

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

How often is the main pleasure of a day's fishing, hunting, or hiking concentrated upon one small object: a red columbine catching the sun's light, a premature dogwood in dress whites, a fall leaf in brilliant color?

Would you like to perpetuate that memory by keeping a single flower pressed between the pages of a favorite book? Or preserve for the on-coming winter months a branch of a magnolia?

Pressing is a very old method of preserving leaves, ferns and flowers.

For best results, gather material in as nearly perfect condition as you can find it. Trim side shoots or branches carefully so that none overlap. Brush leaves lightly with nonsalty oil, such as olive oil. But lightly, and remove any excess with tissue.

Before the material to be pressed has had a chance to wilt, place each piece between several thicknesses of dry newspapers. If you are making a collection and have several flowers you wish to press, build up a pile, changing the placement in the succeeding newspaper pages so that the pile keeps level.

That done, weight down the pile with a large flat board, with bricks or heavy books on top of that.

Depending upon climate and humidity, allow from three to 12 weeks for drying and when the material is completely dried—but not beyond that—remove from the newspapers and store the specimens in a dry, dust-free container. Take care, should the material be left between newspapers too long, some of the moisture that has been absorbed by the paper will seep back into the foliage, spoiling it.

Treat With Solution

To make foliage last for years for decorating purposes and take on attractive color, treat it with a solution one part glycerine (from any drugstore) to two parts water. Magnolia, beech, dogwood, eucalyptus, lemon, salal and oak leaves as well as many others respond well.

Select branches with care—see that they are well curved, the foliage healthy. Trim leaves and side branches away from the main stems. To clean leaves of dust or grime, spray or wash with cold water.

Split the stems for two or three inches and place them into a container so that at least six inches of stem extends into the solution.

As the solution is absorbed and leaves turn golden, dark-brown or bronze—depending on the kind of foliage—make certain that there is enough solution in the container. Re-cutting stems, removing one-half inch about once every week, hastens the absorption. The entire process may take three weeks, possibly longer for thick leathery leaves such as magnolia.

When rich color is attained, remove the material from the solution and store the branches in dust-free boxes, if possible. Such glycerine-treated foliage will keep for years, and it may be used over and over.

Immerse Completely
Green branches of Scotch broom may be treated similarly. As well, foliage with berries or seed pods such as baptisia. Some people use galax and English ivy. Best results are obtained if they are immersed completely in a half-and-half glycerine-water solution. And preferably during late spring or midsummer.

Material treated with glycerine and water may be arranged dry or combined with fresh flowers since water will not injure the treated stems. Or for variety you may wish to use the branches and leaves with dried corn vegetables, fruits and evergreen boughs. It's all mighty handsome.

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Coos Bay Man Must Pay Back Income Tax

Washington—(UP)—A Coos Bay lumberman must pay a federal claim for \$13,271 in additional taxes for 1951, the tax court of the United States ruled yesterday.

The court ruled that Rex Sorensen, a lumber wholesaler, was not entitled to accrue in that year a contingent liability of \$16,406 for non-performance of two government contracts. Therefore he could not claim the amount as a deductible business loss, it ruled.

East Oregon Religious Leader Resigns Post

Pendleton—(UP)—Dr. Earl P. Cochran, outstanding religious leader in eastern Oregon and pastor of the First Presbyterian church here, yesterday announced his resignation.

Dr. Cochran has served as pastor of the Pendleton church for the past 15 years and been active in the ministry for 42 years. He was known as the "Saddle preacher" in the area for his services of carrying messages to remote ranches throughout the region.

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