

GOV'T. STATIONS DO SPLENDID WORK

MOUNTAIN GROVE, Mo., is a pretty town on the Frisco's Southern division, sixty-seven miles from Springfield, Mo. It is the home of two government experiment stations which have been established for many years and which are doing much to further the interests of the poultry and fruit industries in Missouri.

The Missouri State Poultry Experiment Station is in charge of Mr. T. W. Noland and was established in 1911, and the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station has been established since 1899 and is in charge of F. W. Faurot.

The grounds of the poultry station occupy forty acres and are dotted with approximately ninety buildings of various kinds. It is purely an experimental station and therefore houses breeding stock and hatching eggs for experimental purposes. Spring will find some 3,000 baby chicks at the station, but they are not for sale, and will be used by the station.

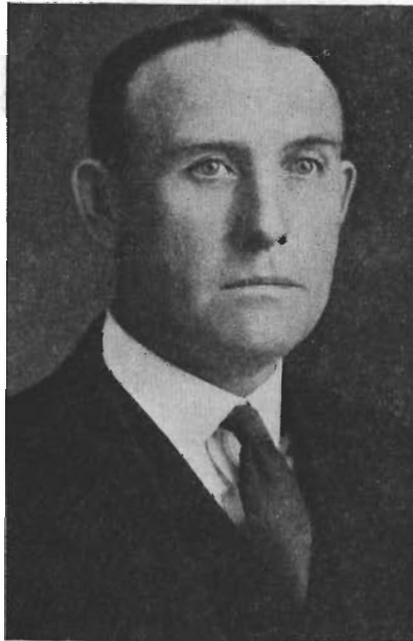
There is on the grounds one of the best equipped laboratories for blood tests and investigations of various diseases of poultry to be found in the state. More than 30,000 hens passed through this laboratory last year. The most prevalent disease which is found is white diarrhoea, the only hereditary disease found in poultry. When a breeder brings several of his hens in to be tested and this disease is found, the station officials recommend and insist that the birds be put on the market for consumption. They are all right for table consumption, but their elimination and a fresh tested flock insures the breeder that he is free from this disease. The birds are tested for three cents each on accredited birds, and five cents each on birds which have never been tested. W. A. Hovis is in charge of the laboratory at this station and has been in this capacity for the last seven years.

One of the most important and interesting features of the station is the national egg laying contest which is conducted each year. A National Egg Laying contest was started by the Stors Agricultural College of Stors, Conn., in 1911, but the one instituted by this station is of great importance to breeders of the middlewest in particular.

Breeders throughout the country each send six pullets, one a reserve.

Two Institutions At Mountain Grove, Mo., Assist In Poultry and Fruit Raising

There are thirty pens of heavy breeds and thirty pens of light breeds. The pullets are given the best of care and attention, and with a system of trap-nesting installed, an accurate record is kept of the eggs layed. They are kept at the station from November



T. W. NOLAND

1 to October 31, and at the end of the year the record is summed up and the winning pen receives a large Silver Cup and \$15.00 in cash. A small silver cup is given each month to the pen making the best record. The best record ever made in this contest to date, was in 1928, when a White Leghorn pullet belonging to Eden C. Booth of Pleasant Hill, Mo., laid 326 eggs during the year. A pen of Barred Rocks from Morton, Pa., won the 1929 contest and produced 1,379 eggs, or an average of 275.8 eggs per bird. The figures for the year of 1930 have not as yet been compiled.

It was unfortunate that during the 1929 contest, an Australorp hen, owned by Kebeyun Farm, Pittsford, Vermont, completed the year with an official record of 317 eggs, the highest individual record in the contest. However, this hen was a re-

serve hen and could not compete for the official record.

Entrance fee to the contest is \$10.00 and the station receives the eggs which they sell as hatching eggs, and last year approximately \$10,000 was realized from sale of these eggs.

Perhaps it might be well to explain to those not familiar with poultry, the types of lighter and heavier breeds. Among the lighter breeds will be found the Leghorns, Minorca, Andalusians, Anconas and Games, as well as others. This lighter breed have small bodies and will weigh between four and five pounds. The heavier breeds consist of the Rocks, Reds, Wyandottes, Orpingtons, Jersey Grants, Brahmas and others and weigh between six and ten pounds.

