

Bitter Cherry of Siskiyou Is Pretty and Showy Plant

By Al Hobart

A symbol of freshness and cleanness, the little Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) is one of the prettiest and showiest plants to greet us in the spring. It is quite common in our area, both in the mountains and in the valley, where it is most often found growing along stream banks or not far from moist situations. It is one of the three members of its genus that make the Siskiyou Mountain region their home, the other two being Western Choke Cherry and Sierra Plum.

Most often we find Bitter Cherry to be a shrub, from 4 to 8 feet high; but where crowding by large trees compels it to compete for the sun's favors, it becomes a small tree 20 to 30 feet high. Free from the influence and of other tree species, as a shrub, it often forms dense thickets.

Because of the peculiar form

and disposition of both its leaves and flowers, Bitter Cherry is never hard to recognize. The 5-petaled white blossoms are arranged in little bunches of from 4 to 10 on short stalks. The long extruding stamens with their conspicuous dark anthers give to the blossoms, and the flower-decked shrub as a whole, a whole, dainty, fofay appearance.

Leaves in Groups

The fact that most of the leaves grow in groups of several on a short stem makes Bitter Cherry easily distinguishable from other members of the genus. Too, the shape of the leaves is conspicuously different from that of the others. Outer end of the leaf is relatively broad and rounded, the whole tapering to a long wedge-shaped base and a very short leafstem. The leaf is dark-green on the upper surface, lighter underneath.

When summer arrives and Bitter Cherry reluctantly casts aside the lacy and delicate mantle of spring it is still attractive, still very popular with its winged visitors, although not so conspicuous and beautiful as in blossom-time.

This is when the bright red little cherries, having elbowed aside the fading but still fragrant petals, take their place in the fascinating succession of acts that make up this little wildie's seasonal performance, so greatly appreciated and sincerely applauded by man and bird and insect alike.

Fruit Inedible

To Man the plant's beauty alone is sufficient—the fruit is so bitter and astringent he finds it wholly inedible. In blossom-time the shrub, or

Household Detergent Good Jewelry Cleaner

What to do when jewelry gets dull and dingy? A little care can keep them looking their shiny best, whether they're real or high-fashion costume pieces, according to the West Coast Information committee.

Gems or paste stones call for lukewarm water and mild household detergent, applied gently with an old toothbrush to coax dirt from the settings. Rinse with that standby petroleum product, rubbing alcohol, to make the stones glow. Or if the piece has not been cleaned recently, soak it in alcohol first, then brush. Never rinse gems in cold water, as either genuine or imitation stones may crack.

Jewelry experts say the best treatment for gold is to breathe on it and rub it with a soft cloth. Silver jewelry can be done the same way, or you can use a good silver cleaner, if you want a really bright finish.

For exceptionally good dessert pancakes prepare 1 cup, packaged pancake mix with 1 egg, 1 cup milk and 2 tablespoons sugar. Stir in 1/2 cup each chopped walnuts and semi-sweet chocolate pieces. Bake and put cakes together in twos with whipped cream. Serve at once. Perfect for Shrove Tuesday.

little tree, attracts countless hungry and industrious insects who find the hidden nectar anything but bitter.

Then, when the cherries arrive, the birds take over and feast happily on the (to them) tasty and nourishing fruit, after which they express their appreciation to their friendly host by scattering the cherry seeds far and wide.

To Southern Oregon's rich and beautiful floral population the dainty little Bitter Cherry makes a noteworthy contribution.

Potpourri

For quite a long time we had a system for taking pictures at the Country club. It failed us Monday. Rather than spend a lot of time trying to decide which tables of guests to photograph when on a Country club assignment, we often just tell the photographer to take the first table inside the dining room door, or the corner table in the lower lounge, etc. Whoever sat at that table was "shot."

So Monday we took a picture of the women sitting at the first table near the door in the main dining room during the Beta Sigma Phi fashion show. But it isn't in today's paper. Sitting at the table were Mrs. John Dickson, Mrs. Norman Caspey, Mrs. Lawrence McEachron and Mrs. John Rapke. Four extremely presentable, well-dressed and charming women. There was just one thing wrong. We took pictures in December at the club of the McEachrons, the Dicksons and the Rapkes. Last fall we took pictures at the club—of the Dicksons and Rapkes. The women agreed that they didn't want their friends to think they'd hired a publicity agent, and Potpourri retired from the scene, with a very red face.

