

Salem Boy Scouts Take Up Civil Defense Work Features

Sec. 2—Page 8 Sunday Morning, February 15, 1942

Hickory Tree at Monmouth Yields Nuts in 41st Year

MONMOUTH—The sort of thrill which comes, perhaps once in a lifetime, to a grower of products of the soil, rewarded Miss Cora Smith, longtime resident, here the past week, when she found a hickory nut among leaves she was raking in her backyard. In a further search she discovered five more nuts on a hickory tree which has been growing for a young lifetime beside the Smith house.

Their origin goes back 40 years, to 1901, when Miss Smith visited her grandmother—then 88—in their old home in Missouri. Returning to Oregon she brought some shell bark hickory nuts from their old home place to their new home in Oregon. Several nuts were planted and the next spring one tiny hickory sprout pushed through the earth. With careful nursing it grew.

In the heavy snow of 1919 it got a setback when the trunk split at the crotch from the weight of the snow. The tree now stands approximately 42 feet tall with a limb spread of about 10 feet on each side of the trunk.

A hickory nut has an oyster white shell, smooth, hard and roughly beveled in a four-sided shape. The meat is snugly con- voluted in small chambers. It has a rich, flavorful taste, slightly reminiscent of a pecan which be- longs to the same tree family. The nut is encased in a thick, dark outer husk, which falls apart in four sections when dry. The leaf resembles an English walnut leaf in color and texture, but is longer.

Sizes of hickory nuts differ greatly, those grown in cold areas being smaller than those grown in the warmer south-central re- gions. The nuts Miss Smith gathered this year are smaller than the ones she brought from Mis- souri, but are larger than many types grown in the north mid- west states.

The hardness and toughness of hickory wood is traditional as it is used for axe handles, wagon tongues, the archer's bow, and in recent years, for golf club handles. It has great elasticity. Bacon and ham are often cured with hickory wood smoke to achieve a fine flavor.

The hickory is found only in North America. It grows to a height of 90 or more feet and is beautifully shaped when out in



Miss Cora Smith stands near her Monmouth residence, beside a 40-year-old hickory tree on which she recently found several nuts.

the open, with wide spreading limbs similar to an oak. In forests the branches are less numerous. Nuts of the white hickory species are most desirable.

Miss Smith had been told that a hickory seldom bears before it is 100 years old, so, as she is now 78, she had not expected her tree to bear in her lifetime. It is conjectured if mild Oregon winters may have something to do with its maturity. Last summer pollen plumes appeared on the tree for the first time.

New Emphasis Put on Old Tests To Prepare for Emergencies

By WINSTON H. TAYLOR

Directly from British Boy Scouts, whose service has proved invaluable since the start of World War II, American scouting has adapted emergency service training for participation in civilian defense. Eleven patrols in Salem have been organized to do their part, not only in defense but as well in any type of disaster.

The English boys have assumed many men's tasks to bear out their motto, "Be Prepared." They have formed disaster squads which have functioned in the face of danger.

In this country, the Emer- gency Service corps was evolved to meet the special defense training needs of scouting. The program was announced Sep- tember 9, 1940, by James E. West, chief scout executive, and the plan of organization formu- lated and issued by the next spring.

E. I. Vredenburg, member of the national health and safety committee, was named to super- vise the program on the Pacific coast and conducted in Eugene a training course for scouters from Camas, Wash., to Shasta, Calif. Wiedmaier is head.

Locally, the training was under way before civilian defense. W. Harry Wiedmaier, display service man, was chosen as the Cascade area council's field commissioner of emergency service.

The work done here by scouts is principally in communications and as observers at the radio list- ening post. Scouts who qualify wear badges on their uniforms and, when on duty, a red arm brassard.

They have spent 1720 hours in messenger service for defense and have conducted a 24-hour watch on the listening post since December 9. One of their first jobs here was to collect approximately five tons of aluminum in the city drive.

Stress is laid on non-conflict with home and school and life and health, and permission of both parents and principals is required.

Not a separate program from scouting, the corps is designated to place more emphasis on the practical applications. Advance- ment requirements which have been considerably criticized in the past as not being "taught for use" came into new importance with defense.