Those who desire to start pens of prize-winning poultry flocks find it advantageous to buy their hatching eggs from the station, where they can purchase at a nominal figure. The station has in mind the establishment of pure bred, healthy flocks in Missouri and the surrounding country, and their interest is in this direction rather than in making a profit on the eggs.

There are always as many as fifteen different states represented in this National Egg Laying Contest, and for several years England and the Hawaiian Islands have had pens. In addition to this contest, the station conducts a State Pullet Contest each year for Missouri entries only. This is conducted along the same lines as the big contest, but develops the best Missouri pen. The station is under the supervision of the State Poultry Board and under Mr. Noland's management is doing a wonderful work to improve the poultry flocks of Missouri.

Diversified farming, which is being sponsored, takes in, besides the excellent poultry flock, a healthy orchard, and the State Fruit Experiment Station is doing a great work in finding fruit trees adaptable to Missouri soil.

According to Mr. Faurot, superintendent, the station's activities are two-fold; the creation of new varieties and the testing of known varieties.

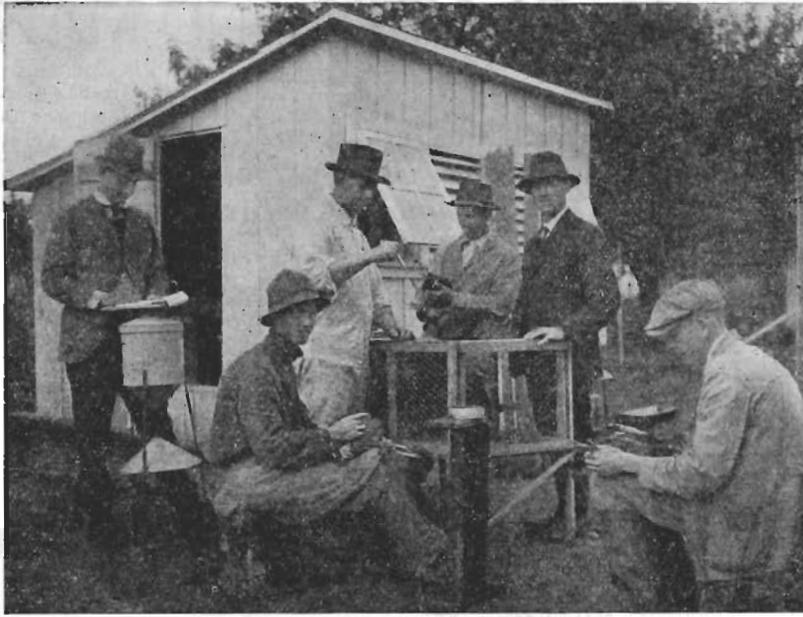
The office is located on a slight hill overlooking a great part of the 190 acres set in fruit trees and grapes. A trip by automobile over the farm proved most interesting. Here one may see trees of all ages,

from yearlings to full grown producing trees. A cherry orchard of two-year-old trees was in full bloom and Mr. Faurot said that with good weather, there would be an excellent crop of cherries, peaches, grapes, pears and apples. The apple trees are in bud and a few more days of warm sunshine will cause them to burst open into fragrant blossoms.

It may be interesting to those only casually interested in the varieties of apples to know that there are more than 5,000 known varieties. There are approximately 500 varieties now at the station. There are also 150 varieties of peach and fifty varieties each of cherries, plums and pears now at the station; 260 varieties of grapes and 80 or 90 varieties of strawberries.

Through grafting and other means, this station is accredited with creating new varieties of many of these fruits, but the "find" is not jealously guarded and is turned over to a nursery to be advertised and sponsored.

Many of the fruit trees are at this time undergoing a pruning operation. Great care is used in pruning the trees. Besides all care exercised as to how much to cut from the longer limbs, after they are cut off the excess is weighed and an accurate record kept to show the growth during



Judging poultry at the government experiment station at Mountain Grove, Mo.

the year. This process is adopted on grape vines.

