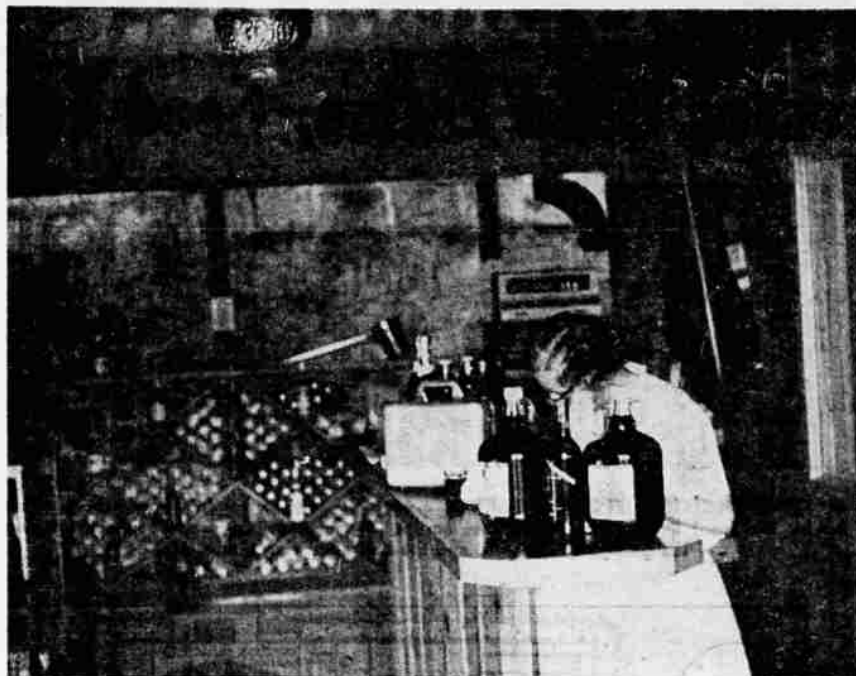




**THE SAMPLE ROOM** is the important part of any winery for the visitor. It is here that the various wines are displayed and may be sampled prior to purchase. This little room, featuring hand-hewn beams, stone walls and friendly atmosphere is the tasting room at Sebastiani, one of the better small wineries in the Valley of the Moon country. Miss Heggie, the friendly patroness of the sample room, is seen here busy over an order blank and surrounded by the product of the winery.

## Alkali Bee Research In Oregon Proves Promising

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Major advances in "domesticating" the alkali bee and transplanting the valuable alfalfa-pollinator to artificial nesting beds in alfalfa seed producing areas have been reported by an Oregon State College entomologist.

The bee, found in scattered areas of the West, is the most effective pollinator of alfalfa known.

In some areas where they are abundant, the bees have increased seed yields 10-fold. Yields of a ton of clean seed per acre have been reported in such areas compared to a national average of around 130 pounds of seed per acre.

Dr. William P. Stephen, who directs bee research at Oregon State, says artificial beds have already been built with good results. Building the beds in picked areas assures the specific soil moisture and soil texture conditions and food supply that bees must have to live and multiply, he said.

The artificial beds are dug about three feet deep, lined with heavy plastic, and then filled with gravel along the bottom and selected soil on top. If nesting conditions are not kept "just so," the bees will die off, Stephen said.

He has been collecting life history data and working to build up alkali bee populations in Oregon for the past three years. Also working on the project are Richard Eppley, graduate student in entomology, and Earl Brown, county extension agent, Milton-Freewater. Two \$1,500 research grants have been received from Malheur Seed Growers Association for the project.

In Oregon, alkali bees are found in greatest numbers around Nyssa and Adrian and in the Milton-Freewater area. They do not like the wet winters of western Oregon, but some artificial beds will be tried in the Willamette Valley, according to Stephen.

Lack of good nesting sites, poor bee management practices, and haphazard application of insecticides have combined to bring declines of alkali bee populations, Stephen said. Unlike honey bees, whose population can be rebuilt by the next season, the alkali bee requires three or four years or more to rebuild, he reported.

The alkali bee, black with fluorescent bands, is about the same size as the honey bee. Alkali bees almost never sting.

Time of emergence of the alkali bees varies from year to year and can play a very important

role in the timing of cutting for alfalfa seed production, Stephen has found. There is only one generation a year.

Female bees are the alfalfa pollinators and are extremely fast and effective workers, Stephen reports.

Despite the name, alkalinity is not a must as a nesting site for the bees. Alkaline soils better maintain the desired soil moisture, however.

A bulletin that reports detailed information on the alkali bee is now being written by Stephen. It will be published by the OSC agricultural experiment station in January.

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## Women Prefer High Heels

LAWRENCE, Mass. (UPI) — High-heeled shoes may hurt our feet, but women wouldn't be without 'em.

That's the report of a nationwide survey on women's heel preferences made by the Lifetime Heel Co. It interviewed more than 3,000 women in 50 cities.

About 75 per cent of the ladies questioned prefer high, thin heels. Only 14 per cent wear heels less than two inches high.

But vanity is expensive, the survey showed. All the women questioned had heels break at least once in the past year. More than 30 per cent had heels break at least six times. Cost of replacement ranged from 35 cents to more than \$1. The average cost was about 60 cents.

## Caterer Ends KP Duty At Base

WASHINGTON (UPI) — KP duty for the 1,200 enlisted men at the Bolling Air Force base here is a thing of the past.

The Prophet Co., a Detroit, Mich., catering firm has taken on the responsibility of feeding all of the men assigned to the base—and the Air Force dining hall across the Potomac River at Fort Myer, Va., as well.

Col. Edwin D. Miller Jr., Bolling commandant, said the changeover from military to civilian cooks and potato peelers was intended to "increase the overall operational ef-

ficiency of the base and to provide for full utilization of manpower (military, that is) in the many work sections at Bolling."

The amount of the contract awarded the Detroit firm was not disclosed.

Sean O'Casey, the noted Irish playwright, was once a railroad track laborer.

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The fire worms of Bermuda apparently have wrist watches. They spend their lives on the ocean floor, but rise to the surface at 55 minutes after sunset.

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