

House of 1st Citizen Old, Has Charm

By MARGARET MAGEE
Capital Journal Writer

Salem's first citizen for 1957, Mrs. Bernard O. (Agnes) Schucking, for the past 27 years has lived in a charming old house on Dallas road that was built one hundred or more years ago.

The furnishings in the house also date back many years. They are not the kind that have come from antique shops, rather, they have come down through the family and are the solid, lived-with type of pieces, that almost speak of the graciousness of the age from which they came.

Many changes have been made in the Schucking home during the 100 or more years of its existence, but none have detracted from the character of the large old house, that for years was owned by Mrs. Schucking's father, A. N. Gilbert, and the late Gov. Isaac Lee Patterson. It was after the death of Patterson that Mrs. Schucking and her late husband purchased the Patterson share of the ranch on which the house stands.

Original Fireplace
Still a part of the house is the original fireplace in the living room and it claims an important

Questions Answered

Without going to the trouble and expense of erecting a greenhouse, is there any material that can be used as a covering to protect plants and their blooms against late frosts and damage from rain? P.C.S.

There is a plastic film material which has undergone exhaustive tests for toughness and resistance to outdoors exposure conditions and that will still let enough light through to encourage plant growth. The material approved is known as Amilsec Poly-Flex 236. Its tests showed it able to withstand a load of 185 degrees and cold as low as -40 degrees. The University of Connecticut conducted exhaustive tests of the material and described it as a satisfactory substitute for glass in the greenhouse. Since its cost is about 30 cents per square foot it can be affixed to a frame set on legs and placed over shrubs such as camellias to afford the protection you desire.

What material is best to use to help the compost pile to breakdown? R.D.

There are several products on the market specifically designed and packaged for the purpose. But, if you want to make your own compost hastener try three parts ammonium sulphate, two parts super-phosphate and one part lime. Sprinkle this over each layer of compost as it is added to the pile and keep the entire pile moist.

How much nitrogen bearing material must be added to sawdust to prevent a nitrogen deficiency due to the sawdust using up available nitrogen in its decomposition process? S.C.

Seven or eight pounds of ammonium sulphate to each 100 pounds of sawdust, or about 2 1/2 pounds of ammonium sulphate to a bushel of sawdust should be sufficient.

Are any significant spring flowers scheduled for this year? Mrs. B.R.

We have, as yet, received no notice of spring shows in this area, but the California International Flower Show, March 16-21 at Hollywood Park, Inglewood, California, is one of the largest and best, on the West Coast. There is a great show, too, annually at Oakland, California that is worth seeing, usually in May. Of course, the Camellia Show sponsored by the Salem Camellia and Rhododendron Society, April 12 and 13 is a fine show worth seeing.

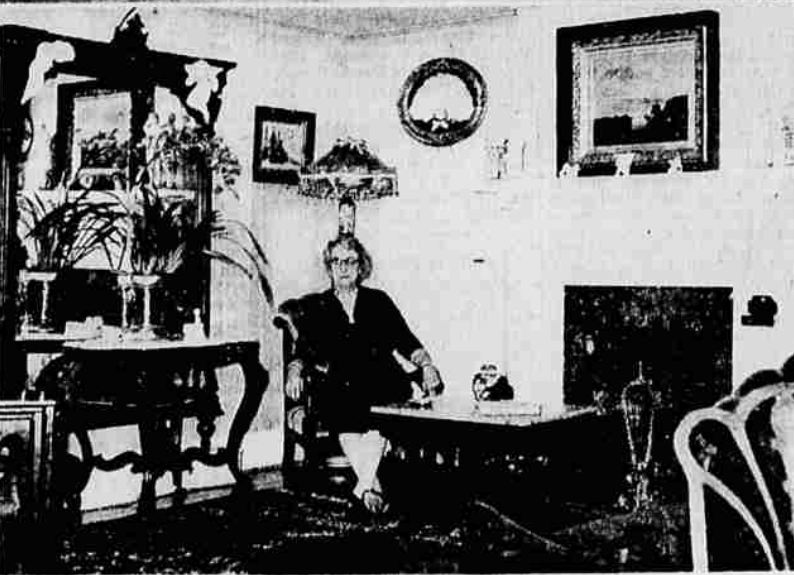
Can lilies be moved now, safely? They are in a poor location, Mrs. P.

