

AROUND THE FARM

By Don Coin Walrod



With a urea plant being established here in own area, it is worth noting that this fertilizer material is increasing more rapidly in use in the world with the possible exception of ammonia.

During the past ten years, the use of urea in the United States has increased from 60,000 tons annually to about 385,000 tons. Urea growth rate has been almost 23 percent annually compared with 3.1 percent for ammonium nitrate and 7 to 8 percent for all nitrogen fertilizers.

At a concentration of 44 to 46 percent nitrogen, urea has become one of the most economical nitrogen fertilizers available on a per pound of fertilizer basis. In addition, it is a fertilizer that is admirably well suited to most plant species and methods of use.

Urea has some other uses besides fertilizer, too. When properly used, it can be fed to ruminant livestock, but primarily beef cattle, as a source of part of the protein ration. Because of the saving in cattle feed costs, this program is expanding rapidly. Conversion of the urea into protein is accomplished by bacteria in the rumination process.

Salt is commonly used for melting ice and snow on walks, drives, and highways, but urea is a superior material in that it has none of the disadvantages of salt. It is relatively non-corrosive to metal, is a non-conductor of electricity, and rather than injuring plants at normal rates of application, the

run-off actually fertilizes plants.

Experimental selection of tomatoes have been on trial with Columbia county gardeners and other Willamette Valley growers for quite a number of years now. Some of these special selections proved to be worthy and were popular with those folks who had an opportunity to try them.

A couple of these have been named by the OSU experiment station and released to commercial seedsmen for increase and distribution. "Willamette" is the earliest of the two new releases, closely followed by "Medford." Seed of both may be obtained from Gill Bros. Seed company, Portland, and Don Ollivant, Route 4, Box 585, Roseburg. Ollivant can also supply limited quantities of seed for Immune Prior Beta, a small early tomato, and German Cherry, a small salad tomato.

Gardeners interested in securing plants should speak to plant distributors now to insure a source of plants next spring.

The potential of flowers as a considerable one that certainly means a lot to certain sections of Western Oregon. Columbia county is situated so that we may one day have a place in this trade should producers feel so inclined to specialize. A growing population provides the market.

The nation's retail florists sold nearly \$800 million worth of flowers in 1963, an increase of more than 20 percent over 1958.

However, only 625 new firms opened shop during the five year period, an increase of three percent for a 1963 total of 19,801 retail florists nationwide.

Actually, 22 states lost firms during the period, ranging from a one percent drop in California and Pennsylvania to a 28 percent decline in Alaska. But only Alaska and Oregon had a fall-off in value of sales. This indicates that individual shops are larger than they were in the late 1950's.

Still, higher dollar sales don't mean that florists are selling more flowers. Sales volume has remained relatively stable in recent years. Nor has the cost to florists of flowers they sell at retail fluctuated much.

What's happened is that, like most industries, florists pay higher rent for shops, higher wages to employees, higher charges for repairs and other services than they did in 1958. In turn, florists charge more for cut flowers and other floral arrangements than in 1958.

Economists also note a trend toward incorporated businesses, a sign perhaps that the industry is becoming more stable. Despite the 625 increase in numbers of firms there were 425 fewer active proprietors of unincorporated shops in 1963 than in 1958.

These changes are based on preliminary state reports of the 1963 Census of Business.

Garden Club to Study Leaves

BIRKENFELD — The Garden club will meet next Wednesday, January 19, at the home of Mrs. Robert Mathews of Mist. There will be a potluck dinner at noon. Those attending are asked to bring a small twig or leaf along, with the name and a description of same. Mrs. Lee Barlow is in charge of the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Johnson of Scappoose visited with Mr. and Mrs. Francis Larson on Sunday. The Johnsons also stopped to see Mr. and Mrs. Gene Larson but they had gone to Longview that day. Mrs. Francis Larson and her daughter, Mrs. Herbert Rodgers, were in Astoria Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Hemeon and Larry visited with Mr. and Mrs. Gene Etheridge one evening last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Worthington left last Wednesday by bus for Eureka, California after visiting with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watson over the holidays. Mr. Watson took them into Portland and they took the bus from there. Mr. Watson went to Vancouver, Washington Sunday and he was in Portland until Tuesday of this week on business. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Glick were at the Watson home Thursday evening and they all played pinocle.

Mr. and Mrs. Arby Mills were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mrs. Arnold Olson of Clatskanie.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hopkins were in Astoria Monday.

Last Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Udey went to Clatskanie. They visited with Edna Johnson on their way home. Mrs. Helen Hughes and her sister, Mrs. Maxine Holden, both from Forest Grove came out to see Mrs. Johnson Saturday and stayed over until Sunday. Edna went to Corvallis Sunday to be with her daughter, Virginia, and her family for a few days.

Group Gathers At Oblack Home

NATAL -PITTSBURG — Mr. and Mrs. Dee Veere Hershey and Dee, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Tupper and Sandra and Claudia Carter were dinner guests Sunday of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Oblack.

