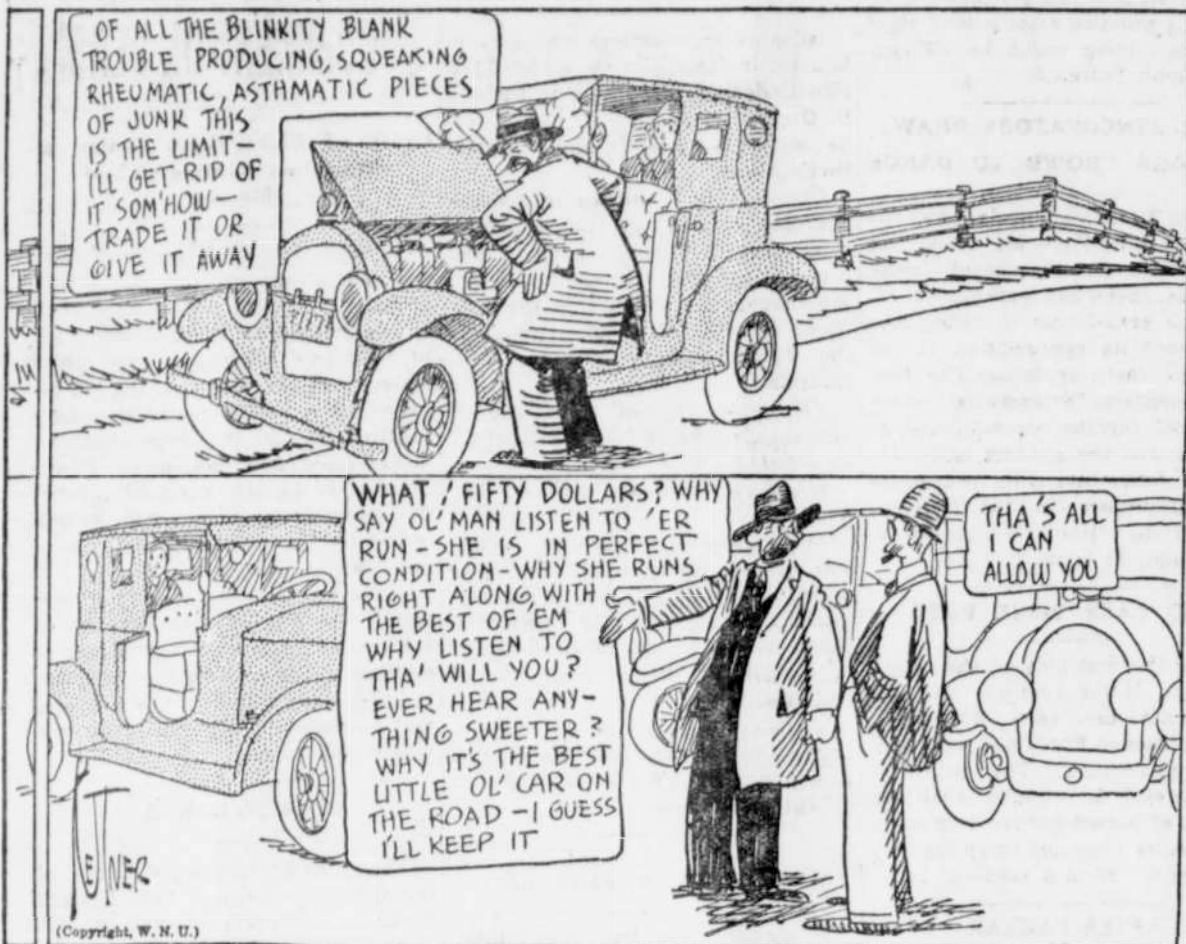


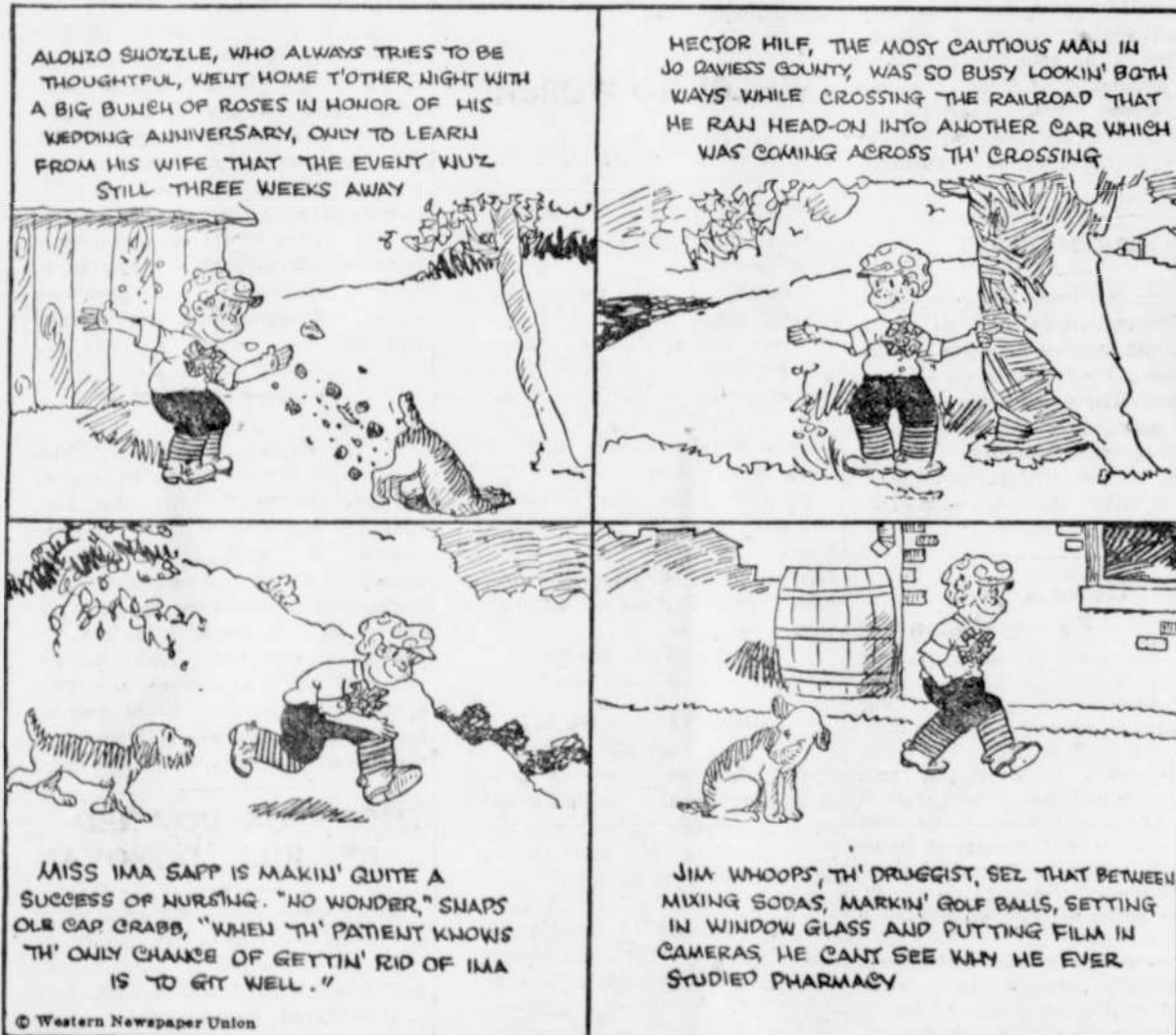
OUR COMIC SECTION

Along the Concrete



MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

Town Topics



THE FEATHERHEADS

Some Folks Never Learn



Around Orchard

SAY ORCHARDISTS PRUNE TOO MUCH

Horticulturists at the experiment station at Geneva, N. Y., assert that many orchardists prune too much, without regard to the real need of the tree and that there is more danger of injuring the tree with too much pruning than with too little.

Trees which are carefully selected when the orchard is set out require only the removal of an occasional branch which may start out in the wrong place and the cutting out of dead, injured, and crossed limbs, say the station specialists.

If the trees are producing undersized fruits, if the tops contain many dead branches, or if the seasonal growth is short and scant, judicious pruning is recommended as a means of rejuvenation. "This usually consists in cutting back many branches and in entirely removing others," say the station authorities, who lay down the following general rules applicable under such conditions. "Prune weak-growing varieties heavily; strong-growing kinds lightly. Varieties which branch freely need little pruning; those with many unbranched limbs, much pruning. Prune trees in rich, deep soils lightly; in poor, shallow soils, heavily."

The cutting back of all the branches of a tree is practiced regularly only with peaches and some plums, it is said. "This is attributed to the fact that, with these fruits, the wood of the past season, and therefore the crop, is borne progressively further away from the trunk, so that it is necessary to head-in these fruits by cutting back the branches in order to keep the bearing wood near the trunk. On the other hand, apples, pears, cherries and most plums are borne on spurs from wood two or more years old and with these heading-in is not so desirable. Experimental evidence obtained in tests on the station grounds indicates that winter pruning has no special advantage over summer pruning, except that the pressure of other work is less during the winter months."

Geraniol, New Attractor for Japanese Beetle

