



GARDEN NEWS

Exchange Student Likes the Valley Questions — Answers

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman
One thing for sure, says Lore Gottert, who is studying here from Hilgartshausen, Germany, is that American hens don't cackle like the German ones do. Lore, who talks very fine "United States," has been studying the language only four or five months. One marvels at how much she has learned.

"You have to learn, and you have to learn fast if you are going to eat what you want," she said, as she told of her experience in ordering eggs for breakfast.

"I couldn't think of the right word so I made round signs with my hands and the waiter thought I was talking about apples. Then I did a very fine imitation. I thought of the way a hen cackles—at least in German. The waiter smiled wide and nodded. He knew, I felt, just what I wanted, and he hurried off.

"Do you know what she brought me?" she queried. "Frog legs! And I don't like them. Ugh! Your frogs must sing different from ours."

Anyway, Lore says she likes the Willamette Valley. It is much like "home" . . . and the people are nice, here, too. She is staying in the Middle Grove area at present.

One of Salem's good gardeners writes that she and her family are leaving—in September—to make their home elsewhere. She wants to take some of her flowers along—especially the gladioli and she knows they won't be through blooming by then.

Mrs. R. F. M. leaves by car, she could dig the glads with quite a bit of soil and take them along that way. It depends so much upon how much room she will have to carry things. Also where she is going. She doesn't say. It would be much simpler, of course, for her to stay right here in Salem and continue to grow nice flowers in our valley. But if she must go, I can see where she'd like to move some of her gardening things with her. I'm afraid I'd have to have tree movers and everything, were I to leave.

But in moving growing plants, during their growing season, it is necessary to move them either in pots or well balled with considerable soil about their roots. Even so they may suffer some setback, but they'll recover if the after-moving care is good. As to the glads: What about the people who are moving in? Or some of your garden friends? Couldn't they take care of the plants and send them on after they are dormant? Glads can be shipped so easily when the bulbs are dormant.

And now comes the question—the questions, I should say, for I have had a number—to what these new soil marvels, called "soil conditioners" will do for the garden. Statements of claims which my correspondents are writing me of certain ones, indicate miracles.

There are things these soil conditioners will do. But there are also a number of things they will NOT do, and it might be well to learn the latter first.

For instance: Soil conditioners are not plant foods. If your soil is deficient in phosphate—or any of the other elements—soil conditioners will not supply these. They will not correct a lime deficiency, nor will they correct a humus deficiency. To get the most out of soil conditioners, these troubles must be corrected separately. They will not improve a too-sandy soil—in other words, you can't make good garden soil out of seashore and a conditioner alone—and they will not have effect on soil that is already good.

They will make plant food in the soil more available. They will increase aeration, make the soil more friable, improve drainage and water-holding capacity. Seeds, where soil conditions have been used, germinate faster, and roots grow more rapidly and much better.

If your soil, after watering, is given to crusting, that soil will be improved by a soil conditioner. After all, the material is just what it claims to be: A soil conditioner!

When to cut flowers for a show is a question often asked these days. Cut them the evening before they must be exhibited and plunge them up to the neck in a container of cool water. This will help harden them off for the show tables. If possible, take the flowers in the same container with the same

Garden Calendar

Aug. 24—Final day of Pacific Northwest Gladiolus Society show, Everett, Wash.

Aug. 30-Sept. 6—Oregon State Fair flower show, Salem.

Aug. 30-Sept. 1—National Convention and shade plant show of American Begonia Society, San Francisco.

Sept. 10—Mt. Angel Garden Club picnic. No-host, at Henry Arden farm.

Sept. 18-20—North Marion County Fair Flower Show, Woodburn.

Sept. 19-20—Fall Flower Show, Victoria, B. C.

Sept. 27-28—Early Chrysanthemum show and field day, Corvallis.



Anne Bergholz (left), Marion County Home Extension agent, and Lore Gottert, exchange student from Germany, are pictured at the recent 4-H Club show at the State Fairgrounds. Anne will leave Wednesday for Columbia University, N. Y., where she will study during a year's leave of absence from her work here. Miss Gottert is staying with the John Cage family at Middle Grove. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

amount of water. And keep the car windows closed to prevent drafts. But don't let the sun shine too brightly through the car windows on the flowers.

We are being told this summer that vegetables need one inch of water each week during the dry season. Don't sprinkle and then remove the watering gadget to an-

other place. See to it that the soil is soaked an inch or more before you move on.

I'm getting complaints of grape vines mildewing this year . . . several of the same complaints. Dust with sulphur every week or 10 days and don't sprinkle the foliage just before or after sundown.

Question—Will Columbines go native? We have bought a little place right near Salem and there is a small piece of woodland on it—about 25 firs and a couple of alders near the little stream. We are clearing out all underbrush and want to plant a few flowers that will more or less take care of themselves. We don't plan to mow the place but will scythe off all too tall stuff. E. R.

