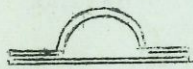


# THE

# VALLEY AND EAST COAST

# VOICE



Vol. 2 No. <sup>18</sup>~~17~~ P.O. Box 100, St. Marys. Friday January 23rd, 1970. Price 5 cents  
Registered at the G.P.O. Hobart for transmission through the post as a periodical

## EDITORIAL

It is now nearly a month since the last issue of this paper was printed and for this rather long delay, we apologise.

In the last issue we notified our readers of a change of printing arrangements and at the time we did not envisage the change would be a return to the old style of printing, (i.e. duplicating).

This procedure has become necessary for several reasons; but the main one is that so far, no satisfactory alternative has been found.

Thus, during the interim, rather than not print a paper at all, members of the staff agreed to carry on with the old style of paper.

We hope that not too many readers and advertisers are disappointed with this. We assure these people we are still working towards a satisfactory solution where past printing problems can be ironed out.

Also at this point, we should mention that some readers have expressed criticism about the content of the last few issues. The main criticism was that the paper lacked local news and gossip. We have not been unaware of this and in future will endeavour to print as many local items as possible.

This however, can only be done if this news is available. Because this is a PART TIME paper, it is necessary to rely quite a lot on outside contributions. So if you feel your particular town or interest has been left out, ring us or write and we will do our best to include it in future issues.

The continuing support of our contributors, readers, advertisers and well-wishes is the stuff which will keep this paper going.

FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF OUR  
MANY SATISFIED CUSTOMERS AND  
USE OUR CLASSIFIED ADS. COLUMN.  
Get your Classified Ad. form  
from your local newsagent.



"THERE THEY GO - HEADED STRAIGHT  
FOR MY DRINKING WATER AGAIN!"

TOUCHE'

IT IS CURIOUS, isn't it, the way those two old proverbs keep cropping up? 'It never rains but it pours' and 'It's either a feast or a famine.'

The disquieting thing is with drought last year and floods this year, there just doesn't seem many weather experiences left for 1970.

MRS. GEOFF ADAMS of St. Marys has sent us the bird story of the month.

Her two pet Zebra finches are so tame, they spend most of the time out of their cage and flit about the living room. It seems their freedom will now have to come to a more permanent arrangement, as recently Mrs. Adams discovered they had built a nest in a bowl of plastic flowers, of all places.

She reports that so far they have not laid any eggs but she is sure they will.

We hope the eggs aren't plastic though.

ST. MARYS BAKERY.

PROCERA BREAD · PIES · PASTIES  
CAKES · SMALLGOODS  
WHOLESALE & RETAIL  
J. & R. OWENS.

=====

McGEES SERVICE STATION - ST. MARYS

HOLDEN DEALERS - G.M.H. BATTERIES

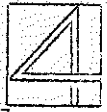
AND GOOD-YEAR TYRES

PORTABLE ELECTRIC WELDER

PHONE ST. MARYS 59

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HOLDER BROS 

SELF SERVICE STORE

OUR BULK BUYING SYSTEM

Means SAVINGS to YOU

LOOK FOUR SQUARE

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\* \* \* \* \* STAR PROBE \* \* \* \* \*

{Fortnight beginning Jan. 23rd.}

**ARIES** 21st March - 20th April  
 Personal affairs should look more encouraging than they have for quite some time, but try to clear up business matters as soon as is practical. Romance is on an even keel.

**TAURUS** 21st April - 20th May  
 Affairs of the heart may need to be watched and you may find that a little extra attentiveness on your part may be called for. Finances take a turn for the better.

**GEMINI** 21st May - 20th June  
 Don't rush into any decisions. Leave things over for a few days and you will find it easier to solve small problems for yourself and avoid seeking advice elsewhere.

**CANCER** 21st June - 21th July  
 Remember to tackle one thing at a time this month and thus avoid jeopardising future plans. Rumours may be in the air but it would be better to disregard these and form your own opinions.

**LEO** 22nd July - 21st August  
 You may wish to branch out into new surroundings and make a wider circle of friends, so do not allow yourself to be sidetracked. Keep an open mind when a colleague's faults are discussed.

