

### Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

#### Uses and Abuses of Dandelion

The test never seemed very accurate. The golden yellow reflection always appeared under the chin of the child when the dandelion blossom was held there, even when the child claimed "he hated butter." But the test was standard procedure among the children who picked the brilliantly yellow blossoms by handfuls and held them one by one under a companion's chin.

What was much more fun was gathering the long, hollow stems that hold the individual blossoms and pushing a childish tongue against the end which caused the tissue to split. Each strip would then curl beautifully and retain its position. Some children, with a little practice, educated their tongues to the point where they could fashion, and arrange the curls into almost any combination.

#### Like Soda Straw

Early in their experience with dandelions, children learn that the flower stem is exactly like a soda straw. The fun with the dandelions lasted all summer. When "the golden floret turned to silver" the fluffy, ball-like "heads," containing hundreds of airy little parachutes, each equipped with a tiny seed and ready to drift to far-off places, were blown with a puff of breath, the white, silky parachutes sprayed out like bubbles. Some children would run with the flower head in one upraised hand, the seeds streaming out behind.

Left to themselves, however, the dandelion is far from helpless. Every breeze that blows helps the plant distribute its seeds. This is probably one reason why the children often called them "blowballs" or "clocks."

#### "Pain in the Neck"

To most adults, the "test for a liking of butter," the "curls" or blowing on the flower-heads to watch the seeds waft away, are of little interest. To them the golden yellow flowers are a "pain in the neck" in the front lawn. To some thrifty folks the new, tender leaves of the dandelion, in the early spring, become "greens." Cooked with bacon, or some other form of smoked meat the mild bitterness is appetizingly delicious. Grandmother called dandelion greens, "pot herbs."

Some adults gathered baskets of the yellow blossoms and made dandelion wine. Perhaps some still do. Others gathered the roots, which were later sold to pharmaceutical plants, to become ingredients in various medicines. Some early Americans used the dried roots of the plant as a substitute for coffee.

But, in spite of all the uses and abuses to which the dandelion is subjected, it displays a wonderful executive ability. It takes advantage of all agencies to better and bolster its own survival. Blossoming early in the spring, before other flowers are in bloom, it

attracts over a hundred varieties of insects, thereby taking advantage of various means of pollination. It grows in nearly every country in the world, flowering almost every month somewhere.

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### Police Records Show 80 Major Offenses in June

Reports of 80 major offenses were received during June according to Medford police. The monthly police department record shows this figure to represent an increase of 10 over May's total of 70 but a decrease over the 97 cases reported in June, 1958.

Among the major offenses reported last month were 14 burglaries, compared to 13 in May and 18 a year ago; 15 cases of larceny involving more than \$50, against 5 such cases in May and 9 last June; and 47 cases of larceny under \$50, against 42 and 63 in the other months.

One case of robbery and three auto thefts also were reported last month.

A total of 684 for miscellaneous offense reports in June compares favorably with figures of 804 in May and 709 in June, 1958.

Within this total, miscellaneous assaults rose to 11 from 5 in May and 6 a year ago; forgery and counterfeiting cases fell to 4 last month from 9 in May, while only one such case was reported in June, 1958.

Embezzlement and Fraud Embezzlement and fraud reports soared to 24 last month against 17 in May and 13 a year ago, while miscellaneous sex offenses rose to 7 from 5 and 4 in other months.

There were 50 drunks in public, 9 disorderly conduct cases and 9 vagrancy cases in June compared to 39, 5, and 5 in May, and 36, 7 and 6 in June, 1958. A total of four intoxicated driver cases were reported, while 2 were reported in May and 6 a year ago.

Totals of 134 road and driving law violations and 298 traffic and motor vehicle law violations were reported for June. The figures for May were 184 and 416 and for June, 1958, 94 and 430.

Citations for basic rule violations totaled 76 in June, of which radar checks accounted for 13. There were 116 such citations reported for May, with radar accounting for 36.

#### Cigarette Causes Fire in Apartment

Medford city firemen were called at 2:02 a.m. Saturday to a house fire at 517 South Grape st. The fire, confined to an apartment, burned a Thomas Mooney, burned a mattress, bedding, and the wall from the bed level to the ceiling. Smoke damaged throughout the upstairs was also reported.

