

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

'Now, Watch the Birdie'



It was the photographer who had to "watch the birdie," and carefully when the above picture was snapped. Pictured is Mrs. N. S. Wood, 2010 S. Church St., holding a white canary, a reluctant model who zoomed around the room repeatedly before posing. (Statesman Photo).

Salem Woman Finds Canary Raising an Interesting Hobby; Sells 1,000 in Seven Years

By CHARLES IRELAND
Valley Editor, The Statesman

Ladies, if you're shopping around for a hobby, lend an ear to the story of Mrs. N. S. Wood who has raised 1,000 canaries during the past seven years.

That's a lot of birdseed, but it's not chickenfeed. At least one of the canaries sold for \$50.

Mrs. Wood does not claim to be the largest raiser of canaries in the valley. But when I first visited her in October there were 100 canaries in the "aviary" at her home, near the new high school that is rising in South Salem.

When I returned just before Christmas, all of the young singers had been sold. Only her substantial breeding stock remained, and those birds aren't for sale.

Colorful Sight
What a colorful lot they are! White birds, green ones, cinnamon, bronze, yellow and the mottled birds that are called "variegated."

But the hot item in the trade right now, says Mrs. Wood, is the pastel-hued "pink apricot" variety.

Mrs. Wood is assembling a breeding stock of pink apricots. They are valued at \$50 a pair, and to date the hens are as costly as the male singers.

This is exceptional, for hens of more than common varieties bring somewhat less than \$5 on the average, while most male singers range on up to \$25 in price.

Like a cook guarding a prized recipe, Mrs. Wood does not disclose the source of her breeding stock. She states, however, that she specializes in Grossbacher rollers.

Warble Softly
Rollers are throat singers that warble a soft, melodious trill. Choppers, another popular variety, sing louder, "choppy" notes. Mrs. Wood considers rollers more popular.

Mrs. Wood's aviary is a former bedroom one the second floor of her home. The 10 by 15 foot room is lined with conventional bird cages and two large flight cages. One of the flight cages will accommodate 75 birds. Sunlight floods the room on three sides, a factor Mrs. Wood considers important.

Mrs. Wood feeds her birds a mixture of plain birdseed and black seeds called rape. The latter, she says, is their "bread and butter." For dessert they get a bit of brightly-colored seed called Treat.

Nesting birds three or four times a year is recommended by Mrs. Wood. The gestation period is brief and the baby canaries often arrive in large broods.

'Budgies' in Demand
While the canary business seems to be booming in the valley, Mrs. Wood admits that "budgies"—the parakeet-type birds that can be taught to speak—are the current rage. ("I could have sold a hundred of them this year," she said.)

Mrs. Wood is an enthusiastic member of Salem's recently organized Variety Bird Club which she said has approximately 20 members. Membership is restricted to persons who raise birds.

Mrs. Mary Lewis of Keizer district and Mrs. Blanche Iserwood

of West Salem are officers of the new club.

While Mrs. Wood appears to have made quite a good thing out of raising canaries, she stresses that it is "just a hobby."

