

Some Experiments Planned For Truck Garden Group

Some work will be done this year by the Southern Oregon experiment station to help the truck crops industry of the valley with its problems. Industry representatives were informed recently.

Representatives of the experiment station told the growers during a recent truck crop industry meeting that if they felt the problems were vital enough for them to give assistance and further assistance could be obtained from the Oregon State college, some could be done this year.

Growers said as taxpayers they are helping support the station and are entitled to some help on their problems. They volunteered to assist in the supervision of the station personnel if the station could handle the technical aspects of the study.

To Have Trials
It was agreed to run two tomato variety trials—one on the Joe Meyer and son farm at Talent and one on Ken Beebe's place at Central point. A third tomato variety trial will be placed on the Hanley farm or new experiment station site if irrigation water can be developed by this spring.

Three sweet corn variety trials will be established. One will be on the farm of Clarence Holdridge, near Talent, one on the Beebe farm, and one on the Don Bohnert farm at Central point.

A sweet corn fertilizer trial will be placed on the Hanley farm if water is available.

Onion Variety trials will be conducted on the farms of Joe Meyer and son and Otto Bohnert, Central point.

A weed control experiment in onions will be conducted on Ronald von der Hellen's farm near Central point.

All such experiments are planned to start this spring.

Although this type of work generally falls within the scope of horticulture, the horticulturist at the Southern Oregon station is a federal employee. He is assigned to the station for work on tree fruit problems. Therefore, he cannot participate in this type

of research, it was pointed out.

H. H. White To Lead

The work on truck crops will be under the leadership of H. H. White, station superintendent and assisted by John Yungen, agronomist. Various cooperating personnel from the truck crops section of Oregon State college will assist by supplying plants, seed and supplies and by giving assistance in evaluation of results. White said he had learned while visiting OSC last weekend.

During the recent meeting, growers requested research on onions, sweet corn and tomatoes. Trials were requested to search for better adapted varieties for this area. Fertilizer trials were requested to develop economically sound fertilization practices for soil types of this area where onions are grown.

The request for weed control would be to test effectiveness of various new weed control chemicals as a means of controlling weeds that are common in this area.

Livestock Losses Considered High

Salem—Known livestock losses from predatory animals during the last three months of 1957 totaled 471 head of animals and poultry, including 229 sheep, three goats, 136 chickens, five geese, 97 turkeys and one duck. These figures come from Mel Smith, district agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and M. E. Knickerbocker, animal division chief of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

These totals should not be considered all the livestock losses due to predators; they are ones actually found by the federal-state predator hunters. In addition to livestock and poultry losses, 16 game animals and birds were found killed. Twelve of the game animals were deer.

Coyotes were way ahead in the list of predators causing the most losses of animals and birds. Dogs, bobcats and fox were next

The committee of growers also pointed out that some disease, probably a virus, is threatening to wipe out the melon industry in the area. However, committee members agreed work on this problem could not be undertaken now due to the complicated conditions.

Expansion Needed

The growers backed up their requests by pointing out that the southern Oregon area needs to expand its range of cash income crops. This would increase employment opportunities for the expanding local labor force during the early part of the season. It would also provide a more desirable economic status for the reportedly increasing number of small farm units.

The committee of growers also pointed out Southern Oregon is not supplying its own population with many truck crops for which the area is well suited to produce a high quality product.

Markets for this area include nearby parts of Eastern Oregon, northern California and coastal areas of Oregon within trucking distance, it was pointed out.

Growers said increased irrigation water from the Talent project already being developed and other future developments make a more intensified type of agriculture possible on a larger area. Truck crops are suited to this type of farming, it was pointed out.

Public recognition of the need for this type of research was shown in the report of the small fruits and vegetable section of the 1957 Jackson County Program Planning conference of March 1, 1957. It was pointed out further.

Attending the meeting were Don Berry, Jackson county extension horticulturist and representatives of the truck crops industry: Otto Bohnert, Ken Beebe, Clarence Holdridge, Joe Meyer, Ronald Meyer, and Ronald von der Hellen. Jim Baggett, assistant horticulturist of OSC and H. H. White and John Yungen of the experiment station also attended.

