

Blossoms of Springtime

By Olive Starcher

April and May are flower months in the Rogue river valley. The warm spring days bring out the great wealth of color in parks and gardens, and for the flower lover, it is a time of deep pleasure and enjoyment.

The ornamental fruit trees provide splashes of color in April, and of much beauty are the various magnolias, with their more delicate coloring of creamy lavender shading into mauves and purples. April also finds the daffodils and narcissi blossoming, and rockeries are filled with bright yellow and other lavish spring color.

Almost every spring garden has clumps or beds of tulips, primroses and pansies, and April-May also brings the beauty of azaleas, rhododendron, lilacs, and early roses.

These months are popular for the flower shows of garden clubs, and two are planned for early May. Phoenix Garden club will hold its annual spring flower show today from 1 to 8 p.m. in Phoenix Community hall, and Central Point Garden club will hold the 11th annual flower show in Central Point Grange hall May 8 from 2 to 9 p.m. The Central Point show is competitive.



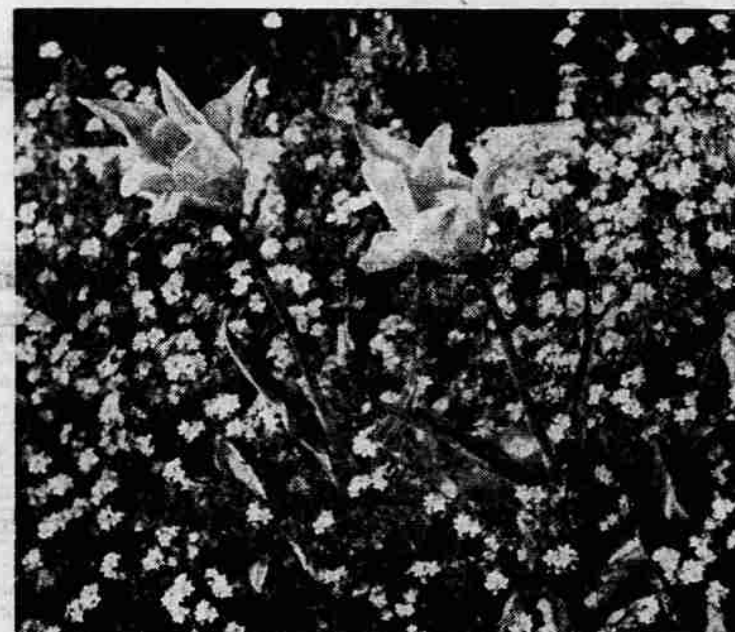
Mrs. A. O. Floyd, 505 South Keeneway drive, has been nominated for the presidency of the Oregon Federation of Garden clubs. Mrs. Floyd is shown here in her garden with one of her rhododendron plants which began to bloom last week.



One of the most beautiful and extensive gardens in the valley is that of Hanleylands, home of Mrs. E. B. Hanley and her daughter, Mrs. Hanley Heffernan, Ross lane. The long driveway is bordered with Sekiyama pink Japanese flowering cherries which are a spectacular sight at the height of bloom. The garden also has several hundred lilacs, one of the most complete lilac collections of any private garden in the west. Many garden clubs and groups of friends are invited to tour Hanleylands when the cherries and lilacs are in bloom.



In addition to the large plantings of Japanese flowering cherries, lilacs and magnolias to be found at Hanleylands, the garden this year has many beds and groupings of tulips. Pictured here is a planting of bright yellow tulips of the Golden Lantern variety. In another part of the garden these flowers were growing in beds which had as a background small evergreen trees which provided an excellent contrast to the glowing color of the tulips.



An effective planting at Hanleylands this spring was a border of blue forget-me-nots with pink lily flowering tulips providing contrast in height and color. These newer-type tulips have pointed petals and when open the blossom is much like that of a large lily.



In recent years many Medford gardeners have been drawn to the beauty of the tree peony. This specimen with magnificent large blossoms of delicate mauve pink was photographed in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Ruhl, 2404 East Main street. The plant is flourishing in a spot with a southeast exposure where there is afternoon shade, although many gardeners grow them in full sun.



Mrs. John Holmer, chairman of the spring flower show which Central Point Garden club will hold May 8, is shown here with a section of her extensive rock garden which has masses of color in late April. Rock daphne, candy tuft, alyssum, aubrietia and creeping phlox are to be found in the rockery, as well as many other flowers and plants. Monday Mrs. Holmer had scores of tulips in bloom, although the hot weather over the week end had somewhat dimmed their beauty. Since the Holmer garden on Old Stage road is new and there are no large trees, a lath house was constructed under which shade-loving flowers may be grown.



This pink rhododendron, named Mrs. G. W. Leak, is part of a planting in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Orr, Old Military road. The house and garden have a natural woodland setting and the Orrs are restricting their plantings to material which blends well with the native shrubs and trees. In some areas wild flowers grow among the domestic plantings.