Recent callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Noble Dunlap included Mr. and Mrs. Sulo Sanders and Leslie of Westport, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mathews, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Peterson of Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Lawton Waddell, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Veere Hershey, Robert Lindsay and Mr. and Mrs. E. McCrone.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wolff were in Portland Monday on business. While there they called on Robert Turner and Mrs. Leonard Graven.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Oblack were Hillsboro visitors Saturday and at Scappoose Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Tupper called on Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mathews Friday evening. Saturday they visited at the Dee Veere Hershey home.

Hudson Speaks At LDS Meeting

RIVERVIEW — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hudson were at Seaside Sunday where he was speaker for an afternoon and an evening meeting of the LDS church.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Tillery and children of St. Helens visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carson Strong Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Snook and five children of Portland spent Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Snook.

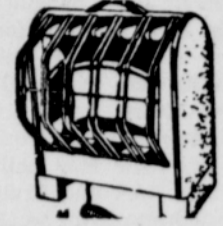
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buckner of Ukiah, California visited his mother, Mrs. Artie Buckner a couple of days during the holiday week.

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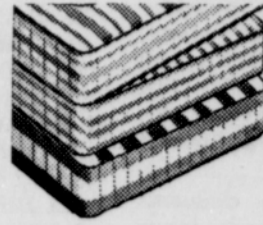
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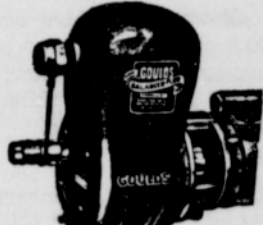
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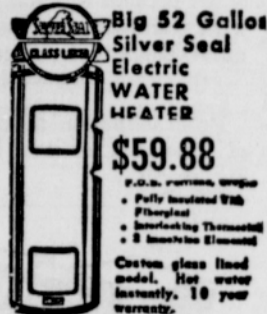
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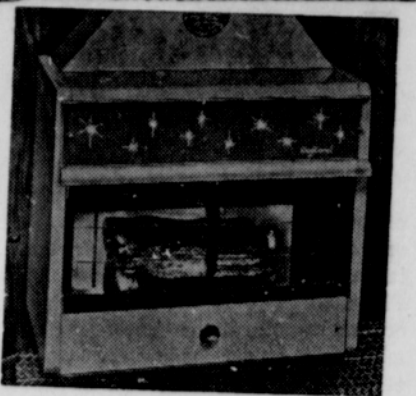
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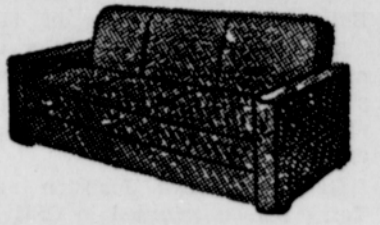
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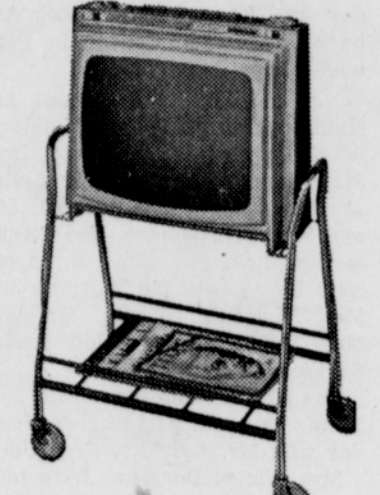
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Questionnaires On Game Mailed

Twenty thousand hunters will assist the game commission the next few weeks in the annual survey to determine how many big game animals, game birds, and waterfowl were taken during the 1965 seasons.

The 20,000 individuals selected at random from more than 325,000 licensed hunters have been asked to give their individual reports on success or failure last year. Mailing of questionnaires to this group was completed this week.

Phil Schneider, state game director, requested that recipients of the questionnaires answer all questions and record accurately success as well as failure during last year's hunt. The questionnaire must then be returned to the game commission.

Schneider advised Oregon hunters that information from the questionnaires is used to compute the total game kill for the year. The game kill includes that for deer, elk, upland game birds by species, and for all species of waterfowl.

Statisticians report that total kill figures obtained from this random sample of hunters—about seven percent of the total—are extremely accurate. For deer, the accuracy of the total kill is plus or minus slightly less than one percent. The accuracy of the elk kill and that for upland game birds and waterfowl is also close to the one percent margin of error figure.

Total kill figures for the 1965 season will be available in late February or early March.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Holmes and two children of Milwaukie visited her mother, Mrs. Maude Wells Sunday.

New Families Noted in Area

RIVERVIEW — Two new families have recently moved onto Birch street. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Smith and five children came here from Los Angeles and Mrs. Irene Grove and five children came from Bandon.

A new daughter arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Isaackson December 28. She weighed six pounds 15 ounces and is named Lora Lynne. She joins one brother and one sister.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Lloyd were Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Rose of Rainier and Mrs. Jim Hays and daughter Mildred of Gaston.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Cline were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyer of Portland and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hannula of Clatskanie.

Dick Elliott and two sons have

moved into the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Josephine Dimbat on Riverside drive.

Jack Greenwood left Sunday for San Diego after spending a 30-day furlough here with his grandmother, Mrs. Bud Rose. Mr. Rose is still in the U of O hospital receiving treatment following an attack of pneumonia.

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