

### Bells of Ireland Said Ideal For Bouquets, Arrangements

About 20 years ago a seedsman in Chicago "discovered" a new flower that was most unique in that actually it was green in color. He was so enthusiastic about it that he reproduced it in full color on the cover of his catalogue. He gave it all the publicity that he possibly could. But alas! It proved to be a dud. Almost no interest was shown in it by flower gardeners. Leaves were supposed to be green. But not flowers! It lingered for a few years in spring catalogues and dropped completely out of sight and out of mind.

Our Chicago friend was 20 years ahead of his time. For quite recently *Molucella laevis* (our green flower) appeared again; this time under the name of Bells of Ireland. It almost instantly became one of the most popular of flowers. Why all the enthusiasm this time? There may be several reasons. But the essential one I feel sure is that this time there was much greater interest in flower arrangements among flower gardeners in general and among garden club members in particular.

Bells of Ireland is ideal for use in bouquets and arrangements. The bloom itself is unimportant. It is an insignificant blossom that appears in the green bell for which the flower is named and which is botanically called the calyx of the flower. Every flower has a calyx to cover the base of the blossom. But in Bells of Ireland its lovely shape and color, make it the flower's important feature.

The Bells appear on long, curving stalks, scores of them crowded together for a foot or more on each stalk—all a soft light green that is most attractive. As the green goes well with any flower it can be sure in a

### Wild Gold-Star One of Earliest Spring Flowers

By AL HOBART

One of the very earliest of our spring flowers is the little bright-yellow Gold-star. It is only a few inches high and at a little distance the leaves and stems are unnoticeable, but the shining half-inch flowers show up like brilliant little suns — or, as the name indicates, like gleaming golden stars.

The Gold-star (*Crocidium multicaule*) is a member of the sunflower, or aster, family. The stems are very slender, one or more to a plant. A single "flower" is borne on each stem. The light-green leaves are mostly basal, like those of the dandelion; they are much shorter than the flower stems, rather narrow, wider near the outer end and usually with a few inconspicuous teeth. The few stem leaves are much shorter and narrower than the basal. All are rather fleshy, somewhat woolly at first, and becoming reddish with age.

These cheerful little flecks of sunshine seem content to grow anywhere, just so they can exchange smiles with the real sun during much of the day. A sunny bank or bluff is a favorite spot.

If you examine carefully the blossom of the Gold-star you'll find that it isn't a single flower at all, but a whole colony of them all working together to give the appearance of a single bloom. The central part is composed of a close-packed group of tiny perfect flowers. Even the petal-like "rays" that make up the showier parts of the Gold-star are individual flowers, each with a tiny akene, or fruit, attached to its lower end. Daisies and all other members of the sunflower family are made up of many small flowers in one floral unit as in the Gold-star, although some have no ray flowers, while others are all rays with no central, or disk, flowers. Because of this peculiar composition the sunflowers are called composites.

There is a rocky open point down by the river not far from my cabin that is a favored campsite of the little Gold-stars. It is convenient to watch because the road passes just below the point and above the river. There on the 10th of February, just after a good storm, I found dozens of them in full bloom, their little freshly scrubbed faces shining as joyously as if it were summertime.

These cheerful little wildies take readily to transplantation, and in your dooryard, before winter has hardly gone, they take you happily by surprise with their sudden, radiant appearance.

### Gladamson Unit Plans Meeting on Tuesday

Gladamson unit of Wesleyan Service will meet at the home of Mrs. William Sweet, 722 Pennsylvania avenue, Tuesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. Dessert will be served.

The second section of the study book, "The Church in Southeast Asia," will be given by Mrs. Clifford Proctor. All members are urged to attend.

## Secretary Says Legislature Marked With Trial, Trivia and Tribulation

By MARIJANE DUNCAN

These quickly-passing days are filled with trial, trivia, and tribulation. All of us here are by now thoroughly indoctrinated into life in this "marble palace" which is Oregon's State Capitol. Speaking of marble, Gene Vanderyne, custodian and guide in the Capitol, loaned me an interesting brochure the other day which described the various sorts of marble used in the State buildings. It comes from Vermont, Missouri, and Arkansas, and some even from France. The colors are indefinite, shading from pale grays and cream to a lovely rust-red. If one looks closely, one may see many specimens of fossils therein, some of them quite perfect.

Bob's judiciary committee has been snowed under with bills, to the extent that grimaces of pain cross the faces of the members whenever anyone refers anything to Judiciary during a session (they often do). One of the most interesting bills now in that committee, to me, is the Capital Punishment bill. This is a problem that has been much debated and often legislated. As you may remember, Oregon did not have capital punishment for a few years, then reinstated it. Now this Legislature may once again put it to a vote of the people of the State. Surely such a step upward should emanate from the conscience of the people.

I attended the hearing on the bill and was disappointed that only the proponents made themselves heard; not that a donnybrook should be waged over something so serious, but because there are people who oppose it and say so elsewhere, and it seems they should express themselves when an open forum is offered. Warden Gladamson testified first, and his words were lent weight by his opening statement that he, himself, had a sister who was murdered. His testimony was somewhat distorted by some of the newspapers which headlined that he "urged" the death penalty for those serving life terms. Actually, he simply gave his approval to the bill as written. Should any of you be interested in reading these bills, HB 355 and HJR 11, copies may be obtained at the library or courthouse.