Ways Explained To Check Losses Of Baby Porks

Corvallis—Anemia in baby pigs—a widespread killer caused by iron deficiency—can be drastically reduced by any one of three methods recently tested at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

Baby pig losses from anemia have been estimated as high as 30 percent, reports J. E. Oldfield, OSC animal husbandman, who headed the research. The three methods tested by Oldfield are providing a pan of clean soil in the farrowing pen, an iron solution drench, or an injection of an iron preparation. All three methods prevented death losses from iron deficiency anemia.

Blood tests show that baby pigs raised indoors often have abnormally low amounts of hemoglobin, the coloring matter in red blood cells. Iron is required to build the red cells that carry oxygen from the lungs through the body.

Low In Iron
Sow's milk is low in iron, and baby pigs don't eat much iron-fortified dry feed until two to three weeks of age—often too late to save them.

Oldfield says symptoms include a "whitening" of the skin around the eyes, nostrils, and mouth. Forequarters appear "stocky" because the heart enlarges to pump the small supply of blood faster to meet body needs.

Oldfield says a shallow pan of clean soil that is free of parasites, placed in the farrowing pen shortly after birth, maintained red blood cells at satisfactory levels in pigs at three weeks of age. Soil should be taken from an area where pigs have not been kept.

He also obtained excellent results with a solution of iron ammonium citrate as a drench or from a new form of iron called Armidexan, injected in the pig's ham. Both treatments should be given within 24 hours after birth. Details on treatments are explained in the OSC experiment station magazine, "Oregon's Agricultural Progress," available from local county extension agents.

Landscape Clinic Planned Locally

A landscaping clinic is planned for March 10 and 11 in the auditorium of the Jackson county courthouse, according to Clifford B. Cordy, county horticulture agent.

"This is a service for the people to come in, sit down for 30 minutes with a landscape architect and go over their landscaping problems or plans," Cordy said.

The clinic is free. Nobody has to buy anything to attend, the horticulture agent said.

Cordy suggested those planning to attend should have at least a rough sketch of their houses and grounds. This would enable the architect to write in what they should plant and where to plant it. Best thing is a picture of the house and yard with a drawing to scale of the yard, Cordy added.

The county agent said also that he had received some questions on filling in around trees. No harm is done providing a person doesn't fill in against the trunk, he said. Dirt piled against the trunk will become water soaked and shut off the circulation of air around the tree, eventually killing it.

It is best to make a six-inch well around the trunk he suggested.

Committees Set For Pear Event

A partial listing of committees was completed during the recent meeting of the Pear Blossom Festival committee. Jennings Pierce Jr. was appointed chairman of the king and queen selection committee. Others appointed to that committee were Granville Brittain, Elliott Becken and Howard Boyd.

Dick Walsh was appointed in charge of the parade and floats. Gene Orr will head the finance committee. Granville Brittain was also named chairman of a committee to determine whether to have a second section composed of automobile drawn floats.

During the meeting Dr. Frank Wilson and David Irving outlined plans for the Southern Oregon Sports Fair which may be held on the same day as the Pear Blossom Festival parade.

Next meeting of the committee will be held at Henry's Broiler at 7 a. m. Tuesday. Fred Beck is general chairman.

Farm and Garden

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

We don't get riled easily, but a current mail campaign has stooped to a new low! This literature now being sent through the mails is sponsored by the Society for Animal Protective Legislation with offices in New York. The idea of enforcing more humane slaughtering methods may be a good one. But sending gruesome pictures of animals being slaughtered to children is hardly the way to carry the campaign to their adult parents. The explanation accompanying the pictures in the folder, is hardly less gruesome.

Children naturally form an attachment to their farm animals. The 4-H program builds on this attachment by showing the youngsters how to properly care for farm livestock. As one 4-H leader explained it to us—"It's hard enough to convince these youngsters that farm animals are naturally designed to provide food for the human race and must be slaughtered with their sentiments with such literature. This material is obviously designed for appeal to adults and not to children. S'uff said!

In the lighter vein—we like this list of interpretations for terms commonly used in an auction sale. It's provided by Bill Lee Ord (Nebr.) Quiz advertising manager—"As I have decided to quit farming" (His wife refused to do the chores while he loafed in town). "Complete closing out sale" (Everything he hopes to stick someone with). "Eight miles out on a good graveled road" (Put on your chains). "Dis-mantled steel tower" (He bought it—God knows why—at another sale). "Two-wheel spreader like new" (Three years old, but still mortgaged). "1954 Chevrolet, new tires, A-1 condition" (Recaps and the rear axle whines). "Many other articles too numerous to mention" (A pile of nails in the barn). —printed courtesy of Editor and Publisher.

