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SAND-VETCH PROVES TO BE GOOD SOIL BUILDER

The following treatise on sand vetch for orchards is from the pen of Adolph Skoubo, the well known and highly experienced orchardist. Treating, as it does, on the many uses the vetch can be put to by the fruit raiser, it goes without saying that the article will prove of inestimable value to ranchers as a whole:

"During the last few years we have grown sand vetch in the orchards around here, and are so well satisfied with the results, that I think it may interest others to learn about the experiments we have made and the experiences we have gained.

"Sand vetch is a nitrate-gathering plant, the same as the clovers and alfalfa, and is mainly used for green manure, and from what we have seen here it is very much to be preferred to other plants for upbuilding poor soil. It may grow less foliage than alfalfa and does not send the roots down so far, but it is so much easier to get started and get worked into the soil, that it usually is preferred by those that know it, furthermore it does not become a serious pest in the orchards and gardens as does sweet clover and alfalfa, as it is easily destroyed or at least kept in check so it will not interfere with other crops.

"The first year it is planted it usually does not do well, probably on account of the lack of bacteria in the ground, but after it has reseeded itself for a year or two, it grows an abundance of 4 to 10 foot long stems full of leaves and flowers, often forming a 4 to 6 inch solid mat of juicy, green vegetable matter. The first year or two we used to let it all go to seed and then disc it in the orchard in August when the straw got dry and brittle, later we tried to plow it down the last of April or first of May, and by doing so we have succeeded in getting our crop of rich green manure and still preserved enough plants and seed to make a thin stand during the summer. In August we disc it again, and in the spring it is ready for making a new crop of green manure.

"As stated before we have used it mainly as fertilizer for the trees and with very good results, but we have also tried it for corn, potatoes and other vegetables, and from the looks of the plants it would take about 20 loads of barrow manure to get the same results.

"There is a number of ways of using it for green manure for garden crops. I think the best way is to seed the vetch in the late summer or early fall after the early crop is removed. It can also be seeded in the corn before the last cultivation, and the corn will then protect it from the wind and hot sun. Another way is to leave narrow strips every 10 to 15 feet when plowing it down in the spring, those strips then will furnish plenty seed for next year. It can also be reseeded by plowing it in in the spring after it has got so long that the plow will not cover it all; in this case a number of plants will keep on growing and the ungerminated seed left over from last fall will start growing too. In this way it can be used for potatoes and similar crops that require no or little cultivation in the later part of the summer and that can stand having the vetch growing amongst them. As a rule a few plants of vetch does not hurt the crop, but if too thick it will choke the crop or the weight of the vines bend it to the ground. It will also interfere with the cultivation.

"I have seen a fine stand of water-melons and sweet corn planted in strips plowed down in the spring. The vetch protected the melons in the spring and early summer and ceased growing when the melons started setting fruit. When the melons and corn are harvested the land can be disced and produce a new green manure crop in the coming spring.

"When worked properly the vetch will produce two crops of fertilizer a year, when grown in the orchard and no other crop is wanted. After we get a heavy stand we can disc or plow it in the spring and disc it again in August. I believe that after we learn more about the ways and habits of the plants that we can make it produce a crop or fertilizer for most crops without interfering much with the regular crop. If this is going to be a dairy country, I believe vetch will be a very important crop in a few years. If vetch will double your corn crop it will certainly be worth while experimenting with.

"Besides being very valuable as a

fertilizer vetch is quite useful as a feed too. I have made no experiments with vetch on dry land, but see no reason why it should not grow there. If seeded before the fall rains it ought to make good pasture in the spring.

As the price of sand vetch seed usually is high, there ought to be big money in raising the seed, but the wind and hot weather often ruins the crop and the risk is about equal to the extra gain, but if raised on a small scale, so one can handle it at the right time, it will give a very handsome profit at the present prices.

"Every farmer on the project ought to seed a couple of acres to vetch and give it a fair trial. There is a number of farmers growing it already, and it would be worth the time going to see it and the results."