While it is not customary to move established plants at this time of year it can be done without loss provided sufficient soil is taken with the bulb that the roots are not damaged. Lily experts advise against moving except when thinning is necessary.

Am completing a new home and would like some suggestions for plant material to use in the foundation planting. D.S.

First, make sure that no building refuse is used as a fill against the house, especially plaster, where broad-leaved evergreens are wanted. Boxwood makes a fine, evergreen edging to a pathway or specimen may be used on either side of the entrance. Rock cotoneaster (rotoneaster horizontalis) can be used to make a continuous planting along the foundation and spring bulbs in front of this is most effective. At the corners a larger shrub such as a blue or rhododendron may be used instead of the more common evergreen tree-like shrubs. However, every home has its individual structural problems which must be coped with in the landscape plan. It is advisable, then, to have a landscape gardener or nurseryman view the site and advise on the material to be used for your particular type of house.

Mrs. Schucking's Dwelling



Firm Hand Necessary to Control Fido

By VIVIAN BROWN
AP Newsfeatures Writer

Does your home have that hang-dog look?
It's easy to tell if you qualify. Just inspect the furniture for dog hairs, the rugs for stains, and lastly that old lap lounge, man's best friend, for leaping insects.

In many a home where the family is trying to "put on the dog," Fido has nipped the scheme in the bud, acquiring Dad's comfortable easy chair at the fireplace even before they put the Oriental rugs down.

What to Do?
What to do about this destroyer of good will who is adored by all the family?

"You've got to be firm in handling him much as you love him," says Jack Greenberg, who makes a profession of studying proper care of dogs. He explains: "At the first sign that he wants to make his bed on an easy chair or couch, push him to the floor and scold him. When you go out of the house, set mousetraps on the chair and sofa. If he should get on them, he'll spring the traps and get startled but he won't get hurt."

Scold, Praise
Some dog owners, says Greenberg, are not consistent toward their animal. Scold him when he's wrong, praise him when he's right, he says. Don't push him off a chair one time when you have company, and then let him sit there another time because he looks so appealing. Stick to the same tone of voice and word for disapproval. If you use the word "no," don't switch to "don't" another time, he advises. (After all Fido may not have read Webster's.)

Housebreaking is easy for alert homemakers, Greenberg says. "If you train the puppy to paper, it's best to leave a soiled paper behind when disposing of the soiled papers. The puppy's sense of smell will lead him back to the spot he's used before."

When "mistakes" happen have a stain preventive on hand, such as a product that can neutralize



Mrs. Agnes Schucking, Salem's first citizen for 1957, her daughter, Helene, and son, Bob, live in a large white house on the Dallas road, built more than 100 years ago, pictured top. Center, is a corner of the living room showing the fireplace, which was in the house when it was built, and many of the old pieces of furniture from Mrs. Schucking's family. Below, is a silver service that came from her grandfather Gilbert which sets on a marble topped carving table. The portrait is of Mrs. Schucking's late grandfather Suro of the Suro family of San Francisco. (Capital Journal photos)

the bleaching action of the waste matter and kill the odor.
Vacuum Good
A vacuum cleaner is good for picking up shedding hair. A dry sponge or brush made of sticky tape (wind it around your hand) will pick up hair. It's a good idea, though to brush the dog frequently, collecting the hair on the brush before it gets on household effects. Tests at the Dog Care Center, where Greenberg is research director, have shown that excessive shedding may also be caused by avitaminosis or lack of fat in the diet.
You can keep your home free from that doggy odor by bathing

Fido frequently, Greenberg advises. "If your dog has fleas go to work on him and your house immediately." Greenberg says. "Dust scratch powder over the area surrounding his bed to kill eggs that may have fallen into cracks and crevices. When fleas, lice and ticks are prevalent, keep them off by dusting the dog with powder before he goes back into the house," he adds.

Paperhangers once signed their names on walls to date their work. Removal of wall paper in some old homes revealed it had been on the walls more than 100 years.

