

# Magic? No, Just Write

By MARCIA W. SHANNON

Hazel Heckman (Mrs. E. D.) knows how to change one afternoon's speculation regarding "brush-picking" into a nice fat acceptance check from the Saturday Evening Post. Do you?

The ringing of the 'phone one morning last week roused her from sleep and when she answered she learned her latest article on one of the oldest but comparatively unknown Northwest industries had been purchased by the editors of the well-known weekly magazine.

Time-worn customs often appear novel to the newcomer and one afternoon while sitting in the sun on Anderson island, Mrs. Heckman, who came to Tacoma about five years ago, got to wondering about the folks she saw roaming about the woods in search of salal and huckleberry greens. She found that although the season is limited, the pay is often prodigious for the greens that are shipped all over the nation for florists' use. And after she had wondered, she started to investigate the industry. And after that she wrote about it, to the delight of the S. E. P. editors.

## Lucrative Trick

Now this is a very lucrative trick. And when word of her wizardry sped about, we sped out toward the north end and walked up the steps of a neat white home, feeling sure in a short time the formula would be our own. Mrs. Heckman also profitably writes for "Woman's Day" magazine.

Bright-eyed and brown-haired, Mrs. Heckman met us at the door and we seated ourselves in a charming room that featured bright colors and a mahogany-paneled fireplace.

"What kind of writing do you like best?" we asked.

"Well, my first article that sold was called 'Undesirable Aliens' and concerned the immigration of starlings. Another was titled 'How to Build a Bird Bath' and I sold another one about chrysanthemums. I once wrote a radio play 'Ideal Set-Up' and two magazines used some of my first poetry. At present, I'm writing a novel."

"Do you wake up in the middle of the night and jot down suddenly-thought-of phrases?"

"Oh, no, when I go to bed, I sleep."

"When genius burns, do interruptions try your patience?"

"I always answer the 'phone. And if I have to go downtown, I quit working about noon. Here's a picture of my son, Jim. He's a sophomore at Pullman."



**Author Has Magic Formula**—Even though Hazel Heckman scans a dictionary, words come easily and quickly enough to her so that her stories and articles are published in national magazines. Saturday Evening Post editors have purchased her latest, an article about brush and greens picking in the Northwest.

THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE  
AND SUNDAY LEDGER  
*Society*

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 1951

## Is It Magic?

That bit of news more surely than ever convinced us of her magic power. For her appearance gives not the slightest trace that she's old enough to have a grown-up son.

"How long have you been writing?" we asked as we regained our balance. We thought perhaps she's had beginner's luck.

"Oh, I worked for the Associated Press news bureau when I attended the University of Kansas and worked on the newspaper at Blackwell, Okla. I've taken it more seriously the past five years."

Now, thoroughly baffled, and still as far away from the mystic recipe for fame and fortune we'd come to find, we asked to see her room where she wrote. Maybe we'd uncover clues there.

"Temporarily, it's in the back bedroom because we're painting the basement. That's where I usually work."

Stymied again.  
"Aa—h, did we understand there's a man coming out to take pictures of the industry to accompany your article?"

"Yes, and I hope to be able to

go with him. He's going to make colored photographs. He is Harold Rhodenbaugh from Boise."

Well, we tried. Guess we'll just have to postpone the sleuthing and await a Saturday Evening Post's forthcoming article authorized by Hazel Heckman. Is green becoming on us?

# ANDERSON ISLAND

OTSO PT.

BALCH PASSAGE



west ranch electric  
Hiram S (HECKMAN)  
Gov. R. Digging  
No geoduck digging

Rough Lumber Co.  
READY LUMBER CO.

owned by  
Anderson Island Senior  
Club & Cemetery  
ASSOCIATION  
Rommage Sale - July 22  
Also a wedding

RARE Ben Johnson  
his wife  
RABBITTY MARY

FERRY DOCK

CLUBHOUSE

STORE  
POST OFFICE  
GARAGE

EHRICK'S  
CAMPOS

HECKMAN'S  
NORTH  
RANCH  
No geoducks  
Wholesale  
Greene

GARBAGE  
DUMP

SWAMP

SWAMPING

LAKE FLORENCE

FRIENDLY  
BREWERY

LAKE JOSEPHINE

Remind me to  
tell you about  
the day they  
buried Ted

CEMETERY

HAPPY  
HOLLOW

stay AWAY  
FROM MARY ANN

Thick &  
Thin Lumber  
Co.  
B.S. TURK, PROP.  
AMSTERDAM  
BAY

Pickle  
Billy

BARNARD'S  
BATH HOUSE

TREBLE  
BASKERVILLE  
& HOUND

The wild  
HUNGARIAN  
"IVAN THE  
TERRIBLE"

WINDY  
PETERSON

CARLSON  
BAY

COLE PT.

Lit-down  
the Hill