

Come Into My Garden

By Owen H. Barnhill

Come into my garden and meet Mr. and Mrs. Banana Squash and the little squashes. There are several pairs of twins—Amos & Andy, Mutt & Jeff, Toots & Casper, Boop & Doop. The quint's names are Nibs, Nerts, Skeets, Bastus and Skookum. Here are Stubby and Shorty, Stooze and Google and Old Doc Yak. Wally, over there, has a thick, warty neck, while Nicky hangs head downward in a rose bush, his little green nose almost touching the ground.

Kiddies have lots of fun finding these garden folk, each with a name scratched on his neck. When shown how to make whiskies out of the leaf stalks of pumpkins and squashes, with notes like a flute, children are delighted. Why don't Boy Scout and Camp Fire girl leaders show children how to amuse themselves in this and other interesting ways at home? Not one child in a hundred can make a willow whistle, elder pop-gun, figure 4 trap or even a pair of stilts. Outdoor pools are fine for top boat races, which are a big annual event at Pomona, California.

War on Wire Worms.

As luck would have it, almost immediately after I had stated that there was no way of getting rid of wire worms, last May, scientists published a report of experiments at Walls Walla, where it was found that most of these pestiferous pests may be exterminated by plowing under 800 pounds of naphthalene per acre, at a cost of \$20 to \$25. A neighbor, Win Prescott, destroys onion maggots with this chemical, which filling stations sell for five cents a pound. The por' er is dropped along each side of the row once a week for a month, beginning when the plants are about the size of a lead pencil. This last mentioned insect put onion growers out of business in one Jackson county district years ago. It also seriously injures radishes, turnips and other garden crops.

Anyone who would advise planting squash seed in November would be regarded as a candidate for the nut-house, but that is just what was done here at Cherry Cove, West Ashland. Result—a squash almost two feet long and six inches thick the 25th of July, despite a hard freeze the first of April. The tender plants were given no protection or special care.

Nature Plants Early.

I might as well break down and confess that we did not purposely plant squash seed at the beginning of winter, but merely threw seeds and rinds into the garden to get rid of them. Nature then took a hand and produced a profusion of fine plants, which later were set out where they had plenty of room to grow. It is supposed to be impossible to move squashes, but plants with leaves larger than a man's hand were transferred to new locations without even wilting. The job was done after rains, when the ground was soaked, leaving a shovelful of earth around the roots of each plant.

Some folks, including myself, live half a century before they learn how properly to cook and enjoy common garden varieties of food. Like the squash, here's how: First, be sure your banana squash is thoroughly ripe. Test it by pushing your thumb-nail through its green hide, if you can. If the squash is well matured you will find it almost impossible to do this. (Ladies with thin nails should borrow a man's thumb for squash testing.)

Peel the squash and cut it into chunks about two inches square. Boil with only enough water to cook thoroughly, then place the golden squares upon a pan and dry out in the oven. A ripe banana squash cooked in this manner is better than an average sweet potato, as numerous comparative tests have proved.

Try Drying Cherries.

A late rain cracked many cherries, forcing us to sell several bushels of fine fruit for two cents a pound. Weeks afterwards some of the cull cherries which had been left upon the ground were picked up, half dried, and found to be delicious, tasting something like candied fruit. The waxy sweetness of Royal Anne reminded me of half dried Lake county pears, which I sampled in that famous California fruit district a few years ago. Also, I recalled eating partially cured Petite prunes, which had been left upon the ground in an orchard near Marysville. Steaming will restore dried fruit to melting moistness.

Tons of cull cherries might be salvaged by pitting and drying. Years ago Mr. and Mrs. Morse, Walnut street neighbors, processed a quantity of cherries in this manner. That was before the new economic doctrine of scarcity had been preached and people still believed that the way to get ahead was to preserve and save, instead of wasting and destroying.

Our roses are now—August 10—blooming profusely for the second time this season. Best that if you can, California. Caroline Teatout is the most marvelous rose we have grown or observed in Oregon. Large, healthy bushes bear a profusion of the loveliest pink flowers imaginable. The color is that elusive, charming pink seen in wild roses, and the cheeks of blushing maidens, while the perfume is delightful.

Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, Aug. 27.—(Spl.)—Miss Merle Albert of Medford, who has been engaged as high school teacher for the forthcoming term, has taken the Willcock apartments formerly occupied by Mrs. Betty Demmer. Miss Marjorie Watson of Portland is visiting this week at the home of her sister, Mrs. Harold Gillis.

Mrs. Katie Sparks spent last week with Mrs. Harry Helms at Squaw Lake.

Friends of Mrs. Herbert Hannah are much concerned over her serious illness at a Medford hospital and are hoping for a speedy improvement in her condition.

Harold White, who spent the week end at his home here, returned to Klamath Falls, where he has employment, Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Backes are the parents of a little son born August 15, who has been named Glen Arthur.

Miss Marcella Mitchell recently left for Union Creek, where she has employment.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Graham and two children, from Washington are visiting this week at the Ralph Graham home. They plan to make their home here in the near future.

Coming as a surprise to his many friends here was the announcement

of Malcom Jones' wedding in Salem. Congratulations were extended to the young couple, whom we hope will soon visit Jacksonville. Mr. Jones, who is now studying law in Salem, is a graduate of the local high school and son of the Presbyterian pastor here.

Mrs. Dressler of Crescent City has been visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Geo. Campbell.

Stell Zigler has employment at Myron Root's packing house in Medford.

In a new reel of the forest service shown recently in Medford theaters, friends recognized the face of Homer Hartman. Mr. Hartman, who is a supervisor in the forest reserve, is the son of Mrs. Alta Hartman of Jacksonville.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Waters of Klamath Falls were guests at a family dinner party given in honor of Mrs. Waters' birthday at the Gunder Sanden home Sunday. Mrs. Waters, who will be remembered as the former Vivian Card, is the daughter of Mrs. Sanden.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Rumley and daughters have returned from Lakeview, where Mr. Rumley has been employed in logging.

Madeline Metzger spent Saturday evening, August 22, her birthday anniversary, at her home in Jacksonville, returning to Medford that evening. Her sisters, who accompanied her, remained in Jacksonville over Sunday.

James Grigsby is having a furnace installed this week at his home on California street. The work is being done by the Holland Furnace Co. of Medford.

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