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Gardeners Get Urge to Work As Cold Ends

Notebook Called Good Way to Maintain Your Records

As the cold winter weather prepares to draw to a close, the home gardener gets the urge to get out in the garden and help nature along for spring is the season most everyone enjoys the most. Shrubs and trees come back to life and soon load themselves with countless colorful, fragrant blossoms.

In looking back over past years, we are want to recall just how early this or that plant showed its first spring bloom. Sometimes that is hard to remember for our climate has varied in recent years, from severe to mild winters, early to late frosts, etc. to such a point that if there is no written record the information is lost.

That's Why
That is why we took the name "Your Garden Notebook" when we instituted our column, for it is our belief that every serious home gardener should keep a record of when his plants were planted, when they first bloomed and the time of blooming each succeeding year. Information, thus accumulated, can be duplicated from no other source. The garden notebook, too, is a valuable place for filing clippings of articles on the culture of your favorite plants, recommended spraying materials, fertilizers and pruning practices.

As an example of what your own garden notebook can give you are these excerpts from notebooks of some friends that were kindly submitted to us:
Seeds started indoors, like tomatoes or flowers, are put in a saucer and kept covered with a damp cloth until sprouted.
Paper milk cartons, cut in half make excellent starting pots for single seeds. Transplanting of the seedling is simplified by simply cutting away the carton, leaving the roots intact.

Calendars Handy
Calendars in the garage or tool shed are handy for recording spraying, planting or pruning dates.
Try planting roses in pots and sinking the pots in the ground. Then, if color is needed elsewhere, the pots can be lifted and the plant moved to a patio, porch or wherever color is wanted without disturbing the plant. When through blooming, re-plant the bush in the garden in the regular manner.

Potatoes can be sown in flats, seed boxes or pots and transplanted when the weather has definitely settled. The fancy ruffled and double types germinate more satisfactorily at temperatures in the seventies. The standard bedders do well if planted before the weather becomes too warm.
Tomatoes, being warm weather plants should not be transplanted to their outdoor locations until the temperature is likely to stay above 50 degrees.

Dahlias started in pots of sand will send up shoots. Those shoots, when four inches high can be inserted in sand and will take root, increasing your stock of choice varieties.

Potting Can Be Delayed
If house plants need re-potting, this can be delayed another sea-

Now's the Time for Planting Tuberos Begonias Indoors

By MARK M. TAYLOR
Capital Journal Special Writer

Now is the time to start tuberous begonias indoors for planting out when danger of frost is past. Tubers saved over from last season, properly cured and stored, may be augmented by new tubers available from your dealer in a variety of colors and flower form. Some hobbyists have already started their tubers, but they run the risk of developing too leggy plants.

When a greenhouse is not available, the tubers may be started in three inch pots, using a soil that is two parts leafmold or peat and one part sand. Fill the pot three-fourths full and place the tuber on this mixture with the crown, or hollow, side up. Cover the tuber with the soil mixture, not deeply, but just barely, and water lightly.

Watch Out For Cold
Place the container where the temperature is not liable to drop below 60 degrees, but avoid hot, drying air. Soon, little sprouts will appear and then the containers should be moved where the plants will get light without being in direct sunlight. When the leaves begin to develop you may be sure that the roots have grown proportionately. The roots must not become overworked, so, it is wise to transfer the tubers to six inch pots for continued growth before setting them out of doors.

Tubers may, also, be started in flats containing the same soil mixture and treated similarly. The only difficulty in starting in flats, it seems, is that the roots, sometimes become so intermixed it is difficult to separate them when planting out without severing some of the roots. Since tuberous begonias are glutinous feeders, they need all of the root system possible for lush growth.

When the season has warmed up, the started tubers may be planted outside. It is desirable to select a location where they will receive filtered sunlight.
Plants Love Shade
While sunlight is essential to good growth and bloom of tuberous begonias, they are considered primarily as shade-loving plants. Actually, they are descendants of tropical plants found on the floor of moist, tropical forests. In their natural habitat they receive filtered sunlight through the branches and foliage of the forest trees.