While the corps includes only boys of senior scout age, 15 years and above, concessions are made so that younger lads may do tasks befitting their years. Sea Scouts and Explorer Scouts, set up pre- viously for advanced work and readiness for disaster service, fell immediately into the plan, al- though such units in Salem have not yet organized in the corps.

Requirements High
Required for membership are that the boy be a first class scout and be in good physical condition. In addition to having certain merit badges, including fireman- ship, safety, first aid, public health and personal health, he must be able to run the mile in

8½ minutes, climb an 18-foot rope hand over hand in 15 seconds and tie certain knots.

The scouts are asked to undress at night with dressing-speed in mind, keep their clothes in order so they can dress with a minimum of time and effort in an emer- gency. They may be asked to keep ready a pack with emergency ra- tions.

Skills which are considered potentially useful are taught through games, such as com- munications relays. An example is one which resembles "fol- low the leader" with a new sig- nificance. It is called the escape relay and starts with the scout's feet tied. He unties the rope, rolls heels over head, jumps five feet, crawls under a rope near the ground, walks a rail for 12 feet and vaults a four-foot ob- struction.

Each troop, ship or unit may organize a patrol of at least five scouts and an adult leader. The patrols are organized into a corps in each district. Salem comprises the Cherry City district but has not yet formed a corps.

Patrol Teaches

Over all, within the council, are the area executive, and the field commissioner of emergency serv- ice.

If the patrol instructs other members of its troop in emer- gency techniques, the troop may attain an Emergency Service corps rating and pennant. First class scouts under 15 years of age may acquire an apprentice rating.

While scouts have aided their elders in floods, earthquakes and other disasters before, now they find different circumstances of need. Under present conditions, they are called to do lighter work. They are being prepared, how- ever, to assume the task of some supervisory work in refugee camps, such as policing of sani- tary equipment and quarters. The younger boys would act as order- lies and messengers and registra- tion clerks.

Other councils in Oregon are similarly organized, according to Wiedmaier, but their jobs vary.

Summer camp in 1942 will emphasize training in first aid and forestry, Executive R. R. Ruddiman promises. Requirements they have passed to earn badges in past years are now tied in so Boy Scouts will "be prepared" for actual service to their country.



Just last week the Boy Scouts of America celebrated their 32nd anniversary and noted the end of a year in which additional empha- sis was placed on preparation for defense. Two of Salem's active scouts are shown (above) in one of their two principal tasks of cooperation. In the radio listening room at Marlon county civilian defense headquarters, Harry Wiedmaier takes a message, while Bob Robins checks over his shoulder. Both are patrol leaders in troop one.



Messenger service is another field where Boy Scouts here have done their part. Harry Wiedmaier is on his bicycle and ready to go as soon as Bob Robins gives him a message.

Shrub Labeling Easy

Names Save Embarrassment

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

As you plant out new roses or shrubs this spring try placing and keeping labels at each. You will find that these lend more interest both to yourself and to your friends who visit the garden.

The cheapest and the most common are, of course, the little wooden labels which accompany your plants home from nursery or greenhouses. But these are not very permanent. If the writing is in soft lead pencil it will scarcely last out the month. India ink, on the firmer wooden la- bels, will last for around four years. But a more permanent label is obtained by the use of zinc. Lillie Madsen Have these cut at a metal shop—if you are not equipped to cut the zinc—with a nine-inch shank and a flattened top piece which should be tilted slightly back to permit easier reading. Make the whole look like a huge spike split in two down the center. The head should be about two inches wide and at least one inch high. This is for the plant legend. Half of the shank, or "nail" part, should be stuck into the ground to anchor the whole firmly. These la- bels should be placed out in the rain for a few days to permit oxidation. Oxidizing should be sufficient to coat the zinc with a white film.

Pencil marks on the labels are sometimes a little difficult to read. In the Missouri Botanical garden a specially prepared ink is used. This is made of 1 dram acetate of copper, 1 dram am- monium sulphate, ½ dram lamp black, and 10 drams of water. But if you use this burnish the metal by rubbing it with em- ory paper. Only a quill pen, or a fresh metal pen for each "sit- ting" can be used. The garden labelers tell us that this ink is indelible and can be removed only with strong sandpaper.

The small thin copper labels are also attractive when placed in the garden on strong wires. The writing or printing on these is dug into the metal with a stylus.