HOME-MADE EVAPORATOR FOR HOME-GROWN STUFF

Growers of win-the-war crops may save the most valuable parts of their surplus products by evaporating them at home in a simple and cheap home made evaporator designed by the O. A. C. horticultural department and fully explained in extension bulletin 213, now ready for distribution. The title of the bulletin is A Moderator-sized Evaporator for Fruits and Vegetables. Photographs and drawings are used to make plain the text, and by means of these almost any one who cares to undertake it may build at home an effective evaporator.

The capacity of this evaporator is six bushels. Since most of the evaporated products can be dried out to a good keeping stage in about six hours, it is readily seen that the products may be handled in commercial quantities if two or more families go in to gether and build and operate one of these evaporators in common.

By following the bulletin in a general way it will frequently be possible to construct the drier out of such materials as are at hand, or to remodel some unused building, such as the smoke house, with heat produced by the idle heater or the laundry stove.

Men and women who used to sundry their fruits and keep off the flies by mosquito netting for several days to each batch find great satisfaction in drying their fruit and vegetables in a few hours, rain or shine.

MATRIMONIAL BUREAU TO BE OPENED HERE

Now that we have disposed of our stock of stationery and have oceans of room, we are going to install a new business—one that will not come in competition with any business interests in town. While marriages of local people occur quite frequently, it is a noticeable fact that the contracting parties, in most instances, go elsewhere to have the marital knot tied.

This is not as it should be, for we believe in giving the local clergyman a chance and thereby keeping the money at home. To help promote this "trade at home" idea in this line we have decided to open a matrimonial bureau. In this enterprise it will be our aim and earnest endeavor to secure husbands for old maids, young maids, real widows and grass widows. The bachelors will be taken care of in like manner. We'll see to it that all who desire to enter connubial bliss will be happily married, the only stipulation on the part of the contracting parties in these love affairs being that they will be married by any one of the local clergy—and thus keep at home the money they would have to pay to a foreign sky pilot for wedding them together.

Since it became known that such an institution was to be established in Hermiston we have had numerous requests for information regarding our list of eligibles from both males and females imbued with the matrimonial bee. There are several young men especially anxious to become Benedicts, and they have offered us very flattering inducements to make special effort to fulfill their wants.

And thus endeth the first chapter in what is expected to be a most flourishing institution, for we expect to receive much trade from Umatilla and also Stanfield and Echo.

SELLING BALLOONS FOR THE RED CROSS



Photo by American Press Association.
In the aid of the Red Cross society women of Newport, R. I., held a garden fete and masque at the home of Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James, where these Red Cross balloons proved popular.

COLUMBIA NEWS NOTES

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Harry Murchie, brother of M. B. Murchie, is now here improving his 20 acre tract that he just recently purchased from Dodd & Knapp. Mr. Murchie expects to build a neat little bungalow in the near future. His ranch lies on the east side of Brunson's orchard in section 5.

Wayne Akers left last Saturday for Wasco to work during the harvest.

Messrs. Gooddale and Kay from Pendleton, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Brunson last Thursday night.

The road meeting held last Saturday night at Columbia school house was well attended. It looks like our roads are going to be put in passable condition now.

F. A. Brunson spent Thursday in Pendleton.

Mrs. Clarence Johnson from Leavenworth, Wash., is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Attebury.

Mrs. Blessing's mother, Mrs. A. Linder, from Buffalo, Wyoming, is expected here Sunday for an indefinite stay. Mrs. Linder visited here before and made many friends who will be glad to renew old friendships.

Mrs. Kerr, the lady who was thrown from her horse last week and had her shoulder bone broken, is improving nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhoades from McKay Creek, visited a few days on their ranch in this section this week.

Little Wilma Waugaman has returned from a 10 days' outing near Meacham. She accompanied Miss Hudson and Carl Haddox.

There were six ladies attending Red Cross day at the Phipps home Wednesday.

Wm. Graham left this week for Wallawa to work during the harvest.

There were 58 attending Sunday school last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stillings were callers at the Blessing home Sunday evening.

Henry Sommerer spent Wednesday at the county seat.

Brunson's had the misfortune to lose a nice heifer calf this week that bloated on alfalfa.