**VIRGO** 22nd August - 21st September  
 A partnership will take a new turn, justifying all the strain and hard work you have put into things. All this will be a great help towards attaining a cherished ambition.

**LIBRA** 22nd September - 22nd October  
 You should receive a pleasant tribute from someone close. Some extra will give you time to tie up loose ends. There should be nothing to hinder a new romantic relationship.

**SCORPIO** 23rd October - 21st November  
 Try to curb your impetuosity this month. In doing so you will make better progress than you have of late by pleasing a dear one.

**SAGITTARIUS** 22nd November - 21st December  
 This month in which the air should clear considerably, after a colleague at work speaks up forcibly on your behalf. Where affairs of the heart are concerned life should be very smooth.

**CAPRICORN** 22nd December - 19th January  
 You can afford to take chances this month - do not let the pessimistic outlook of a friend depress you. However, it would be wise to be guided by an older person.

**AQUARIUS** 20th January - 19 February  
 Try to be diplomatic with a relative who may disapprove of your splashing out in long-wanted luxury. You would do well to be firm for this is something you have earned.

**PISCES** 19th February - 20th March  
 A little more concentration on the family this month could help make life easier for you. However, do not argue with a near one who is inclined to be a little dogmatic.

=====

Then GRIZZLE GUTS said, 'Why, tell my why, did they have to put me back in this miserable typed sheet? I was always left out of the posh one.'

=====

+++++

+ ST. MARYS BUTCHERY +

+ Toby Spilsbury +

+ OUR MEAT IS ALWAYS GOOD +

+++++



*Miss Piffle*

MR. & MRS. TAS. YATES of Fingal attended a party in Hobart to celebrate the engagement of their eldest son Greg. to Shirley Rogers of Granton. Greg. and Shirley hope to marry in September.

MR. & MRS. JACK SEMMENS of Malahide have returned after spending three weeks in Victoria. They were the guests of Mr. & Mrs. John Bean of Geelong.

MR. & MRS. COL. SAUNDERS of Fingal have returned home after spending a few days at Queenstown.

WE ARE GLAD TO HEAR that Mrs. Charles Gillies of St.Marys is expected home today after being a patient at Launceston General Hospital.

MR. & MRS. C. UPTON of Mangana Post Office have enjoyed the visit of their grandchildren, Timothy and Amanda Causby of Heidelberg, Melbourne and their niece, Shelley Johns of Upper Esk for the school holidays. Mrs. Causby was able to spend a week with her parents before taking her children home.

FRIENDS OF MR. ALF. DAWSON will be pleased to hear he is home from hospital and feeling a little better.

MISS JEAN THOMPSON of St.Helens has been the guest of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Williams of Fingal for one week.

MR. & MRS. FRANK PRIOR of Mathinna are spending an extended holiday in New Zealand.

SORRY TO HEAR MRS. G. FRANCIS of Mangana broke a bone in her wrist. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

CARLENE MANEY, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Vern. Maney of St.Marys will marry Gary Richards Of St.Helens at the Catholic Church, St. Marys on Saturday, 31st. January at 4 pm.

MR. & MRS. JIM BANFIELD and family of Ulverstone spent the school vacation at their holiday home at Scamander.

MISS LOTTE GRATZER, a student Dental Nurse, spent the vacation with her parents at Scamander.

FRIENDS IN ST.MARYS will be sorry to hear Mrs. Elsie Bullöck is a patient in St. Marys Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS SALLY LUTWICHE of Whitehills who has won the St.Helens Athletic Carnival Girl three years in succession. Local girl Julie Westbrook won the Tiny Tots section.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN SCHIER of Falmouth who gained State selection in the Athletic team to visit Adelaide in March.

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+ "THE
+ FROCK
+ SHOPPE"
+ LOVELY CRIMP COAT DRESSES
+ MAIN ST. ST.MARYS
+ See the COMPLETE new RANGE of
+ FROCKS. Teenagers & Adults.
+++++

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FOR YOUR DIARY

VARIETY CONCERT at the Community Hall, St.Marys, Friday 6th March at 8 pm. In aid of the Methodist Church.

