

KF Hobbyist Birds' Friend

Allan Houchins, a Klamath Falls fireman since 1920, is busy making plans and getting ready for his retirement July 1.

Houchins is adding rooms and otherwise repairing his home at 3026 LaVerne Street near Kingsley Field. He plans to continue building the fancy birdhouses, boat models and other miniatures that he has constructed as a hobby during his spare time at the station.

Houchins may also go back to building boats—a skill he used professionally when he and Arthur Tappen owned the Oregon Boat Company.

During those days, Houchins and his company built dozens of boats of all kinds for Boy Scouts and other customers.

He came to Klamath Falls from Long Beach, Calif., in 1917 and before that lived in his home town, Richmond, Va. He became a volunteer city fireman in 1920, and a

full-time professional fireman with the city force in 1936.

Firemen are on duty 24 hours a day for a long time occasionally; and naturally, after the brass is polished, the equipment is checked up and the building and grounds policed, a fireman has time on his hands.

This gets boring. Houchins capitalized on his love of birds and animals and started manufacturing deluxe homes for high class birds.

After he fitted his yard with all he wanted, he began to give his products away to his friends. Some of his bird houses have gone as far as Arkansas.

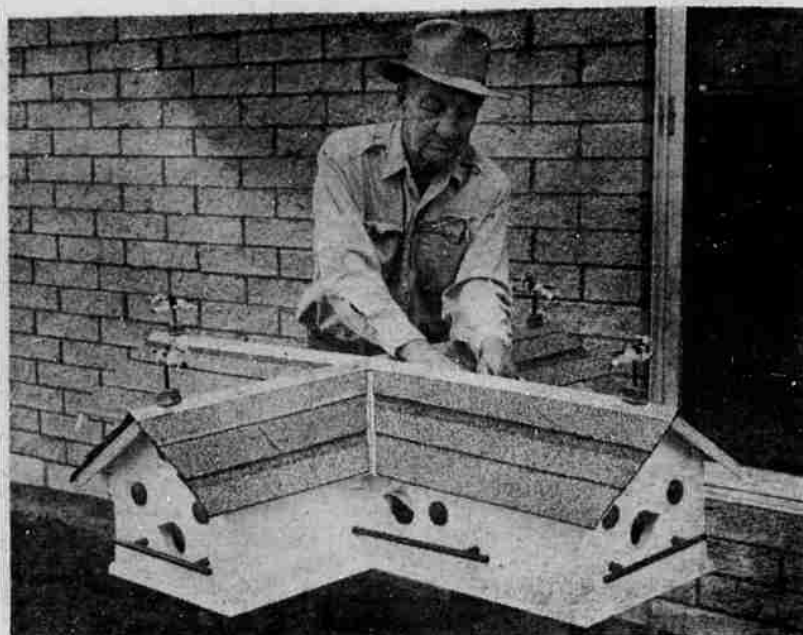
The Houchins houses are watertight, cozy and as neat as rose-covered cottages. He builds them much fancier than are homes for ordinary middle class birds.

They have watertight roofs and moulding for trim at the eaves and corners.

Houchins builds duplexes, triplexes and other multi-unit dwellings.

Consequently, his yard has attracted a lot of birds — mostly sparrows, since most birds won't enter enclosed shelters of the type.

On his 10 acres of land, Houchins has had pheasants, chick-



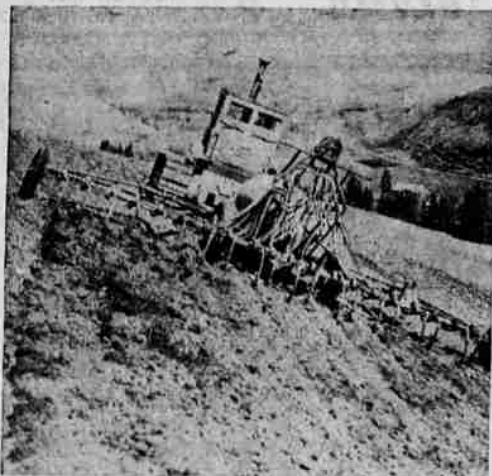
A TRIUMPH OF ENGINEERING, Allan Houchins' four-wing birdhouse at his home near the municipal airport has room for several families of sparrows.

— Photo by Don Kettler

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Hedges Give Protection And Privacy

Privacy is the principal reason for planting hedges in urban and suburban areas, while in farm and rural areas, hedges are used chiefly to break cold winds in winter and to prevent fertile top soil from blowing away. Hedges also help to delineate property lines, enclose flower gardens and work areas, to shut off unsightly views as well as give beauty to any setting.

Choose your hedge materials for your particular need with care, advises the American Association of Nurserymen.

The best procedure is to ask your nurseryman for suggestions as to the proper plant materials. Hedges grow at maturity to heights anywhere from a few inches to 20 feet tall; low - growing plants, only a few feet tall, generally are used in suburban areas.

Moreover, the plants range from those that drop their leaves in Winter, through flowering plants and evergreens.

Many plants not ordinarily thought of for hedges, like roses and azaleas, can make striking hedge plantings for the home property, especially when in flower. Practically everyone knows of barberry and arbutus hedges, but fewer people know of flex or holly which is striking for the purpose.

Ligustrum and the privets have been widely used. Forsythia, one of the old timers, still makes an excellent hedge with its burst of yellow in the spring, green foliage in summer, turning purple in the fall.

For a living fence, the floribunda rose is excellent in urban and suburban areas, while the multiflora rose still is widely used on farm properties where it makes an impenetrable fence at lower cost than wood or wire when mature.

Strive for hedges that will be attractive and colorful all year long, to provide all-season beauty.

Lakes and streams of Colorado yield more than 13½ million trout to fishermen each year.



A BOAT LOVER, TOO, Allan Houchins of 3026 LaVerne Street fashioned this sleek sloop during his spare time as a city fireman. He is planning to retire.

— Photo by Don Kettler

OSC Scientists Probe Bug Spray Resistance

Man may eventually win a clear-cut victory over insects — but it won't be easy.

Oregon State College scientists, probing the secrets behind insect resistance to sprays, are uncovering built-in defense mechanisms in insects which automatically change poisonous substances into harmless materials.

Man, himself, has about a dozen of these protective mechanisms against poisonous materials and evidence shows that insects' defense barriers may be the same or similar.

These defenses are normally-occurring body chemicals that react with poisonous substances to make them less toxic. For example, glucose or blood-sugar, is the starting point of one of the detoxifying substances in man.

Build-up of insect resistance to DDT is a prime example of how chemical science has managed to keep only a few paces ahead of pests before the defense mechanisms adjust and neutralize the chemical. Latest approach by OSC researchers is an attempt to identify these insect mechanisms with radioactive naphthalene.

Dr. L. C. Terriere, OSC agricultural experiment station biochemist, says naphthalene — the mothball chemical — was chosen because it can be made radioactive rather cheaply. Also, researchers have previous experience in tracing naphthalene and its reactions in rats and rabbits.

Common houseflies are being used for OSC tests since they are easily reared under laboratory conditions and because they have long been one of man's most persistent pests.

The researchers have found that flies injected with radioactive naphthalene neutralize and excrete the toxicant in nine or more different forms within a few hours after injection. Now they hope to learn what specific mechanism is strongest against naphthalene.

Next step will be to relate other mechanisms to specific toxicants. The ultimate goal, of course, is to understand how each of the defense mechanisms functions and to develop chemicals against which insects are defenseless.

SAVING TIP

If you remind your builder, or the man who sold you your house, and insist that these things be accomplished by subcontractors before you sign final papers and move in, you go a long way toward avoiding those "new home blues."