

# Garden Gabbing

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Garden Editor, The Statesman

**MAKING DATE**—Please note the Garden Calendar these days. We are getting into the show season, and a lot of interesting shows are being offered. And just because a show or a group putting on the show is small, is no sign it isn't of the best. Take for instance the annual fall chrysanthemum show of the Little Garden Club of Salem Heights. You find as many fine varieties of 'mums there as you'll find in many a larger show. Just not as many in numbers of each variety. But one doesn't need that.

You'll note, if you read the calendar that April 4 is guest day at the Salem Garden club. If you are not a member and think you might like to join a garden club, why not look it over.

If you can get away for them, there are a few shows you ought to attend. The Daffodil show at Tacoma; the Gresham show, where the annual Orchid show will be held too. Of course, if you are in Southern California at the time, you shouldn't miss the show at Santa Barbara.

The week-end of April 23 and 24 is a heavy one with three worthwhile events which should all be "musts." First, of course, is the Salem Garden Council show. Second choice should be the Mt. Angel Primrose show with the fourth choice the national Primrose show in Tacoma. Quite a few Willamette Valley folk have told me they plan to go up to Tacoma for Saturday and return for the two Valley events for Sunday.

If you have never seen it and have an opportunity to do so, get down to the Oakland, Calif., Spring Garden show. You'll never regret it. It is something very different. And there's—well, most of the garden shows are worth attending.

**THOSE MEN AGAIN**—They had a nice meeting the other night, we are told. . . . The Men's Garden Club of Salem. Here are some of the gossip of the evening:

The importance of selecting shrubs with growing characteristics to fit the spot they are to fill, was emphasized by Robert Nelson, Salem nurseryman. Bob declared that deciduous shrubs are the most popular for use in landscaping around the average home. Two factors account for this, he said: They are cheap. Proper selection of varieties will provide blooms from early spring until late fall.

Pruning of evergreens was discussed by Rex Pfeffer, who also urged care in selecting plants with growing characteristics to fit the spot they are expected of. Rhododendrons and azaleas, he said require very little pruning if proper plants are selected in the first place. In other words, when you are on a buying spree, keep a mental eye on the place you intend to plant. Don't come home with a Redwood for a heather-space.

Don Rasmussen talked about pruning fruit trees, warning against over-pruning which he declared to be more harmful than beneficial. Don described pruning as "the science of removing wood in order to improve the quality of the plant." Pruning still remains cutting away unwanted growth.

**EDITOR ASKS A QUESTION**—People write asking me about a magnolia garden in the Bandon area. I have tried to find out about it. Even when I was there in November, no one seemed to be able to tell me. By chance do any of you one or two readers who may see this know? If so, I'd appreciate knowing where it is and who owns it. Thanks.

**MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIAS**—And while we are on the subject of magnolias, let me say I think more of these should be planted here in the Willamette Valley—and March is the best time for getting out most varieties. The little Star magnolia, with its white blooms, faintly fragrant, has gained greatly in popularity in recent years. And when you want the Sauter Magnolia, don't ask the nurseryman for a "tulip tree." You are apt to come home with a tulip tree and not the magnolia you thought you were talking about. The tulip tree is lovely in itself but is not the Sauter Magnolia, which grows around 25 feet at the most and has interesting, angular branches and beautiful large blooms.

**HUNGRY LAWNS**—Every lawn should be fed once or twice in the spring—right now is a good time to start. Use a fertilizer heavy in nitrogen—particularly if there is a lot of moss. Rake off the moss first and rake over the soil. Might be good to add just a little turf building soil over the lawn. Mix a little good grass seed with the humus if the grass is thin. If the mice are still working the lawn, and they seem to be in most of the lawns at the edge of towns, get some poison grain and drop carefully into the holes. You can tell if the mice are still feeding, by the very gnawed look on the grass around the holes in the lawn. When the grass begins to grow up over the holes, the mice have been poisoned or have moved to greener pastures. You can fill the hole with some leaf mold or a combination of good garden soil and leaf mold.

