

Hello, HOMEMAKERS ..

By MARY E. MORGAN
Coos County Extension Agent (Home Ec.)

FLAME AND FABRIC

Fluffy or fuzzy garments are not suitable for kitchen work or for wear near any flame or strong heat, clothing specialists of the Extension office have been advising homemakers for many years. They recommend smooth, closely woven fabric for women's work clothes for both convenience and safety. Fuzzy fabric, especially knitted fabric with brushed-up nap, has air spaces around the lightweight fibers which helps keep fire alive, once it catches. Most people know that fluff burns more readily than a solid mass, but many don't apply this knowledge to the clothes they wear in cooking, burning trash outdoors, or on other occasions when there may be a fire hazard. Our latest experience has shown this with the torch sweaters which were made of acetate rayon.

However, different fabrics burn very differently. Wool smoulders but rarely flames, tends to curl

up and choke out fire. A brushed wool sweater that accidentally comes against a hot stove, for example, may have the nap badly singed but probably will not burn down through the foundation. In contrast, untreated rayon or cotton blazes when it burns, will continue burning if not put out, and is even more of a fire hazard with a fuzzy nap. This is why so much research has been done on flameproof and fire-retardant treatments for these fabrics. Acetate fabrics also blaze, but then the singed edges pucker and curl as they melt to a hard, brittle mass. Nylon melts rather than flames, but, in melting, forms very hot glassy beads that can burn skin in contact with them.

Because so many fabrics today are mixtures of different fibers, finished in different ways, the consumer cannot know which are safe against flame unless this information is given on the manu-

facturer's label. The torch sweater that your agent saw was not labeled. But anyone can use the common-sense precautions of keeping fuzz away from high heat and not wearing clothes with long loose sleeves, scarfs, ties or trimmings that may be dangerous around stoves, hearthfires, or bonfires.

You've probably shuddered at the recent tragedies in Oregon where children have been trapped in burning homes. These disasters emphasize the fact that winter is the worst time of year for home fires.

And do you realize that a fire can multiply itself fifty times in just eight minutes?

That's why it is important for you to give your children some home fire training. Teach them what to do in case of fire.

And Tom Poffenberger has some advice on the subject. He is extension family life specialist at Oregon State College.

Mr. Poffenberger suggests you discuss with your children just what they should do if a fire should start upstairs, downstairs, and so on. Then hold a home fire drill.

If the child is at the stage where playing with matches is a danger, take time to explain about fire. For instance, take the youngster out with you when you burn trash. Show him how hot it is, and fast it can burn. Then explain that fire can be both good or harmful, depending on how it's used.

The important thing is not to alarm the children unduly. Be calm and sensible when discussing fire, so they won't develop an abnormal fear of it.

But do give your children some fire training. Remember, a fire is an accident—and accidents can happen to you.

PLACES AND DATES TO MARK ARE: Coquille, Program Planning, February 27; Coquille, Basic Tools P. L. Meeting, February 28; Empire Civic Center, Basic Tools P. L., February 29.

MEET..... Your Neighbor

Mayor Don Farr recently wrote to the University of Oregon requesting the name of a city planning expert to help the city unravel some of the problems of developing recently annexed Sanford Heights. The answer from the university said he need look no farther than his own city for Coquille had one of the state's best.

The man the letter referred to was Willard Morgan, whom most Coquillites know as "the man at the stationery store." A native of Roseburg, he has considerable practical planning work on his record.

After receiving his master's degree at the University of Michigan, he worked in Detroit in 1940 on a huge federal housing project which was part of the city's slum clearance program. There were three large projects in the program and Morgan's job was to determine best locations for buildings in regard to sunlight and ventilation, proper location of playgrounds and what planting would be done to beautify the projects.

Next came a government post in Seattle planning housing projects there for nearly three years. During the war, he was with the army engineers doing camouflage work in Seattle. One project was the giant Boeing aircraft plant.

After the war Morgan was as-

sociated with a private landscaping firm in Seattle. Clients included owners of private estates and smaller home owners. The firm also handled contracts for some public parks and for building contractors who were developing sub-divisions in and around Seattle. He left this post to come to Coquille to enter the Coquille Stationery store with his mother, Mrs. Effie Morgan.