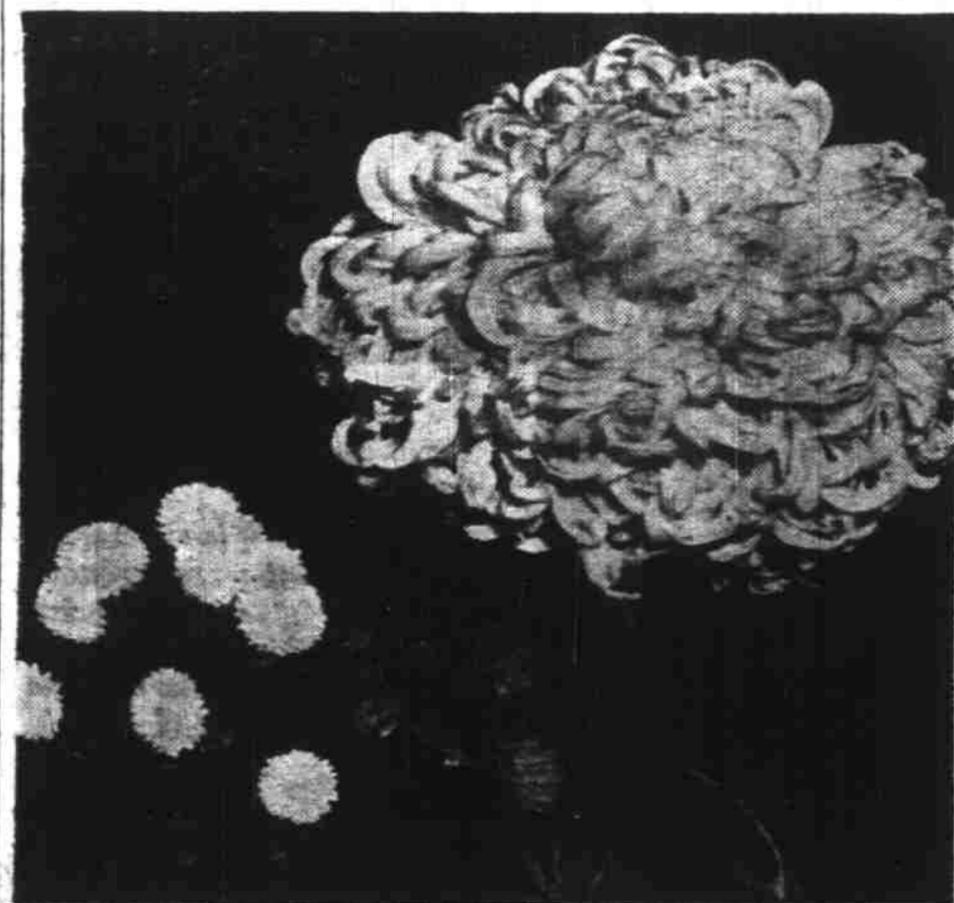
The key to success, she believes, is "a real love for birds," so she thinks other interested persons should approach bird raising as just a hobby, too.

Beef Cattlemen to Attend Nat'l Meet

Oregon beef cattle producers will be among the leaders at the 56th annual convention of the American National Cattleman's Association in Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 5-7.

A large delegation, headed by President Harry Stearns, Prineville, is expected from the active Oregon group and its affiliated county and local stock groups. The Oregon delegation will return in time to make reports at the Western Oregon Livestock Association meeting to be held in Coquille on Jan. 19-21.

Two Varieties of 'Mums'



With garden catalog season here, persons ordering chrysanthemum plants should consider the type suitable for their garden space. Some prefer the big ones at right; others like the small pompons at left. (Garden Photo).

Questions---Answers

Question—When should we prune our grapes? S.M.C.

Answer—During their dormant season. February is a good time. Sometimes when they are pruned too early frost injures them slightly—but it has to be a severe frost when they are dormant.

Question—What causes my African violet buds to wither and die after they are formed and almost ready to bloom? E.G.

Answer—Do you use gas? A small leak, one that you might even fail to notice, will cause buds to die and foliage to look sick. Ask the gas company for inspection. Otherwise, it could be lack of moisture, low humidity, a too heavy soil, a draft. The plants need constant moisture but never soggy soil. Pot must be well-drained. There should be sufficient light also.

Question—What is wrong with holly leaves enclosed? Trees are five years old and this discoloration is getting worse annually. R.C.D.

Answer—Looks like a fungus which will occasionally effect holly. Pick off diseased foliage, gather up and burn any which may have fallen from the trees. Rains will scatter spores of fungus. Apply Bordeaux mixture, dormant strength during the winter and this spring when new growth starts use a good copper compound spray to protect the new foliage.

Question—We had a lot of trouble with our hollyhocks this past year. They all turned brown, the leaves shriveled and fell off. We have them growing against a picket fence where we have had hollyhocks growing for 10 years and usually they have been lovely. We like to have them growing in exactly that spot for sentimental reasons, but our garden friends tell us it is impossible once they have become diseased. We are now ordering some new seed. Is there anything we can do to grow hollyhocks in this same location? Could it be that our plants were just too old and that was the reason? Please help us as soon as possible. Would it matter what kind of seed we got? D.E.

Answer—Are you trying to tell me that you had the same plants growing in this one location for 10 years? If you did, they must have done exceedingly well. Buy good seed from a reliable house. I haven't heard of a rust-resistant variety in hollyhocks, not one that is truly resistant. You really shouldn't plant the flowers in the same location in which the diseased plants were growing, but if you must have them there, you will need to give them some special attention. In the first place, pick up and burn every vestige of the old plants—leaves, stocks, seeds. Then dig up the soil deeply and fully on the first sunny day. Dust it with Bordeaux and let it lie until spring planting time. After you have set out the plants and as they start to grow, dust them every week or 10 days with a Bordeaux, or one of the new green fungicides containing copper, throughout the growing season. . . . If you follow this procedure religiously you might have good hollyhocks against your picket fence.