## Pilgrims See Pope Pius XII

VATICAN CITY (UP)—Pope Pius XII, continuing his recovery from a recent illness, made another appearance at his study window overlooking St. Peter's Square and imparted a special blessing to pilgrims below Saturday.

## Blonde Beggar In Trouble Again

SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—Blonde beggar Tina Dutton, who in the past two weeks has virtually worn a path into Municipal Court, trudges back again Monday on new charges of battery, malicious mischief and disturbing the peace.

The latest charges against Market Street's most famous panderer were filed after she whanged a restaurant waitress with a sugar bowl last Tuesday.

A panel of six psychiatrists appointed by Municipal judge Clayton Horn examined Tina Friday. They decided the 21-year-old beggar was sane, despite her sometimes erratic behavior.

Dr. Thomas Albers, one of the court's panel, said only that "she was a most interesting personality."

**FINDER'S TROUBLE**  
LANSING, Mich. (UP)—James Slocum, 16, found \$600 in cash on the street. He and his mother were phoning banks in an effort to locate the owner when they were contacted by the woman who had lost the money. Slocum's reward: one dollar.

## Bakersfield Uranium Rush Still Booming

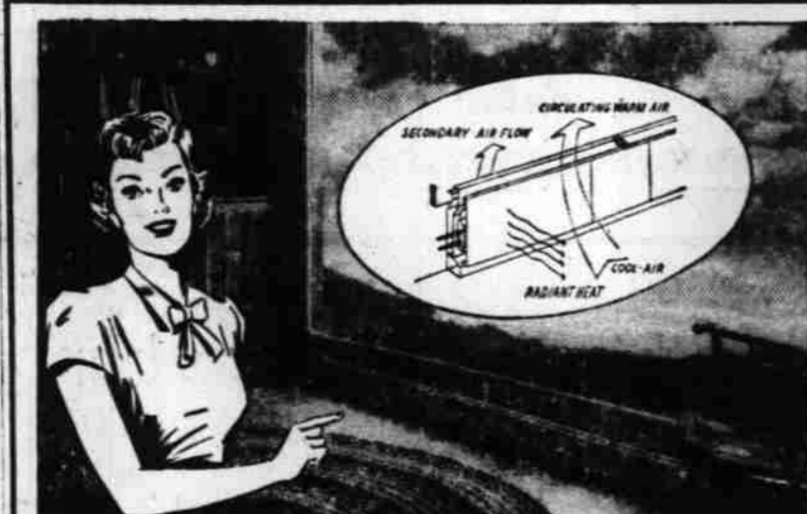
BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (UP)—The 1955 California uranium rush boomed Saturday with hordes of weekend prospectors renting airplanes and helicopters in their search for radioactivity in the hills near here.

The California Highway Patrol, worried over the possibility of violence among the claim seekers, ordered additional cops on to the roads. Patrols of sheriff's deputies policed the hills.

Deputies reported they halted a bitter argument Friday between Robert Mann, of El Monte, Calif., and four men from Burbank on a 20-acre claim in the Caliente area.

The rush started Tuesday when the AEC posted an aerial map of Kern County radioactivity.

Other uranium hunters have come from as far as New Hampshire, Alaska, Washington, Utah, and Oregon.



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## Jet-Propelled Assist Given To Dan Cupid

HOUSTON, Tex. (UP)—First Lt. Orla M. Patterson, Hoquiam, Wash., was married last night but they had to call out the Air National Guard to bring off the event.

Cupid got a jet-propelled assist on the deal but it still wasn't good enough to meet an 8 p.m. deadline and the bride, 20-year-old Jere Diana Renschel, was left waiting at the altar for two hours.

That was while Lt. Patterson, sweating out the clock, was high in the air in a Texas Air National Guard jet, streaking from Charleston, S.C., where he found himself stranded on his wedding day.

Patterson and his best man, 2nd Lt. Fred Jennings, were on a routine flight to Charleston and would have returned to Ellington Air Force Base here in plenty of time, but the plane developed engine trouble and was grounded in Charleston.