CAMERA CLUB DINNER tonight, 23rd. Jan. at Surfside Motel.

BREAK O'DAY SPEAKERS meeting 8 pm. Tue sday, 27th Jan. at the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL resumes Tuesday, 27th Jan.

HIGH SCHOOL resumes Tuesday, 3rd. Feb.

CAMERA CLUB TRIP to Maria Island, Sun - Mon.

SATURDAY 25th January, R.S.L. Institute, St.Marys at 2.30 pm. PARTY to announce winners of HOLIDAY BOY, HOLIDAY GIRL CONTEST for ST.MARYS GIRL GUIDES. Ladies a plate please. All welcome.

REMEMBER THE LAST FLOAT PARADE ON HOSPITAL FAIR DAY ? HELP US TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S PARADE BIGGER AND BETTER.

Anyone interested in entering floats please contact Matron at St.Marys 2.

PLAN NOW FOR FAIR DAY ON APRIL 4th.



*Dear Valerie Joyce*

Dear Valerie Joyce, I am thinking of buying a bra-slip but I am not sure that I will stay in it. Please advise.

'Uncertain'

Dear 'Uncertain', Well darling, it depends on if you want to stay in it and how much support you have.

V.V.

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+ DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN
+ HAVE YOUR CARDS, LETTERHEADS
+ AND STATIONERY printed by
+ VALLEY VOICE PUBLICATIONS ?
+++++

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+ FOR HIRE
+ Back Hoe Digger
+ Front End Loader
+ Ph. Scamander 82 for prices etc.
+++++

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# HERITAGE CORNER

# CLASSIFIED ADS.

## MARIA ISLAND PART I

With the establishment of a Wild Life Sanctuary and the development of a tourist industry Maria Island enters into a new phase of its history.

Long before the coming of the white man, Maria Island was inhabited by aborigines, probably part of the so called 'Oyster Bay Tribe'. The presence of game, shellfish, and seals, together with a pleasant climate, induced the natives to brave the often stormy channel in their frail craft made from bundles of tea-tree, sticks and leaves.

Then came the sealers and the whalers and the aborigines were regarded as virtually extinct on Maria Island by 1822.

In 1642 the island was named Maria Eyl-ondt by Abel Tasman in honour of the wife of Van Dieman, The Governor of Batavia. It is possible that the first white men to set foot on the island were seamen from the expedition of Marion du Fresne who went ashore in 1772 in a vain search of water - it is assumed that they only went to the South part of the Island.

In 1825 a secure penal settlement was set up in the north of the island with 50 convicts, plus soldiers and supervisors. The men set to work quarrying stone, felling trees for timber, digging clay and establishing a brick field, and burning shells for lime and mortar.

In 1829 George Robinson noted that there were 150 people on the Island and he also mentioned that some hops had attained the height of eight feet and that the vines had twined in the opposite direction from those in England.

In 1830 Governor Arthur set to work to set up his model prison on the Tasman Peninsula and by 1832 the penal settlement on Maria Island was abandoned except for one man - William Christmas who was left behind by Commandant Lord to finalise his accounts and apparently forgotten. In January 1833 he wrote to complain that his food was exhausted and that he had been forced to row to the mainland in a dangerous boat for supplies.

(to be continued next week)

FOR SALE.... ANY QUANTITY fencing posts and droppers. Apply P.O. Box 70, St.Marys.

FOR SALE.... LARGE T.V. ANTENNA. Suitable for Channels 6 and 2. Complete with fittings and 30 feet extension pipe. \$15.00. Apply P.O. Box 11, St.Marys.

FOR SALE.... FAIR COLOURED short hair piece (wiglet). \$16.00. Apply R.B. Saunders, P.O. Box 30 Fingal.

KING'S BUS SERVICE serving St.Marys, St. Helens, Winnaleah, Bicheno and Swansea. Passengers. Phone Willaleah.

MILLWOOD, 90% dry. Will deliver locally, Scamander, Falmouth. \$9 per 3 ton load. Ph. St.Marys 167.