Question—Got a box of nice Irish rhizomes for Christmas. Should

we bury these in sawdust until spring, or plant now? Our soil isn't heavy and not too soggy. J.C.C.

Answer—I'd get them into the ground if you can do so without packing it. As you say your soil is on the light side, rather than the heavy, this should be able to be done on a nice January day (sometimes we have them). Be careful you do not set too deeply, and it might be well to spread considerable sand over the planting at this time. Some of this may be removed later in the season.

Question—I want an honest answer! Do you really think it pays to try to save poinsettias over from one season to the next? I've never had any luck and it just seems a waste of time, and yet I hate to throw them away. But truly, I've never had one grow and bloom for me. Do you know of anyone who has outside of greenhouse men? D.P.

Answer—Tsch! I always TRY to give an honest answer . . . so in this case, I'd say that for you, it probably wouldn't pay. However, I have seen some gardeners keep their poinsettias over and do a beautiful job of producing blooms again the next spring—but it isn't easy and one must have the patience of Job. If you do not have that kind of garden patience, then just enjoy your blooms now and throw the plant in the garbage when the brackets have yellowed and fallen—and forget about it until someone gives you another plant next year.

And now, as we are finishing the old year, I want to say how very much I have appreciated the many cards and letters I have received from so many of you, not only during the holiday season, but throughout the entire year. This is just between us—but there are times when one wonders if anyone reads the stuff one writes—and then such a flood of nice cards and notes as I received this holiday season—well it makes much for me toward the very Happy New Year I'm wishing you all.

Question—Have a row of black-caps in my back yard here in Salem. The canes are very long and ungainly. Should I cut them back now? Will it hurt them? S.S.

Answer—D. L. Rasmussen, Marion County agent, says to leave them alone, adding that fall-topped canes often die back severely in the winter's cold.

Eldredge District to Discuss Consolidation

Statesman News Service
Eldredge School District 60 will meet at the Eldredge School Monday at 8 p. m. to discuss proposed consolidation of Buena Crest, Mission Bottom, Clear Lake, Eldredge and Waconda Schools.

The meeting, which will be presided over by Mrs. Stanley Michalek, chairman of the school board, is open to all interested persons.

Clackamas County had more farms, as defined by the 1950 U. S. census of agriculture, than any other Oregon county. The Clackamas figure at the 1950 count was 6,090 farms, with the average size 52.8 acres. Marion County with 5,013 was second in farm numbers with an average of 77.7 acres. Wheeler County had only 189 farms but the average size was 4,335.4 acres.

Results on test plots of the Santa Rita experimental range in Arizona show that range land cleared and seeded to a mixture of adapted grasses will produce eight times more grass than the open range.

Garden Calendar

- Jan. 5—Salem Garden Club,
- Jan. 14—Mt. Angel Garden Club,
- Jan. 16—Stayton Garden Club.

Hop Marketing Agreement to End On July 1, 1953

The secretary of agriculture has announced that the hop marketing agreement and order will be terminated on July 1, 1953. Paul T. Rowell, managing agent for the Hop Control Board, reported Saturday.

USDA said that in the referendum termination was favored by 52 per cent of those voting in November, representing about 58 per cent of the 1952 production. Ballots were received from about 77 per cent of all eligible growers, representing about 94 per cent of the total quantity of hops produced this year in Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho. Ballots favoring termination thus were cast by 40 per cent of all eligible hop growers who produced 55 per cent of the 1952 crop in the area covered by the agreement.

New Jaycee Project Aids 12 Families

Statesman News Service
WOODBURN—"Sympathy for Santa Claus" was the feeling of a tired group of Jaycees here this week as they wound up what they hope will be the first of many annual Christmas-basket programs for needy families in the North Marion County area.

The Jaycees undertook the job of providing baskets and toys for all families not "adopted" by other Woodburn organizations. Members said the need for baskets and the response of the community both "greatly exceeded" expectations.

Twelve families were provided with food for a big Christmas dinner and many toys for all children.