Patterson called his bride-to-be to explain the plight. Then Air Force officials here got busy and Capt. John M. Hewitt operations officer for the National Guard unit, offered to pick up Patterson at Charleston.

**Appeal Filed by Convicted Slayer**  
KLAMATH FALLS (UP)—Notice was received by Dist. Atty. Frank Alderson Saturday that James Quinton Anderson, 32, will appeal his first-degree murder conviction to the State Supreme Court.

Anderson was found guilty at Burns last month of the fatal shooting of Richard David Miller after a farmhouse quarrel.

Anderson's attorney, Herbert Welch, Lakeview, said he will contend in the appeal that Circuit Judge M. A. Biggs, Ontario, who presided at the trial, failed to instruct the jury on proper consideration of self defense.

Because of the appeal Judge Biggs postponed a hearing set for Burns next Wednesday on a motion for a new trial.

# Answers to Garden Questions

**Question**—Can you tell me what is wrong with rhododendron plants? Am enclosing spotted leaves. It is planted on the east side of the house and had plenty of water. It did have some barnyard fertilizer around it last year and I'm wondering if that is responsible. C.H.K.

**Answer**—As a whole these leaf spots are not serious. If only a few leaves are affected remove these by hand and burn. Also rake up and burn dead leaves which have fallen to the ground. If leaf-spotting is severe two sprayings of Bordeaux (3-3-50), the first right after blooming, the second two weeks later, should keep the spot in check. A good mulching, prevention of strong winds on the plants together with insect control usually keeps leaf spot away. The barnyard fertilizer, unless showed immediately against a young shrub, should not be injurious but rather beneficial.

**Question**—Can you tell me what is wrong with enclosed camellia leaf? R. L.

**Answer**—Black Mildew. Frequently caused by improper air circulation. Can be helped by spraying with a light summer oil. Too heavy a soil may also help bring about the condition.

**Question**—Can you tell me if grapevines can be grafted. It can be done, when? W.C.F.

**Answer**—Grapevines start so readily from cuttings that neither budding nor grafting is done very much. However, if you want to graft, use a whip or tongue graft this month. Budding of grapes is much better than grafting and this should be done in late summer, August to early September. You would probably enjoy the extension bulletin on Grafting and Budding obtainable from the Marion County extension office in the courthouse at Salem.

**Question**—What variety of grapes could we plant here that would ripen in August or September? C.H.

**Answer**—Perle de Casaba is the earliest grape, I'm told in this area. It is a small, sweet, white-skinned grape. The Seneca, the Fredonia, Ruby, Yates and Hector are among the early varieties. Later in September we have the Niagara, Cata, Campbells Early, Worden Lucile, McPike, and Concord. There are probably a number of newer varieties which ripen early, too. These mentioned here are among the older ones.

**Question**—Is it too late to plant roses in March? We do not have our new rose bed ready before and would like to start some roses for this summer's bloom. Was told that you said Thanksgiving day was the proper time to plant roses. T.A.

**Answer**—Everything being equal, I do like to start my roses in late fall and get them all settled for next spring's growth. But that does not mean that this is the only time. Some very avid rose growers wouldn't think of planting theirs until late February or March. I rather favor the idea of planting them when you are ready to do so. Nowadays you can get them "canned" and set them out at anytime with little disturbance. Even in summer they'll go right on blooming, if planting is done carefully.

**Question**—Can you tell me how we can tell if we are classified as farmers under income tax? It seems to me there was some set amount you had to take in from the farm before you file as farmers. G.A.

**Answer**—A farmer is defined as an individual who receives at least two-thirds of his total estimated gross income from agricultural operations.

**Question**—Brought a redwood burl home a year ago and it has grown all the time since. Could you tell me if this would grow if planted out doors? Seems to have roots on the burl. E.O.