The Sanford Heights assignment will be handled in two sections with the first to be completed in about a week and the second about two weeks. Morgan has started the work and will be concerned mainly with street locations and providing access of all property to streets. He will make recommendations only with final approval left to city officials.

The first step will be to survey existing conditions and property lines in the district. Topography must be considered, also, in the planning. After all conditions have been taken into consideration, Morgan will work out a pattern most beneficial to the community.

What training is required for city planning? Morgan, who attended Oregon State college and received a bachelor degree in landscape architecture and city planning from the University of Oregon, lists a number of qualifications.

The job requires a horticultural background for landscaping work, a knowledge of design in all fields, plus working knowledge of engineering, surveying and construction. Art training, particularly sketching and watercolor painting is essential for presenting plans or a prospectus to a client. Also, in civic planning, there are sociological factors to be considered such as the number and type of people who will live in the area and how it fits its surroundings.

The work falls into two divisions, private and public, with the

Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON.

FEBRUARY 21, 1952

latter divided into city planning and park work. Morgan sees it as an ever-expanding field and a necessary one. It is much more difficult to do a planning job after a city has been built up than before development is started. Oregon, he feels, needs planning programs. Portland now has a city planner on its staff and Lane county has one on its planning commission.

Private projects of Morgan's include landscaping the grounds of his home here with Mrs. Morgan and their three young sons as special advisors.

Students in Legion Oratorical Contest

Coquille Post No. 36, American Legion will hold its annual oratorical contest for Coquille high school students Feb. 27 according to James L. McMahon, contest chairman.

Speech students of Coquille high school will present at least three of their best original speeches on the Constitution for judg-

ing. The winner will enter the district contest at a place to be named.

The local post has offered a \$25 defense bond as a prize and the winner may win as much as a \$5,000 scholarship to any college or university in the nation.



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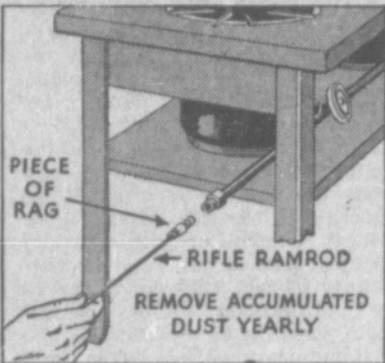
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Speech Students Set For Linfield Meet

Coquille high school speech students will enter a total of ten different events at the annual Linfield speech conference this week according to Win Kelley, advisor.

Attending the conference will be Ruth Keeney, Marcia Mauney, Sally Jeffrey, and Glenna Noble. Events entered will include radio oratory, declamation, (Humorous and serious), after dinner speaking, interview, congress, acting, talent show and debate.

More than 300 students will attend the conference and award banquet Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley will accompany the Coquille group.



WILLIAM BENDIX, ELEANOR PARKER and KIRK DOUGLAS star in Paramount's "Detective Story," the melodramatic lowdown on what prolonged exposure to crime and viciousness can do to a conscientious detective. The film, at the Roxy Theatre Sun., Mon., Tues., was produced and directed by William Wyler.



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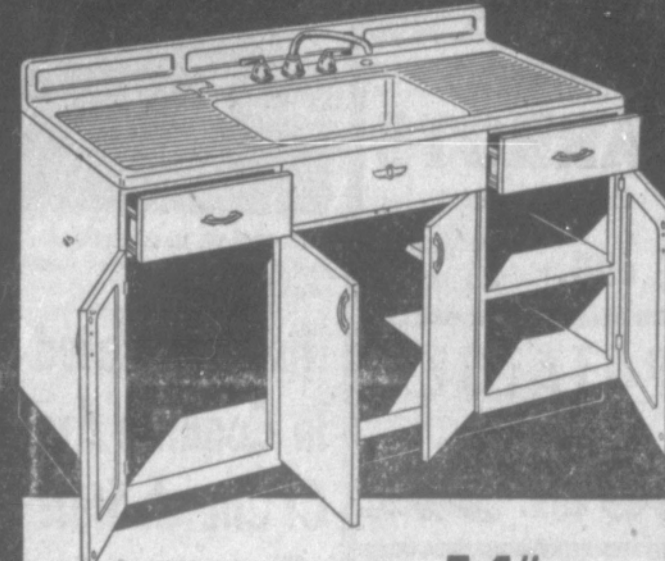
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