The Jaycees started the project in place of the Christmas lighting contest sponsored in past years. Community residents were asked to help as the project expanded. Many new toys were provided, while used toys were repaired at MacLaren School for Boys. The Seventh grade Art Club at Washington School contributed a large box of new toys.

Plans for a similar project next Christmas already are being made.

Farm Conservation Deadline Set Wed.

The final date for farmers to request approval for 1953 agricultural conservation program practices is Dec. 31. W. M. Tate, chairman of the Marion County production and marketing administration committee, reported Saturday.

Each farmer who needs assistance for practices to restore or maintain fertility, conserve water, or prevent erosion on his farm should so inform his PMA community committeeman by the end of this month.

LEAVES FOR PASO ROBLES

SILVERTON—Mrs. Allan Swanson (Dorothy Thompson) has left for Paso Robles, Calif., to join her husband who has eight more weeks of special training at Camp Roberts. Mrs. Swanson, a daughter of the Norris Thompsons, has been living in Portland recently.

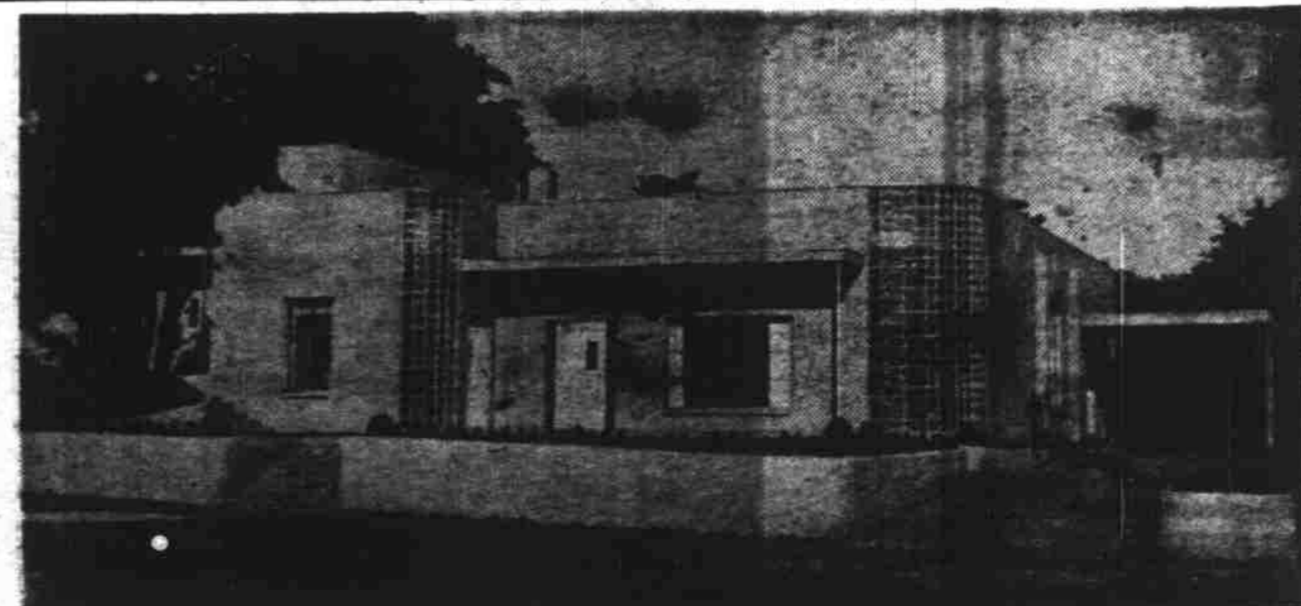
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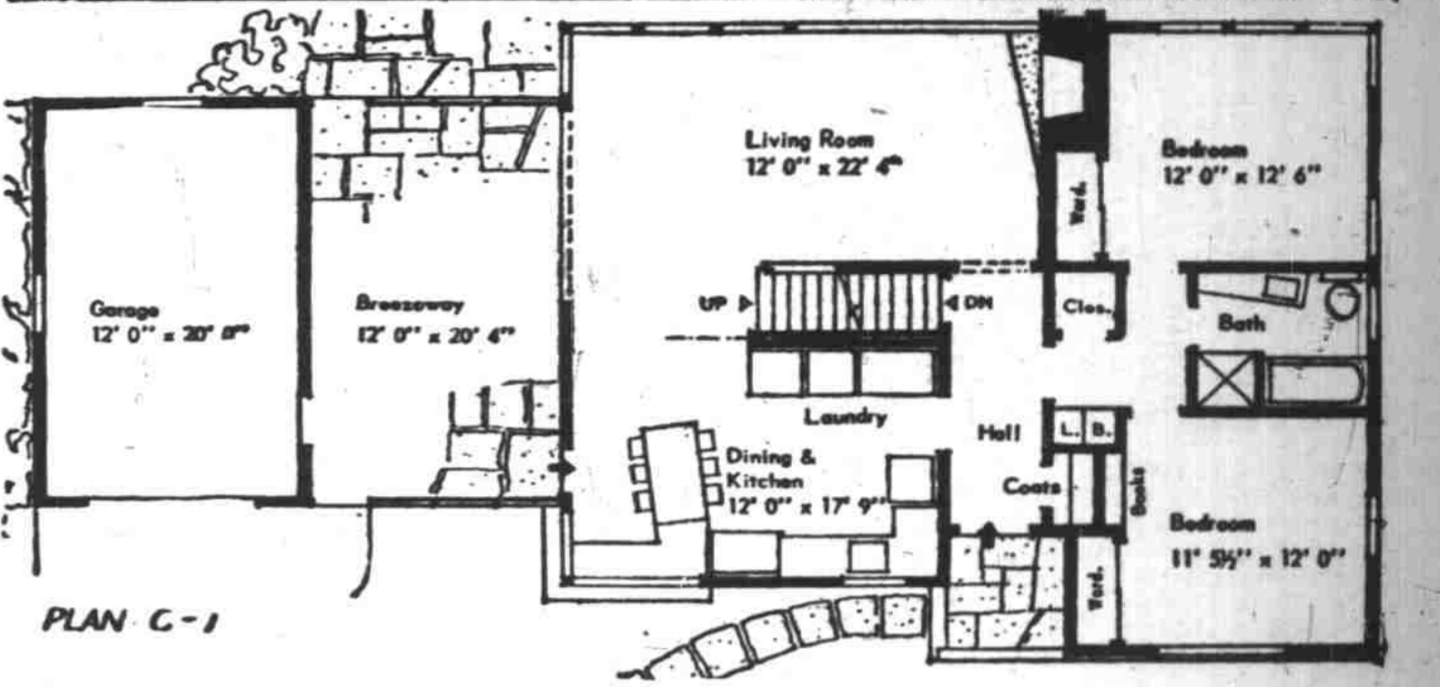
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HOMES FOR AMERICANS