Farm spokesmen and various agricultural authorities are pointing out the farmer has to take a more active part in promoting and selling his products. Integration is becoming more of a by-word in farming. By integration we mean one party will provide the basic materials, will produce the farm commodity and sell it. As we pointed out last week this is becoming particularly prominent in the broiler business. The farmer has to decide who the integrator is going to be—himself or somebody else.

Among the factors listed to help the farmer out of this current squeeze on his profits are commodity commissions like the proposed beef commission and marketing cooperative organizations. The latter could be merely a group of farmers who get together, decide their eggs have to meet a certain standard and sell them through a roadside stand, a store or other outlet whose manager they have hired. Such a group might start small and wind up big.

While discussing this idea with some farmers and agricultural authorities here it was pointed out that the manager of such a cooperative organization would have to be one of the best men in the selling field, because he would be faced with several problems. Also, in this age of large chain markets with their uniform standards, the product brought to the cooperative would have to meet a high standard of quality so the cooperative could more easily create a demand for what it is selling.

Some effort is now being made to build up the truck garden industry here. When we mentioned a cooperative to handle such produce and small fruits, the idea was rejected by one agricultural authority. He argues that a man who knows the marketing business must be allowed to operate as he thinks best by owning and operating his own cannery or packing house. In a cooperative organization too often the managing expert is given too little credit for his knowledge and is overruled by the board of directors. This board consisting of growers know little or nothing about how their products must be processed and sold. In another area one such board booted out its manager because of a conflict of personalities and general lack of good judgment on the board's part. Since he had amassed considerable mar-

keting knowledge and had a host of loyal farmer friends it could have ruined the organization.

There seems to be lack of enthusiasm throughout the state on the proposed Oregon Beef commission. In fact, some groups are even butting heads over the idea. In this county the last count we had was 59 producers representing 6,621 head of cattle had registered. Beef-raisers must get together to study consumer demand, to understand what type of beef the housewife will buy and how to get more beef into her refrigerator.

A poll conducted of 52 companies operating 8,700 supermarkets and stores revealed recently that their customers want less waste fat on their beef. A national cattleman's organization was recently told its members should beef cover some way to put beef in "convenience packages." These two statements point to the growing need for a commission if Oregon beef is to compete successfully with other agricultural products.

Of course, all this fancy packaging and processing means more money will be taken from the housewife's food budget to buy these products. As a local agricultural authority explained it to us, the costs of producing the agricultural commodities are not rising as rapidly as the additional costs being slapped on for more handling and processing. We think the housewife should be allowed a choice. If she would pay less for the less uniform fruit and produce, be willing to do more of the final processing for the table herself, then she should be allowed to do so. And that is why we would like to see a large centrally located farmer's market set up in this area. Of course, the housewife would have to support local farm products which she is apparently not doing now. Farmers would have to be assured their products would be purchased, or setting up such a market would not be worth the expensive gamble. However, like the aforementioned co-op, it could also have to start on a small scale.

Some difference of opinion still exists on whether more small farms or a few large farms will result from the Talent and other irrigation projects. One agricultural authority here firmly believes that the whole thing hinges on proper management. A small, well-managed farm can produce just as much income as a larger farm spreading over more acres and involving more costs, one man claims. Another insists that a small farmer is not likely to produce the uniformly high quality farm products now required by the large chain-store market. Most equipment is still too expensive for the small farmer, it is argued.

Maybe this item is an answer. Bealer corporation of California is planning to lease expensive air blast sprayers to orchardist, vegetable growers and nurserymen. This, some people believe, would start a trend toward leasing expensive equipment for all interested farmers.

An item on Comfrey was a handed to us earlier this week. Not knowing anything about it we checked with agricultural authorities who might. This plant is the size of an artichoke plant, looks more like spinach, and like spinach, it can be used in salads and cooked as "greens." According to this paper, it is supposed to contain a large amount of protein. This plant is rated highly as a food by those who don't believe in eating anything grown with fertilizer. If it has the same qualities as spinach, then we doubt it's nutritional value. We can remember when the family doctor became our best friend by remarking spinach passed through the system, too quickly for it to leave much of its iron in the body.