The new attractive agent, geraniol, developed by the bureau of entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture as an aid in its control work against the Japanese beetle, has been found very successful. Methods have been worked out whereby this material may be used to concentrate the beetles in a relatively small area. It was found that by spraying less than an acre of orchard with geraniol, beetles could be drawn on the leeward side of the orchard for a distance of nearly one-half mile within the first 15 minutes after the spray had been applied. This makes it possible to destroy large numbers of beetles with a comparatively small quantity of a contact spray. Further work has been done on traps baited with geraniol, but although these capture large numbers of beetles, it is not felt that a trap has been developed which can be recommended for general use.

Increased efforts were made last summer to develop a repellent which could be used on fruit trees without leaving a deposit on the foliage or fruit. It was found that certain odors, particularly the odor of tar, are distinctly repellent to the Japanese beetle, and these will be studied further.

New Fruit Varieties Are Described in a Bulletin

Thirty-two new improved fruits produced by horticulturists of the University of Minnesota at the state fruit breeding farm are described and most of them pictured in Bulletin 230 prepared by W. H. Alderman, chief of the division of horticulture, and issued by the Minnesota experiment station. These varieties, which have been given names and introduced among fruit growers, include 14 kinds of plums, three plum-cherry hybrids, four apples, seven strawberries, one red raspberry, one gooseberry, and two ornamentals.

"Many of these varieties are rapidly becoming accepted as standards in this and adjoining states, and the plums are being planted on a commercial scale," says the bulletin. "The wealth accruing to the state each year from the products of these 32 varieties far exceeds the total cost of all the state-supported fruit breeding experiments since the establishment of the first fruit breeding farm in 1878."

This bulletin is for free distribution and copies can be obtained by writing the Office of Publications at University Farm, St. Paul.

Keep an Account

Every progressive farmer should keep an account of his farm business if he is to know at the end of the year whether he has made a profit or loss, after paying all farm expenses; also to help him study his business and make such changes in his organization and operation as are important from the standpoint of increasing his profits. Farmers interested in keeping such a record this coming year, can get both information and help from his agricultural college.

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