Two exterior choices for one floor plan distinguish this "Young America House," design C-1 by Victor Civkin, 12 Ermine St., Fairfield, Conn. The only difference between the two facades involves slight changes in the windows. Two bedrooms and an extra bath are provided on the second floor. A barbecue fireplace on a rear garden terrace adjoins the living room fireplace. Covering 1,100 square feet, without breezeway and garage, the complete house is planned for the \$20,000 market, including land and complete electric kitchen and laundry equipment. Further information and plans are available from the architect named above. (R) Newsfeature.

Valley Briefs

Silverton—The Silver Creek Soil Conservation District will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the KP Hall. The meeting will follow a 6:30 p. m. dinner which Silverton Grange will serve. Dr. L. Cheney, head of Oregon State College soils department, will speak.

Four Corners—Regular meeting of Four Corners Womens Club has been postponed to 8 p. m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, because of the holidays.

Sweet Home—A two-weeks revival service will start Jan. 18 at the Church of Christ here. The Rev. Elery Parrish, McMinnville, will be the evangelist. De Vere Penhollow will be song leader.

Silverton—Past president's parley of Delbert Reeves Auxiliary will be held Monday night at the Ralph Francis home, reports Mrs. Ernest L. Starr. A 6:30 no-host supper will be served.

Victor Point—A baby girl, who has been named Pamela Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd T. Fox Jr. at a Portland hospital. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson, Newberg, and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd T. Fox Sr., Victor Point. Also a great grandmother, Mrs. Carrie Townsend, who lives here.

Too much or indiscriminate use of lime will cause an iron deficiency—and iron deficiency will cause yellowing of the foliage (not the autumn yellowing). Western clothes and customs are seldom seen in the island of Yap as they are in other Pacific islands, says the National Geographic Society.

Pre Inventory Offerings

We will Close January 6th to take Inventory
Meanwhile we offer you a 10% discount on our already low price for the following items purchased before that date:

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