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The Mini Page



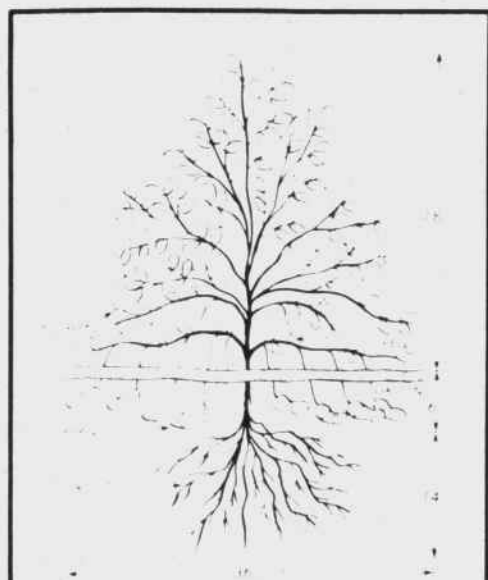
Distinguished Achievement Awards Winner 1975

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By BETTY DEBNAM

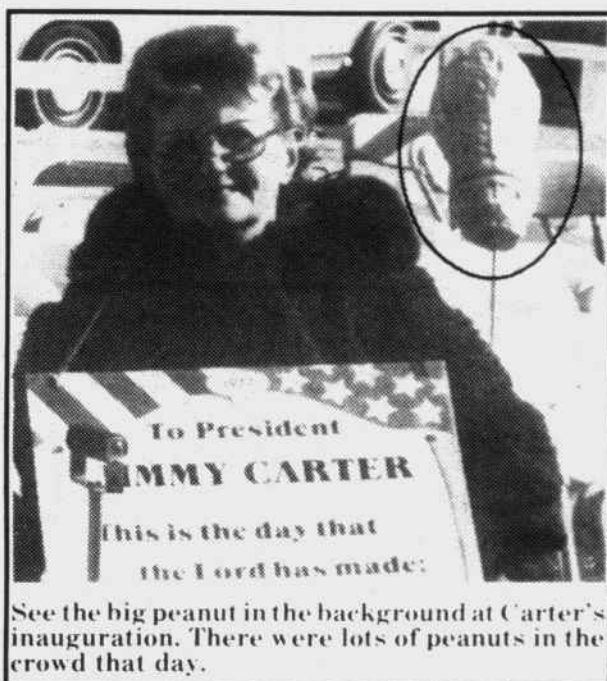
With Farmer Carter in the White House . . .

The Little Peanut Makes It Big!

