

Pretty, But Watch Out When They Wilt



Skunk cabbage, flowering in this bog near Neotsu, heralds the coming of spring for coastal inhabitants. This member of the arum family deserves its name only when the flowers are wilted or the stems crushed. Its roots were an item of food among the Indians. (Capital Journal Photo)

Traditional Skunk Cabbage Ushers in Coastal Springtime

By BEN MAXWELL, Capital Journal Writer

When the skunk cabbage blooms, those at the coast know that spring has come.

Skunk cabbage, a member of the arum family and botanically known as *Lysichiton camtschatcense*, belies its name. When the bright yellow flowers are fresh their odor is sweet, almost pleasantly sweet. Only when the flowers have wilted or the stems are damaged does skunk cabbage become its name.

The story is told of a Swedish girl, once employed at the old Agate Beach Hotel. She was unfamiliar with local flora and fauna.

A small banquet for the very select was scheduled and the Swedish girl was told to decorate the room with flowers and then close the room to keep other patrons out. She placed bouquets of skunk cabbage on the tables and on the sideboard, admired her performance and closed the door just as she had been instructed to do.

When the dining room was opened, the wilted skunk cabbage had maintained its reputation. Guests dined elsewhere and it took three days to air out the hotel.

Lysichiton literally means the act of loosening of a chiton, which was a tunic in classical times. The plant is found from Japan to North America and flowers abundantly from March until May in swales and swamps.

Roots of skunk cabbage are peppery and sought for by bear and elk as a food. Among coastal Indians the root was an item of diet, particularly in the spring when famine threatened. Cooking destroys much of the strong and unpleasant flavor of the root.

Spring Music To Highlight North Concert

Music in the springtime mood will highlight the concert of the North Salem High School band Monday night. The admission-free program will start at 8 o'clock in the auditorium.

Under the baton of Russell Wittmer, the 61-piece uniformed band will play a variety of marches and concert selections, ranging from one of the world's favorite old overtures to a bit of modern boogie-woogie.

The Viking rally girls will appear with the pep band, performing some of the dance steps which attracted statewide publicity at the recent basketball tournament in Eugene.

Coached by Mrs. Douglas Kieft, the dancers are Doris Hein, Dottie Jones, Mary Wood, Judy Seemster, Beth Horn and Kathy Archer.

Singing in close harmony will be the North High Harmonettes, students of Howard Miller. The vocal trio includes Helen Manke, Marjorie Bolt and Darlene Goodman, accompanied by Gary Frame.

"Three Cardinals" features Gary Nopp, Ray Kreuger and Dick West, playing a trumpet trio with the band.

Den Mother Training To Begin Here Tuesday

Handicraft display and practice of den mother programming will be among subjects covered in the den mother training course which is to begin here Tuesday.

The sessions will be on Tuesdays for five or six weeks from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. in the Meier & Frank auditorium under the direction of Mrs. Vera Shidler.

The classes are sponsored by the Cherry City District of the Cascade Area Boy Scout Council. It is planned to make them a yearly event.

Assisting Mrs. Shidler will be Mrs. Robert Corey, Mrs. Sam Samuels and Mrs. Otto Yunker.

Two Charged On Lewd Count

David Countryman, 52, of Beaver Creek, and Mrs. Jean C. Doyle, 34, of Eagle Creek, pleaded innocent when arraigned in District Court Friday on a charge of lewd cohabitation.

Judge E. O. Stadler set April 5 as time for trial. Mrs. Doyle was released on her own recognizance and Countryman's bail was continued at \$250.

The complaint against the two was signed by the woman's husband.

OSC Says Dairy Merger Plan Will Strengthen, Not Abandon

OREGON STATE COLLEGE (Special)—A proposal under consideration at Oregon State College to merge the dairy department with two other departments would strengthen, not "abandon" or weaken the program, F. E. Price, dean of agriculture, said today.

