

POTPOURRI...

William Belcher, who came all the way from Olympia to attend the 25th anniversary meeting of the Medford district, Girl Scouts, had a wonderful time. Mr. Belcher, one time Boy Scout executive for this district, represented his wife who had promised to come to the gathering and at the last moment was ill and could not make the trip.

Mrs. Belcher was leader of the first Girl Scout troop ever organized in Medford, and several of the young women who had been members of Troop 1 attended the anniversary dinner. Mr. Belcher is a photographer, so naturally he had taken many pictures of Girl Scout activities back in the days when his wife was Troop 1 leader, and he brought copies of some of them along to show to the "girls."

The twitter that went up from the group over the pictures must have made Mr. B. very glad indeed that he had gone to the trouble to bring them. With sighs and groans the young matrons hunted up their own faces, and the faces of friends in the pictures. Cries of "why, that was taken at camp up on the Apple-gate," and "for heaven's sake, why didn't mother do something with my hair in those days" or "do you remember that time..." went up on all sides as the former Girl Scouts examined the prints.

Genuinely sorry that the popular Mrs. Belcher had been prevented from coming, the young women each took time out during the evening to write her a note, and these were taken home by Mr. Belcher. When introduced, Mr. Belcher said he had been told he could talk but two minutes, since there was a very heavy program scheduled, but added that no one, let alone a man who had been married as long as he had, could get anything said in two minutes.

During dinner Mr. Belcher brought his former friends up-to-date on the family's activities in recent years and said that both he and his wife were now working for the state of Washington in Olympia. The couple's daughter, Mrs. Emerson L. Armstrong, the former Marie Belcher, now lives in Des Moines, Ia., and their son, Daniel, is a major in the Air Force stationed at St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Belcher spent the night as a guest of the Martin Clog-stons, and left Friday morning to visit relatives in Grants Pass before returning north.

As is common at most potluck meals, there was about twice as much food as could be eaten. This somewhat consoled Mrs. Budd Gail, who arrived empty-handed and explained that the pretty salad which she had made with great care had met a sad fate. When preparing to leave for the dinner, Mrs. Gail dumped the salad upside down on the floor of the car, and it ended up in the garbage can instead of on the table.

Mrs. William E. Acord was the only one of the original Troop 1 members who was also attending the dinner in an official capacity. Mrs. Acord, who has four daughter and one son, is a Girl Scout leader and according to some of her co-workers, is a marvellously efficient and faithful one, too, in spite of her many family duties.

Potpourri was a few minutes late to work Saturday morning all because of a group of birds gathered around a mud puddle in a vacant lot on North Grape street. We'd been seeing similar birds for the past three or four weeks and since they were unfamiliar, had been hoping for a close enough look to make identification possible.

Several friends had spoken of them, too, and a call to the National Park service brought the information that they were probably evening grosbeaks.

Sure enough, when we consulted Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" after arriving at the office, we found that they were grosbeaks. The birds are not new to this area, but probably just stayed longer this time during their migration because of the unusually cold weather. At any rate, their colorful feathers and cheerful presence in yards and gardens have been a source of pleasure to many persons on recent days, compensating somewhat for the frigid weather.

For a time we thought the hours spent at the civic drama play, "The Voice of the Turtle" Saturday night were going to be completely wasted, but in spite of the rather mediocre cast and the sour taste which the theme of the play left with us, something interesting developed.

Intrigued with the title, "The Voice of the Turtle" and the fact that it was from the Bible, we traced down the origin by way of a quotation book. It turned out to be from the Second Chapter of the Song of Solomon, which we had never read in its entirety before. Not only did we find the origin of the play title, but those of two other modern literary works within a few verses of this truly beautiful piece of writing.

The "voice" quotation comes from verses 11 and 12, and read "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." (The playwright, John van Druten, has his character explain that the word "turtle" actually refers to turtle dove.)

Reading on in verses 13 and 15, we found the origin of the titles of two other modern literary works, "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" and Lillian Hellman's play, "The Little Foxes." The verses read "The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes."

In the case of "The Voice of the Turtle" it seems a pity that Playwright Van Druten did not put his inspiring source to better use.