Soil management and fertilizing are other features which are stressed at the station, and several rows of grapes are treated in one way, and the next few rows in another, and at the end of the year the growth of each is noted. The use of cover crops is also employed, such as rye, peas, millet, etc.

Mr. Faurot discussed at length the fruit situation in Missouri and the surrounding country. Up until about three decades ago, he said, orchardists

This view of the government fruit station at Mountain Grove, Mo., was taken from a window of the office building.

did not believe in spraying. Now it has become necessary, but many of the farmers feel that the spraying equipment and work it entails, and the hazard of growing a fruit crop is not worth the effort. This has caused a great depreciation in the acreage. One of the largest orchards in and around Mountain Grove is one of 1,000 acres just out of Cedar Gap, Mo. In fact there are more large orchards, and farms, strictly devoted to the cultivation of fruit, than there are farms with small orchards.

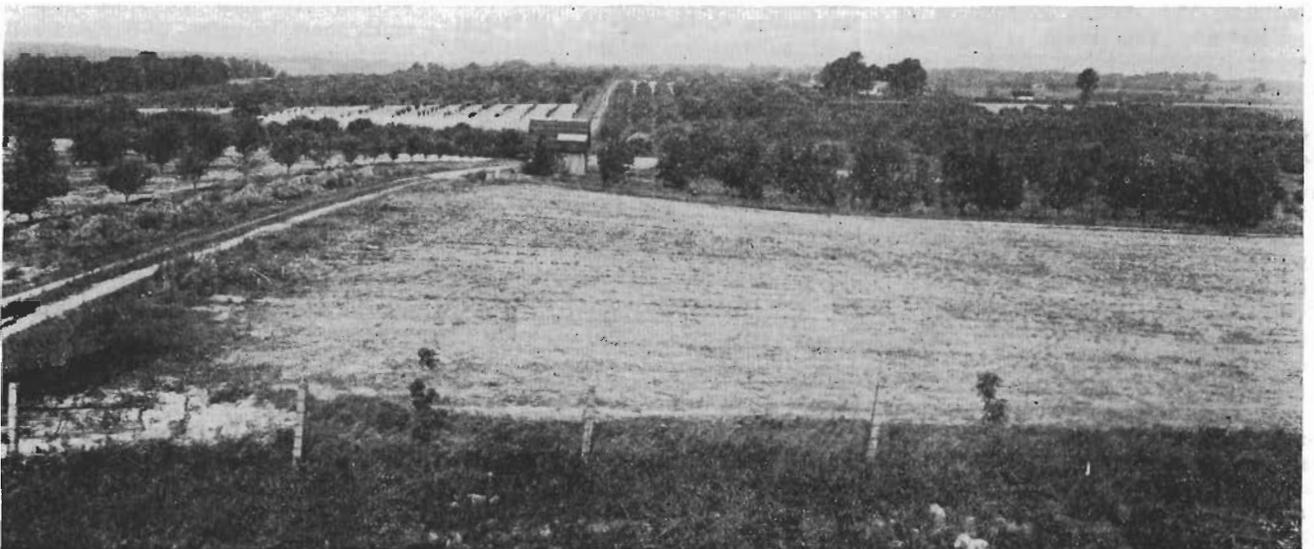
The station is equipped with a lab-

oratory, and has a small greenhouse, where seedling apple trees and other fruit trees are started and later set out in the open.

W. J. Christian is the extension man from the station. He goes out only on organized work, and his time is kept fully occupied with associations in the surrounding country. J. W. Hitt is Mr. Faurot's assistant.

Fruit gathered from the orchards at the station is sold in season, and when there is an excess of yearling trees these are also sold.

Both stations are doing excellent work, and both are widely known to both poultry and orchard men of Missouri. The work of each has had a far-reaching effect on both the poultry flocks and orchards.



SHE KNEW CHARLOTTE AND MAXIMILIAN

THERE are few members of the Frisco family who, in their lavender-scented years, can recall such scenes and times and places and people as "Aunt Katie" Kentling. For Aunt Katie is an unusual character in many ways. First and foremost she is the sole survivor of Emperor Maximilian's wild venture, and her life's history has been fashioned around her home in Vienna, Austria.

