

BIRD-RAISING PROVES FASCINATING PASTIME

By GEORGE BUTLER
One hundred pets is nothing unusual for a Fayetteville couple.

Pets in assorted colors, pets that talk, sing and do acrobats... That is what makes bird-raising a fascinating hobby for Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Hockaday of 606 McPherson Ave.

A clerk in the postoffice here, Hockaday spends a good part of his sparetime raising lovebirds, canaries and cockatiels—a small Australian parrot. There is a keen demand for the birds and Hockaday occasionally sells one, but he

raises them as a hobby, not for profit.

He points out, however, that it can be turned into a lucrative business. A bird-raiser in Texas makes a tidy \$50,000 each year on his birds, after starting out with a "nest egg" of \$20.

Hockaday has constructed modern, sanitary pens in the backyard of his home and raises the feathered creatures in scientific fashion. The pens have concrete floors, are well screened to keep out cats and other intruders, and have automatic feeders and waterers.

Hockaday has been interested



GREENSBORO POST OFFICE

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in birds most of his life. As a youth in Angier, he worked in his father's combination postoffice and store, kept birds on the second floor. During the past 30 years he has raised nearly every kind of pet bird, but right now is concentrating on lovebirds, cockatiels and red factor canaries.

Some of the red canaries fetch from \$100 to \$250 each, he said, and Hockaday hopes to breed some of this quality. The price, it seems, depends upon the color. These bright colored birds came from mating a wild siskin with a canary.

The ones Hockaday possesses are mixed in color and not too valuable. But he is hoping to acquire birds of an all-over red or deep orange. Then he will mate the red and orange and see what happens. Colors of the red factor canaries never fade, he explains, which makes them valuable.

The parakeets or love birds also offer an interesting study in color. Hockaday's original pair of lovebirds were green and their offspring have been white, green, blue, and yellow. "There's no telling what color you'll get in a lovebird."

The first blue lovebirds were raised in China, he said, and brought \$4,000 a pair. They have become quite common now, but are still in high demand as pets.

In addition to their color, lovebirds make interesting pets because of their loving nature, their talent in whistling and talking, and their acrobatics. "Just like little monkeys," Hockaday declares. "They climb and suspend themselves by their bills, play with mirrors and trinkets, and have a lot of fun."

If raised by hand, the male lovebird can be taught to talk. For some reason, the female never acquires this ability. The same holds true for the cockatiel.

The female lovebird lays an egg each day and will spend most of her lifetime nesting, if nests are available. The male is a dutiful husband and provides for her while

AFL Union Establishes Scholarships



New York.—Officials of the AFL Building Service Employees and Columbia University participate in Local 32B's first annual scholarship day marking establishment of 16 four-year scholarships, worth \$4,800 each, to Columbia and Barnard Colleges for union members and their children. L. T. AFL Vice-President William L. McPetridge, president Building Service Employees; President David Sullivan of Local 32B; Associate Dean of Barnard College Lorna F. McGuire, and Retiring Dean of Columbia College Harry J. Carman.

she is nesting. She in turn feeds the young ones.

The baby lovebirds are born "all bill and head" and remain on the nest until a month old. At that time they are full-feathered and as large as their parents. Hockaday said the only way he can tell the young from their parents is by small "zebra stripes" on head of the young. These stripes disappear as the bird gets older.

Sex of the lovebird can be determined by a small spot above the bill. If the spot is blue, it's a male; if brown, a female.

"A Little Bird Told Me" is not just another song for the Hockadays. There is a lot of truth in the statement, for the birds are always "teaching us things." It's an educational and interesting pastime—this job of raising birds.

—Fayetteville Observer.

WIN TEXTILE PLANT

Andalusia, Pa. — The AFL United Textile Workers won bargaining rights for the Margold Ribbon Mills, Inc., by a 2-1 vote in a National Labor Relations Board election.

ARRANGE THROUGH BUS TO CLEVELAND

HEEL FED, and Chester L. Stephenson, Vice-President, NC-FPOC, have completed negotiations with the Queen City Bus lines for one or more chartered busses to carry Carolina delegates and visitors to the National Convention and return at a substantial savings in round trip fare.

Present plans call for one or more new air-conditioned Silver Liner busses to leave Fayetteville on Saturday, August 19. Announcements have been circulated throughout the state and as soon as all replies are in, a route will be mapped through conveniently located intermediary Carolina points. The busses will run straight through to Cleveland with rest stops only and will return by an alternate route.

Interested persons are asked to write to Carolina Caravan, Box 151, Fort Bragg, N. C. Round trip fare has been set at a flat \$20 per person which represents an average saving of 20% in addition to the time-saving charter.

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