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Large Island in Mediterranean
 The island of Cyprus is located 40 miles from the coast of Syria and is the third largest island in the Mediterranean sea. Its history dates back to the early Phoenicians, who established colonies there. Later the Greeks established colonies and still later the island formed part of the Persian, Macedonian, Egyptian and Roman empires. Its government frequently changed hands until 1571, when the Turks took the island from the Venetians and retained possession until England acquired it in 1878. At the outbreak of the World war in 1914 Cyprus was annexed by England and in 1925 it became a colony by letters patent.

COLUMBIA

By Lols Hutchison

Duane Lathrop made a business trip to Walla Walla recently. Jo Ellen Smith returned from La Grande, Saturday. She has been with her mother, Mrs. D. Lathrop and her sister, Mrs. Opal Hasse. Mrs. Duane Lathrop, who is in Hot Lake sanatorium, will return home Easter Sunday. Bob Depeu and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vorlicke and two children were visitors in this district Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hadley and daughters left Saturday for Colorado. The Hadleys like Oregon and may return when successful in dis-

posing of their farm property. Perhaps the first lilacs to make their appearance this spring are blooming at the experiment farm, also forsythia, flowering quince and several other shrubs and flowers. Duane Lathrop and son have finished the dormant spray on their orchard and also the orchard of J. H. Reid, W. Casady, H. M. Sommerer and Joe Udey. Mrs. H. A. Cable received her baby chicks from the Vigorbilt hatchery Saturday. E. L. Hooker of Enterprise spent the week end with his father, H. A. Hooker. A. Shipp and family left Friday for Harper, Ore., to make their home. Mr. and Mrs. Corman were callers at the Mabel Weeks home Sunday. Mrs. Sadie Boardway of Yakima, and Mrs. Nora Hartley of Walla Walla, sister of H. A. Hooker, spent Wednesday here. Lloyd Goodrich made a trip to Grass Valley Sunday to visit his father-in-law, T. D. Pike, returning Monday. Mrs. Jake Ray spent Monday with Mrs. Willis Struthers. Lucille Weeks and her sister spent the week end with Mrs. Wilber at Duncan. Mrs. Mabel Weeks and family spent the evening at the B. E. Getchell home March 22, honoring

James Getchell's birthday. Mrs. R. J. Wilbur, who spent the past month with her mother, Mrs. Mabel Weeks, left for home at Duncan Tuesday. Mrs. Mary Haar who has been ill is improved.

INFORMATON IN REGARD TO GROUND SQUIRREL CONTROL

By HAROLD W. DOBYNS,
 Junior District Agent,
 U. S. Biological Survey
 Pendleton, Oregon.

There are three species of ground squirrels found in Umatilla county, namely Washington, Oregon and Columbian. The largest of the species is the big, reddish-gray colored squirrel, or Columbian. The next in size is the Oregon, and the smallest, the Washington. They are widely distributed over the county. The Columbian and Oregon ground squirrels are found mainly from Pendleton east and south, and the Washington north from Pilot Rock to the Columbia river.

The reason for the control of these rodents is obvious to farmers and stockmen. The bait distributed by the county agent's office for their control is prepared by the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey in cooperation with the O.S.C. Extension Service, after years of experimenting with various kinds of poisons under all conditions.

The ingredients used in the preparation of this material are purchased in large quantities by the government at the lowest possible cost. They are then mixed ready for use and sold to the user at cost. The bait has been tested both in the field and in the laboratory, and should give good results if properly used. This bait is much cheaper and will give as good results as any of the commercial preparations. It is not expected that this or any other bait will give a 100 per cent kill with one application, but under suitable weather conditions should give good, uniform results.

It is thought by many that the proper time to poison squirrels is when they first come from hibernation, but this is not always found to be true. During the early spring, when the days are cloudy and cold, squirrels come out of their burrows for short periods only and usually spend most of their time running from one hole to another and feed very little. The best time to place the bait is early in the morning on clear, warm sunny days. From one to two teaspoonfuls of kernels should be used to the burrow. It should not be placed in the burrows or piled up by the side of them. Squirrels are not looking in the burrows for anything to eat. If so placed, they will run in and out over the bait, rendering it useless. It should be well scattered along the runways made by the squirrels and in the cleanest places near the burrows. By giving it a good spread, the danger of poisoning livestock will be lessened. If properly placed, there is practically no danger of poisoning livestock.

