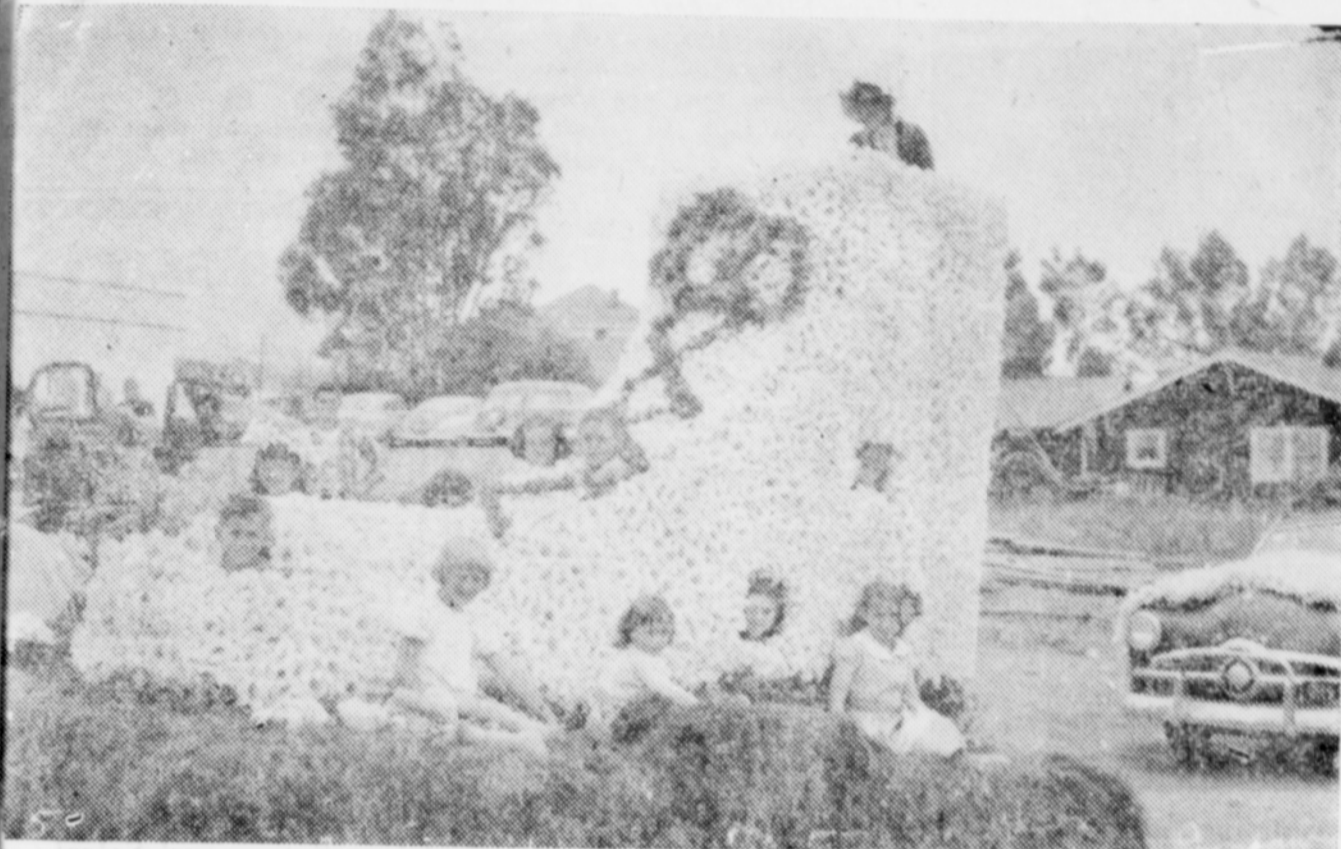


# Yes, Flowers Can Speak Louder Than Words Any Time



Flowers, such as the beautiful lilies, which grow in profusion in this area, are used each year for a parade in this section—the Lily Blossom Time parade. Take, for instance the float entered by George Funk, can depict the old woman who lived in a shoe, shows up well set in lilies. Floats this year, promise to be even more beautiful than in the former parades. Some wonder how this could be.

## Pacific Manta

Islanders of the Pacific are brave people, but they shudder at the sight of a Manta. This strange giant has broad, flat fins which stretch out from the sides of its body like the wings of a bat. The natives believe that if a man should get near a Manta in the



© 1951 National Wildlife Federation Pacific Manta

water, the creature would cover him with its wings and devour him.

This really wouldn't happen, says the National Wildlife Federation, for the Pacific Manta is harmless to man. But it is enormous, and sometimes its actions are enough to cause alarm.

The most terrifying thing it does is to leap in the air and some down on the water with a tremendous crash. When its wide wings strike the surface, it is like a great hand slapping the waves. On a quiet day, the noise can be heard for several miles.

The Pacific Manta also puts on a big show when it is harpooned. The moment it feels a stab, it dives to the bottom and uses all its weight to keep from being captured. Usually it is hauled in only after a long and exciting battle.

If a deep-sea fisherman does manage to conquer a Pacific Manta, he finds that he has a big trophy on his hands. The creature may measure more than 25 feet wide and weigh more than 3,000 pounds. Even a baby Manta is likely to be five or six feet wide.

Between its two wing-like fins, the Manta has a thick body. At one end is a long, slender tail. At the other end is its head and its mouth. In front of its mouth are two small fins which look like horns. The Manta uses these to scoop all sorts of small fish into its mouth.

It looks for its victims near the surface of the ocean. There on a sunny day, Pacific Manta

roams alone or in small groups. They move along gracefully, turning their bodies from one side to the other and holding their mouths wide open to catch their prey.

If they are feeling lazy, they bask in the sunshine. But when they are in a hurry, they almost fly through the water, leaping and crashing as they skim over the waves. As they leave the water, a careful observer can see that they are brown on top and lighter underneath. They get darker as they grow older.

Though they are called Pacific Manta, these members of the ray family are found in many parts of the world. They usually stay in the warm waters of the tropics. They are also known as Devil Rays, Vampire Rays, Sea Bats, and Devilfish.

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## Inquiry Made Of 'Tan Oak' Uses

In a communication from John Porisch, district ranger, inquiry is being made concerning tan oak in Curry county. The letter is self-explanatory:

"J. R. Pfeiffer of the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory has suggested we contact you in regard to tan oak logs. We have arranged for a sample carload of these logs to be shipped to us from California. However, if this experiment works out from a point closer to our own satisfaction we would prefer to arrange our supply from a point closer to our mill so as to minimize the freight.

"It is our opinion that we will need logs 20 inches and up in dia-

meter, freshly cut straight logs, surface clear, butt cuts preferred. We believe we could also use a small percentage of 18- and 19-in. diameters."

People of this area having tan oak which will meet these specifications should contact Mr. Porisch at once.

**J. J. Gallagher**

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