But what ever your method, do try to label your garden this summer. It will save you much of the embarrassment I suffer when friends ask me the name of this or that shrub or this or that rose—a name I never can recall when asked.

About Crocus
G. E. asks if the crocus now in bloom are the same as those which bloomed in autumn but only planted at a different time. No, these are different species. There really are about 75 species of crocus. The verus is the common crocus which flowers in the spring—they are in bloom, now. Among the other popular spring flowering ones are tomasianianus, a pale reddish blue; the cloth of gold (Susianus) orange yellow, and Aureus, a bright yellow known as the Dutch crocus.

Among the autumn flowering ones are longiflorus, lilac in color; nudiflorus, also lilac but with longer segments; patchel- lus, striped lilac; Zontans, rose- lilac in color. The latter is particularly good in the rock gar- den.

Crocus should be planted where they may self-sow. They should also be planted deeply enough so that the bulbs do not grow to foliage. Drainage should be good.

Mr. Grattan Describes the cities, the sheep stations, the mines, the railroads (state- owned and of various gauges), the system of public works, the financial set-up, the fears of the people (Japan is the ever- present bogey-man), relations with Britain and with America, the tax question, the labor ques- tion. He covers the arts well, excepting music; here he honestly confesses that he knows nothing and does not, appar- ently, take the trouble to consult someone who does know.

In short, Mr. Grattan truly in- troduces Australia to the English- speaking world.

WISE... or Otherwise

By ETHAN GRANT

Webster defines taxes as "a compulsory charge or duty on income or property, levied for the support of a government." I'd like to redefine it, thusly: "Taxes: in America, the price you pay for freedom." The price is a lot higher in most countries, and you get a lot less freedom. This we know from what we read, what others tell us and from having lived in other countries.

And now let's see what in America you get for your tax money. First, you get freedom to go and come as you please. You can travel without passport across the borders of 48 separate states. If you find one locality unsuited to your particular capabilities and temperament, all you need do is pack up and try some place else. At some borders, like California's, you may be stopped and scruti- nized for evidence of boll weevil, but you are neither charged for nor denied the privilege of entry.

Taxes buy you the privilege of saying what you think. If your neighbor doesn't like it, and smacks you on the jaw, taxes buy you the service of the law and the courts. Even in wartime you may voice your opinions, so long as you mean no harm to the cause. And some can even profess a desire to overthrow the government and still get away with it, although it's a mighty dumb sort of pas- time right now.

With taxes you buy the priv- ilege of going to the Methodist, the Baptist or the Catholic church on Sundays, or of going fishing or getting drunk, so long as you stay off the public highways, and nobody can ram either religion, atheism or castor oil down your throat. With taxes you buy the privilege of listening to any radio noise on your dial, whether it be static, Hitler, the Japs or Charlie McCarthy.

Pick Your Job
With taxes you buy the use of good highways and, if you're in a hurry, the privilege of risking your neck in an effort to save a minute or so. And if you don't quite make it, there's an ambu- lance or an officer of the law available to pick you up.

With taxes you buy the right to select your own enterprise; the privilege of engaging in whatever business you like or of working for whoever will hire you. You buy the right to organize or join a union, to strike and carry a picket sign and glower at others who take your job or patronize your ex-employer. You buy the right to trade wherever you wish and the privilege of purchasing only the things you want, without having to accept only what a dictator thinks you ought to have. And you buy the services of public inspectors who make it their business to see that you get proper weights and measures.

With taxes you buy the right to select whatever newspaper or magazine you want to read and the comfort of knowing its in- telligence is trustworthy, and untainted by a meddling group of high-handed bandits who want you to swallow some trumped up ideology that gives you a stomach ache just think- ing about it.

With taxes you buy the right to stay home evenings with the comforting knowledge that you are secure from disturbance by storm troopers, no matter whether you are reading subversive pamphlets, the Bible, entertaining strangers or secretly plotting to replace the sheriff at election time with one you think would be more capable.

You Can Vote, Too
With taxes you buy the priv- ilege of going to the polls and making an X beside the name of your choice of candidate—or, if his name has been omitted, of writing it in, whether it be that of General MacArthur or Donald Duck. And if you find that you have elected the wrong man, you have paid for the right to go back to the polls and demand his recall.

