

Parents Warned on Danger To Children In Spring Gardens

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York — (UPI) — An azalea imposed the death penalty upon a cat which chewed it. This inspired the New York City health department to issue a dire warning that the spring gardens which many of us will be tending before long are not necessarily as safe as they seem.

Azaleas contain a small amount of the chemical andro-medotoxin which in large enough amounts is poisonous to man or beast. The cat-killing azalea was a hybrid with three parent lines. It contained a triple supply of andro-medotoxin, evidently.

The warning came from the department's poison control center which keeps medical men advised on chemical hazards, simple and complicated, new and old.

It acknowledged that its experiences with plant poisons had not been "too alarming" — since there are relatively few persons tending gardens within its bailiwick of many acres of steel and concrete.

Hazards Frightening
However, its studies of plant poisons show that "the potential hazards in the garden" for children "are very frightening." "Indeed," it said, "parents should impress on children, particularly very young ones, not to nibble or chew on anything but known foods."

The warning was centered on the plant family, Ericaceae, which includes not only azaleas, but such other prized ornamental plants as the rhododendrons and the trailing arbutus or mayflower, and the producers of luscious berries as the blueberry and huckleberry.

Various members of this family are known to have killed both wild and domestic animals.

Incidentally the cranberry also is considered a member of the family although its relationship is said to be rather remote. However, there is no need for a new cranberry scare — nor a scare about blueberries or huckleberries. Andro-medotoxin is not found in the fruits of the plants.

It is found in the fibrous tissues of leaves and stems where presumably it serves a useful purpose of protecting the plants from grazing animals. But any fancier of rhododendrons in rural sections around New York City will tell you that deer eat the leaves in winter without apparent harm.

The poison control center also found a "poisonous principle" in the chemicals arbutin and ericolin which are found in some azaleas, rhododendrons, and other members of the family Ericaceae. There is no scientific agreement there either is a poison. Arbutin is sometimes used by doctors as a diuretic.

The center also warned that sodium fluoride is coming back as a man-dispersed poison of insects which it thought a pity because it is a violent poison for people. Its use had decreased with the advent of the organic insecticides such as DDT which are much less toxic to human beings.

But insects developed resistance to the organics and this has opened the door for the return of sodium fluoride. It is a distinctive green in color and the center suggested that when you're handling any green insecticide you should be especially careful and keep it out of the reach of children.

Episcopalians Start Development Plan

Among the Jackson county Episcopalians in Portland today to launch a development program of the Diocese of Oregon is the Rev. George R. V. Bolster, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church, Medford.

During the morning session delegates heard about the projected \$819,712 campaign and what it will do for the diocese. The Rt. Rev. James W. F. Carman, bishop of Oregon, presided. The money will be used for college centers, conference centers, church work for the aging, missionary expansion and aid to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, Calif.

William W. Jewett, Portland, general campaign chairman, spoke on the layman's part in the campaign and Mr. Bolster on the rector's part in the campaign.



LEADERS MEET—Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, left, and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer break out in big smiles when they met in New York Monday to discuss steps to erase hatred built up between their nationalities by the Hitler regime. —(UPI Telephoto)

Chessman's Ex-Wife Doubts Prisoner is Kidnaper-Rapist

Victorville, Calif. — (UPI) — The former wife of convict-author Cary Chessman says she cannot believe the kidnaper-rapist is guilty of the crimes of which he is convicted.

But she said she feared he would be executed because "too much fuss has been raised now for him to get out this time."

Chessman now is scheduled to die May 2 in the San Quentin gas chamber.

Declines Identity
The woman, now remarried and living quietly in this desert town with her new husband and children, declined to have her identity revealed when found and interviewed yesterday by Murray Flander, editor of the Victorville Press.

"Like all women," she said of her brief marriage to Chessman, "I thought I could change him. But he's not one to be changed. He has a will of his own."

"But he was always respectful to me." She said they met while students at Marshall High School in Los Angeles and married in 1940. "There was nothing the matter with him. Even when we were going together as high school kids he always respected 'no,'" Flander quoted her as saying.

"He never was one to use force. I just can't imagine him doing the things they say he did."

Wanted Money Easily
She said the only arguments between her and Chessman during their marriage came because "he was lazy and wanted to make money easily."

"We did all the things teenagers did in those days—the malt shops, movies, and the beach," she said.

The first she became suspicious of Chessman's criminal life, she said, was when she looked in his dresser drawer and found it "loaded with all kinds of artillery—from the

biggest to the littlist. Then in 1941 he came home one night and dumped a sackful of money on the bed."

