Plants Dating To Biblical Days Basis Of Seasonal Garden Story

By AMY LEAGUE

Editor's Note: This article is part one of a two-part series prepared by a member of the Sutherlin Garden Club.

I was prompted to write this article after reading a story about how a Mrs. Achterberg of Porterville, Calif., had become interested in growing a Biblical garden. What sparked her hobby was the gift of a book on the plants of the Bible from a minister who had been privileged to visit the territories of the Holy Land through a "gift of love" from Mrs. Achterberg and her husband.

Many Common Now

Hers is indeed a "garden so rare!" Many of the plants of Biblical times she found already growing in her garden: The three large Locust trees or St. John's Bread known to us as Carobs, named only in the parable of the Prodigal Son; a huge "nettle" with broad, bold deeply-notched leaves, known as Acanthus or "bear's breech" (Proverbs). It dates back long before Christ and the plant's leaf is immortalized in the Corinthian columns of ancient and modern architecture.

The oleanders proved to be one of the roses of the Bible and the iris of soft lemon and orchid blue shades are the "lilies by the rivers of water" in Ecclesiastics. Her one lily is the same as those that grew in profusion in King Solomon's famous garden. There were also "Rose of Sharon" or tulip in Song of Solomon; "Lilies of the Field" or anemones mentioned in Matthew and the "saffrons" or crocus. Of course there were also onions, leeks and garlic mentioned in Numbers.

From list of nearly 100 plants of the Bible, this determined woman soon was able to number 90 of them growing in her garden, some of which she had obtained from nurseries as far away as Minnesota and Wisconsin. Others she found growing at the seashore and in the nearby mountains. Each plant has a metal marker on a tall metal stem. On the markers in metal strips are written by indentations, not only the Biblical, botanical and common names but the Scripture where it can be found.

My interest grew and upon further research, I found that Genesis begins with the Garden of Eden and Revelations closes with a vision of trees bearing fruit. Jesus first used plants as symbols, for example the vine, the mustard seed and the lilies of the field — He did this because the people understood them.

Palestine lies between the desert and the sea with many varied temperatures and elevations so that a great variety of plant life is found there. According to the Bible there grew figs, apples, grapes, apricots, olives and pomegranate. Vines grew on the hillsides — cucumbers, melons and herbs abound. In the west grew the wheat and the barley. The Hebrew name for barley (Deuteronomy) means "long-haired" grain as contrasted with wheat. Barley was so common in Palestine that it supplied a unit of linear measurement, three barley corns making an inch. In the lower valleys, dates grew. The Arabs declared that the date palm has as many uses as there are days in the year. The hard kernels of the dates were ground up and used as food for the camels. Jerico was the city of the date-palm. Cotton and flax are named in Esther (Moffat translation) as the materials used in the hangings in the royal palace.

The apple tree is the most famous tree of the Bible, but really the fruit eaten by Eve is not named. In Hebrew, an apple could mean any fruit—an apricot, orange or quince. Most Bible students agree the apple of the Bible was really an apricot.

Others Named

Other trees mention in the Bible are Acaia, Cassia Bark tree and the Chestnut tree. Cypress is said to be the oldest tree in the rorld. The fig tree is mentioned from Genesis to the end of the Bible. Adam and Eve used the leaves for clothes Solomon used it as a symbol of peace. But the grandest of all the trees known to the Hebrews were the Cedars of Lebanon. These were called "Trees of the Lord" and "Masterpiece of God." During King Solomon's reign these trees were used for the construction of the temple and the royal palaces. Olive tree in the world. The fig tree is stine—the branches are a world wide emblem of peace. Their gnarled trunks and spreading foliage still grace the Garden of Gethsemane. The willows are mentioned in Isaiah and Psalms. The weeping willow is generally believed to be the tree on which the captive Israelites "hung their harps" in the land of their exile.

The Sycomore (not sycamore) of the Bible is not like ours. It is a fig tree bearing smaller fruit and used by the poorer classes for food. (Psalms) The stone pine and the fir tree are named in Isaiah. The kernels of the seeds of the stone pine are esteemed a delicacy from ancient times and jars containing them preserved in honey have been found in the buried city of Pompeii.

Myrtle Native Here

There is the Myrtle tree named in Zechariah and we all know that it grows only in the Holy Land and in Oregon. Here the myrtlewood factories turn out beautiful bowls, vases, etc. from myrtles that are from three to five hundred years old. The leaf of the myrtle may be dried and used as seasoning in place of bay. The oaks which are still considered the "King of the Forest" are named in many books of the Bible. There are the Green Bay tree (Psalms), the box (Isaiah) and the oil tree also named in Isaiah.

The nuts mentioned in Song of Solomon and in Genesis are the walnut and the pistachio. The pistachio nuts of today are undoubtedly the nuts which Joseph's brothers took to Egypt. Another is the almond which means "watch-for." It made the rod of Aaron which burst into bud and blossom and Jacob sent almonds by his sons to Egypt when they went to buy corn.

Since there are more than 125 plants mertioned in the Holy Scriptures, we will take a look at the flowers, fruits, herbs and vegetables in part two of this series.

NW Log Exports At Record Level

PORTLAND (UPI) — Log experts from the Pacific Northwest to Japan reached an all-time high of 321 million board feet for the third quarter of 1863, the U.S. Forest Service said Saturday.

This is nearly double the record set in the previous quarter from April through June.

A large share of the increase in log exports represents additional timber put on the market as a result of October, windstorm, the Forest Service said.

Chinese Launch Crusade To Rid Africa Of Russians

LONDON (UPI) — Diplomatic sources said today Communist China appears to have undertaken a major campaign to eliminate Russian influence in Africa.

