

UNDER the GREENWOOD TREE

BY SYLVAN HORTUS

HIGH DESERT

On the high ranges and fault blocks of Eastern Oregon and California, one encounters a landscape and earth rhythm foreign to the pilgrim from the well watered western slope of the Cascades. The enormous sweep of even individual features of the land inspire awe. Before you is a rising slope to a ridge line far above. From the plain below, the ridge top seems feathered, in con-

trast to the monotony of sage and bunch grass of the slope. No tree breaks the sameness near you. Off to the north a deep draw in the slope shows the presence of a few aspen, indication of a spring there. This is too high for juniper, which normally dots the sagebrush expanse of the lower elevations in this arid country. As you climb the slope the hugeness of the land and its features becomes more evident. Each few feet opens up

more vista. To the south, the edge of the escarpment forming the western edge of the vault comes into view. Like a coast line, it features capes and jutting cliffs. As the features become lost in the haze of distance, once again the gigantic scale of this country assails you. The rhythm of the earth in these places seems to vibrate in the air. Strains of great music run through your mind. Each person has his own idea of what that is. To me the sharply defined escarpment edge with its large features extending to the edge of a blue nothingness becomes a time long past, preserved in the desert air. The rhythm is primitive, Stravinsky knew it, Disney captured it in the classic, Fantasia.

The slope gets steeper as you finally near the top. The feathered outline takes definitive shape. We are above 7000 feet as we gain the ridgetop. The head dress of the ridge is a grove of small trees, all of equal stature. This is the habitat of the Mountain Mahoganies, those strange small trees of the Rose family who apparently desire no summer moisture. Intolerant of shade, pure stands are the rule rather than the exception. These trees grow very slowly and never attain great height. The average is twenty feet or less. The bark is scaly and reddish. The wood is also red and would be a fine cabinet wood except for the poor quality. It is so small in diameter and has a tendency to check badly. The bloom is small, hairy, and unattractive. There are two species of the Mountain Mahoganies. The commonest is *Cercocarpus ledifolia*, known as Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany. The evergreen leaves of this tree stay on the tree for two years. The edge of the leaf curls under all the way around the leaf protecting the brown hairy underside from too much loss of

moisture in the hot daytime temperatures the tree endures. The crown of the tree is very twiggy with short blocky leaf and flowering spurs. The durable leaves are smooth, thick and leathery. The cylindrical fruiting capsule is stemless, but rendered attractive by the long curled tassels affixed to each seed.

The Birch-leaved *Cercocarpus*, *C. parvifolius*, is also an evergreen in that it too keeps its leaves for two years. They differ mainly in shape as in the older leaves the edges tend to curl under. They do have the basic shape of a birch

leaf. The fruiting capsule on this species is on a short tapered stem. This is a lesser known species occurring farther south for the most part, but it does occur in the southern part of Oregon.

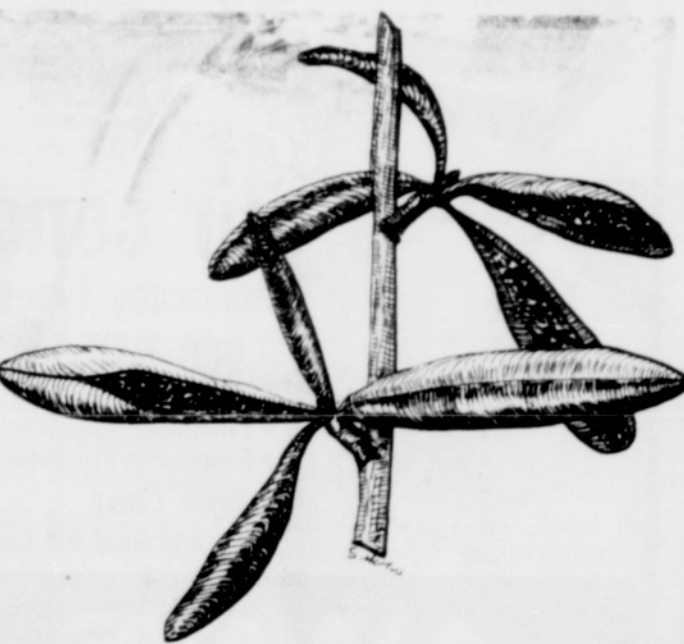
The Mountain Mahoganies share one important use with another member of the rose family, the bitter brush. Both are extensively browsed by the mule deer. The bitter brush is a major food item for the mule deer in the Ponderosa forests of the Eastern Oregon country, while the Mountain Mahogany becomes a major item on the high sagebrush ranges.