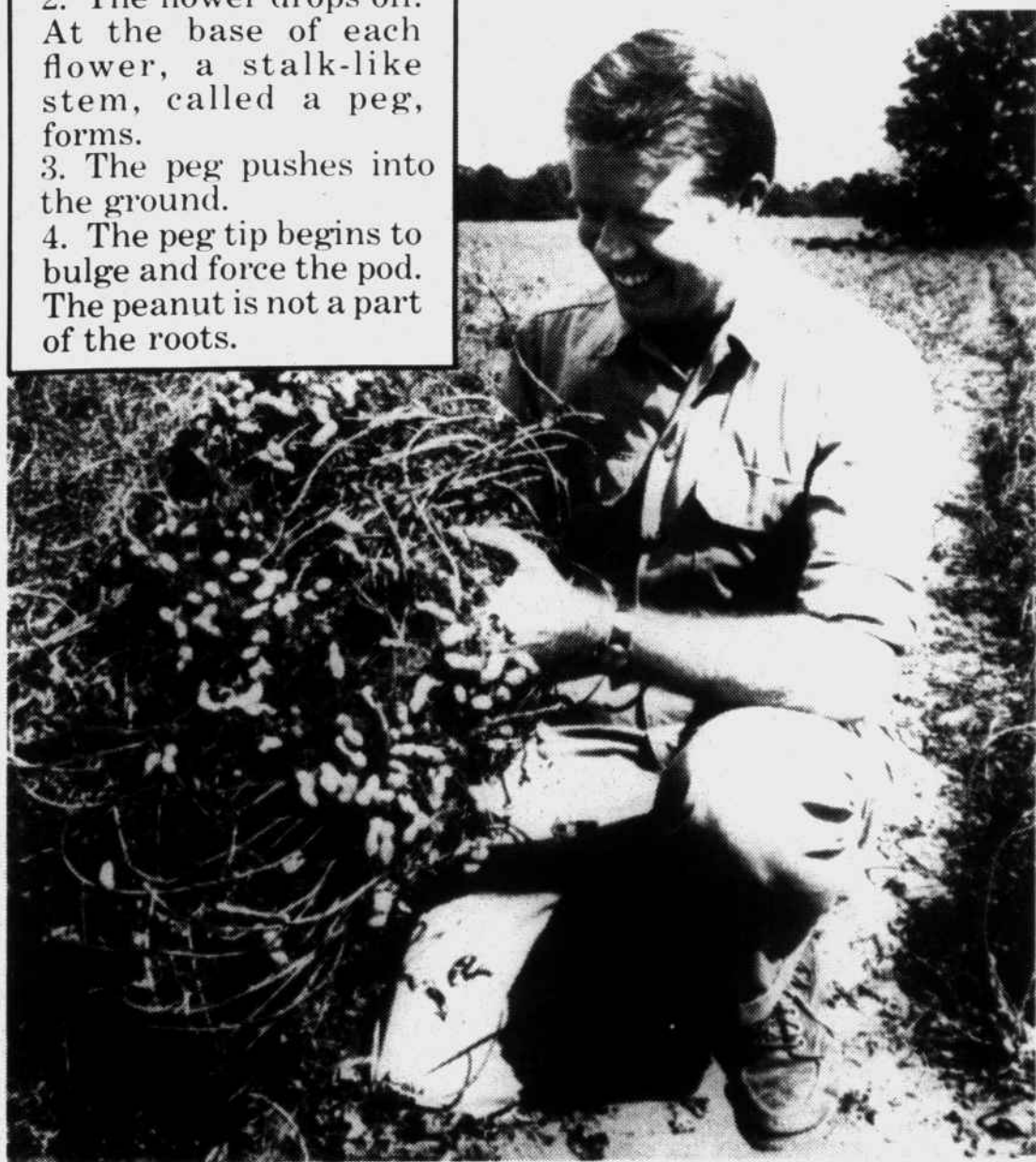


How Peanuts Grow

1. A flower blossoms.
2. The flower drops off. At the base of each flower, a stalk-like stem, called a peg, forms.
3. The peg pushes into the ground.
4. The peg tip begins to bulge and force the pod. The peanut is not a part of the roots.



See the big peanut in the background at Carter's inauguration. There were lots of peanuts in the crowd that day.



Jimmy Carter in the peanut fields in Plains, Georgia.

This country is nutty about peanuts. Eighty-five out of 100 homemakers serve peanut butter. The average American eats 8 pounds of peanuts in some form each year.

And now, the peanut has entered politics and won!

Campaign workers traveling with candidate Carter called themselves "The Peanut Brigade."

A huge, 40-foot-long peanut balloon was one of the highlights of Carter's inaugural parade.

Peanuts are one of the world's oldest foods.

They were first discovered growing in South America by Spanish explorers.

The explorers took the peanuts to Spain and planted them.

They took the peanuts to Africa and traded them for elephant tusks and spices.

African slaves brought peanuts or "goobers" to this country.

At first, Americans didn't like peanuts much. They thought of them as food for the poor.

During the Civil War, soldiers started carrying "goobers" around in their pockets as snacks.

Traveling circuses carried the tasty news of roasted peanuts to the countryside. Peanuts became popular at baseball games.

In 1890, a St. Louis, Missouri, doctor discovered peanut butter.

The black scientist, George Washington Carver, came up with over 300 ways to use the peanut. He convinced farmers they could make money raising peanuts.

One farmer who has made money from peanuts is Jimmy Carter.

The power of the peanut has spread all the way to the White House.

Photo by Charles Ralston