**Answer**—Occasionally a burl will grow. I know of a rather tall redwood tree now that was originally started as a burl. But not always will they grow. Wait until the nights are a bit warmer than now. Cover the burl with loose, woody soil. You will have to keep the place moist throughout the summer.

**Question**—What is wrong with Prayer plant? Leaves are like one enclosed? C.L.D.

**Answer**—Looks like it has either

## 'Hula Skirt' Plant Used As Medicine

By ROY ESSOYAN  
HONOLULU, T.H. (UP)—The ti plant has had a place in war and dancing. One day it may win a place in the medicine cabinet and the pantry.

Ti (no relation to tea) is a green, large-leaved weed that grows at the drop of a bucket. All you have to do, Hawaiians say, is plant it, pour on the water and get out of the way, quick.

The best known use for ti is in hula skirts, those swishing fronds that sway from the hips of native dancers.

One of its least known uses is as a flag of truce, used by New Guinea natives in tribal warfare. Ti is also baked for eating, woven into baskets, made into sleds and turned into "oke" (okolehao), Hawaii's own brand of moonshine.

Several years ago Dr. Harold L. Lyon, then director of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Assn. (HSPA) experiment station, discovered ti was one of the world's best potential sources of levulose, a type of fruit sugar.

The sweetest and most soluble of all sugars, levulose has been used in medicine and in the food industry. It has filled an important need in intravenous feeding and for the treatment of diabetes. Its unique, delicate flavor has added to the quality of jams, preserves and baked goods.

Following HSPA's preliminary laboratory work a pilot extraction plant was set up at grove farm on Kauai Island.

The early experimenters called levulose "the sugar of the future" but W.M. Moragne, manager of grove farm, says many problems remain unsolved and it will be some time before levulose from ti becomes a practical, commercial reality.

Trouble is the ti plant, though high in levulose content, is tough. It's hard to harvest, hard to clean and so far the cost of extracting levulose from it is too high to be an economical success.

"When and if we get the cost down low enough we may have a new industry," Moragne said.

Till then, the cost of the ti leaf itself doesn't come too high for hula skirts.

Costa Rica was the first Central American nation to cultivate coffee. A "coffee rush" in the 1820's, soon after the Costa Ricans won independence from Spain, made coffee the country's chief export crop.

## Gruenther Flies to U.S.

WASHINGTON (UP)—Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, supreme commander of North Atlantic Treaty forces, flew here Saturday from Paris amid speculation that the President plans major changes in the military high command.

The Defense Department said in its official announcement that Gruenther will "attend to routine business" on his trip. But there was speculation that he may be named Chief of Staff of the Army, succeeding Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway who may be retired next August, or chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a post now held by Adm. Arthur W. Radford.

Gruenther is a close personal friend of the President.

**Answer**—We are glad to have you back, MOJ. (Wish you had signed your full name. It wouldn't have been published). Certainly there is no objection to the amount of questions you ask and will try to answer as many as possible, each in its own turn. Plans for the development of a municipal rose garden has moved ahead. This will be in Bush's Pasture, and some 1,100 bushes will be among the first planting. The Salem Garden Club meets the first Monday at 2 p.m. of each month, at the Salem Woman's Club, 460 N. Cottage. The rules say "Guests, 25 cents each meeting, except Special Guest Day." So far as I have been able to learn there is no Salem Orchid Society, but Salem Orchid fanciers go to the monthly meetings of the Oregon Orchid Society, the second Thursday of each month, 8 p.m. in the Journal Building, Portland. Dues are \$2.50 a year, which includes a subscription to the monthly bulletin. Watch Garden Calendar for announcement of Orchid Show.

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**U.S. Chamber Elects Mississippiian President**  
WASHINGTON (UP)—The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Friday elected A. Boyd Campbell of Jackson, Miss., as its president.

The Chamber's board also elected Henry Kearns, San Gabriel, Calif., a vice president.

**326 CRASH KILLS TWO**  
ENID, Okla., (UP)—Two Air Force officers were killed late Friday when a B-26 bomber crashed on a farm and exploded.

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