Curl Leaf Mtn. Mahogany *Cercocarpus ledifolia*

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Birch Leaf Mtn. Mahogany *Cercocarpus parvifolius*Curl Leaf Mtn. Mahogany *Cercocarpus ledifolia*Birch Leaf Mtn. Mahogany *Cercocarpus parvifolius*

Cottrell Community School readies summer programs

The Cottrell Community School Advisory Committee will help to organize several cooperative outings and activities this summer. The purpose of these programs will be for pleasure as well as for the benefit of being with children and adults from other parts of the district.

When one member of a family helps with the organization, transportation, or supervision of a group outing (or activity), the whole family then becomes eligible to par-

ticipate in any outing or activity until the supply of one-time workers is exhausted. The proposed trips and activities and their organizers are listed below. Please call to help arrange the one of your choice. Some considerations will be: time, mode of transport; size of group; age grouping (where necessary); special supplies or equipment (in some cases); and cost.

To participate, contact the leader for the activity of your choice.

Canoe Trips Down

Willamette or Columbia; OMSI Trips, Planetarium Trips (Mt. Hood Community College), Solar Observatory Trips (Mt. Hood Community College), Rocketry, and Photography. Mark Becker 668-4039.

Hiking Trips: Joy Seibert, 668-5195, Zoo Trips: Ray Snell, 663-3108.

Story Hour, Ladybug Theater Trips, and Crafts Program: Mrs. Sandy Young, 663-3471.

Fishing Trips, Hood Theater Trips, and Roller Skating Trips: Mrs. Pauline Miller, 663-3347.

Roslyn Lake Trips: Mrs. Jewell Lamb, 663-5981.

Children's Museum Trips:

Mrs. Iverna Reimers, 663-3097. Swimming Trips (Sandy Pool), and Oaks Park Trips: Mrs. Claudia Moffet, 663-3029.

For further information, please call Mrs. Freida Tyler, Community School Coordinator, at 663-3898.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB



Mrs. Dorothy Schrum, retired educator and long time resident of the Sandy community attended the Sandy Golden Age Club May 24 and very generously presented the club with a one-hundred dollar check.

She explained it was impossible for her to do her share of work in promoting the activities of the club but was deeply interested in what they were doing. The contribution was her way of supporting a worthy cause and wished the club well in their future ambitions.

Although she will not be able to attend meetings regularly or participate in many of the club's activities, she will continue to be a strong supporter of the club.

Vance Hewitt, president of the Sandy Golden Age Club extended the deep gratitude of the club and assured Mrs. Schrum the board of directors would use her contribution to the best advantage to the club as a whole. Hewitt further ex-

plained that the Golden Age treasury now exceeded \$1,000. This amount is remaining after purchasing 40 folding chairs, a public address system, 100 song books and a number of serving and kitchen utensils during the past year.

The Community Action Center has been made available to the Golden Age Club by the board of CAC on a limited schedule and plans are to use it more and more in the future.

SEWING CLASS

Basic 8
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Mrs. Erdman celebrates 94 years

Mrs. Katie Erdman celebrated her 94th birthday May 25 with a party at Heritage Convalescent Center.

Mrs. Erdman lived on a Boring area farm since December 1911 before moving to the Heritage.

She was born May 25, 1879 at Herndon, Pa. She is a member of Damascus Grange and Boring Rebekah Lodge.

Mrs. Erdman has three daughters, Mrs. Silvia Irving, Boring, Mrs. Mabel Walker, Portland, and Mrs. Esther Taber, Sacramento, Calif.

She has 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

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and Especially to the VFW,
to our Mayor Al Myers and
Rev. Gustav Voellm, Buglers
Dick Dutcher and Gary Nagmay,
Vocalist, Merri Imel

Mrs. Leona B. Exley wishes to apologize for the error in the article on the Memorial Service which appeared on the front page of the Gresham Outlook May 24th issue. Donald Harden was honored because he was the only veteran from Viet Nam buried in Forest Lawn cemetery.

Forest Lawn

Memorial Park - Association

P.O. Box 166 Gresham, Oregon 97030

Phone 665-1197

Leona B. Exley, Owner Manager