



Jackson County Chamber of Commerce closed its first course in wildflower study with a series of three field trips, the last of these taking place last Sunday. A group of about 30 took the trip into the Mt. Ashland region and among the exciting finds were a few of the rather rare white Lily Washingtonianum. Said to have been first discovered by the botanist who accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition, the lily was named for Lady Washington. It is the only pure white native lily of this region.



Growing in profusion in the Ashland loop area are these curious low pink and white flowers called pink paintbrush or "owl eyes." Masses of the brilliant scarlet Indian paintbrush were also seen by those on Sunday's field trip.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE
SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1957

Wildflower Field Trip



On the expedition Sunday were I. T. Skyman (at left) and R. D. Kay, both Central Point, and their wives. The 10 cars halted at mid-afternoon at the intersection indicated above, and some returned to the valley while others drove to the lookout on Dutchman's peak. Mr. Skyman snipped a bit of dwarf sage from a plant at his feet while waiting for the photographer to adjust his camera. The gray-green sage is one of the common plants of the area.



Common throughout the western states is this bright yellow native sunflower with brown center which blooms in spring in the valleys and later in the year in the higher elevations.



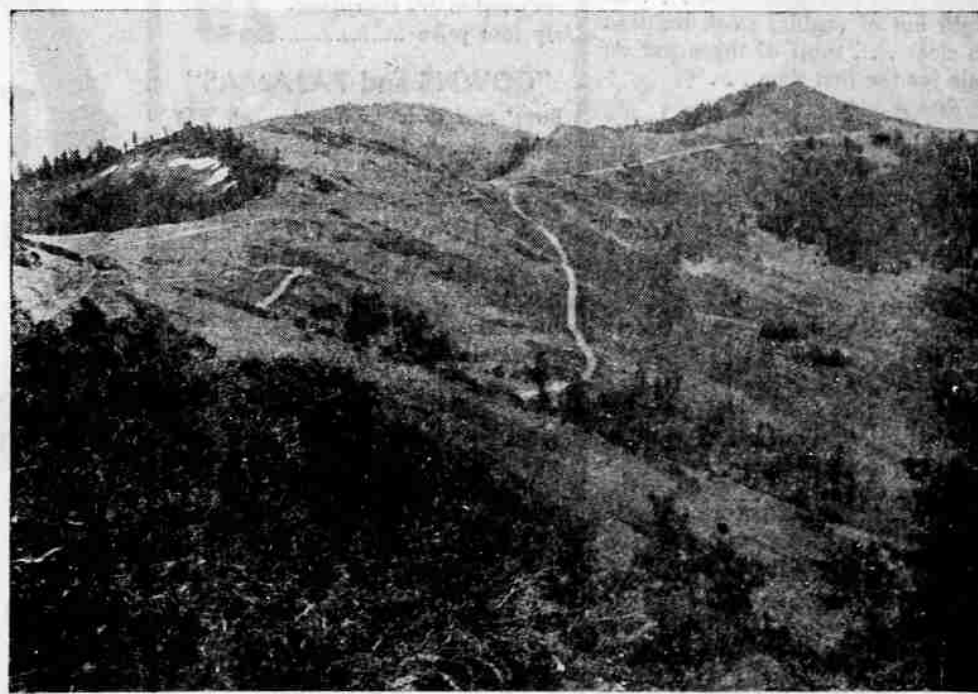
Leader of the last two field trips made by the class has been Delmar Smith, Central Point, amateur botanist and gardener. Mr. Smith is pictured with Mrs. Smith as the two examine a bit of mountain mahogany, a shrub which grows in abundance in the higher, arid sections of southern Oregon. The shrub has small, glossy leaves and the wood is exceedingly hard. Mr. Smith led the class members to a patch of the rare yellow-orange Wigginsii lily, named for Professor Wiggins of the University of California and later in the day found a patch of the dark blue native delphinium. These sometimes grow six feet in height.



Mrs. R. D. Kay (with book) and Mrs. I. T. Skyman took advantage of one of the expedition's stops to attempt identification of some of the specimen's taken on the trip. Almost every car of class members had a book on western wildflowers and these were consulted constantly during the day. Among the flowers gathered and identified were scarlet gillia, yellow monkey flower, the rather rare rein orchis with its tiny, fragrant white flowers on a spike, several types of lupine and brilliant blue penstemon.



A good conservationist and wildflower lover does not dig rare specimens which he may not be able to transplant successfully, but takes only those which grow in such profusion that they are in no danger of extinction, and then digs them in a spot which will not be noticeable to motorists or others passing the same way. Here Miss Helen Webster (at left) and Miss Cora Mason, Ashland, examine a clump of pyrethrum, a pinkish-lavender daisy which grows in great abundance on the slopes of the Mt. Ashland area, trying to decide if it could be transplanted successfully at this time. Like domesticated plants, some wildflowers may be dug and transplanted while in bloom, others when small and some later in the growing cycle.



The Ashland Loop trip is one of the most beautiful and rewarding which a motorist of southern Oregon can take, in the opinion of many residents. Later the wildflowers will not be in blossom, but the view from the peaks, such as this looking south from Dutchman's lookout, is magnificent. In places Mr. Shasta is plainly visible on a clear day; from Dutchman a breathtaking view of the mountains in the Crater lake area and those in the vicinity of the Oregon caves in Josephine county can be seen as well as the ranges in northern California.