

Gardening Today

By Lillie L. Madsen
Garden Editor, The Statesman

Usually in Willamette valley winters, there are enough nice days to keep the chore-work up to date. This has not been so this year and the first days out are all taken up in chores.

In raking and cleaning up winter debris, care must be taken not to break off the small shoots of bulbs, bleeding hearts, peonies and the like.

They have been Lillie Madsen slow in coming, but, if you have investigated, you will note they are now coming rapidly. A little late in the season, scattered around them, being careful not to burn the new shoots, may help to make up for lost time. If it doesn't rain shortly after, it may be well to water it down, odd as that seems this year.



Some gardeners are reporting loss of calla lilies. Don't be too hasty in making this decision. They may just look lost. There may be two reasons for this: the tops have frozen down farther than usual; slugs have eaten deeper below the soil.

Slugs Must Be Baited

Slugs are one of the number one problems this spring. They hibernated beautifully and are coming out in droves. Poison baits should be placed for them at once. However, be sure this is covered by papers, pinned down, or other material to protect birds and pets.

Some of the small azaleas, received as house plants and planted outdoors have not withstood the winter. But the other azaleas and rhododendrons and the camellias, came through nicely. A few camellia buds are dropping, but chiefly on bushes in less favorably planted locations. Where the mulch was heavy around the plants and where the shrubs did not stand out in the open, and buildings, few losses have been reported.

Prune Roses

It is time to prune roses which means not only completely removing dead and undesirable wood, but shortening the remaining shoots so that the flowers produced are larger and better. If bruised or injured patches or canker spots are found on a cane, that cane, young or old should be cut to the ground. Leave only the clean straight growth of last year. The base should be clear of stubs and decayed ends of shoots which were removed in previous years. One mistake many growers make is to cut the strong bushes back and leave the weaker ones alone. The tall, robust growing bushes should never be pruned as heavily as the weak, straggly growers.

If perfection in the single bloom is what you are after, then prune weak and moderately growing roses hard (removing all except three or four canes and cutting these back to three eyes from the ground), and very vigorous growing types should be pruned moderately (leaving five to seven canes and six or seven eyes to the cane). If you want an abundance of bloom, prune weak growers hard, moderate growers moderately and very vigorous growers lightly.

Burn Debris

Clean up and burn all old canes and leaves which may have win-

tered over. If your plants are still dormant, spray with a dormant bordeaux mixture, seeing to it that all parts of the bush and the soil beneath it are reached. A fair feeding of balanced commercial fertilizer will be appreciated, if you do not mulch with the decayed fertilizer from cow barns. Success has been reached with one spading in the spring, working the ground down smoothly and covering with a mulch.

If you used sawdust mulch last year and have to spade this spring, give the plants a little extra nitrogen to take care of the sawdust decomposition. However, it may not be necessary to turn under the mulch but it might be wise to scrape it aside, sprinkle the balanced fertilizer over the soil beneath the roses and replace the mulch.

Garden Calendar

March 7—Salem Garden club, Woman's club building.

March 8—Woodburn Garden club.

March 9—Mt. Angel Garden club.

March 10—Salem Men's Garden club.

March 10—Little Garden club of Salem Heights.

March 10—Brooks Garden club.

March 11—Jordan Garden club.

March 14—Sweet Home Garden club, Timberline Manor.

March 14—Dayton Garden club.

March 16—Bull's Growers meet, Gresham Masonic hall, 10 a. m.

March 18—Stayton Garden club.

Questions and Answers

Ques: Does African Violet get too large for pot? How to report? C. L. D.

Ans: Yes, after a year or so it is too large for pot. Lift out, report in larger pot or wash soil off, and divide into several, pot separately in soil mixture of equal parts of good loam and leafmold, with half its bulk of good sand and well-decayed manure. Keep in dim light for a few days after potting and then place back near east window. Avoid strong sun. Those of you who live in town can usually purchase dried manures at the seed stores.

Ques: Q. E. F. asks what iron to use as rhododendron feed.

Ans: Sulfate of iron is frequently used. Scatter in circle around a little ways from trunk. Scratch very lightly being careful to avoid injury to surface feeder roots. English gardeners apply it in solution. Yellow color on leaves indicate need of feeding and a fair-sized bush can use an ounce. Free now as new growth starts, if you didn't feed last year. If last year, then do so as blooms fade.

Ques: Can trilliums be moved?

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Everyone says not to move them in bloom. But you must dig enough soil up to keep the roots from drying out. Their roots go deep and should not be disturbed. Plant them in a shady spot. Water well, and keep them mulched. Trilliums do exceptionally well in gardens under proper conditions, getting much larger and multiplying more rapidly than in native haunts.

W. T. F. asks if violas will thrive in sun or shade.

Ans: Although they grow best in moist, half-shaded locations, they will flower and even thrive where pansies wilt. After the first spurge of May bloom, the tops of the plants can be sheared off and a new crop of buds will soon show up.

Have you seen the pure white Avalanche, the Arkwright Ruby, a dark red; Puck, a bi-color purple and yellow, the pale blue, Maggie Mott, the new blue, Catharine Sharp with a yellow eye, or the beautiful apricot Chantrelle-land?

Gov. McKay To Introduce Lowell Thomas

Gov. Douglas McKay will be on hand at Salem high school Tuesday night to introduce Lowell Thomas, world traveler and commentator, and his son, Lowell Thomas, Jr.

The Thomases are to present a moving picture and a lecture on world travels at 8:30 o'clock. The doors open at 7:30. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and their son will be guests at a reception in the home of Mayor and Mrs. Robert Elstrom following the lecture.

