

# Spring Gardens



By Olive Starcher

On every street, every country lane and side road in the Rogue River valley one can find home gardens which range from the pocket-handkerchief size planted on a city lot and tended by the family to extensive ones tended by professional gardeners.

In May and early June most of these gardens are ablaze with color, with iris, roses, snapdragons and dozens of other flowers bringing joy to the hearts of those who have been busy planting, weeding, watering and spraying.

Pictured today are four ardent and active gardeners of the valley. Miss Claire Hanley (above) does her gardening on the historical family ranch located between Medford and Jacksonville, and is shown here by the old spring house, built in 1855 when her grandfather, Michael Hanley, took up the land.

Miss Hanley's two sisters, Misses Mary and Martha

Hanley, are also enthusiastic gardeners and the three women not only tend the outdoor garden but have a small greenhouse. Miss Claire Hanley, a member of the Jacksonville Garden club, is now vice-president of the Oregon Federation of Garden clubs.

Mrs. Elmer Wilson, 422 Beatty street, (below) gardens on a large city lot. Mrs. Wilson, shown here by a white flowering perennial commonly called "gas plant" because of the pungent odor given off by leaves when they are crushed, and Mr. Wilson "set up housekeeping" at the Beatty street address in 1910.

Their attractive garden, filled with a variety of flowering shrubs, perennials and annuals, is now shut off from the traffic by a tall hedge and sheltered by a spreading oak. Mrs. Wilson is an active member of Medford Garden club, and last spring won two prizes for flower arrangement at the Jerome Prairie Garden club's spring show.



Though Mrs. G. W. Phetteplace (above) is a city gardener, she has an acre of land at 2318 Capital avenue and is probably one of the busiest gardeners in the valley. Mrs. Phetteplace even owns a little tractor, which she runs herself, and she grows vegetables as well as flowers.

Mrs. Phetteplace prefers a garden filled with bright color and every spring plants two or three thousand annuals. This season she is using the very dark blue petunia, Blue King, with the newest petunia available, an interesting dark reddish pink called Tango, as a new color combination.

Mrs. Phetteplace had just finished planting several dozen salvia and is shown here holding an exceedingly large Elizabeth Jordan amaryllis which is kept indoors in the winter time and set out in summer.

Mrs. Howard Bush, 202 North Barneburg road, (below) is another gardener who does all the work on her city lot garden. Mrs. Bush is particularly interested in chrysanthemums and dahlias, but also grows roses and other shrubs and perennials and is shown here with the spray rig which she uses.

Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Bush and Mrs. Phetteplace are all members of Medford Garden club. Mrs. Bush, musician and bird lover as well as gardener, often provides program numbers for garden and music clubs as well as other organizations of the valley. (Brainerd photo)