Thus, sunlight is essential and tests have shown that they will fall in bloom if kept entirely away from light. On the other hand, excess sunlight, or direct sunlight may tend to scorch the blossoms. I know of instances, though, where persons, in an experimental mood, planted begonias in the parking strip in front of their homes, in direct sunlight. The only complaint was the loss of bloom by passersby helping themselves!

During the summer, especially by making small holes in the soil and filling the holes with sheep guano and a little bone-meal. This gives the plants a fresh stimulant to carry them over until next season when you may have more time to complete the re-potting task.

Evergreens should NOT be wrapped to protect against the cold as we have seen a number of local home owners doing this past winter. It's better to use the burlap as a windbreak by tacking it to stakes driven around the plant.

Bulbs bloom quickly once roots have formed. Failure to bloom may be due to disease lack of maturity. Buy bulbs only from reputable dealers to insure best quality for your investment.
Damage to magnolias in the winter, because of their brittleness, comes from the weight of snow and ice on the branches rather than the extreme cold.

during hot, dry days, begonias benefit from daily sprinkling. Contrary to some belief, overhead sprinkling is good for them. In purchasing tubers, select those at least 1 1/2 inches in diameter and those that have been stored in dry peatmoss or sand and not stored in open containers where they may have been subjected to drying conditions. Late March or April is sufficiently early to secure good blooms this season though some believe that earlier starting will bring earlier blooms. Started too early, the plants may become leggy and difficult to maintain.

Cuttings Possible
It is possible, if you want to experiment, to take cuttings of your favorite sorts. When new sprouts have formed they may be sprouted off at the base, the cut end dipped in root-inducing hormone, inserted in moist sand and roots will form. The cuttings will bloom this season and will, at the same time, form a new tuber. The tuber thus formed may

be small and irregular in shape but it is as good as one started from seed so the effort is worthwhile. As the season progresses it will get more difficult to procure satisfactory tubers in the flower forms or colors you desire. Dealers will have, sometime in April, seedling plants started and ready for setting out wherever you wish to use them.

These are plants grown from seed sown this year and the plants will flower this year and will form tubers that may be saved at the end of the season. One word of caution, however, in buying seedling plants—remember that seedlings do not always come true to the color or flower form of the plants from which the seeds were taken.

Specialists in growing tuberous-rooted begonias do control pollination to prevent such events. Be sure of the source of your seedling plants if you are particular as to colors or type of bloom you want on the plants you purchase.

All in all, tuberous rooted begonias are, perhaps, the showiest of our garden cultivated flowers and may be used in beds, borders, planters or pots.

Your Garden Notebook

By MARK M. TAYLOR

DO YOU KNOW?
The Federal Farm Research organization hopes to continue research into the possibilities of getting new commercial products from farm crops such as synthetic fibers, motor fuel as well as additional edible products. Tests with gibberellic acid made plants such as sunflowers, roses, petunias and asters grow to three times the height of untreated plants in three to four weeks. Scientists are experimenting with "electroculture," believing that electricity may have some influence on plant growth?

Rose growers assert that a true, blue rose will be developed within 10 years?
Both paper and plastic are being used as mulches successfully? Lawns can use an application of 10-6-4 fertilizer now at the rate of 4-6 pounds per 100 square feet of area?
COMING EVENTS:
April 12-12 — Camellia Show, Salem.
June 7-8 — Rose Show, Medford.
June 10-16 — Rose Festival, Portland.
June 11-13 — National Convention, Men's Garden Clubs of America, Portland.
June 14-15 — Rose Show, M&P Auditorium, Salem.
June 15-16 — Fort Vancouver Rose Show, Vancouver, Wash.
SEEN IN THE GARDEN:
Crocus blooming — forsythia and flowering quince in full bud.
Some varieties of camellias breaking into bloom. Flowering trees heavily budded.

Power Mowers Gain Popularity

Nearly 12 million power lawn mowers were used by American home owners in 1956. Three million more are expected to be sold this year.
Of those three million householders, at least half will commit the most common mistake of new power mower owners—cutting the grass too short.
With the exception of bentgrass lawns, grass which is to remain healthy should be cut not less than 1 1/2 to two inches above the ground in moderate weather, three inches above the ground during hot spells. Bentgrass may be safely trimmed three-quarters of an inch high.

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