According to our source Comfrey does not yield particularly well under local soil and climatic conditions. Several tests were made of its qualities in the valley, we are informed.

Glancing at the livestock market quotations for the past week we notice the Portland market is about the same as last week with choice grades at \$24.50 to \$26. Chicago was tops with \$26 to 28. The recent storms which hit this area were kind to California pastures. This should send even more California cattlemen up here to our livestock-

Bacteria Found Resistant To Lethal Radiation

Corvallis—A search for the mysterious mechanism used by radiation-resistant bacteria to protect themselves against normally-lethal doses of atomic radiation is under way at Oregon State college, according to Dr. P. R. Elliker, head of the OSC bacteriology department.

The study is financed by a \$25,000 grant from the National Institute of Health. It includes investigation of the metabolism—the way an organism uses its food—and chemical make-up of a radiation-resistant bacterium discovered at OSC two years ago. The bacterium has now been established as a new, distinct species and has been tentatively named micrococcus radiodurans. Dr. A. W. Anderson is leader of the study.

Tests at the OSC agricultural experiment station have shown the new species can withstand radiation dosages of more than 4 million roentgens—about 10,000 times as much as a normal human. New research has also found that the bacteria are equally resistant to normally-lethal doses of ultra-violet light and X-rays.

Attracted Wide Interest

The ability of the microorganism to resist radiation damage has attracted wide interest over the nation and in Europe, Dr. Elliker said. Cultures of the bacteria have been supplied laboratories in the United States and England.

The radiation-resistant bacteria studied to date aren't disease producing. Dr. Anderson emphasized, and are easily killed with heat.

Study of the microorganism was prompted when OSC scientists found the metabolism of the bacterium was apparently different from that of any living matter studied by science to date. It is hoped this study will lead to a better understanding of the mechanism of radiation resistance and ultimately to ways of protecting other living organisms against a radiation damage.

Work is being carried out by Dr. Anderson, Dr. H. D. Raj, and Miss Frances Duryea, OSC bacteriologists, in cooperation with Dr. C. H. Wang of the chemistry department.

Mailing Date Set For Beef Ballots

Salem—Ballot forms for the beef commission referendum to be held from Feb. 10 to 24 will be mailed by the state department of agriculture this weekend to nearly 4250 Oregon cattle producers who registered to vote.

Paul T. Rowell, the department's market development chief, said more than half of Oregon's cattle population on Jan. 1, 1957 is represented by those who registered.

Producers may either mail their ballots directly to the department at Salem or deposit them in ballot boxes in any county extension agent's office. County agents will forward the sealed ballots to Salem.

Any registered cattle producer who does not receive his ballot form in the mail by Feb. 10 may obtain one from any county agent or from the department of agriculture in Salem.

Ballots postmarked not later than midnight, Feb. 24, will be counted.

TAKES THE LONG WAY

Altmore, Northern Ireland —Farmer Harry McVeigh will break a window the next time he's locked out of his house. He forgot his key Wednesday and rather than mar his newly decorated house by breaking in, decided to slide down the chimney. Rescuers pulled him out 13 hours later he got stuck halfway down.

sales for animals which they can fatten up.

Don't forget the Oregon Broiler Growers association meeting set for Feb. 13 at the Dairy Co-op association in Salem.

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Farming Operations Said To Be In Planning Stage

This is the time of year when Josephine and Jackson county farm families plan steps to increase the efficiency of their farming operations during the coming farm season, said E. M. Denney, Farmers Home Demonstration county supervisor.

The agency advances operating credit primarily to help eligible farm families make improved use of their land and labor resources on family-type farms and make needed changes in their farming systems, he explained. Most of the changes call for adopting better farming practices and improving the efficiency of their farming operations. The loans help farmers pay for equipment, livestock, feed, seed, fertilizer, and other farm and home operating needs including refinancing chattel debts. Operating loans run from one to seven years at 5 percent interest. The average operating loan in Josephine and Jackson counties is approximately \$4,873.

Agree To Improve
Before an operating loan for adjustment purposes is closed, the applicant and the county supervisor agree on the proposed long-time improvement. At the beginning of each farming year while the loan is being repaid, the family makes annual plans for the best use of the farm income and determines additional credit needs. A year-end review of the past year's successes and mistakes guides the family and the county supervisor when they get together to plan for the year coming up.