Maybe we should blame the whole incident on the fact that the four women were sitting at table 13.

Pre-teenagers are being pushed into the social whirl too early according to two experts on children. Mrs. Jean Grossman, parent education consultant for the National Play Schools association, and Dr. Mary Mercer, psychiatric consultant to the New York Health department, say children are forced to keep up too fast a living pace.

In a United Press story, Mrs. Grossman and Dr. Mercer are quoted as saying that many parents do not realize that a child's social and emotional development lag behind his physical and mental development. So children of 10 or 12 years are allowed to date.

Just because a child talks about a "boy friend" or "going steady" is no reason to believe that such a child is ready for dating, the experts say. They urge parents to study the dating practices in the community, and determine if the pattern is good or bad. Find out what activities youngsters enjoy and help organize healthy social groups such as scouting, dramatics clubs and dancing schools, they advise.

Republican women of Jackson county feel that they know President and Mrs. Eisenhower better because of General and Mrs. Roy V. Rickard. The Rickards and the Eisenhowers have been friends ever since the two men were just lieutenants in the Army. Since the Rickards retired to Medford, Mrs. Rickard has kindly "shared" the Eisenhowers with her friends here.

Wednesday she brought to the Republican club meeting the big Christmas card which the Rickards received from the Eisenhowers. It has their picture — an excellent one of the president and possibly the best portrait of Mrs. E. we've ever seen. Mrs. Rickard also brought along the invitation to attend the inaugural which they received from the Eisenhowers, and both treasures made the rounds of the tables.

The Mayflower hotel in Washington is proud of the list of dignitaries which the hostelry has housed and fed, and last week sent out a release about the recent stag dinner which King Saud of Arabia gave for President Eisenhower. The table was "laid to a King's taste," the Mayflower boasted, with gleaming gold service and rock crystal stemware. Real spring water went into the stemware, too, instead of just ordinary tap water.

Since Moslems do not drink alcoholic beverages, only orange juice, ginger ale and tomato juice were served. The dinner began with hot and cold tidbits, followed by pineapple with fresh fruit and berries in season and double consommé with diced fresh vegetables and pearls of tapioca served with cheese straws. Hearts of Pascal celery and green Queen olives were also listed. The fish course was lobster American with rice and the main course was roast partridge with truffles served with braised Belgian endive, green peas in butter and soufflé potatoes. This was followed by a mixed green salad served with cheese patties, and for dessert the hotel chef offered baked Alaska with black cherries, assorted cakes and coffee. So there we have it—a dinner fit for a King and a President.

Today will find the two of us outdoors, enjoying the sunshine (we hope) which the weather man promised us Saturday. Last Sunday we drove up in the hills to the family wood lot in the hopes of photographing some deer. The deer had moved on, but the trip wasn't wasted. We did see a few jays flaunting their pretty blue feathers, and one tiny little winter wren which bobbed around among the branches of a douglas fir which one of the winter storms had brought down.

And there was the sky, incredibly blue. Down in the valley under the incessant haze and smoke, we forget how blue the sky can be.

When the Rev. Thomas McCamant came in Thursday with his church notice, we checked our description of the wren with him. The minister and Gen. Joseph Hicks, both authorities on bird life, have been taking a poll of winter birds.

We repeated the questions of Mrs. Donald Grant, who called in from Central Point to ask about some large grey and white birds which have been roosting in the pine trees near the Grant home. Mrs. Grant, originally from Florida, said they looked a little like storks, except they were much smaller, or a crane. Mr. McCamant said they were probably black crowned night herons, which are seen in this area from time to time, but said he would contact the Grants and drive out to watch the birds.

No wonder there's dire predictions about the fate of the British empire. First we read that maybe Queen Elizabeth and the royal spouse aren't getting along so well and then we hear on the radio that Princess Margaret Rose, listening to an American dance orchestra play rock and roll in a theater, slipped out of her pumps and put her stocking feet on the rail of the theater box. Imagine.

But yesterday's dispatches were to the effect that when the "radiant queen" met her husband at the airport in Lisbon Saturday both appeared smiling and happy. And in spite of royal tradition that the monarch never displays personal feelings in public, Elizabeth stroked her husband's arm. We were hoping she'd forget all about tradition for once and kiss him.

A new electric range put out by Hotpoint has an electric music box that plays "Tenderly" when the roast thermometer signals that the meat is properly done. Why didn't they make it a Presley record?—O.S.