BOARDMAN NEWS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Chas. Nizer went to Hermiston last Thursday returning the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. Langston salesman for the American Radiator Co., were registered at the hotel Tuesday.

Francis Williams and Mr. Richards of Portland, were in town the first of the week in the interest of the new school building.

S. C. Mack left last week in his car for Colfax, Wash. He expects to be gone a month or more.

Wm. Cooper, traveling salesman for

Mason & Ehrman, stopped between trains Monday.

Blaine Hallock and Mr. Edwards, legal advisers for the O. W. R. & N., were in town Monday.

Chas. Nizer was in Hermiston Tuesday.

Eugene Cumins and wife went to The Dalles Tuesday to interview a doctor. Three weeks ago while on a trip to Pendleton Mr. Cumins hit his side on the auto, and since then he has hardly been able to get around.

Claude White and Ernest Brown are two new homesteaders added to our list. Mr. White filed in section 24 and Mr. Brown in section 11.

A. W. Cobb left for the harvest fields Tuesday.

Chas. Stanyon moved from Irrigon, and is at home in the Boardman grove. He is busy fixing and cleaning out the laterals.

Mrs. Alta Howard came down from Pendleton Sunday, visiting between trains.

Mrs. Howard and Messrs. Ayers and Lower were dinner guests at the Paine home Sunday.

Jessie Lower went to Wasco Sunday evening. If reports are true he will be a Benedict when he returns.

It is pretty near a settled fact that the Columbia highway will be built through Boardman by March 1, 1918.

The railroad company tell us it is spending thousands of dollars annually for educational purposes, but seem to have changed its mind with regard to the Boardman school, wanting the district to put up a shack such as would have been used a century ago. We are very sorry the company feels that way, and hope it will see the error of its ways and quit trying to retard the educational progress of this town.

BUTTER CREEK ITEMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. E. H. Gardner, who with her husband operates a ranch in this section, was shopping and visiting friends in Hermiston the latter part of last week.

Miss Gladys M. Stephens, niece of Erwin and Alton Basey, was joined in wedlock Sunday afternoon to Edward Canfield, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Canfield, local ranchers. The nuptial knot was tied at the home of Alton Basey, after which a wedding dinner was partaken of by the relatives and friends in attendance. Both the bride and groom are well and favorably known in the Butter Creek valley.

The social dance given in the Auditorium last evening was a nice affair and was well attended.

Two large hay stackers have been constructed this week by local contractors for use on the big ranch of Col. McNaught.

RANCHERS TURNING TO DIVERSIFIED FARMING

MEETING WAS MUTUAL AND INTERESTING

There's a story with a caption of "Who's Who," but there is another one out now that beats that all to thunder, the title being "Who's to Blame?" This latest is a local production, and was inspired by the collision of two Ford cars on the streets of Hermiston one day last week, in which a well known townsman and a semi-stranger figured. It is likely this story will never gain wide circulation, for the reason that it looks as though the burden of guilt rests on the townsman, the consensus of opinion being that it was not just the right way to greet a stranger entering our portals and that he should have kept to his own side of the street.

The battered and disheveled form of the Ford, which is now in Sapper Bros. garage hospital, is a mute testimony of the greeting the stranger received from the townsman. The latter, while not admitting that he was to blame, however is sporty enough to see that the stranger's "Tin Lizzie" is put in shape for some future collision.

LOCAL LUMBER CONCERN INSTALL NEW SCALES

Finding that its old scales that would only weigh up to four tons, was becoming inadequate to take care of the large loads going over that amount which of late has been drawn on it, the Inland Empire Lumber Co. has discarded it, replacement being made by the installation of a Howe ball bearing scales that will weigh up to seven tons.

Aside from the old one not being of large enough capacity to hold up the tonnage, Manager Harry Straw said it was becoming time worn from the ever-increasing business being done at the yards of the company in this city.

The excavation and concreting work for the foundation of the new scales was done under the guidance of A. H. Beisse, contractor and builder.

CANNING CLUB IS DOING GOOD WORK

The girls' canning club of Hermiston, under the able guidance of Mrs. H. M. Gunn, who supervises all work, is making rapid strides toward winning the county canning contest.