Denney said the Farmers Home Administration can make operating loans only to families who have or can acquire land and labor resources needed to help them improve their farming, and who are not presently able to turn to private or cooperative lenders for adequate financing of the type they require. All borrowers graduate to conventional credit as soon as they can.

The local office of the Farmers Home Administration is located in Room No. 9 of the Mancel Building, Grants Pass.

Large Delegation Expects To Attend Red Bluff Sale

A large number of Jackson county people are either attending or are planning to attend the 17th annual Red Bluff, Calif., bull sale which started today and will continue through Saturday.

The event will feature the sale of 360 service age "Red Bluff type" beef bulls, consigned by 81 breeders from nine western states, according to Don Smith, sale manager.

Grading of the bulls started yesterday. However the remainder of the 281 Herefords were to be graded today.

The 51 head of Shorthorn bulls and 29 Angus will be graded Friday morning and sold at 1:30 p. m.

Remainder of the program consists of:

FRIDAY, February 7th
9:00 A.M.—Grading and show 51 Shorthorns and 29 Angus bulls.

12:00 noon—Banquet for Cattlemen of Year in Tremont Hotel with Red Bluff Rotary club.

1:30 P.M.—Sale of "Red Bluff Type" Shorthorns and Angus bulls at fairgrounds.

6:00 P.M.—"Bullerama" in Red Bluff. An open night with dancing, entertainment, buffet dinners and vaudeville.

SATURDAY, February 8th
9:00 A.M.—Sale Ring. Award of boots to Cattlemen of Year.

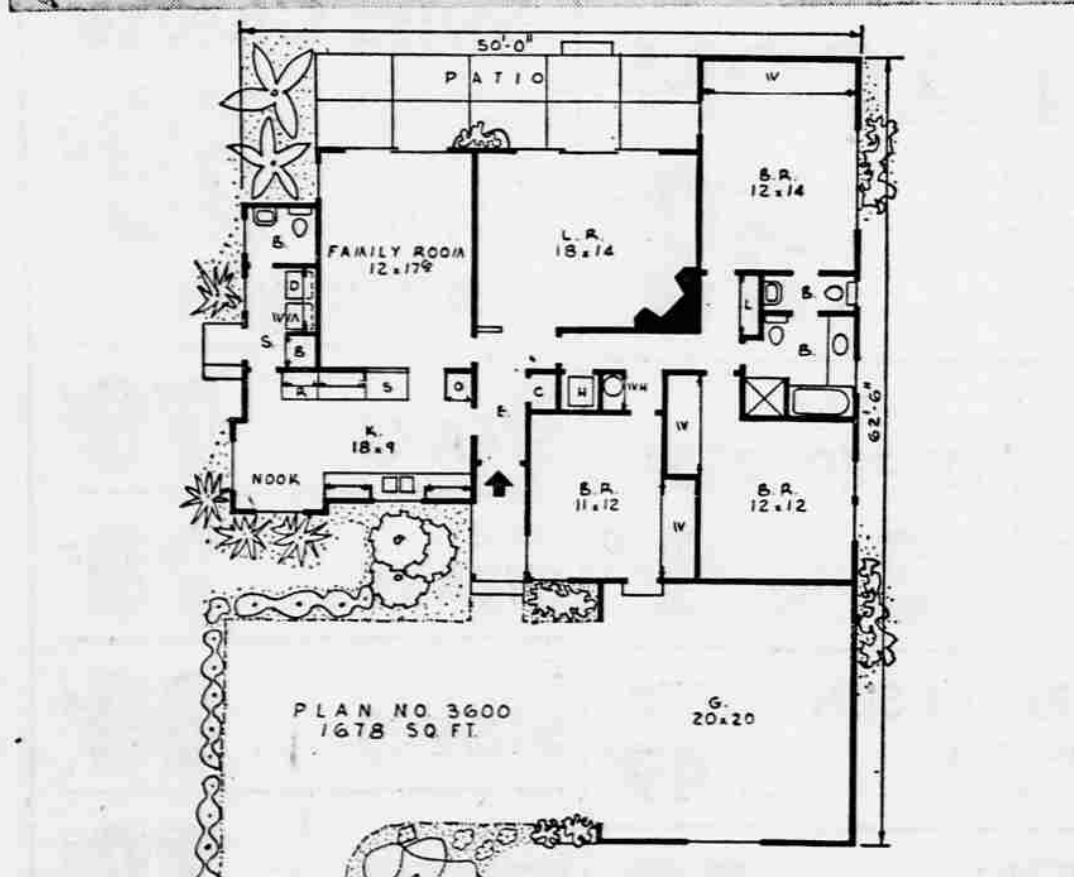
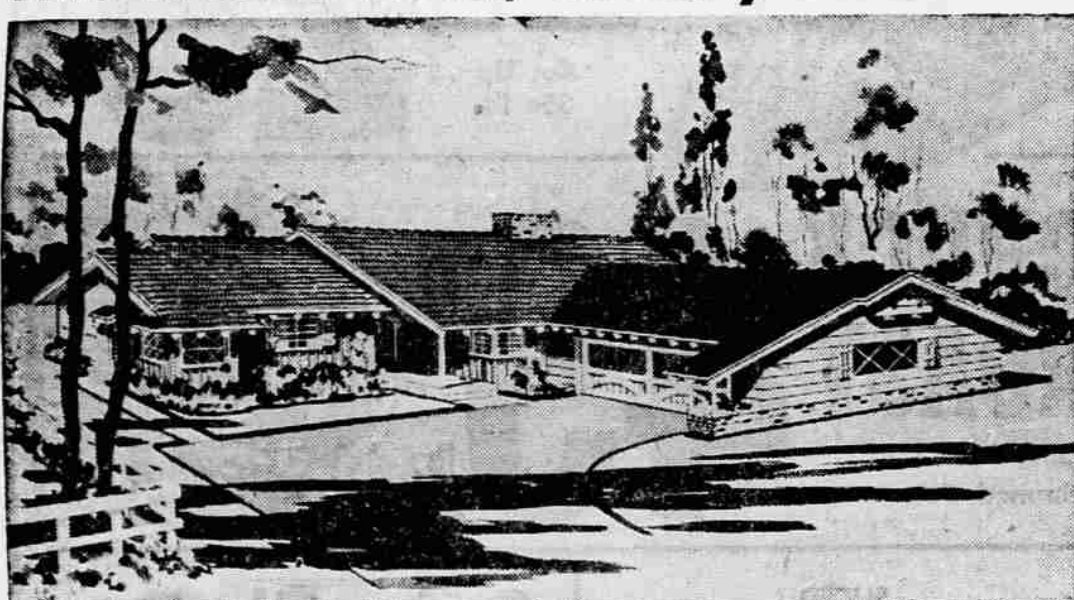
9:30 A.M.—Sale of excellent polled Hereford bull donated by Rolling Ridge Ranch for March of Dimes.