The plan, still in the discussion stage, would combine dairy production work with animal husbandry. Price reported. The joint operation would be designated as the department of dairy and animal husbandry, with no major changes in functions or make-up of existing research and teaching work.

Dairy manufacturing work now conducted in the dairy department would be transferred to the food technology department.

Economy and Efficiency Price said the consolidation program was being considered for reasons of "economy and efficiency." It is not a new venture, he noted. Sixteen other land-grant colleges, including Cornell, California and Iowa State, have their dairy and animal husbandry work combined.

Reports and rumors that the new program would subordinate dairy husbandry to animal husbandry are false and misleading, the dean insisted.

The proposal came in for special attention at this time, he said, because the headships of both the dairy husbandry and animal husbandry departments will be vacant July 1. P. M. Brandt, head of dairy, will retire this year and John Landers, acting head of animal husbandry since Fred F. McKenzie left in September for a foreign assignment, plans to take leave next year for advanced study.

Two departments share the same building, Withycombe Hall, built in 1932.

Price said the consolidation would reduce administrative costs by \$15,000 annually. These funds could be used to employ badly-needed research workers.

He pointed to the "great simi-

larity of scientific training and technical knowledge for the conduct of the research and teaching work in dairy husbandry and animal husbandry. Basic animal nutrition is the same in both. Animal physiology, animal reproduction and many of the animal disease problems are much the same."



Let's Decorate

Oh, the good clean smell of Spring in the air! The tickling, vigor and crispness of it! A daphne fragrance drifts across the garden, occasionally mingled with the heady perfume of hyacinths. They catch our eye in doorway plantings of rose, white and a blue like none other. . . . In the studio our hands travel across fabric samples and we find a Spring-like ecstasy in seeing the new chintzes, the floral cottons of rose and blue on clean white backgrounds, and the new textures whose colors are clean and fresh. . . . We think of the drab room which we had visited lately—a dining room through an arch from a living room—little used now since the addition of a family room had been made at the other side of the kitchen. . . . What a transformation could be wrought here! We could paint the walls hyacinth blue to go with the lighter blue of the adjoining living room and the darker blue of the wall-to-wall carpet. The woodwork should be painted white. . . . The wide expanse of plain wall which we see from the living room could be opened to reveal a ten-foot bay window in which we could place a curved sofa covered in our beautiful, quilted floral cotton which shows rose and blue flowers on a white ground. . . . At the window our silky, crisp, white chintz made into ruffled curtains at the sides and held back very high, under a ruffled valance, would be fresh and pretty. . . . To flank the sofa let's use cherry tables holding crystal lamps with bright rose shades and in front of it our oval Victorian coffee table with the white marble top. . . . We could break through the kitchen wall at our left to use the old chimney flue for a small fireplace which we'll paint white. At either side Degas floral prints in white frames could be hung against the blue wall. . . . Let's place the old spinet piano sprayed white with a glaze of gold against the opposite wall from the fireplace, using a light hyacinth blue on the bench seat. . . . At either side of the arch and drawn into comfortable angles to the room let's place two wing-back chairs of the bright rose of our lamp shades and behind them on the wall hang large wall brackets of crystal with white satin shades to bring a sparkle across the room. . . . Now, Spring has invaded the drab, little room so that we might enjoy its freshness through long months to come. "Bye till later." EM

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North Salem PTA To Hear Brooks

Dr. Dean K. Brooks, superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital, will speak on the subject, "The Schools and Mental Health," at the Parent-Teacher meeting of North Salem High School Tuesday at 8 p.m.

This is the last meeting of the year for the North Salem PTA. Newly-elected officers for 1957-58 will be installed by Mrs. Lula Marschat, a junior vice-president of the Oregon Council of Parents and Teachers. Delegates to the state convention in Pendleton on April 9, 10 and 11, will be elected at the meeting.

In the "Know Your School" series, Mrs. Hope Edwards will present the program of the Home Economics Department.

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