There are certain times when squirrels will take bait better than other times. A small quantity of bait should be placed out on various days to ascertain the acceptance before control is practiced on a large scale. Excessive rain will render squirrel bait practically harmless. It has been found upon investigation that in some areas where squirrels are feeding on various kinds of vegetation, they possess a certain amount of immunity to the action of strychnine, which is the only poison used in the preparation of this material. This is due to the tannic acid in the plants which has a tendency to offset the action of the poison. Good results are often obtained by late poisoning after the plants have matured.

Many times the question is asked, "Will the bait not kill all the pheasants and other game birds if scattered over the surface of the ground where it is available to them?" This is best answered by the fact that exhaustive tests have been run on grouse and pheasants and other gallinaceous birds having "crops" to determine the effect of rodent control poison. They are found to possess a very high degree of immunity to the action of strychnine and are not susceptible to bait prepared for ground squirrel control to any great extent.

There are many things about rodents that are not yet fully understood, and further research is being carried on in order to solve some of these things. In some cases the users of this bait complain of poor results, while others using the same bait report excellent kills. If you are not getting good results in your district, kindly consult the county agent or the Biological Survey representative in your district, and he will assist you in every way possible to help solve the difficulty.

SAFETY SONNETS

While motorists are inclined to laugh at the sight of a jitterbug, dilapidated "antique" on the highway, piloted by a carefree youth, there is nothing humorous in the fact that many mechanically deficient automobiles are being operated over the roads of this state and nation today.

The very fact that an automobile is old does not mean that it is a menace on the highway, Secretary of State Earl Snell points out. Many an old car, kept in first-class condition by a careful owner, is still giving safe and efficient service.

Yet there are many persons who seem to be able to buy gasoline for everyday driving and for longer trips, but who make the mistake of spending little or nothing for the upkeep of their aging cars. As a result the brakes, tires, wheel alignment, steering mechanism, springs and even the engine itself slowly become less and less serviceable until an actual breakdown occurs—sometimes at a crucial moment, when an extra margin of mechanical strength or braking power is required.

While an act providing for state-wide inspection of motor vehicles passed both houses of the recent legislature, the final responsibility for an automobile's condition rests with the owner rather than with the state. The safety of himself, his passengers and the other users of the highway demands that his automobile satisfy at least the minimum requirements of mechanical condition and equipment.

While double-parking of automobiles is sometimes resorted to as a time-saving expedient, the resulting confusion and slowing up of traffic make it doubtful whether any time is actually saved in the long run, in the opinion of Secretary of State Earl Snell.

One car which is double-parked in a narrow street for five minutes may cause inconvenience and delay to several dozen drivers, since it completely shuts off the use of the lane



Strawberry clover vines from one third acre plot on the Owyhee Project in Oregon that produced 308 pounds of seed the second year.

nearest the parking lane. If there is no one in the car, it may also block two or three other cars whose drivers wish to leave the curb.

Double-parking is dangerous not only because it sometimes forces drivers to use the wrong side of the street, if they wish to pass the double-parked car, but also because it has a psychologically upsetting effect on approaching drivers, Snell pointed out. The average driver becomes angry when he sees someone else grabbing a privilege which the law denies him, and in such a state of irritation is much more apt to act recklessly than under normal circumstances.

Failure to replace a defective bulb in a headlight is not a step toward economy, but is more apt to be a costly measure of neglect, according to Secretary of State Earl Snell.

Nearly 400 accidents causing four fatalities in Oregon last year involved automobiles driven after dark with one or both headlights out. It

is reasonable to assume that many of these accidents would not have occurred if the head lights had been up to standard.

Not only does the "one-eyed" driver expose himself to accident, but he greatly increases the risk to pedestrians who happen to be walking along or crossing the road he is traveling. Pedestrian safety at night requires that headlights be kept up to maximum efficiency, since it is difficult enough for a driver to see pedestrians in the road ahead of him under the best conditions.

Nearly all trucking companies have made spare headlight bulbs a standard item of equipment, and one concern in the east has gone so far as to equip every truck with a complete auxiliary lighting system operated off a separate battery, so that in case of a failure in any part of the regular system, there will be no decrease in the truck's lighting efficiency. This step was taken in recognition of the great importance played by proper lighting in safe night driving.

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