In John Gassner's "Best Plays of the Modern Theater," second series, (which we happened to have borrowed from Mrs. Ivan Burton) the editors said of van Druten that "If he has rarely been a robust writer, he has always been an acute observer and a master of civilized dialogue. Since there is never a superabundance of these qualities in the American theater, America has welcomed him."

Maybe the "civilized dialogue" is supposed to distract our attention from the play's other shortcomings, or perhaps the play shows up better with a cast like it had for the New York opening in 1943 when Margaret Sullivan played the confused "Sally Middleton." At any rate, we enjoyed the critical remarks and conversation of the five or six high school girls who sat near us more than we did the "civilized dialogue" on the stage. Particularly the story which Ann Hart told of how she once filled her mouth with raw egg whites when she drank from a cup out of the refrigerator which she thought was filled with pineapple juice, illustrating the story with gruesome sound effects.—O.S.

Jackson, Miss.—(U.P.)—Unlike other seniors who graduated from Millsaps college at the end of the winter semester, C. Y. Yao can't go home and look for a job. Yao is a native of Shanghai but can't return home for fear of death at the hands of the Communists.

County OEA Unit Announces Plans For Annual Event

A carnival gay way, to compare with Coney island, featuring "fire-eaters, snake charmers, can-can girls, two-headed animals, bearded ladies and tall men" will be a part of the entertainment scheduled for the All Fool's day party for Jackson county unit of Oregon Education association party April 1. The event will be held in the Medford junior high school on West Second street.

Members are asked to dress as a troupe member of a carnival or in character costumes and prizes will be awarded for the best shows put on by the troupes. There will be prizes for the best individual costumes.

A buffet supper served at 7 o'clock will begin the evening. Schools will be classified according to their size and prizes will be awarded in each division to the school having the largest number of teachers attending. Husbands and wives of faculty members are especially invited to attend.

Teachers should let the principal of their schools know by March 25 if they plan to attend and the number in their group.

54th Anniversary Observed Monday By Medford Couple

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Murrey, 1034 West 9th street, celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary March 17, St. Patrick's day.

Among the gifts received by the couple, Mrs. Murrey was presented an orchid corsage and Mr. Murrey a green boutonniere. The couple has lived in the valley for 46 years and came here in 1905 from North Dakota when they purchased an orchard south of Medford.

They also received many wedding congratulations during the day.

Show Films

The Loyal Workers class of First Christian church saw colored slides of England, taken and shown by Miss Amy Harding, when they met Tuesday at the home of the Rev. Shelly Anglemeyer. Miss Harding also spoke of her trip to England.

Announces Meeting

The American Legion auxiliary will hold a sewing meeting at the American Legion hall, 531 South Riverside avenue, Tuesday, March 25, at 8 p. m.

Members who have woolen material suitable for making afghans for Camp White are asked to take it to the meeting.



Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Murrey, 1034 West Ninth street, shown here in a picture taken on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated their 54th anniversary Monday, March 17. The Murreys have lived in Medford for 46 years.

Ruth Esther Guild Has Annual Election At Meeting Tuesday

Ruth Esther Wesleyan Service guild of First Methodist church elected officers at a meeting held in Sunshine parlor of the church Tuesday evening. They are Mrs. C. R. Adamson, president; Mrs. W. R. Peabody, vice-president; Miss Viola Dietrich, secretary; Mrs. Donald Faber, promotion secretary, and Mrs. L. A. White, treasurer.

Mrs. Ralph Cook showed "Meditations in Kodachrome," accompanied by Mrs. Mable Sims, pianist, and Miss Beverly Lyman, soloist.

Mr. L. A. White gave devotions, using "Eight Ways of Being an Evangelist" as her theme. Mrs. Meredith Groves gave the closing prayer.

Mrs. Adamson talked on the highlights of the national convention held in Los Angeles, saying "full time Christian workers and Christian living" was stressed, also the importance of the Christian vote.

Mrs. Verne Wilson gave a reading "The Story of Astrophe the Cat." Refreshments were served.

LIKES THOSE FLOWERS
Memphis, Tenn.—(U.P.)—Lou Pitts has worn a carnation in his lapel every day for the last 40 years.



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