ALL DRESSMAKING expertly carried out. Prompt service, satisfaction guaranteed. GLAMOUR GOWNS upstairs. Shaws Arcade, Launceston. Open Sat. morning. Ph 25170.

BROWN'S BUS SERVICE, St.Marys. Browns distribute this paper quickly and efficiently. Why not let them work for you?

THE PRIZE CHRISTMAS STOCKING drawn at Normie's Nook, St.Marys on Christmas Eve was won by Mrs. M. Luck, St.Marys.

OWING TO WET SEASON, the strawberries rotted so I am unable to fill my many orders. Mrs. Gleeson, Cornwall.

+ + + + +

HOW SWEET? With cyclamates under attack another substitute for sugar may be forthcoming from Denmark. Recent advantages in enzyme science by Karl Kroyer of Aarhus, a Danish research organization, have made possible development of a white, crystalline, free-flowing glucose sweetener. (The health hazards allegedly posed by conventional sugar, all appear to relate to the fact that it consists largely of sucrose.) Danish food manufacturers have conducted extensive market tests of the glucose sugar in such products as jam and chocolate and the results have been sufficiently encouraging, both in terms of economics and palatability, that Kroyer and the Danish state sugar monopoly have formed a joint company to begin large-scale production of granulated glucose.

+ + + + +  
 + GILL'S STORE - ST. MARYS +  
 + This week's PECIALS +  
 + Potatoes 6c lb +  
 + 16 oz. Pres. Pears 21c +  
 + Condensed Milk 21c +  
 + Toilet Rolls 16c +  
 + Pinoclean 28c +  
 + + + + +

+ + + + +  
 + NORMIE'S NOOK +  
 + PHONE ST.MARYS 107 +  
 + TAKE AWAY FOODS +  
 + N.R. & I.R. MORRISON. +  
 + + + + +

# YOUR HEALTH

IT'S ALL A FAKE

## TO MOTHERS

Are your children lively and healthy with clear skins, bright eyes and good posture or are they always tired, whining and have frequent colds? If so, it might pay to look closely at their diet. Are they eating foods which will help them to grow and build up their resistance or do you feel so tired yourself that you think it easier to give them bread and butter, biscuits, lollies and cordials?

Prevention has always been better than cure and it is a well known fact that people who eat a well-balanced diet have the smallest medical and hospital bills.

It doesn't take long to prepare a well-balanced meal. Vegetables should be boiled with the lid ON the pot for only 20 minutes.

Choose your foods from the 5 basic food groups, viz: 1. Milk & cheese. 2. Meat, fish, eggs, dried beans and nuts. 3. Fruit and vegetables. 4. Bread, flour and other cereals. 5. Fats, e.g. Butter or fortified margarine.

Your school child needs at least ONE pint of milk daily to enable growth. A cheap way of providing this is to use powdered skim milk. Make it up in a jug and let it stand in the refrigerator - after 2 hours it will taste like fresh milk.

Each member of your family needs 2 servings of meat or fish and 1 egg daily. Your teen-age children are growing rapidly and need 3 daily servings of these body building foods. Serve a potato each day and one serving each of a yellow and green vegetable. Use frozen or dried vegetables if fresh are not available. Give each member at least one piece of fresh fruit every day.

Always wash your hands before preparing food; keep it covered - away from flies and dirt - see that your refrigerator and cupboards are always clean. SAVE MONEY - Encourage your children to eat raisins, sultanas, nuts, cheese and fresh fruit instead of lots of lollies.

=====  
= MAURICE POOLE =  
= Phone Bicheno 36 =  
= GENERAL =  
= CARTAGE DOZERS (Power shift) =  
= CONTRACTOR Back Loader =  
= Trucks =  
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++++++  
+ FLOOR SANDING & SEALING +  
+ E. A. (Bill) Bailey +  
+ +  
+ PHONE Bicheno 23 +  
++++++

Thousands of pounds are taken away from insurance companies each year by persons who present fraudulent claims. It's the old pastime of getting something for nothing.