District 4 Nurses To Attend Sessions; Volunteers Praised

Two members of District 4, Oregon State Nurses' association, will attend meetings this week.

February 22 Mrs. Christine Bates, district president, will participate in a communications panel discussion in Portland. The panel will be part of the district presidents' conference there.

Also this week Mrs. Margaret Nelson, operating room supervisor at Rogue Valley hospital, will attend a four-day session of the Fourth National Congress of the Association of Operating Room Nurses in Los Angeles.

At the last meeting of the Nurses' association held at Sacred Heart hospital the mechanics of the current anti-polio program were more fully explained. Recognition was extended to the many nurses who volunteered for the program as well as to the large group of volunteers from parent-teacher associations and other organizations who also assisted at the schools and at the health department.

An article on "Psychiatric Nursing," written by Dr. Harry Danielson, Medford psychiatrist, which appears in the February issue of the state magazine Oregon Nurse was mentioned at the meeting as the article was written at the request of District 4 nurses.

It was also announced that 11 nurses took the medical history-taking class which preceded the last visit by the bloodmobile.

Following the business meeting Dr. E. V. Meyerding presented three case studies on general surgery illustrated by x-rays. Hostesses for the social hour

Frozen Avocado Base Developed by Research

Frozen avocado base, made of the mashed fruit mixed with lemon juice, salt, and chopped onion has been developed by U. S. D. A. research workers. With this base the homemaker can prepare a guacamole-type salad, dip, or cracker spread. She may also add other seasonings to suit her taste, or apply her ingenuity to finding other real-time uses for the product. Also projected for the future is an avocado whip which is a puree of the fruit with onion, lime juice, and salad dressing. It is anticipated that avocados in frozen form may be made more widely available, and at a popular budget price.

An all-time salad favorite is made by putting slices of Calavo avocado on crisp romaine lettuce. For the dressing try half cottage cheese and half mayonnaise seasoned with a little prepared horseradish and fresh lime juice. It makes a superb salad.

Skillet Meal

Here's a quick skillet meal which can be put together in a hurry. Slice 1/2 pound seasoning bacon and cut into bite-sized pieces. Fry out and then drain on absorbent paper. Pour all the fat from the skillet and then measure back 2 tablespoons into the skillet. Blend in 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour. Cook several minutes. Add 1 cup finely diced onion and cook until the flour mixture browns slightly. Add the juice from two No. 2 cans red beans. Mix thoroughly. Add the fried-out pieces of bacon. Cover and cook over a low heat for several hours. Add water if a thinner mixture is desired, or if the mixture begins to stick. Stir occasionally. Serve hot over 3 cups hot cooked rice.

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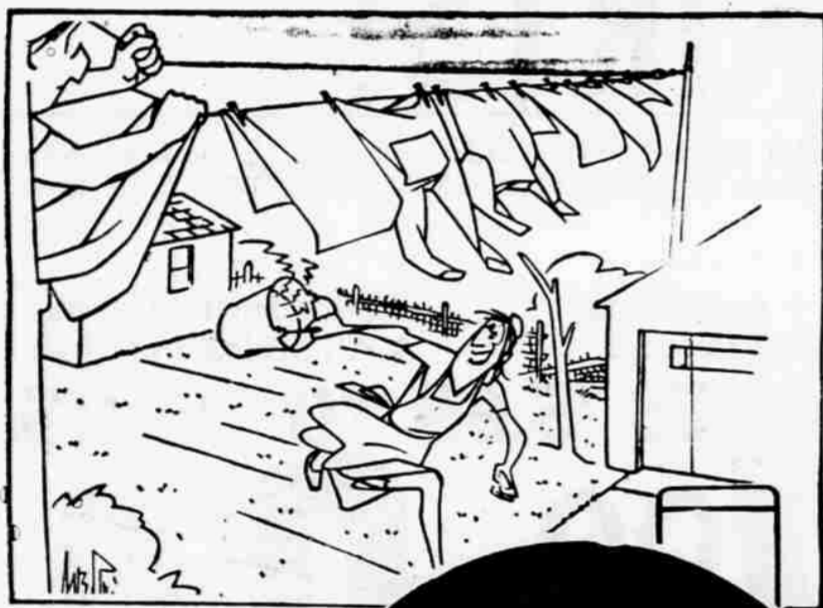
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