



**CONFERENCE** - Col. Charles Chick, wing commander of the Oregon Civil Air Patrol, center, and Maj. William Greer, Air Force liaison officer for the CAP, discuss the local program with the Medford squadron commander, Lt. John Keener, at the Medford airport. Colonel Chick and Major Greer were on a state tour of CAP facilities and conferences on local programs. - (Knackstedt photo)

## Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

**Here's Information On The Castor Oil Plant**  
The small boy has a very good reason for wishing there never was such a thing as a Castor oil plant. It is not the plant itself that he views with repugnance but what is made from the fruit that tastes bad.

Little Mexican boys probably hate it as badly, even though their fathers may derive much of their living from growing the plants, and harvesting the seeds; for in Mexico, it is grown on a commercial basis.

In Mexico, under conditions particularly suited to its cultivation, the Castor oil plant reaches phenomenal proportions, often reaching a height of 40 feet in a single season. It is called the "Palm of Christ" and is treated with the respect due a profitable crop.

Native to Africa and India, the Castor plant naturalizes itself readily to nearly any kind of temperature condition and soil tolerance. Even in colder climates it is often grown as an annual. It is one of the most decorative of plants, often with medallion shaped leaves that may be three feet across, with deeply cut edges, and usually having from 10 to 12 toothed points. There is also a wide variety of colors, such as light and dark green, bronze, purple, or even red, depending on the species.

A member of the Spurge family, to which the Tung oil tree belongs, it is probably one of the very first plants that early man attempted to cultivate.

The medicinal oil of the Castor plant comes from the

seeds that form in the rough pods that grow abundantly on the limbs. The pods are covered with soft spines that are usually bright red in color. Inside the pod are the three oval seeds, or beans, from which the oil is derived. The crushing of the seeds liberates the oil.

**Many Uses**  
The golden, light-colored oil can be described by many adjectives, most of which fall far short of describing its true taste. But there are many uses aside from medicine that have been found for this oil; once it was used as a lubricating oil for high speed engines; such as racing cars and motorcycles. In a hot engine the odor from the oil is nauseating, and every spectator at older race tracks has unpleasant recollections of the airborne taste of castor oil.

Perhaps this is one reason why it is not so used any more. It is also said to be a valuable preservative for leather shoes.

The bright shiny beans have also been used, crushed, in the burrows of ground moles and pocket gophers. Shortly after the beans are dropped in the tunnels the little rodents leave home for more pleasant surroundings. The little blind ground mole seems to like the taste and smell of these castor beans no better than any small boy.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Nebraska means "Flat Waters" in the Indian dialect from which the state got its name.

Denmark claims there is no illiteracy in Greenland.

## Summer Recreation Plans Are Reported to Parks Commission

Further details of Medford's proposed summer recreation program were reported at last week's city parks and recreation commission meeting.

Prescott park renovation requirements, a proposed park area atop Barneburg hill and plans for developing the West Jackson st. park were discussed.

The summer recreation program is slated to get under way June 22, City Parks and Recreation Director Robert L. Haworth reported.

The city, Haworth said, will provide "a varied program of games and sports, social activities for all ages, arts and crafts, music and drama, nature activities and special events."

**Coordinated Program**  
The city's program, he added, is "coordinated in all phases with the summer program offered by the Medford school district."

Dean Benson, head track coach at Medford High school, has been retained as city recreation supervisor, Haworth reported.

Glen Shireman and Mrs. Archer Watson, both with the Medford school district, have been named as recreation leaders, he continued. Haworth outlined several particular programs.

A two-week baseball clinic under John Kovenz is slated to start June 22 at the Medford High school athletic field. Boys of all ages may participate.

**Children to Register**  
The same day, children up to 12 may register for arts, crafts, music, drama, nature, story-telling and special activities. More details are expected soon.

Girls 16 and under may participate in sports, baton twirling and under activities under Sandra Laing.

Boys, after the baseball clinic ends July 2, will have the chance to play baseball, volleyball and tennis under another proposed program. Tennis tournaments are planned in connection with the

program conducted by Bob Huff, Medford tennis coach. The city-school summer activities are to be conducted at Hawthorne park and at Jackson, Washington, Hedrick, Wilson and Hoover schools, Haworth reported.

**Training Course**  
At Hawthorne park pool, a 10-day Red Cross water safety instructor's training course is also to start June 22. Beginning July 6, four 10-day swimming instruction courses will be offered.

Haworth said plans have been laid for instruction in competitive swimming and diving as well, with the possibility of organizing a city team for meets with other communities.

An inventory of what needs to be done to renovate Prescott park was submitted by Haworth to the commission. The list includes:

Repair and maintenance of all picnic tables in the Roxy Ann and Madrone Ledge picnic areas;

Repair and maintenance of sanitary facilities and fireplaces in both areas;

Repair and maintenance of the Madrone Ledge water system.

**Details Assembled**  
Haworth said details of the projects were to be assembled into reports available to interested service clubs.

Names of groups volunteering for renovation work in the park continue to be submitted, he reported.

Haworth told the commission Jackson county crews have sprayed poison oak along the park roadway and have oiled portions of the road.

He said the city park department's maintenance crew was installing a protective railing around the water source at the Roxy Ann picnic area.

**Cattle Straying**  
With respect to cattle straying through the park, Haworth reported that the city is responsible for providing "a proper and complete fence" along the park boundaries before action against any illegal trespassing can be taken.

A fence does exist around the park. But, Haworth said, an expeditionary force from city hall must inspect it to ascertain its state of repair.

He reported that according to City Attorney Joel B. Reeder the city can allocate specific areas in the 1,740-acre park on a license basis to Boy Scouts and other groups interested in developing camp sites and other recreation facilities.

**Formal Request**  
The Boy Scouts have requested such an allocation orally, but Haworth said a formal request in writing should be submitted. "There should be plenty of room for everyone," he commented.

The city water department's 13-acre reservoir site atop Barneburg hill, a potential park area, was also discussed when the parks and recreation commission met Wednesday night.

Haworth read a letter from Robert L. Lee, city water superintendent, stating that only about four acres would be needed for the 11-million gallon reservoir slated for construction in the next five to eight years.

The private developers who deeded the area to the city are asking, according to Lee's letter, for the water depart-

ment and city government itself to contribute half the cost of improving the streets that bound the area: Argonne ave., Black Oak dr., Nieto way and Shannon dr.

A conservative estimate for the city's share, according to Lee's letter, would be about \$16,250. The commission accepted Haworth's recommendation that in view of this expense and another possible expense in connection with a storm sewer the matter should receive further study.

**Jackson Street Park**  
Haworth's preliminary plan for the West Jackson st. park site includes the proposed swimming facilities, a court area and an open area for a baseball diamond, softball diamond and other field games.

Lee Ragsdale, Medford school district physical education supervisor, said the district would be interested in helping develop and maintain the baseball fields in return for their use during the spring season.

He explained that the school district was interested in having McLoughlin Junior High school play baseball at the West Jackson st. park and Hedrick Junior High, at Hawthorne park. In return, he continued, the district was agreeable to participation in developing and maintaining the diamonds.

**Couple Leaves for Houston Convention**  
Mr. and Mrs. Wynne P. Grier, Old Military rd., Medford, left Friday for Houston, Tex., where they will attend the annual convention of the American Collectors association, of which Grier is president.

Grier is with the General Credit service here. They plan to spend a few days in Mexico City before returning home.

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Signed  
*Johnny Bright*

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