10:30 A.M.—Sale of 281 "Red Bluff type" horned and polled Hereford bulls.

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This Week's Town, Country House



By HIAWATA ESTES

Practical planning has made this 1678 square foot home particularly suitable for a family with growing children.

Living areas are divided—family room for teenage gatherings or evening studies—living room, with its corner fireplace, for adult entertaining. Yet both areas open walls of glass to the wide, sheltered patio for outdoor relaxation.

A view-through above the built-in range cooking unit opens the family room to the kitchen. Windows on two sides brighten the large corner breakfast alcove.

A half-bath off the service-laundry room is convenient to the work area and play yard.

Built on the center-half plan, all rooms are accessible

to the entry, with no room being used as a passageway. The bedroom hall can be closed off from the work and activity area to maintain privacy and quiet.

Extra large closets are an important feature of the three spacious bedrooms. An inside door leads directly from the double garage into the front bedroom or den.

Unusual is the partitioned bath-half-bath, which opens to both the hall and master bedroom. The family bath contains tub, stall shower, water closet and a pullman lavatory with storage cabinets below.

A wide linen closet opens to the hall. The central location of the forced air unit will help reduce costs during construction.

The homey, rustic atmosphere of the exterior is emphasized by the rough shakes of the roof, the birdhouse that projects from the gable and the combination of vertical and horizontal siding. Colorful shutters frame the windows. The warm-toned used brick of the chimney is repeated as veneer at the front of the garage and extends to form a planter for bright flowers and greenery.

Complete working drawings of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set and \$5 for each additional set, when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available for a period of four months from this date. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet your satisfaction, a new home plan book, TOWN & COUNTRY HOMES, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders, for either plans or books to: Hiawata Estes, P. O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

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