honey production in these areas will be light. In the Pacific northwest, clover and alfalfa have yielded fairly well. Fireweed is starting to bloom.

The number of bee colonies kept for honey of crop pollination in Oregon was estimated on July 1 to be around 64,000. This was seven per cent less than last year and was the first decline in colonies since 1929.

**Wheat Crops Large**  
In Oregon's main wheat belt, harvest is now in full swing with many fields reaching or passing their peak. In some areas of Umatilla county, all available storage space has been filled and wheat is being piled on the ground. In western Oregon, fall-planted crops of oats, vetch and barley are being harvested. Most of the grass seed in the Willamette valley has already been harvested.

A few peaches are being marketed from the earlier varieties here. Some pears and apples are still being thinned. In apples, the early transparent produced fairly well, although plantings are now small in the valley.

## Battery Hens Slow After Second Year

Laying hens kept in batteries will lay just as many eggs the first year as in conventional laying houses if the battery room is well insulated so as to control temperature changes, results of nine years of testing in the college poultry department show.

Hens kept for the second year lay better in commercial houses, the tests indicated, when comparable flocks kept in batteries the first year were divided with half placed in commercial laying houses. Battery hens make satisfactory breeders, the second year if released in normal floor conditions, the tests also showed.

Sept. 1-4 — Clackamas county fair, Canby.

Sept. 1-3 — Linn county fall 4-H fair, Albany.

Sept. 1-4 — Independence Hop festival.

Sept. 6 — Polled Hereford Breeders association dinner at Golden Pheasant restaurant, fairgrounds.

Sept. 6-12 — Oregon state fair.

Sept. 13 — Southern Oregon ram sale, fairgrounds, Lakeview, 10 a.m.

Sept. 24 — Cal-Ore Hereford Breeders bull sale, Lakeview.

Sept. 24-25 — North Marion county fair, Woodburn.

Sept. 25 — 4-H and FFA fat stock sale and show, Pendleton, 8 p.m.

Sept. 27 — Polled Hereford heifer sale, state fairgrounds.

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## Brown Rot Spray Urged for Prune, Peach Orchards

Peach and prune growers are reminded that now is the time to apply a sulfur dust or spray for control of brown rot.

During green fruit stages no significant amount of brown rot is apt to appear unless there is considerable wet weather. As the fruit approaches the ripening period, however, the danger from brown rot becomes greater. This is especially true during wet weather or very high humidity.

Sulfur dusts at the rate of 50 pounds per acre or 6 pounds of wettable sulfur in 100 gallons of water plus 1/4 pound wetting agent will reduce losses from brown rot to a minimum.

Usually three or more applications may be needed for good control, the first being applied three to five weeks before harvest, according to weather conditions.

Later applications may be made once a week as necessitated by weather conditions. The last application should be made a day or two before picking.

Brown rot control lies in preventing disease from getting a start. There is no cure for brown rot infected fruit.

Sometimes the 11-spotted cucumber beetle is present in peach orchards, and many times cause injury to the peach which speeds up brown rot in the orchard. These insects may be easily controlled by using a sulfur dust to which has been added five per cent DDT.

## Farm Calendar

Aug. 14 — Oregon ram sale, Pendleton, 10 a.m.

Aug. 14-15 — White Salmon rodeo, White Salmon, Wash.

Aug. 15 — Oregon State Farmers Union picnic, Champoeg, 11 a.m.

Aug. 15 — Marion County Jersey Cattle club picnic, Champoeg, 1 p.m.

Aug. 18-21 — Tillamook county fair.

Aug. 20-23 — Oregon Flax festival, Mt. Angel.

Aug. 23-28 — Multnomah county fair, Gresham.

Aug. 26-28 — Yamhill 4-H and FFA fair, McMinnville.

Aug. 26-28 — Polk county fair, Monmouth.

Aug. 29-31 — Third annual meeting Oregon Flying Farmers, Prineville.

Sept. 1-4 — Clackamas county fair, Canby.

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## Berry Field Cleanup Advised for August

Removing old canes from trailing berry fields after harvest reduces the spread of leaf and cane spot fungus to the new canes, says D. L. Rasmussen, Marion county horticulturist.

Boysenberry, loganberry and youngberry growers also find that the late summer cleanup of their fields makes it easier to sow their cover crops before the fall rains begin.

Canes should be cut off flush with the ground. Rasmussen also reports that some growers are finding that an after-harvest Bordeaux spray gives extra protection during the fall months. This should be followed by the late winter lime-sulphur spray.

An 8-8-100 Bordeaux spray is suggested by Rasmussen for the late summer cleanup.

## RAM SALE ANNOUNCED

The Clackamas County Livestock association, headed by Everett Shibley, has announced that it will sponsor a purebred ram and ewe sale at the Canby fairgrounds Wednesday, August 18, beginning at 1 p.m. This is the first of its kind in Clackamas county. Marcus Vetter of Monitor heads the sifting committee.

## Blueberry Helped By Sawdust Mulch Experiments Show

The popular idea that Sawdust sours the soil and releases resins remains largely unjustified. A. L. Roberts, assistant horticulturist at the college experiment station said Wednesday in reply to inquiry.

Sawdust has proved especially valuable as a mulch for small fruits, particularly blueberries. Roberts explained. Ordinarily the station has obtained best results with a four or five inch mulch.

Where sawdust is worked into the soil about 200 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre is needed to insure normal growth the first year.

If used as a mulch, sawdust causes little depression of nitrates. Normal application of complete fertilizer may be added to the surface and allowed to leach through. Soluble forms are best for this, Roberts explains.

