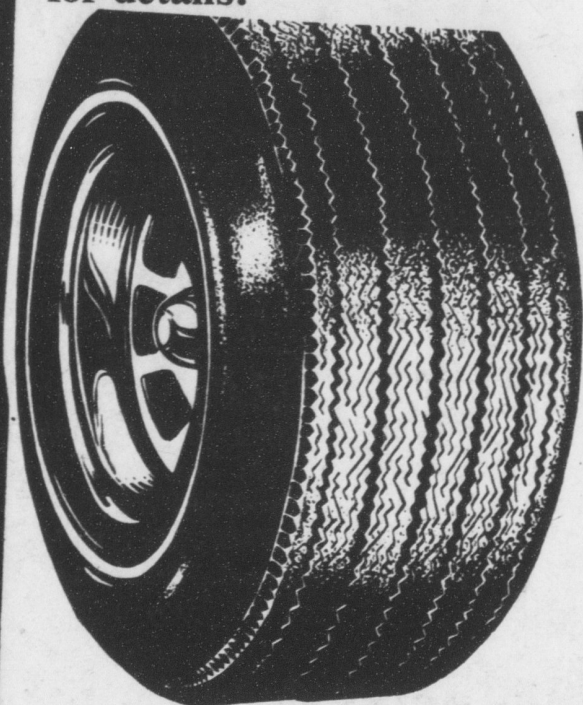


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... wild in the barnyard (cont'd)



A cockbird (male pheasant) struts in his corner of the pen. Males stake out territory at this time of year and will rip apart any other male who trespasses.

[continued from page one]

The mating patterns, as well as the violence, of some large cities are also reflected in the behavior of Mr. Sweigart's birds: "The males stake out a territory in the pen. They dare not trespass on another's territory during mating season, or they'll be pecked to pieces. To attract females, they call and put on a big display of their tail feath-

ers." The females, however, are fickle. They wander from territory to territory, and from male to male.

"Pheasants in the wild are good mothers," Ed continues, "but due to the stress of crowding, they neglect their eggs." They not only neglect to build nests (dropping the eggs anywhere) but will eat their own eggs if Ed and his wife don't pick them up every two hours. "They'll drop one, turn right around, and peck at it. They start pecking out of curiosity - they've never seen an egg before, you see - but they discover that it's good to eat." Ed throws straw in the cages to distract the birds from the eggs. If one bird eats an egg, the others can learn to do it also.

During breeding season (which is now in progress) Ed keeps 48 cockbirds and 480 hens. These will supply the 10,000 chicks for next fall's market. "I used to have six-to-one sex ratio," he explains, "but the males were too nervous. They need ten to keep them satisfied."

Once mating season is over, the male pheasants relax. "They're great friends by July," Ed notes. During the summer he has only the regular fighting frenzy to contend with.

Daisy told us that she and Ed eat the cracked eggs they pick up this time of year. She finds them "sweeter" than chicken eggs, but thinks this is because the birds lead a healthier life than the average chicken, which spends its life in a tiny, continuously-lit cage, and eats amphetamines mixed with its feed.

Like the human children in the science fiction book **Brave New World**, chicks are raised in trays in an incubator first, and then brooder. The temperature is lowered 5 degrees each week, from 100 degrees down to 70 in the six weeks after the hatching. A group of birds stays together from hatching to sale.

Before they hatch, the eggs must be tilted in a different direction every four hours to keep the yolk free. If it attaches to the shell wall, the chick can't peck its way out.

Daisy and Ed have been raising pheasants for 30 years. They started as a hobby, to supply Ed's personal game birds, and gradually expanded. To keep up with the latest discoveries in pheasant psychology, Ed subscribes to a game bird breeder's magazine. "They've discovered a lot, but there's a lot left to find out," he says.

Palm Sunday at Gloss-brenner

Palm Sunday morning worship (April 3) at Gloss-brenner United Methodist Church, Mount Joy, will include the distribution of palms to the congregation.

The Chapel Choir will sing "Allelu" by Repp. The Chancel Choir will sing "Antiphonal Hosanna" by Gregor, "Hosanna, Blessed Is He That Comes," and "The Palms" by Faure, with John F. Way, Jr., as soloist.

The Rev. Clair Wagner, Jr., pastor, will preach a concluding sermon in a Lenten series entitled "The Way of Christian Victory."

The morning worship service is at 9:30 a.m. followed by Sunday Church School at 10:30 a.m.

A Sacred Music Program presented by the Chancel Choir and Mrs. Jane Kauffman Brye, harpist, will be presented at 4:00 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., a Family Fellowship Carry-in Supper will be held in Fellowship Hall.

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