Annie was a pious soul. "If this be the Lord's will so be it," she said to a doctor, when refusing an operation.

She was a capable maid, but terribly awkward. On four different occasions, she tumbled down cellar stairs. Another time, while airing her employer's dog, she somehow became mixed up with the leash and took a header. Her longest employment, between periods of disability, was three months.

Following each fall, she said she felt "all broken up inside". The examining doctor was always forced to admit a condition which could have resulted from the accident and which, according to the books, should make a woman an invalid. Still, she refused an operation.

She worked only for the best families, the ones likely to be insured. Her employers were always sympathetic and used their influence with the companies to obtain settlements for her. After each adjustment, Annie stated she was "going home to die."

Her downfall came when a doctor remembered her from a previous accident. It was then learned that, instead of "going home to die", she went out after each tumble and got herself a new job. Investigation revealed that she was the owner of a small sailboat, was a member of a yacht club and was considered an eccentric woman of some means.

In the Southwest of America, an insurance man was the brains and the instructor of a mob that made a business and an art of falling in public places where the monetary return promised to be substantial. This outfit, composed chiefly of women, spent long hours in front of mirrors, perfecting their technique under the able tutelage of the insurance man, who was himself a tumbler of no mean ability.

But it was too good to last. An adjuster became suspicious when he detected a noticeable likeness in some of the claims submitted. It was discovered that the claim letters had been written on the same typewriter. The machine was at last located in the insurance man's possession.

The payoff came when a letter was received at the insurance company office, making claim for an accident which was alleged to have occurred on January 7. The letter had been written the same day as the accident, but the postmark on the envelope showed it had been mailed on January 6 - an entire day BEFORE the alleged accident took place!

++++++  
+ THE IDEAL GIFT, +  
+ - INDOOR PLANTS - +  
+ Beautiful and Varied Collection +  
+ at ST HELENS NURSEERY Visitors Welcome +  
++++++

I N T H E E Y E O F T H E L A W

The Animals and Birds Protection Board has decided to curtail the open season for the taking of wallaby, and has declared a closed season from January 1st to March 31st, 1970, and also for a period to be determined commencing on 1st December, 1970.

For the purpose of this regulation, wallaby includes all species other than the wholly protected Forester kangaroo.

Provision is made for the issue of permits to landholders who find the animals damaging crops.

During the closed season it will be unlawful for any person to be in possession of wallaby skins, which have not been stamped, and on which royalty has not been paid.

It is urged that all persons acquaint themselves with this information and endeavour to avoid the likelihood of prosecution and perhaps a heavy penalty.

For the information of deer shooters, the season this year will open on the last Saturday in February and close on the last Sunday in March.

FROM THE PULPIT

Perhaps one of the best known chapters of the New Testament is the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians where Paul speaks of faith, hope and love.

What better equipment could one have to face the future than faith and hope and love.

To have faith is to have an implicit trust. Indeed, we live by faith every day of our lives.

As the word in Hebrews says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." To have faith is to forsake all and trust Him.

When a man has hope he will face all odds. He will face trial and difficulty with courage and fortitude. And remember we are talking about Christian hope.

But the greatest of these is love. Hate begets hate and fear begets fear, but love is the greatest conqueror of all. Love bears and forbears, it forgives and embraces. Remember, Christ loves you. Go out in faith and hope and love.

+++++  
FRANCIS MADDEN L.A.B., L.T.C.L.  
resumes tuition in Piano Theory  
FEBRUARY 3RD, 1970  
PHONE ST. MARYS 71  
+++++

=	ST. MARYS	=	
=	DALE WRIGHT	=	
=	OILS	AGENT FOR SHELL	=
=	GREASES	=	
=	FUELS	=	
=	DETERGENTS	=	
=	PHONE	St. Marys 186	=

PORTLAND COUNCIL NOTES

CROWN SUB-DIVISION - MUSSEL ROE BAY

Councillor A. Russell reported that thirty Launceston shack owners attended a meeting of the Poole Progress Association at Mussel Roe Bay. The meeting unanimously resolved that the Minister for Lands, a surveyor from the Lands and Surveys Dept. and a member of Council should be invited to confer with representatives of the Association. The purpose of the conference is to endeavour to preserve shack sites to all present owners because some sites have been named by the Surveyor-General as temporary leases only and he has indicated that ten present lots are in the path of a proposed access road.