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Valley Obituaries

John Wilson Sellars—John Wilson (Jack) Sellars, 80, died in the Southern Pacific hospital at San Francisco, Calif., Friday night following a lengthy illness. He was learned here Saturday.

Sellars had been a railroad conductor for over 45 years prior to his retirement in 1939. He was well known on the Mill City and Main-line runs.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. at the Elks temple here under direction of Fischer Funeral home. The Rev. Edward Terry will officiate and interment will be at Willamette Memorial park.

Sellars was born Aug. 22, 1869, in Cerluka, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He came to America with his parents in 1878. He lived in Streeter, Ill., and Valentine, Neb., before moving to Albany in 1894.

He was married to May Ackley at Valentine, Feb. 22, 1891. She died here in 1947.

He is survived by one brother, Robert Sellars of Albany; two sisters, Mrs. Euphena Berry of Lebanon and Mrs. Mary Lang of Albany; two nieces, Mrs. Carolins Schunk of Scio and Gladys Miller of Albany, and a nephew, William Lang of Albany. He was a member of the Elks and of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Musgrave Realty Office Moves Next Door

WEST SALEM, March 5—The Walter Musgrave realty office was moved this week to a new location at 1211 Edgewater st., next door to its site for the past 3 1/2 years. The rest of the building's main floor, formerly occupied by McDonald's grocery, is leased by Dr. J. H. Stewart, physician.

At Salem Schools

By James Cooke
Statesman School Correspondent

ENGLEWOOD SCHOOL

During radio broadcast time at Englewood Friday Louise Rawson's sixth grade class presented an original play entitled "Mystery of Grape Arbor." The play was written by Danell Hamilton, Beverly Hamman, Jimmy Hardie and Pat Gilmore.

The principal characters were Vern Lentz, Lorraine Bagley, Jackie Hafner and Howard Clemings. The announcer was Billy Drakeley and narrator, Pat Gilmore.

Mrs. Ellen Foster's third grade students presented "Briar Rose" at a school assembly Thursday at Englewood. They plan to give the play over KOCO sometime this month.

Craig McEwin was an art winner on a recent KOAC "Land of Make Believe" contest.

HIGHLAND SCHOOL

Fourth grade students of Mrs. Annie Wolcott featured important birthdays in February as a theme for a program they presented last



Each student did research on the person he chose, and then prepared a talk on the person and presented the material in the form of a play.

Characters of the play were: Ann Randolph played by Doris Livingston; Lord Cornwallis by Roger Barry; and soldiers: Michael Patton, Raymond Beamish, Merle Chrisman and Bruce Coome. A minuet dance in costume was given by David Bancroft, Florine

Stein, Robert Russell, Shirley Swegle, Herbert Shipman, Mary Ellen Earlywine, Billie Hazel and Patsy Mennis. Music for the dance was played by Rebecca Story at the piano.

McKINLEY SCHOOL

"The Coming of Spring" was the theme of the program given by McKinley fourth and fifth grade students Thursday. They wore brightly colored costumes of red, yellows and greens. They told the story of the coming of spring with singing and dancing.

A movie "Builders of the Broad Highway" was shown afterwards to the students and parents who attended the assembly. The movie was a part of the students social studies project.

The Graeco-Roman style of wrestling was not, as the name implies, used in ancient Greece or Rome, but was developed in France.

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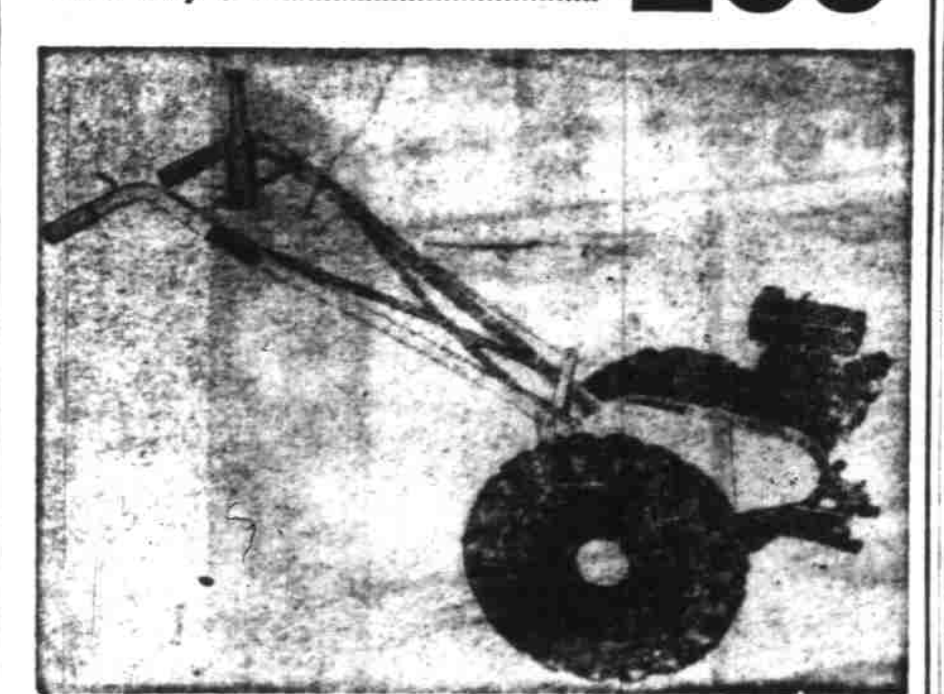
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