Long ago in the romantic days of queens and emperors and courts of honor, Aunt Katie would never have believed that she would have ended her days in America—that the fate of Emperor Maximilian's venture would be a disastrous one, or that she would live to know of the death of the "Mad Empress" Charlotte, daughter of King Leopold I of Belgium, and the bosom friend of this 94-year-old woman.

But the pattern which Aunt Katie's life has woven, is worked out to a few short panels. Its pattern was a gay one, but every so often a dark streak is woven into it which stands for disappointment, death and grief. Aunt Katie has known them all, and as she sits in the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. B. Forrester, at Springfield, Mo., she is working out the last few panels of the colorful pattern. She is also the grandmother of Mrs. W. W. Holmes and Mr. Holmes is employed in the Frisco's north roundhouse at Springfield, Mo., as machinist.

Aunt Katie does not look as she once did, yet as she sits in her chair, her snow white hair framing a face of rugged beauty, one need only to erase the wrinkles in memory and imagine her as the vivacious queen of the ball, the smiling companion of counts and countesses, a dignified, grand and impressive figure in the gay life of Austria's capitol.

"Life isn't as sweet as it once was," was Aunt Katie's first and last remark in the recent interview which was granted the *Frisco Magazine*. Her life has always been full of exciting incidents, and in her younger days she was an athletic type. She loved canoeing and swimming, and three times saved one of her fellow countrymen from death. The incidents came to the attention of the Austrian government and a gold medal was awarded her for her bravery. This medal reposes among her most cherished possessions.

But let us start with Aunt Katie's marriage. When a young girl she met William Heide, a young musician of

"Aunt Katie" Kentling, Secure In Springfield, Tells of Famous Venture In Mexico

Austria. His one ambition in life was to become a great bandmaster and composer. She was ambitious that his dream be realized and worked with him toward that end, and it was not long before he became leader of a band and conductor of a great musical organization in Vienna.

About this time, Maximilian, backed by the support of Napoleon III, and



"AUNT KATIE" KENTLING

Franz Joseph, was laying plans to form an expedition and capture Mexico. Heide was appointed by Maximilian to the position of the official bandmaster of the expedition, much to Aunt Katie's delight. The expedition embarked in 1864, and Aunt Katie was allowed to accompany her husband.

Aunt Katie never once thought of defeat, and her first realization of a crisis came when her beloved empress left Mexico to re-enlist the aid of the European powers which had fostered the expedition. Then news came of the loss of Charlotte's reason when her pleas were not answered. Emperor Maximilian was also in ill health.

Then an earthquake came and shook the Mexican city, buildings were destroyed and Aunt Katie's husband was injured. History records the events which followed, how Maxi-

milian's cabinet deserted him, and the Austrian frigate, Elizabeth, lay at anchor off Vera Cruz awaiting the abdication and departure of the emperor. Maximilian refused to take advantage of a way to escape, preferring to remain with the few fol-

lowers which had remained loyal to him. When news of his capture was known, William Heide and his wife were still at the palace, Heide nursing his injuries. With the aid of President Porfirio Diaz, Aunt Katie and her husband effected an escape. They made their way to the coast where they were given passage to New Orleans. Her husband, incapacitated as he was, managed to earn enough for their passage on a river packet to St. Louis and six months after arriving in St. Louis he succumbed to injuries. Twelve days later Aunt Katie gave birth to a baby girl.

For a time this proud daughter of Austria had to accept charity, but not for long. With the baby strapped to her back she scrubbed floors. She was lonely, without friends, without funds, and it seemed to her that she had drunk deep from the cup of disappointment.

And then Aunt Katie, lonely for companionship, met a young German trader from the Ozarks. Friendship ripened into love and she married him and went to live near Highlandville, Mo. And as the wife of this German trader, Aunt Katie entered into a new world. She must master a new language, she must learn to cope with situations, she must learn to cook and bake and care for her husband and baby. But Aunt Katie learned these things and more. She learned to watch the store and to make sharp bargains, to buy and sell, and to cook. She became famous for her wonderful gingerbread, which she sold for five cents a slice, and the slice was a generous one.

