

Central Pointers Top Beef Judges

Central Point Beef 4-H club members proved themselves top livestock judges as they walked off with all the honors in the market livestock judging contest at the Jackson County 4-H and F.F.A. fair at the fairgrounds in Medford.

Marilyn Watson, Carol von der Hellen and Bill Anhorn, not only were the winners of the county medals for the best club team but were the high individuals in that order

and will represent Jackson county at the state fair in the judging contest.

Other top individuals in the live stock judging contest were: 4—Joyce Kerr, Sis-Q; 5—Bill Hubbard, Eagle Point; 6—David Woolfolk, Eagle Point; 7—Jo Anna Malloroy, Antelope; 8—Betty Kerr, Sis-Q; 9—Lynn Saunders, Applegate; 10—Susan Wright, Medford.

Diary of a Bird Watcher



Wednesday, Aug. 13

Today we left Yosemite Park. On our way out we visited the Mariposa Grove of big trees and saw the Grizzly Giant, estimated to have been living far before the days of Abraham of the Old Testament. We saw no birds there except some Steller's jays and little mountain chickadees.

As soon as we left the park we began to feel the heat. It was intense all afternoon as we went through Fresno and Bakersfield. We noticed that the floor of the car got so hot that you could hardly touch things that had been sitting on it. We came through Los Angeles but had trouble finding a resting place for the night because of "No Vacancy" signs. We finally found a place in Long Beach.

Thursday, Aug. 14

Today we visited Disneyland. This was our boy's main objective on the trip, so this was his day. We had fun, too. My wife and I enjoyed the plantings and landscaping around the place. For a while I thought birds might be attracted by the plantings but I guess there were too many people. We saw nothing except the ever-adaptable blackbirds and house sparrows.

Friday, Aug. 15

Today we got back into the bird watching groove. We went to the Tucker Bird Sanctuary in Modjeska Canyon southeast of Orange. This is a wonderful place. They have such a battery of hummingbird feeders that you can sit anywhere along the porch and observe them feeding at a range of three or four feet. The species were Anna's and black-chinned, both new to us and very attractive. I mentioned once before in this column that orioles seem to be fond of nectar. We saw hooded orioles coming to the hummingbird feeder here. Then there were other feeders with various types of food. The most interesting birds we saw coming to them were a California thrasher and a Nuttall's woodpecker.

We also saw interesting birds coming up the canyon and back out. Here we saw our first mockingbirds of the trip. We also saw phainopeplas. They are striking black, crested birds with white patches on the wing.

We are beginning to observe that many of the things we have heard about the Los Angeles area are true. The freeway traffic is something to write home about. At first I thought it was fun to be travelling through the heart of Los Angeles at 60 miles an hour with cars five abreast, but later when I saw that the county had 475 traffic fatalities so far this year I decided it wasn't so funny. The prominence of real estate promotion is all that it is cracked up to be, too. I think it would have been easier to buy a house than find a motel. Then, we have also had some of the "unusual weather" for which southern California is famous. This time it has been unusually wet, hot and humid. In fact Los Angeles had next to the heaviest August rain in history. It usually doesn't rain in August at all.

Saturday, Aug. 16

Today we left Anaheim where Disneyland is and headed for our son's home in San Clemente. On the way, though, we stopped and looked at upper Newport bay, another place recommended for birds. Water skiers were occupying much of the area, but we finally found a place near some salt ponds where there were many birds. The one we enjoyed the most was the black necked stilts. Its contrasting black and white plumage is most striking and it has bright red legs. I had seen them once before but was mighty glad to renew their acquaintance. I had never been able to find snowy plovers before and I found them there, too. The water was also dotted with phalaropes. I hate to mention phalaropes because they are one bird where the female is more brightly colored than the male and consequently the male also does the incubating.

When we arrived at San Clemente the first thing we saw was our charming granddaughter. I know every one will be surprised to have me comment that I think she is an unusually attractive and interesting baby. It is fun to have your children grow up and be able to visit in their homes.

Monday, Aug. 18

Today we saw some other new birds along the beach: a semi-palmated plover that looks like a half-sized killdeer, a whimbrel (Hudsonian curlew) with a long curved bill, and Heermann's gulls. All of these we could see in Oregon but had not this year so far.

Tuesday, Aug. 19

The common birds in San Clemente around my son's place are blackbirds, shrikes and mockingbirds. Unfortunately the latter aren't singing now. I haven't yet seen a robin in southern California.—T.M.

News About Books From the Library

Vacation travelers will find there are many interesting stories behind the names of places they visit. Accounts of the ways in which these names originated can be found in books in your Jackson County library.