## Nut Pools to Close Soon, Trunk Reports

Filbert and walnut pools of the Northwest Nut Growers for the 1948-49 marketing season will close in a few weeks, announced John E. Trunk, general manager.

While the closing date is expected to be about the same as in other years, it is likely to escape the notice of many growers planning to join the pools, because of the lateness of the current crop.

Growth in membership during the year already exceeds the gains of last season, Trunk discloses, and will be greatly augmented by growers joining just before closing of the pools if 1948 follows the pattern of former years.

Exact closing date for the pools will be announced in a few days, following a meeting of Northwest Nut Growers board of directors, Trunk said.

The battle of the Monitor and the Merrimack was fought at Hampton Roads March 9, 1862.

## Now Is Time To Watch Out For Borers

Between August 15, and September 15 is the time to control peach and prune borers with paradichlorobenzene, report the valley county agents.

Growers are advised to examine trees for the presence of a reddish gummy sawdust at the base of the tree. The presence of this material indicates damage from borers and treatment is advisable.

Recommended amounts of paradichlorobenzene to use are three-fourths to one ounce for trees four to five years old, and one-half ounce for trees one to three years old and then only when the life of the tree is definitely threatened by borers. Damage to the tree will result from too heavy an application.

In applying the material it is best to level off the surface of the soil around the base of the tree, clearing away stones, clods and grass, but leaving the surface smooth and firm. The treatment is then applied in a continuous ring around the base of the tree. This ring should be about an inch wide and approximately two inches away from the tree. Careful covering of the ring with about three inches of well-packed earth worked into cone shape completes the operation. The earth should be removed in from four to six weeks.

Some other chemicals have shown promise in peach and prune borer control, but are not yet recommended for Oregon conditions. O. E. Mikesell, county extension agent in Linn, reports, including ethylene dichloride emulsion, DDT and propylene dichloride.

## New Deficiency Develops to Add To Sheep Trouble

The farmer who has had bad luck with lambs or cattle may have cobalt-deficient soil.

Investigations prove that infinitesimal amounts of cobalt and other minerals in livestock feed mean the difference between healthy and sick animals.

Kenneth C. Benson, in charge of cobalt investigations at the U. S. plant, soil and nutrition laboratory at Ithaca, N. Y., says that four one-thousandths of an ounce of cobalt in a ton of dried hay is sufficient for healthy livestock. He adds that if the ton of hay contains between two one-thousandths of an ounce and four one-thousandths, it is borderline cobalt deficiency.

A new cure for this serious lack of cobalt and other trace minerals — copper, iodine and manganese — has been discovered and is now being made available to farmers by at least two large commercial salt companies. It is a mineralized salt, which costs very little more than regular salt, and can replace missing trace minerals.

The dramatic effectiveness of the new salt is illustrated by one of its early uses in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1944 a farmer had a flock of 1,300 sheep after lambing season. By fall the herd had dwindled to 300 — 1,100 sheep and lambs died for no apparent reason. Dr. Gus Bohstedt, nutritionist at the University of Wisconsin, gave some of the sheep a shotgun mixture containing iron, copper, manganese, iodine and cobalt which was fed in the regular salt for the flock. Death losses during the 1945 pasture season were reduced to zero.

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## State Fair Poultry Show To Be Large

Poultry exhibits at the Oregon State fair promise to be more numerous than usual with a great deal of pre-fair interest shown, officials stated Wednesday. Special attention is being paid to the market poultry division which will be divided into two classes, one class for broilers weighing from two to three and a half pounds, and the other for roasters weighing from three and a half to five pounds. Six birds, males or females, will constitute an entry.

All poultry entries close on August 28, Leo Spitzbart, fair manager, reports.

Banning poultry shows in Oregon this year is not necessary, E. L. Peterson, director of the Oregon state department of agriculture, reports. However, each fair or show will be required to have a licensed veterinarian examine all entries and reject any showing symptoms of Newcastle or any other infectious disease of poultry.

First Case in 1947  
Peterson states that since April 1947, when the first case of Newcastle was diagnosed in Oregon, there have been 17 outbreaks. Only one of these occurred in turkeys. The state department, in carrying out its duties under the state's animal health laws, required the slaughter of all infected flocks until funds for payment of indemnity to owners became exhausted this spring. Since that time, all flocks in which Newcastle has been diagnosed have been placed under strict quarantine which permits the release of birds from affected flocks only for immediate slaughter.

Poultry Is Big Business  
By vigorous action of the department's division of animal industry, with full cooperation from Dr. E. M. Dickinson of the poultry pathology laboratory of Oregon State college and the poultry industry itself, Oregon is at this time, except for the cases under quarantine, free from Newcastle disease in its \$40,000,000 poultry industry, Peterson states.

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## Closed Bid Wool Sale To Be Held August 16

Approximately 1,000,000 pounds of wool will be offered at sealed bid sale by Pacific Wool Growers at their office and warehouse at 724 N. W. 14th ave., Portland at 2 p.m. on August 16. The wools will be on display on that date from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Other wool handlers in the Portland area have expressed their intention of offering an additional 400,000 pounds of wool, chiefly fine and half, at this sale. The sale is expected to clean up the remaining one-half and three-eighths blood wools in the northwest.

**FREEDATORS AT WORK**  
Coyotes are working on the lambs again in the Marquam area where Robert Seaman lost five during the past week.

hens are affected. Younger birds first show respiratory symptoms, followed usually in 10 to 14 days by nervous symptoms of paralysis, incoordination or tremor. Mortality in brooder chicks averages from 20 to 25 per cent, but those birds which recover may become carriers and transmit the disease to susceptible flocks.