Wild life was abundant in the region near her home, and there were an abundance of wild flowers as well. Aunt Katie found great comfort and enjoyment in her new surroundings. She adapted herself admirably and quickly to her new conditions and led a happy life. And this gay figure of Austrian court life again held the admiration of all in her new surroundings when she proudly displayed the first cook stove ever to be seen in that part of Missouri.

And now and then one would find her reading a letter with a strange
(Now turn to Page 29, please)

OLD TIMERS MEET AT FT. SMITH

Forty Year Men Hold Second Annual Reunion April 11

“THIS will not be a business meeting,” said W. H. Van Horn, president of the Frisco’s Old Timers’ Club, as he stepped from the train at Ft. Smith, where the second annual meeting of that organization was held on April 11.

And it wasn’t!

If it had been the meeting of an auxiliary to the organization one could have called it a “gab fest,” for in reality its sole purpose is to get the retired veterans with forty or more years’ service together in a group several times a year, when they can review old times, old scenes, old experiences.

And did those 18 veterans present review them? They made it so real that the outsider would have thought that the incident happened but a day or two before. They put color into those stories of pioneer railroading, and as one story after another was recalled the interest grew more intense.

Somebody made the remark that there must not be a tendency to allow the meetings of this group to grow serious. With half a lifetime behind them a few wondered if the next meeting would find the group intact, or how many would have signed their last order before the year rolled around. But on April 11 all these thoughts were pushed into the background. There was no room for them in the full day of events.

There wasn’t a happier, gayer veteran among them than their president, Mr. Van Horn. He said the household tasks which had been heaped on his head of late, due to spring house cleaning and the recent

slight illness of Mrs. Van Horn, made the trip to Ft. Smith, doubly inviting to him. In fact, fishing for ways to get out of work, he asked for a new broom. The request was denied. Then he said he’d strike and Mrs. Van Horn said she’d get out an injunction against him, and so he came to Ft. Smith to enjoy a real holiday and it came up to his expectations.

And then there were Mr. and Mrs. Dan McCarty (a few of the pensioners brought their wives and Mrs. McCarty was one of the honored few). They are going to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 21.

Emil Sebastian, retired conductor of Cape Girardeau, Mo., has seven daugh-

ters and their first names all begin with “E,” Emily, Eunice—oh, he said he didn’t have his mind on it and couldn’t name them all.

Henry M. Cox, a retired machinist of Kansas City, was proud of the fact that his father was the first man hired by the old Missouri River, Ft. Scott and Gulf railroad in Kansas City.

Chas. Vance, a retired engineer from Fayetteville, Ark., attended his first meeting. He’s a most interesting old veteran—old only in years, for he’s hale and hearty. He’s got an old watch that he bought in Monett in ’65, and carried on the engine with him from 1885 to the time of his retirement, August 10, 1914. It’s kept perfect time and has the original crystal.

And so the morning passed. Here and there little groups formed in the hotel lobby, and before anybody knew it, it was 12:30 and time for luncheon.

If the health of these veterans is measured by their appetite—there wasn’t a sick one in the bunch. They made short order of the fruit cocktail, and the roast beef and au gratin potatoes, as well as the salad, coffee, ice cream and cake. The hot rolls disappeared like lightning, and the coffee pot was passed time and again.

Then they settled back in their chairs for the program. After a few short words of welcome, Mr. Van Horn turned the meeting over to George Daniels, retired engineer, and the only member of the club residing at Ft. Smith. All thanks for the splendid meeting were due him, for he had made the arrangements and there was no fault to find with any of them.

Mr. Daniels called on his buddies, (Now turn to Page 28, please)

The service records of the group of veterans in the above photograph total 821 years and 5 months. They have all served Frisco Lines forty or more years, and are, reading from left to right: Emil Sebastian, Sr., Thomas L. Hasler, S. L. Coover, James A. Woodson, Patrick H. Lillis, Geo. W. Daniels (vice-president of the club), George F. Robson, Chas. A. Baltzell, J. W. Morrill, J. A. Buckley, Byron Callender, Henry M. Cox, G. P. Goodrich (guest), Albert Carlson, C. B. Coleman, J. T. Walsh, Daniel McCarthy, Wm. D. Bassett (secretary of club), Charles G. Vance, Wm. H. Van Horn (president), J. E. Woodward, Martha C. Moore, Wm. Henry. The picture was taken in Ft. Smith on April 11.



