



UNDER
the
GREENWOOD
TREE

SYLVAN HORTUS



Do you remember how good the old lead pencils used to taste when you chewed on them in school? It always seemed to make the answers come a little easier. That dark wood of the pencil was incense cedar. Some pencil manufacturers still use this wood, but most have turned to more common woods.

This aromatic wood grows on the east slopes of the Cascades. In the intermediate altitudes, it can be found with the Pondosa. It also grows higher up the mountain hemlock. Not a plentiful tree anywhere, it is well scattered all through these east facing slopes. It is a full tree with many short branches well clothed with the peculiar scale like foliage seemingly jointed.

The long tapered cone is like a flower bud. Indeed, when it opens it resembles a wooden flower as much as anything else. The cone is made up of four of these petal-like scales. The seeds are large and very resinous. The lone North American species is Libocedrus Decurrens, and these Cascades and Sierras of the west coastal states, its habitat. Allied species, L. chilensis and L. uvifera, are native to Chile in South America. New Zealand also has two species, and one species is shared by South China and Formosa. There is quite a similarity between these species, yet each is slightly different and each is peculiarly adapted to the narrow range of its occurrence. I have grown the Chilean species, L. Chilensis here for four years at the longest. They freeze out the first severe winter they encounter. This South American species has been tried on an experimental basis by the Forest Service, but I have not been able to find out what, if any results they have had. For me, it grew faster than the native species.

The Incense Cedar is used in landscaping where a tall, narrow tree is desired. Because of the dense branching, and the tendency to throw up several leaders under cultivation, a very full dense narrow spire can be attained shortly. There are some very impressive Incense Cedars in Portlands Hoyt Arboretum. The rich green coloration of the foliage is much brighter than that of the Pyramid Arborvitae which resembles it in shape and branching. This tree grows very well in the Willamette Valley, and around here in the Cascade foothills. It requires no special culture or pruning to attain the desired shape and fullness. This is a tree which should be used more where a tall accent is needed that does not use up much space.



Incense Cedar

CRAG discusses flood coverage

The National Flood Insurance Program was discussed at a meeting of the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) executive board Dec. 7.

Chuck Steel, a representative of the Planning and Relocation Branch of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development spoke at the meeting.

Flood or mud prone communities can qualify for low cost insurance on houses, businesses, etc., through HUD, Steel said.

To qualify, communities must enact legislation controlling building in endangered areas.

Gresham has already enacted such a program. Steel offered the following statistics:

A home valued at \$17,500 would pay a premium of 25 cents per \$100 for structural coverage, and 35 cents per \$100 for contents.

Policies do not cover erosion, landslides in progress or sewer back-up not caused by flooding. Policies cannot be cancelled and are renewable after a year, he said.

The next meeting of CRAG's executive board will be Dec. 21.

'Winnemucca' road open

Following a discussion between highway department officials in Oregon and Nevada it has been decided to reopen the Warner Valley Highway (ORE140), it was announced this week by John L. Gunter, district engineer in Klamath Falls.

The pavement is clear so highway officials saw no need to close the highway at this time. It will remain open until heavy snows force reconsideration.

Earlier it had been reported that the highway would be closed in Nevada because of lack of revenue and shortage of fuel to do the plowing necessary to keep it open. Oregon then announced that it would close its portion of the highway at Adel. The highway is popularly known as the "Winnemucca to the Sea Highway."

Airman graduates

Airman Steven A. Dunn, son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Dunn, Rt. 2, Estacada, has graduated at Chanute AFB, Ill., from the Air Force aircraft mechanic course conducted by the Air Training Command.

The airman, who learned to maintain and service multi-engine jet aircraft, is being assigned to Barksdale AFB, La., for duty with a unit of the Strategic Air Command.

Cottrell grade school news

The fifth grade class has been studying three groups of American Indians; the Iroquois, the Mohave, and the Natchez.

The class had some questions for which answers could not be found in the references available to the class so the students wrote letters to Dr. Fielder at Oregon State University.

Dr. Fielder is the author of the social studies series which is used in the first six grades and the eighth grade a Cottrell School. The class received a letter from Dr. Fielder who gave some explanations in answer to the student's questions. He indicated he might visit the class by asking for a map showing the directions to the school and then to the fifth grade classroom.

Our last National School Assembly was held Monday

Birth

Mr. and Mrs. Tommie C. Window, Sandy, welcomed a new daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth, born Nov. 11 at Gresham Community Hospital. She joins a brother, Michael, and a sister, Ramona at home.

morning, Dec. 10, and really was a hit with all the students. It was a program of excerpts from Broadway shows. The favorite was from "Charlie Brown".

Cottrell's canned food contest was launched at the assembly and the room winning by contributing the most cans of food by Wednesday, Dec. 19th, will receive a special treat. This project is an annual one sponsored by the Sandy Kiwanis and students at Cottrell usually bring large numbers of cans for the baskets.



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