



"If I've figured right, we have \$25 left this month to make a down payment on something!"

Agriculture Department To Celebrate Birthday

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Don't look now, but Christmas isn't the only thing that is creeping up on us.

Almost before we knot it, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The event actually doesn't occur until next year, but one branch of the department already has started presenting a series of centennial lectures, which I have been reading with a great deal of interest.

My interest in agriculture stems in part from having tried to grow some tomato plants in a backyard petunia bed. I finally gave up and ate the petunias.

But more than that, I am fascinated by the endless variety of the department's activities. Some of them could hardly have been envisioned 100 years ago.

Just this year, for example, a department experiment station re-

ported the development of a "non-bitter sweetclover." Possibly this will lead in time to the development of a non-sweet bitterweed.

Not all of its experiments, however, have panned out so well. Among other things, the department has attempted to promote tea growing, silkworm raising and ostrich farming in America. None could presently be described as booming.

At the time that the department was created to help the American farmer, the American farmer was not necessarily aware that he needed any help. This was during Abraham Lincoln's administration. In his first annual message to Congress, Lincoln pointed out that the total agricultural representation in the federal government consisted of one clerk.

"While it is fortunate that this great interest is so independent in its nature as to not have demanded and extorted more from the government, I respectfully ask Congress to consider whether something more cannot be given voluntarily with general advantage," he said.

A few months later, Congress voluntarily gave the Agriculture Department. Its first annual budget amounted to about \$60,000, spent mainly in distributing seed packets for congressmen.

This illustrates, as well as anything, how much times have changed in the past century. I spent almost that much last year trying to grow tomato plants.

Incidentally, the first full-term agriculture secretary was Jeremiah Rush, who once uttered the ringing words "I see my duty and I do it." He barely escaped being elected vice president.

Mary Andrieu Wins Award

Mary Andrieu, Sacred Heart Academy senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Andrieu, 732 North Seventh Street, has been awarded a Merit Scholarship Letter of Recommendation.

The award, based on the scholarship test given in the spring, is the fourth to be awarded in Klamath County. Sister Mary Victoria, Sacred Heart principal, made the presentation at the October Student Body Assembly. The award puts Mary in the upper two per cent of the nation's high school students.

Fires Reported

City firemen reported two minor fire calls Monday night. At 7:07 p.m., 1739regon Avenue, trash fire, no damage. At 10:05 p.m., Greyhound Station, burned electric motor, fumes removed from depot.

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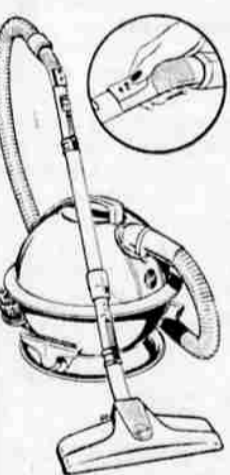
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