The expected arrival in Cairo Sathrday of Red China's Premier Chou En-lai on the first lap of an African tour is regarded as the latest major move in this campaign.

Diplomatic pressure to win friends and allies was turned on full blast this week with the presence at Kenya's independence celebrations of Red China's vice-premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi together with Wang Yu-tien, the Peking foreign ministry's director of Western Asian and African affairs.

As his plane flew over Northeastern Africa toward Nairobi, Chen radioed messages to the foreign ministers of Somalai and Ethiopia emphasizing China's solidarity with those nations.

As a further move in the campaign, Chou ordered Hoying, his ambassador to Tanganyika, to fly to Zanzibar Monday for the two-day celebrations of Zanzibar's independence.

In Egypt, Chou is expected to press Red China's claim to be the only true exponent of world "socialism" and the special friend of Africa. He will then move on to Algeria and later Morocco.

Cairo newspaper say Chou's African tour also will include visits to Communist China's old friends Ghana, Guinea and Mali. No official announcements on this point has been made either in Peking or in the three African capitals.

HONORS GLENN MILLER

LONDON (UPI)—The "Glenn Miller Appreciation Society" announced today it will hold a six-and-a-half-hour session of recorded Glenn Miller music Sunday, 19th anniversary of the American bandleader's death.

Miller, then a U.S. Army bandleader, was lost in a plane crash in the English Channel. The society has more than 1,000 members around the world.

Christmas Flower Show Slated At Camas Valley

A Christmas Flower Show will be presented by the Camas Valley Garden Club on Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Camas Valley Grange Hall. Entries will be received from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and the show will be open to the public from 1 to 8 p.m. "Night Before Christmas" is the theme of the show.

According to Bonnie Schmidt and Ninetta Spurlock, co-chairmen, a tea table and country store will be added attractions. Judging will begin at 11 a.m. the day of the show. Ribbons will be awarded in all worthy classes according to the discretion of the judges and a sweepstakes prize will be awarded to the exhibitor garnering the most blue ribbons. A special tri-color ribbon will be awarded for the arrangement considered by judges to be outstanding in the show. An Award of Merit will be given for the outstanding horticultural entry and an Award of Distinction for the outstanding dried arrangement. There will also be a special prize for the outstanding exhibitor in the junior division.

All of the five divisions of the show will feature entries carrying out the Christmas theme. There will be divisions for wreaths, artistic arrangements, corsages, horticulture and junior entries.

A complete schedule of the show, along with rule requirements, may be obtained by contacting any member of the Camas Valley Club All other garden club members as well as the general public may submit entries, according to the committee. The public is invited to attend and there will be no admission charge.

SEEDLINGS CLUB

The Seedlings, a new garden study group organized in November for the purpose of concentrated study of garden topics, met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Sherwood, on Dec. 6, with 12 members present. The day was spent in making many beautiful and unusual Christmas decorations.

The January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. L. E. Adams on Fowler St. The morning will be spent in the study of proper soil for seed boxes and potted plants. In the afternoon, the group will study the making of corsages.

OAKLAND CLUB

The Oakland Garden Club was scheduled to meet today at the home of Mrs. L. F. Stearns for a noon luncheon and gift exchange with Mrs. Scott Goodman and Mrs. Don Young and as co-hostesses. Roll call was on a Christmas Eve tradition. The horticultural program was on holly.

Charter Is Received By Boy Scout Troop

The charter of Boy Scout Troop No. 197 was received by Bob Hansen of the Hansen Motor Co., sponsoring company, at a recent troop meeting. Bob Curtis made the presentation.

Also present at the meeting was Fred Hanson, scout executive for the area, who gave a talk on scouting.

Kim Iles, senior scout from Troop No. 4, was in charge of the presentation of awards and merit badges at a Court of Honor held in connection with the meeting. Ten scouts received awards and the coveted Aviation Merit Badge was presented to Brian McTaggart.

BIRTHS

Douglas Community Hospital

BOVEE — To Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bovee, 640 Kenwood, Roseburg, Dec. 5, a son, Randall Scott; weight 8 pounds ½ ounce.

WILLIS — To Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Willis, Box 41, Tenmile, Dec. 5, a daughter, Andrea Jacqueline; weight 5 pounds 12½ ounces.

ATKESON — To Mr. and Mrs. Glen Atkeson, 1111 NE Currier Road, Roseburg, Dec. 6, a son, Arthur Wade; weight 7 pounds 10¾ ounces.

MAGBY — To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Magby, PO Box 50, Sutherlin, Dec. 6, a daughter Ann; weight 8 pounds 7 ounces.

WILVERDIN G— To Mr. and Mrs. John Wilverding, Little River Road, Glide, Dec. 7, a daughter, Denise Ann; weight 5 pounds 14½ ounces.

ROTH — To Mr. and Mrs. David Roth, Star Route, Box 509, Winston, Dec. 7, a daughter, Arletta May; weight 8 pounds 4 ounces.

ANDERSON—To Mr. and Mrs. Darrol Anderson, Route 4, Box 870, Roseburg, Dec. 7, a daughter, Debra Lynn; weight 8 pounds.

BOYER — To Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Boyer, Route 1, Box 375, Roseburg, Dec. 9, a son, Stephen Dolph; weight 7 pounds 13¼ ounces.

BLAKELY — To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Blakely Jr., Box 510, Winston, Dec. 9, a daughter, Kelly Jean; weight 6 pounds 9¾ ounces.

SHILTS — To Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Shilts, US Forest Service, Glide, Dec. 9, a son, Bryan Harry; weight 9 pounds 11¼ ounces.

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