**Sometimes Fun**

During a session of the House, seriousness can turn to fun in a moment. We were very serious, one day, about a bill which Bob was introducing. It was SB 6, an important bill as far as Jackson county was concerned, but of small concern to the rest of the state. Bob explained this carefully, touched upon the high points of the bill, then sat down confidently to wait for the expected vote of approval. The first jarring note came in the form of some rather cutting observations on the possible intent of this seemingly harmless legislation, this from some to whom we had looked for support. One representative even went so far as to state that it looked suspiciously to him as though some lawyer somewhere might just reap a fat fee from this kind of bill. Bob answered this "banter" with an assurance that such was not at all the case, that, in fact, just the opposite was the intent. The bill was designed to validate a school election and to avoid possible litigation. Again he sat down, this time somewhat less confidently. He was, in fact, a bit worried, remembering a "lawyer's bill" that had gone down to defeat a day or two before after similar discussion. There was a call for the vote, and it began. By the time the "D's" were reached, it was evident that things were not going well at all. Halfway through the roll-call, Bob turned to me to ask, rather hoarsely, if I was keeping track of the vote. I was not. I could see it was useless. Our bill was going down to defeat, and we would never, never be able to go home to Jackson county. If Bob couldn't get a simple little bill like that through the House, what good was he to his constituents? These were my thoughts, and from the expression on his face, I could tell that Bob shared them. It was over; there had been a few "ayes," and for these we were grateful; but our bill was done for, finished, and we must have looked stricken. At this point, and before the speaker could announce the result, at least a dozen people jumped to their feet. As soon as the first one spoke, we knew, "Mr. Speaker," said he, "I wish to change my vote!" There was a clamor of voices, all repeating these lovely words; and we sat there feeling

foolish, terribly relieved, and—initiated!

**Mail Increases**

The volume of mail has increased tenfold, and in spite of the time and work involved in answering all of it, we are very happy to see this. It indicates a healthy, lively interest in state government and a real desire to help solve the problems which beset this Legislature. We have had mail concerning the proposed Saturday bank closing, the bill to raise the speed limits on Diamond lake, 4-H club dormitories, the tree tax, lots of letters on school problems, and other subjects which affect the people of our district. School legislation is something which concerns us deeply. We hope the large difficulties faced by our educators can be worked out quickly for the good of all of our children.

Bob has developed an interest in problems of mental health and has visited the State Hospital and talked with the staff and some of the patients. He is trying to inform himself well on all things which will come up in this session, but, failing that, at least on the most vital problems. We both feel mental health falls in that category, since it touches so many families directly or indirectly, and since, with modern methods, it can be combated, often with amazing success. It's victims range from small children to those in their nineties; and each evening as we drive past all those huge, silent buildings, we are again appalled at the number of persons who must reside therein—realizing at the same time that there are countless others who desperately need help and have not had it.

**Five Not So Many**

We do get out and have a good time—it's not all work. We must limit our social events for two reasons: Bob can't spare the time very often, and we want to spend as many evenings as possible with our family. We take them along whenever anyone is rash enough to say "bring the children." All of us enjoyed a potluck dinner given by the Marion County Democratic club in February. We arrived late and in force, and they were crowded; but they took us in and fed us, none of the kids behaved dreadfully, the food was good and the coffee hot, and we had a jolly, old-fashioned evening.

By the way, we learned that night that five children isn't such a darned big family after all. Mr. McCarty, the sergeant-at-arms of the House, turned out to have seven; as did Representative Dick Eyeman of Eugene.

**Take Cruise**

Another outing on which children of a certain age were welcome was the river boat cruise sponsored by the Portland Maritime commission. One of the new commissioners, Dennis Lindsay, is an old friend, and he and his wonderful wife, Betty, welcomed Bob and myself, Nancy, and Angus, aboard a real stern-wheeler one Sunday afternoon. The boat looked much too small to carry all of us (there were over two hundred) from the shore; but once on board, we found that with a little "giving" and squeezing, we fitted nicely. It was a perfect day for such an "adventure," and to us (with the exception of Bob who is an old sea-dog) it was that.

We sailed up and down the Willamette, under bridges and through bridges, observing with interest the various vessels tied

### Spelling Hints Given Students By OSC Expert

Corvallis—Good spellers are made, not born, and they're made mostly from desire, correct pronunciation, and knowing the meaning of words to be spelled, according to an Oregon State college professor who is author of a new spelling book for high school students.

Ned D. Marksheffel, assistant professor of education, says spelling is basic to writing and that it is an extremely important subject.

"Many factors are involved in spelling—intelligence, ability to read, background of experience, etc.—but the average student can learn to be a good speller if he wants to and if he works at it," Marksheffel insists.

His method for studying spelling includes these steps: know the meaning of the word; be able to pronounce it correctly; break the word down into syllables; say it aloud; and then write it.

Special emphasis is placed on knowing the meaning of words to be spelled. "Learning to spell words which have no meaning may be a fine form of mental gymnastics, but it is not conducive to spelling growth," he says.

Here are some other suggestions:

Always learn to pronounce the word clearly and distinctly. Research by spelling experts has shown that a person needs to know how to pronounce a word before he can spell it correctly. Library and government, for example, are often misspelled because they're mispronounced "library" and "government."

Review is important. Within 24 hours from the time you learn new words, have someone test you on them again, he advises students.

The dictionary is a great help

### Couple to Speak In Rogue River

Rogue River—Women's association of Hope Presbyterian church in Rogue River, will sponsor a family potluck dinner Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship hall.

Immediately following the dinner Mr. and Mrs. W. Brewster Hayes of Allahabad, India, will speak of their work in that country. Allahabad Agricultural Institute, a union institution, is world famous for its program of teaching, research, and practical demonstration. Mr. Hayes is head of the department of horticulture. Mrs. Hayes, a medical doctor, works in the Junna Dispensary, one at Ewing Christian college and one at the Agricultural institute which serve the general public as well as the faculty and students.

All families are cordially invited to attend. Those attending the potluck dinner should bring a dish of food and their table service.

in "studying" words, Marksheffel points out. It helps not only with definitions but also with pronunciation and with breaking the word down into syllables.

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