ENGINEER'S WIFE COLLECTS ANTIQUES

MRS. J. W. BALKE, of Clinton, Mo., will tell you that the antique business is not all that it's "cracked up to be." In other words, along with the cracks that come with age and use, one must have most discerning judgment to pick out an antique.

She is deeply interested in antiques. What first was the gratification of a desire of her own for a few pieces of old furniture, has developed into a good sized business which she conducts in a most business-like way.

Mrs. Balke is the wife of a Frisco engineer. About twelve years ago an uncle gave her a very valuable old table, an heirloom. She placed it in a conspicuous part of her home and as she looked at it she longed for an old picture to go above it. She soon acquired the picture. Then the nook just seemed to call for a chair to be placed beside the table. This she acquired also, and with it the hobby and business of collecting antiques.

Today one steps into a home replete with priceless possessions. Furniture of various periods are placed attractively in the beautiful living room which runs the full length of the house. The dining room holds another priceless collection and one leaves the present world for George Washington's time when one steps into one of her bedrooms. Old marble slab bureaus, huge chests of drawers, old time prints, and canopied beds make the visitor gasp with envy.

She has been most successful for two reasons; first she is thoroughly interested in the collection of this old time furniture and second, she has worked hard to find the pieces she wanted. She has made it a profitable hobby and yet the prices she asks for the lovely old pieces which she finds and refinishes, are modest, for she says the greatest thrill is in finding them and securing them, and then in being able to please her customers, and she has customers—from

Mrs. J. W. Balke of Clinton, Mo., Has Profitable Hobby

Texas to New York and she doesn't recall all the states in between.

When she found her home did not fit in with the antiques which she bought, she sold the place and secured a beautiful Colonial type home which sets off her treasures.

She feels that she has in her long sideboard, the prized possession of them all. The sideboard is a Shera-

secured each piece.

In the living room is a beautiful, highly polished bell-metal brass kettle. The metal is the same kind used in making bells. She says she saw it in the backyard of a home and the woman was using it to carry feed and water to the chickens. At first she positively refused to sell it because she said it was the only thing that would not crack in cold weather. But Mrs. Balke finally claimed the possession at a nominal figure.

"Where do I find them?" she said. "Well, it would be interesting to tell you. Just everywhere, but mostly in attics and barns, stored away and oftentimes leaning up against a shed, and the occupants of the home do not realize what they have."

An old-fashioned spinning wheel and a melodion are two possessions which she prizes, and she has an old piano carved from walnut which she secured for \$25.00 and for which she has been offered tempting prices.

Old clocks, with quaint prints on the dials adorn her walls, and she has any number of Currier and Ives prints, which are well known and treasured. She also has an original Girandole candle set, and a collection of milk glass lamps, china and cologne bottles.

Each of her bedrooms is furnished exquisitely in antique furniture and each of the beds are of a different period and many of them cannot be replaced. She can give you at the moment the history of each, where she secured it and the offers she has had for it, but as previously stated, she has picked out the most unusual and delightful old pieces to remain in her home permanently.

She does not keep an excessive supply on hand at all times, but gets a piece, cleans and waxes it and places it in her lovely home where it shows to best advantage. Mixed in with her permanent possessions it

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Mrs. Balke is shown above seated at an old-fashioned secretary, in her living room, amid her antique furniture.

ton, and came from England. It is six feet long and a massive and beautifully designed piece. She secured it at Garden City, Mo., through a chance remark of a friend. Hearing of it she made a trip to Garden City and when she viewed the sideboard, she said her heart stopped. She paid \$25.00 for it and it was so large that a window had to be taken from the house to remove it.

She had it carefully crated and sent to her home, and when it had been cleaned and waxed, her first offer for it was \$1,500.00. It can never be replaced, so she says, and will never leave her home, for with it go six chairs and a massive banquet table, all of them with a history.

Should one stay for dinner, she would serve food from real English or German plates, cups and saucers. Old glass bowls, jelly dishes and a pewter cream and sugar adorns the table, and she remembers where she