Firemen stated that the fire was started from a burning cigarette.

## Annual County Treasurer's Report Lists Fund Sources

Jackson county received \$2,061,017.92 from the federal government during fiscal year 1958-59, according to the annual report of Treasurer Karl Janouch.

The federal funds included \$1,720,960.67 from sale of timber from O & C lands; \$239,805.03, chiefly from sale of timber on U.S. forest lands; \$12,285.63, public law 874 schools; and \$966.59, Taylor Grazing act.

A total of \$835,503.93 came from the state of Oregon last year, topped by \$515,249.39, motor license fund; \$132,107.06, school tax offset, and \$74,360.05, basic school support.

Other receipts from the state were liquor funds, health department reimbursement, gas tax refund and various other reimbursements.

Jackson county sources of receipts included fees, dog licenses and miscellaneous fund from the county clerk totalling \$76,492.93; land sales, rentals and other items from the county court, \$16,049.10; reimbursement for services and supplies, map sales, plat checks and sale of equipment from the county engineer, \$22,880.72.

#### Health Department

Receipts of the health department totaled \$14,139.75; and of the sheriff \$5,878.86, excluding taxes.

The treasurer's office listed a total of \$1,504,672.05 receipts, coming mostly from irrigation districts deposits and school bond sales. Interest on investments for all accounts was \$54,457.23 most of which went to county budget funds.

The remaining receipts were derived from miscellaneous deposits from the county school superintendent, constable, county farm home, district court and justice of peace courts.

Total tax receipts for the year amounted to \$5,418,744.32, including \$2,324.69 interest payment on past due accounts. A total of 89.3 per cent of the current tax levy was collected. Rebates amounted to \$149,529.31.

Delinquent tax payments totaled \$798,728.99, including \$57,845.25 interest.

#### Budgetary Receipts

Budgetary receipts for operation of the county government, including the relief fund, totaled \$2,906,304.40, compared with \$2,674,123.19 last year. The federal government contributed \$1,966,054.96, or 67.6 per cent of the total and the state of Oregon contributed \$592,194.37, 20.4 per cent of the total.

Janouch listed the county government budget balance at \$1,116,935.86, including \$222,650 to cover outstanding warrants and leaving \$894,285.86 to apply to cash receipts for the ensuing budget year.

Disbursements through county clerk warrants last year were headed by the general road fund, \$1,378,544.08. Other major disbursements included the general county fund, \$1,265,726.02; agricultural and horticultural station \$86,520.07; libraries, \$33,736.63.

Others issued through clerk's warrants were for assessor's map, building construction, Child Guidance clinic, civil defense, county fair operation, dog license, emergency, law enforcement, farm home trust, juvenile home and Taylor Grazing act.

Disbursements made by the treasurer's office were led by school district general warrants, \$3,952,211.51; school building fund warrants, \$1,407,204.56; city remittances, \$1,036,839.77; school district bonds and interest, \$588,700.

### Domestic Employee Wage Tax Tips Given

When to report or not to report the wages of domestic workers for social security purposes is a question which continues to perplex many householders, according to Edward Jacobson, district manager of the Medford Social Security office.

"Many cases of misunderstanding come to our notice as a result of the filing of claims for social security benefits," Jacobson continues. "Because this often involves wages paid in past years, the employer is put to the inconvenience of locating and verifying the amounts of past wage payments."

"Social Security reports and tax payments must be made on wages paid to domestic employees if they amount to \$50 or more cash wages in a calendar quarter," he added, "and this includes wages paid to baby sitters and day workers."

"The simplest way to avoid such difficulty," he concluded "is to report the wages promptly at the end of each quarter when they are due. Forms and instructions may be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service.

44; and school superintendent warrants, \$776,602.93.

The remainder included war-

rants for the Southern Oregon Historical society and irrigation, rural fire, sanitary

and water districts.

and tax refunds complete the list.

By county court orders and/

or district attorney's opinions

the treasurer closed out in-

active accounts of the juven-

He detention home develop-

ment, tax refund, and Oak

Grove Improvement, Valley-

view hospital, Table Rock

Sanitary and Evans Creek Ir-

rigation districts.

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Duffy's Uphol. Service, 493 North Main  
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Central Point Pharmacy, Pine Street  
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