Councillor Russell notified Council that a petition in the prescribed form would be prepared by the secretary, Mrs. J.L. Genders of Launceston and presented to the February meeting of the Council. An invitation was extended to the Warden, Mr. Fysh and the Mayor of Launceston, Alderman Green to attend an informal meeting with other northern wardens for the purpose of discussing the Bell Bay Link.

Council resolved that the Warden, Mr. Fysh and one other Councillor should attend.

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GOOD CAMPING RECIPE

- 1 pkt Rolled oats
- 1 pkt dried apple or apricots (chopped)
- 1/2 lb raisins
- 4 tab. brown sugar
- 2 pkts cashew nuts (chopped)

Mix all together and store in air-tight container. This nourishing meal may be eaten dry or with milk and cream.

+	THE CARLYE	+
+	FULL FASHION RANGE FOR CHILDREN	+
+	and ADULTS	+
+	Main Street St. Helens Phone 167	+

International Girl Guide Camp held in Victoria, January 6th to 15th.

Janine Spilsbury and Lorraine Herring, two members of St.Marys Girl Guide Company feel they were very lucky to be able to attend this Camp with 1200 guides, 200 coming from overseas including the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Luxemburg, Tonga, United Kingdom, Korea and Taiwan. Janine was chosen as a Patrol leader of the Centaur Group and this we considered an honour for our company. The following letter from Lorraine and Janine gives a brief picture of their trip.

"After a smooth air trip from Launceston we arrived in Melbourne and were transported to the Olympic Pool Bus Park. Here we said good-bye to each other and went off to make new friends from all over the world, each being directed to different groups. The groups named Centaur, Orion, Taurus, Argo, Leo and Eridanus, were further divided into patrols and the patrols from within each group worked together.

A bus was allotted to each group and soon we were on a 2 hour journey to Britannia Park at Yarra Junction. On arrival at our camp site we were soon all working together at our camp duties and we were glad to retire after such a tiring day. On the following day everybody had become acquainted and we were enjoying getting to know a lot about Guiding in other countries.

Lady Hasluck, Australian President, made the official opening on Thursday, January 8th and at a campfire on that night International Guides presented items; these included a Divisional Square Dance by 10 Guides from Canada in brightly coloured dresses.

During the camp trips were arranged to the Healesville Sanctuary and here Lorraine patted a Koala and is hoping her pictures of these cute little animals come out. Both of us saw the Platypus and enjoyed the trip to Maroondah Dam.

On Saturday night International Items included a spectacular Peacock Dance from Thailand, the dancer's red, gold and silver costume being adorned with bells and peacock feathers.

+++++  
+ DEBRA LEE BEAUTY SALON +  
+ Phone St.Helens 196 +  
+ Permanent Waving. Tinting a +  
+ Specialty. +  
+++++

All Guides joined in Denominational Services in the morning and at a Combined Guides Own in the evening Guides presented prayers and readings in their own language which were then translated into English and a Guide from India presented a Ceremonial Dance.

During the course of the camp all Guides attempted the Endeavour Challenge which called for participation in the eight point programme of Guiding. We were thrilled to receive our pennant and thoroughly enjoyed working for it. The Pioneer Section included exciting rope work, crossing rope bridges and climbing scramble nets, all this made more difficult by a wet day.

For Craft work Lorraine made a copper enamel pendant and Janine did leather work all of which was very interesting and great fun.

As we had to learn something of another country's culture Makorenga Ititake from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands taught Lorraine a fun song which we are all going to learn this year.

This is a very brief account of a very wonderful experience and we would both like to thank the Local Association and the people of St.Marys who have made it possible for us to attend this Camp.

Janine Spilsbury  
Lorraine Herring.

+ + + + +

HANDY HINTS:

Rose Water: A few drops of rose water added occasionally to jars of face cream in the hot weather prevents the cream from drying out.