George R. Stewart, the leading authority on U. S. place names, relates many of these origins in his book, "Names on the Land," which has become a classic of Americana. The book narrates the explorations of the Spanish, Dutch, French and English settlers and tells of the names they left in their wake. Florida, for example, was named by explorer Ponce de Leon in 1512 from the fact that the whole region he saw was covered with flowers. The word "Florida" is a Spanish adjective meaning flowery.

State Name
The state name of Oregon comes from the French and the Indians, according to George Shackle's book, "State Names, Flags, Songs, Birds, Flowers and Other Symbols."

The name was first applied to the river now named the Columbia, then to a vast north-western territory, and finally to the state. Jonathan Carver first used the name. Some think that he got it indirectly from the French "ouragan," supposed to be the source of the English word "hurricane," but others suggest that the name had Sioux or Shoshone origins, either from words meaning "river of the west" or others meaning "a place of plenty."

Still another opinion is that the name came from a Spanish word meaning "big ears" and pertaining to the fact that there were tribes of Indians here who enlarged their ears by the use of ornaments.

Similar Suggestions
In this fascinating book on "Oregon Geographic Names," Lewis A. McArthur makes similar suggestions and refutes the conjecture made by

some that the name of the state of Oregon was derived from the word "oregano," the herb.

The nearly 700 pages of this book list the names of cities, lakes, mountains and other places in an interesting manner. Talent, for instance, was named for A. P. Talent, who platted the town, even though Talent himself suggested the name of Wagner. In earliest days the place was known as Wagner Creek for a family of settlers.

Just why Sylvester Wait gave the name of Phoenix to the town is not known; for many years the place was known as Gasburg, says McArthur, on account of the loquacity of a woman who served meals when it was a stage station.

Mountain Name
Concerning the disputed name of Mt. Pitt, or Mt. McLoughlin, MacArthur reports that it was called Mt. McLoughlin on a map issued in 1838, and Mt. Pitt, on one made in 1843. "Pit Mountain" was "so called from the number of pitfalls dug by the neighboring savages for the wild animals, and was thus properly spelled with a single 't,'" although on many maps it was written with two.

The name Mt. McLoughlin, restored by the legislature in 1905, was of course to honor Dr. John McLoughlin, who has been called the first governor of Oregon.

Another interesting book about place names is "The Story Key to Geographic Names," by Von Engelen and Urquhart.

Armchair travelers are reminded to lay in a double supply of books this week to carry them through the period during which the library must be closed for repairs, from Sept. 1 to Sept. 15.

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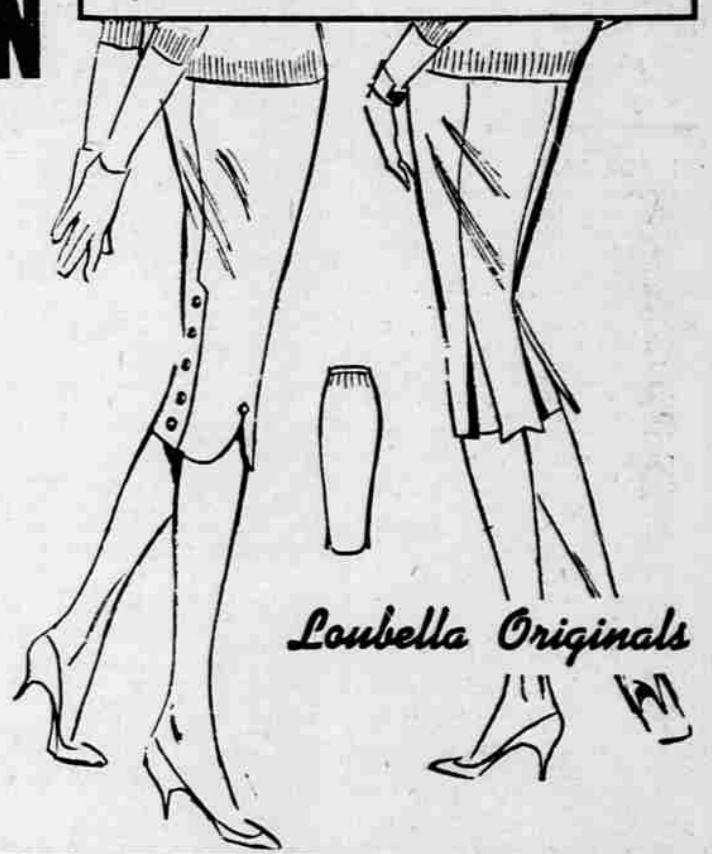
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