

Girl Scout Troops In Medford Area Aided by UMC Funds

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of brief articles about agencies benefitted from the United Medford Crusade fund drive now under way. Information is provided by the agencies themselves.)

The Girl Scouts are ever enlarging their scope of usefulness to this community.

They have helped with the office work of various drives, including the United Medford Crusade. They are always anxious to be of service and a parade in Medford is not complete without the green and brown uniforms. Last year they took part in the Memorial Day parade, the Pear Blossom parade and parades on July 4 and Nov. 11.

They took care of children for PTA meetings and at voting sessions.

Girl Scouts have given their own radio and TV programs, made needed articles and favors for Camp White and other institutions. They wrapped bandages for and acted as aides in hospitals and were anxious and eager to be of service whenever called upon.

As Medford grows, so grow the troops, and the adult help must grow too. The United Medford Crusade is doing its part in aiding the financial program and more adult help must be obtained to assist the ever enlarging enrollment.

Helping the United Medford Crusade is helping the Girl Scouts.

DINNER SCHEDULED

Gold Hill—The annual Gold Hill Grange Harvest dinner of baked ham with all harvest food trimmings will be served beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Grange hall Sunday, Oct. 30. Instead of planning dinner at home Sunday, the Grange suggests a good afternoon out for families of Gold Hill and neighboring communities where they will find the surroundings of the hall the finest in the valley.

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Method Found To Inject Viruses Through Mouths of Insect Larvae

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York—(U.P.)—Science may move faster toward acquiring the ability to set off devastating disease epidemics among insects, now that a technique has been devised for getting insect viruses through the mouths of insect larvae.

Unless you've looked at insect larvae through a high-power microscope you have no idea how very small their mouths can be. The larva of the larch bud moth, which was the "guinea pig" for this new triumph in technology, is less than a third of an inch from stem to stern.

Can Inject Directly

The diameter of the critter's mouth is about one thousandth of that. Nevertheless it is now possible to get a needle into it and inject viruses directly. The triumph belongs to Maru E. Martignoni, a Swiss, who is spreading his happy skill among scientists everywhere.

He took an ordinary glass hypodermic injection needle of the smallest size, softened it in the flame of a bunsen burner, drew it out until it was thin or thinner than a hair. He broke off a usable length, smoothed the new end on fire, being careful not to block its now very thin channel.

The Process
This "stump" he attached with sealing wax to a micro-injector which he made fast to a stand so that the "stump" projected into the "field" of the microscope. Then he put a larch bud moth larva to sleep with a whiff of ether and shoved it into the "field."

Now, under high-power magnification, its body parts were plain to see. With fine forceps, he picked it up just behind the head capsule, and lifted it up to the needle's point with its mouth foremost. A little pressure, and the mouth dropped open. In went the needle and through it went viruses.

Martignoni pointed out, in a technical publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, that heretofore scientists have been

injecting viruses into insects by puncturing their bodies with needles. Either that, or they have been starving insects and then letting them drink liquid containing viruses.

But those ways aren't exact enough. In nature, insects acquire their sickening and killing viruses through their mouths. Starving insects "introduce an unnatural factor of unknown value into the experiment."

The Goal

What science needs to know is how much of what virus kills which insects. Martignoni was engaged in the tedious research of finding out how much of a virus that specializes on the larch bud moth will kill all moths in their larval stage every

time. The next step will be to find out how to get the viruses into most if not all larvae as they develop.

Science has had some notable successes in controlling larger pestilential animals—such as the rabbit hordes of Australia—by infecting them with viruses which kill them but do not kill other animals. There are some dangers in the method. But it has been said that insect viruses are, potentially, the perfect insecticides. As an example, it is believed that an insect virus which might sicken and kill the highly destructive Japanese beetle could be harmless to the very useful honey bee. But there's much to be learned about viruses.

Legislators Disagree Over Method of Combatting State Problems of Mental Health

Salt Lake City—Oregon legislators seem agreed solving the state's mental health problems constitute one of the state's most pressing needs, but are far from agreed on the most efficient methods.

Their views on mental health are being surveyed as part of a cooperative project conducted by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in 11 western states, Alaska and Hawaii.

Views Told

Questionnaires so far returned by members of the Oregon Legislature to the survey office here show some hold out high hopes new "wonder drugs" will replace or improve present methods of treatment; indicate other legislators feel a need for increasing present hospital facilities; and find others urging increased efforts to educate the public in "attitudes" as regards mental health.

One legislator holds a new attack "on problems of retarded children" is primary in correcting present lacks in mental health care, while another feels problems posed by aged and senile persons should be spotlighted.

Responses to survey questionnaires thus far returned indicate agreement on the need for more trained personnel, with more attractive salaries suggested to enlist them.

Education Said Need

They are also in wide agreement on a need to educate the public in all aspects of the mental health question. In a typical response, a legislator terms his constituents "not too aware or conscious of the problem, which makes proper legislation or obtaining funds difficult." Another response urged "educating the public that mental illness is a disease, not a social stigma," while another called for "a program to impress on the public the prevalence of curable mental illness, to make known the human

resources lost through lack of treatment, and impress the public that treatment leading to recovery is less costly than confinement."

Legislators feel they, as well as the public, should have more facts concerning comparative costs of treatment versus confinement, the survey shows. According to one Oregon response, "there should be a determination from county health officers, physicians and others, of the percentage of people who need or would be helped by out-patient clinics or consultation, and the probabilities of reducing the load in mental hospitals. We need comparative costs of out-patient clinics as against residence costs, estimates of personnel needs and costs, and studies on how best to reduce the patient load."

Other legislators want data regarding "conditions in the state relative to schooling and training of mental health specialists," and also see the need for studies in the costs of medical care, education of aides and the costs of added hospital space.

County OEA Group Slates Fall Meet

The Jackson county chapter of the Oregon Education association will hold its fall meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at the new Hedrick Junior High school cafeteria in Medford.

In addition to a short business meeting, there will be an open house of the school, William E. Ruck, president of the county chapter, said.

There are about 600 members in the Jackson county chapter, which is composed of certificated personnel working in connection with schools.

Benson Cancels Trip To Europe Next Month

Washington—(U.P.)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson yesterday canceled a trip to Europe next month in order to direct plans for improving the nation's farm situation.

Benson's decision was announced after a visit to the White House. It was understood that Vice-President Richard M. Nixon had been there at the same time Benson visited.

The cancellation was announced amid signs of growing discontent among farmers and congressmen about sagging farm income and low prices for farm produce.

Benson said in a statement he would remain here "to direct the continuing preparation of recommendations to Congress designed to strengthen, improve, and refine the present agricultural program."

Gloria Vanderbilt Gets Western Role

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Gloria Vanderbilt Stokowski will play the "romantic lead" in a western movie opposite Frank Sinatra, the crooner announced yesterday. It will be Mrs. Stokowski's debut in pictures.

Sinatra said he signed the estranged wife of conductor Leopold Stokowski "because she is perfect for the romantic lead."

The singer said he will produce and also star in the picture, "Johnny Concho," expected to go into production next month.

Sinatra was a frequent escort of the socialite during recent stays in New York.

New Water Fountain Installed at Park

Medford water commission crews have completed installation of a water fountain near the East Main st. entrance of Hawthorne park.

The fountain has been dedicated to community residents who initiated using Big Butte Springs water as a municipal water supply for Medford and vicinity.

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