With taxes you pay for the right to attend sessions of your

local governing body and voice objections to proposals not in line with your way of thinking. You buy the right to circulate petitions for or against public purchase of a new sewage dis- posal plant or a new stadium.

With taxes you buy the right to have your grievances settled before an impartial court and, if the decision doesn't suit you, often the right to appeal clear up to the highest court of the nation. And if you are accused of a crime, even though you are guilty as the devil, you have the right to force your accuser to prove it before you can be punished.

With taxes you buy the right to educate your children in either the public or parochial schools, and if you feel that they are not being properly handled you are privileged to protest wherever the authority lies.

With taxes you buy the priv- ilege of having built for you the greatest army, sea and air fleets on earth to protect you and your privileges and flag from the covetous and brutal forces of foreign races who are en- tirely without freedom them- selves.

All these and many more are the things you buy with taxes. You even buy the right to kick and squawk and make jokes about taxes and tax collectors and congressmen who make the tax laws. And yet, you know that you get more for your money than any other peoples on earth.

Old Proverb Needs Some Rewriting

CHICKASHA, Okla.—(P)—Don't try to tell Joe Goltry that old saw about a bird in the hand. Goltry saw a quail sneak into a pile of brush near here, crawled around until he found an opening and grabbed it. Elated, he lifted his hand to wave the bird under the nose of a pal and the darn thing slipped loose and flew away!

You Gotta Be a Fresh To Get a Hero

SEATTLE (P)—University of Washington men seem to like new faces, and what faces. Ed- itors of Columns, monthly pub- lication, staged a "Kiss the Girls Goodbye" contest, to pick girls men students would like most to kiss when they get drafted. Five of the eight glamorous beauties were freshmen.

Now You Tell One --- Get a Laugh!

Fire Engines, Cop Cars Lose Their Voice

FREDERICK, Md. (P)—There'll be no more wailing police sirens or screaming fire engines in this Maryland town.

Police banned the use of sirens for the duration of the war to avoid confusion with air raid warning signals, and arranged to use siren-equipped police cars as

Everything Comes, etc.

BROOKFIELD, Mo. (P)—Fifty years ago Mrs. Estella Husted lost her gold engagement ring while doing chores on the family farm near here. The other day her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wil- bur Husted, found it near where the barn once stood.

Something New From Police: Bouquets

DETROIT, Mich. (P)—Traffic cops here are giving out some- thing besides summonses—tickets of reward to courteous drivers.

One such ticket was given to a milkman who helped a confused, elderly lady from the middle of the street; another to a driver who pushed a stalled automobile to the curb after it had stopped for a red light.

The police department hopes that eventually windshield stick- ers will be used to identify care- ful and courteous drivers.

What a Difference

LIBERTY, Mo. (P)—Cheers and hand-clapping greeted Dr. Frank G. Edson's announcement to Wil- liam Jewell college students that, among other jobs, they might qualify as "unexploded blonde removers" in a defense emer- gency. Hastily, however, he explain- ed it was a slip of the tongue. The chore really was listed as "unexploded bomb remover."

Hope They Didn't Throw It at Him

WILMINGTON, Del. (P)—Two soldier buddies of a lunch- hour bridegroom were too late to scatter the rice over the new- lyweds but they didn't waste the rice—they asked their mess sergeant to serve it to the bridegroom for dinner. Neither Private William D. Sawyer, 24, of Williamston, N.C., nor his bride, Freda Sherman, could get away for an elaborate wed- ding. So they were married one lunch hour and went back to their jobs on time. The two pals whom Sawyer asked to the wedding stopped at a grocery store for the rice. Shopping women delayed them so much that by the time they got to the scene, the wedding was over.

Fish Economize, Too

WASHINGTON (P)—Fish of the Great Smoky Mountain National park rearing pools find them- selves on a war budget. Now they eat pig liver and melts where in pre-war days they ate sheep liver which cost 50 per cent more. Re- ports say the fish don't find the change distasteful.

Presto! The Army Does It



From automobile to boat in a few minutes. That's a novel technique worked out recently by soldiers in the Pacific northwest. This amphibian jeep is pictured (top) as she treads into a tarpaulin jacket on top of the water. The tarpaulin is folded into a veritable amphibia. It calls for careful work to ensure no leaks. The jeep is seen (bottom) being propelled downstream by means of tent poles.

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