Once a week all members of the club become as busy as bees, during which time they put up nothing but the best variety of fruits and vegetables. A sample of home-grown beans brought to this office by members of the club is the finest we have ever seen, and when canned should grade No. 1.

Already the girls have canned about 100 pounds of beans, 150 pounds of cherries and several crates of dew-berries and red raspberries.

TYPEWRITERS, STENOGRAPHERS IN DEMAND

The United States government needs, and needs badly, great numbers of stenographers and typewriters, both men and women, for service in the departments at Washington, D. C., and the situation in federal offices outside of Washington is scarcely less urgent. The supply of qualified persons on the commission's lists for this class of work is not equal to the demand, and the commission urges as a patriotic duty that citizens with this special knowledge apply for examination for the government service.

Examinations for the departmental service are held every Tuesday in 47 cities in the eleventh district. Examinations for the field service will be held on August 18.

For full information and application blanks apply to Herbert F. Ward, district secretary, 11th civil service district, 303 Postoffice Bldg., Seattle, Wash.

While most of the ranchers of this fertile valley have been content with raising alfalfa in large quantities during past years, the turning point has been steadily creeping along toward diversity. While practically all have made a success of raising alfalfa for the market, they have come to a realization of the fact that with changing conditions tending to advance prices on all commodities, the time has come for them to turn their attention more and more to the raising of hogs, cattle, sheep, etc., for market and to go more extensively into dairying. They have also come to know that climatic and soil conditions here are conducive to the profligate advancement of this industry.

In conformity with this new propaganda some of the leading ranchers of the project have let contracts, and in some instances actually begun construction, on silos, notable amongst them being H. J. Stillings, who has commenced work on a 75-ton capacity silo. This will set on a foundation of three feet of concrete in the ground, upon which will rest a 30 foot silo built of Tum-A-Lum wood hoop material. As noted in these columns last week, two silos will be built on the P. T. Boone place. There will be 10 feet of concrete in the ground and 12x20 foot Tum-A-Lum wood hoop on top. C. E. Baker will also build a 10x20 Tum-A-Lum wood hoop silo, and besides these there a number of ranchers talking of building silos this fall.

While the Tum-A-Lum silo is somewhat new in this section, it is not by any means a new invention, the company having installed quite a number in the Yakima valley the past two or three years, where they have given good satisfaction. The silo is made up of wood hoop circles every two and one half feet apart, boarded on the outside with flooring and on the inside with the same material, leaving a dead air space. The inside of the silo is painted with acid proof paint, and altogether it seems durable and lasting.

R. A. Brownson, local manager of the Tum-A-Lum yards, states that he would not be surprised to see twenty new silos dotting the valley within another year.

HIGH TENSION LINE SHORT CIRCUITED

Along about eight o'clock Monday morning the town was thrown into a furor of excitement when a report became current on the streets that the electric light plant had caught fire and was burning down.

Quickly The Herald reporter started on the trail of the man that first spread the rumor, but when we found him he could give no information other than that a phone message had come in that the light plant or something was on fire. Turning attention next to the local electric light office, we were informed by Mrs. C. Kaiser, the bookkeeper, that the plant was in no danger, and that the cause of the fire rumor had been located by Frank and Joe Ralph, the light men, who on the first alarm immediately left the city for the plant.

On the way out they ran across Jessie Prindle, who, it seems, while hauling a hay stack out of a field had occasion to cross under the high tension line running from the light plant to Umatilla. In doing so he struck a little irrigation ditch which caused the cable of the derrick to come in contact with the wires, making a short circuit. Six thousand six hundred volts as a result of the contact shot down the cable to the ground, the flash of fire thus caused igniting the grass and starting a big fire. Luckily, Mr. Prindle escaped unhurt and no damage was done to the derrick, although it looked dubious and for a time horses, wagon and all were in danger of going up in smoke.

A telephone message to this city gave the alarm of the fire, but it not being stated by the party who phoned where the conflagration was, the erroneous rumor became current that the light plant was afire.

When it was found that the light plant was safe, everyone was tickled, for no one wants darkness to settle over this progressive little city, even for a day or night.