Lip Brush: Eye-shadow is easier to apply if you use a lip brush such as is sold for applying lipstick. Keep one specially for eye-shadow.

Bathtime: A handful of oatmeal in your bath water acts as a good beauty treatment and also prevents scum on the bath.

+ + + + +

BP Phone St.Marys 113  
Service Station  
B & J SPILSBURY  
24 Hour Towing Service and Breakdown Service  
Cartage Contractor  
Agent For Chain Saws, Victor Mowers  
BP Petrol, Oil & Greases.

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+ FOR ALL YOUR FARMING +  
+ REQUIREMENTS +  
+ SEE US +  
+ FIRST +  
+ A.G. Webster & +  
+ Woolgrowers Ltd. +  
+++++

## REPRODUCTIVELY SPEAKING

by

T. J. McManus. B.V.Sc. M.R.C.V.S.

Twelve months ago no-one in his wildest dreams imagined that by now pasture normality could be restored to then parched district. Nevertheless the miracle has happened and farmers are now embarrassed by an abundance of food and a shortage of stock to eat it.

Some of the animals too are embarrassed by the unusual circumstances. Cows which have seen relatively little clover in the past two years are now up to their knees in it. In addition the pasture and weather situation which we normally ascribe to Spring, has persisted through into January with accompanying moans about spoiled hay and so on. Another more insidious effect is that of pasture oestrogens.

Clover contains hormones which can be mostly tolerated in balanced circumstances. However where clover dominance persists for a long period these hormones affect the reproductive cycles of animals. One result is that cows thought to be in calf return to service suddenly and continue to do so every three weeks until finally they conceive, usually when pastures dry off.

This state of affairs inevitably means that many cows will come in late next season unless the problem is recognized early and something done about it. Two courses of action are available. The first is obvious, viz. to move cows to paddocks where clover is diluted by grasses and additionally diluting the feed with hay supplements. Hay is welcomed by cattle on very succulent pastures; it is also necessary to aid digestion and prevent them going off after bracken and other toxic plants.

The second line of defence is to arrange for a veterinary surgeon to give problem cows an injection to counteract the effect of the pasture oestrogens. This works well but is rather expensive if a large number of animals is involved.

A complicating factor is that infectious infertility which may have been present unrecognized in a herd, can be greatly potentiated by lush feed conditions. For this reason a farmer must not assume that because his cows are returning that clover is necessarily the cause. Report instances of this to your veterinary surgeon and at the same time keep accurate records of the breeding behaviour of individual cows.

Good breeding records can often show at a glance to a trained person whether or not an infectious venereal disease like Vibriosis is likely to be present. Further tests which are available free can prove the point conclusively. Finally, if you suspect trouble don't blind your eyes to it. The Department of Agriculture frequently receives requests from farmers in March for assistance with repeat breeder cows. This is far too late and even if anything can be done, calling is almost inevitable on the basis of late calving.

\* \* \* \* \*

## GARDEN

## NOTES

by Seedpod

At this time of the year, most gardeners will be concentrating on cleaning up and preparing for autumn and winter sowing, both in the flower and vegetable garden.

Legumes, such as peas or beans, are a valuable source of nitrogen to the soil and should be dug in rather than carted away and burnt. This can be done now and the ground prepared for an autumn or winter root crop. Work the soil over well, incorporating sand, leaf mould, straw and any other litter, without bringing the sub-soil to the top. Thoroughly work this into the soil leaving no clods or lumps of earth, though a few small stones will do no harm.

Points to Remember: Do not be too ambitious as to the number of varieties grown.

Do not over crowd the area available.

If any plant or crop appears diseased or not to be doing well, it is far better for the ordinary home gardener not to persist with it when there are so many that may show good results.

Treat seedlings prior to and during planting with the utmost care, especially in warm weather. Keep them out of the sun and wind with the tender roots well protected in damp material, so that they will not dry out.

Vegetables will not do well in water logged ground, but adequate watering is absolutely necessary.

During the warm months, water daily while the plants are young. Always water with a fine spray and make sure that the water is going down into the soil.