Answer—Yes, Columbines will go native to a certain extent. The flowers are not so large and unselfish seedpots are watched. You may have them reverting. However many of them will come true from seed for a long time, and the old plants, too, live for years. Have you thought of lily-of-the-valley, narcissus, violets, trilliums?

Question—Have big clump of Madonna lilies. Friends want some but we have forgotten when best time to take them. Seems like it is in summer. Mine doing well in partial shade. Is this best place? B. H.

Answer—August is a good time to divide the Madonnas. They will do quite well in partial shade but very well in full sun, particularly if the base of the stalk is in shade during the hot afternoon.

Question—Our pansies, perennial phlox, and even some of the zinnias have a grayish white substance all over the foliage. Is this kind of a disease? It almost looks like mildew, but have never heard of these plants mildewing. T. J.

Answer—Very likely is mildew. All of these plants will mildew if conditions are right. Pansies are particularly susceptible. Dust with sulfur once a week until condition under control.

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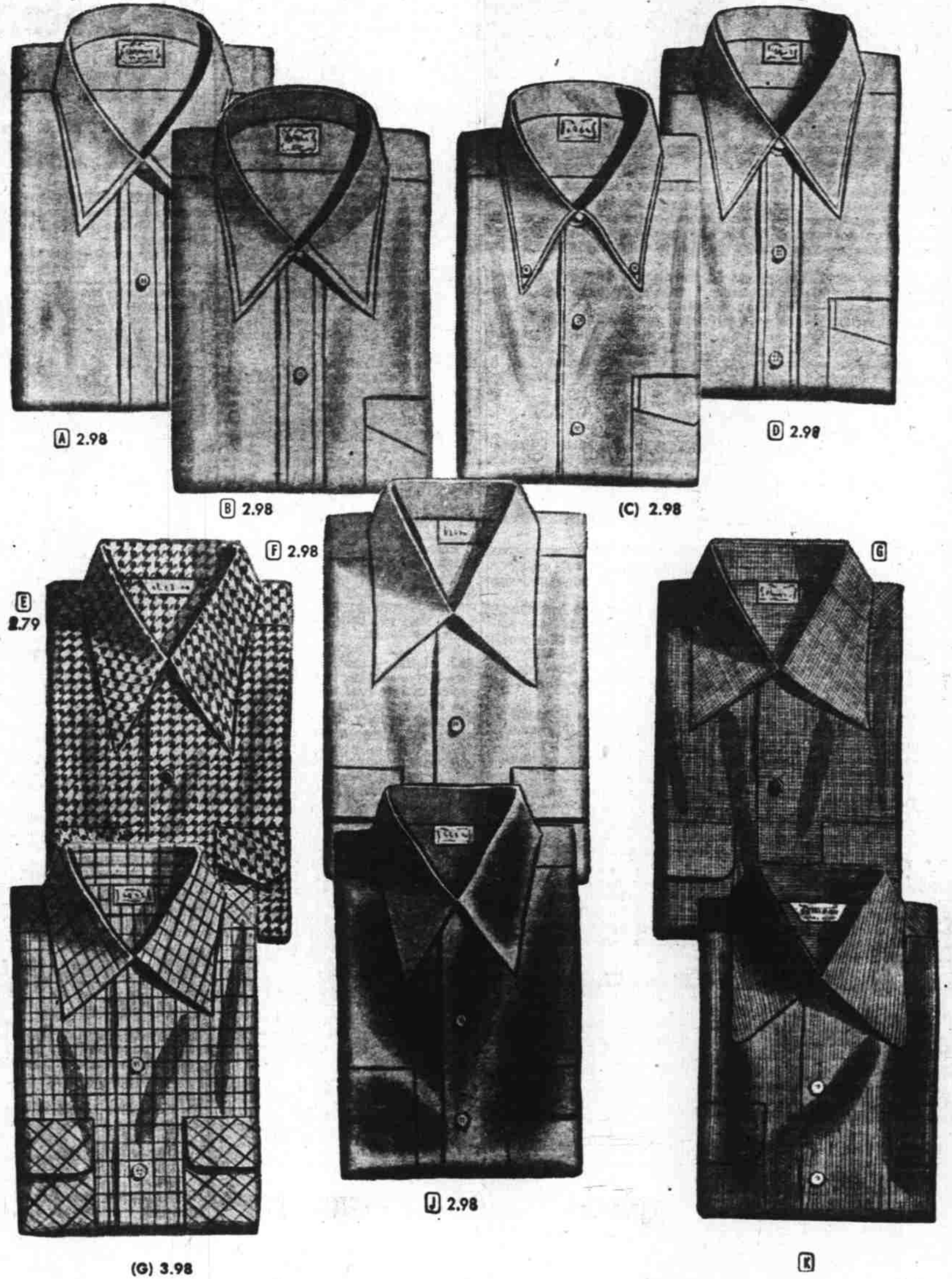
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