"The bed was just covered with money. I fussed and got mad but it didn't do any good. He just laughed."

Visited Prisoner
A short time later Chessman was arrested and sent to prison. His former wife said she visited him several times until he asked her not to see him anymore.

They were officially divorced in 1945 and three years later Chessman was arrested and convicted of the 17 felonies which led to his marathon stay in death row.

Religion Has Been Issue in Political Campaigns 5 Times

By LOUIS CASSELS
Washington — (UPI) — If religion becomes an issue in the 1960 presidential campaign, it will be the sixth time in U.S. history it has happened.

So says Prof. Robert Michaelson of Iowa State university, who has been doing some scholarly research on the subject. His findings are reported in a series of articles for Christian Century magazine.

Thomas Jefferson was the first presidential candidate whose religious beliefs became a subject of political controversy. Michaelson notes that Jefferson was a profound believer in God, and his private writings show that he spent much time studying the teachings of Jesus. But he never joined a church and was extremely reticent about discussing his religious convictions in public.

Publicly Denounced
In the campaign of 1796, when Jefferson first opposed John Adams for the presidency, many clergymen publicly denounced him as an agnostic. One called him "a howling atheist." Martin Van Buren wrote that some Americans expected "the burning of Bibles and the prostration of religion" if Jefferson ever occupied the White House. The issue was doubtless a factor in Jefferson's defeat.

When Jefferson ran against Adams a second time, in 1800, the question of his religious unorthodoxy was again raised vociferously. But Jefferson was elected. By ironic coincidence, the nation experienced a major religious revival during his term as president, and in 1804, he was reelected without much talk about "Bible-burning."

The third campaign in which religion played an important role was that of 1884, when Democrat Grover Cleveland faced Republican James G. Blaine. One of Blaine's supporters, a Presbyterian minister named Samuel D. Burchard, threw the fat in the fire by proclaiming at a meeting of clergymen that the Democrats were the party of "rum, Romanism and rebellion." Blaine promptly repudiated the statement, but the Demo-

crats gave it wide circulation, and used it to win enough Catholic supporters for Cleveland to carry New York state — and the election.

The religious issue reared its head a fourth time in the 1908 campaign between Republican William Howard Taft and Democrat William Jennings Bryan. Taft was a Unitarian, and this was pointed out and deplored by some conservative Protestants. But it never became a major source of controversy, and Taft was elected.

The last previous campaign in which a candidate's religion figured prominently was that of 1928, in which Republican Herbert Hoover, a Quaker, defeated Democrat Al Smith, a Catholic.

Political historians now believe that Smith's Catholicism was only one of the factors that caused his defeat. He was also an outspoken opponent of prohibition, and this stand as well as his religion may have contributed to his losing several states of the normally Democratic "solid South." But there is no question that many Protestants opposed Smith — both publicly and in private whispering campaigns — primarily on the grounds of his church affiliation.

Deschutes Jail Escapees Nabbed

Vancouver, Wash. — (UPI) — Two youths who overpowered a jailer at Bend, Ore., Sunday night and escaped from jail were being held here today for Deschutes county authorities.

Detectives said the two youths were picked up driving a stolen car about 45 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone Monday. They were brought into jail for questioning after it was found they did not have drivers licenses and later admitted they were the escapees, police said. The youths are Thomas Ray Korbel, Harvey, Ill., and Louis Floyd Myers, Brightwood, Ore. Both are 18 years old.

Actor Freed on Narcotics Charge

Hollywood — (UPI) — "How can a person have marijuana in his possession when he didn't have a strip of clothes on his body?"

That logical question by Deputy District Attorney John W. Loucks freed actor William Talman — the district attorney on the Perry Mason TV show — and six others Monday from prosecution on a narcotics charge sought by sheriff's deputies.

But Talman and the others still must appear in court Thursday for arraignment on morals charges arising from a wild party Sunday in which

deputies claimed the guests were unclothed and narcotics present.

Actress Lola De Witt, 31, an eighth guest at the party made up of four men and four women, also was charged on a morals count. But she was arraigned separately Monday and granted a jury trial April 8 on her innocent plea.

DUKE DIES

Barcelona — (UPI) — The 18th Duke of Plasencia and Grade, Jose Maria Martorell, whose dukedom was created in 1476, died here Saturday.

Driving Laws Hearing Scheduled

Salem — (UPI) — The State Motor Vehicles Department and Public Utility commission will make recommendations for new laws and amendments to old ones at the Legislative Interim Highway committee meeting here Friday.

A draft of a proposed bill to require implied consent for a chemical test when applying for a driver's license will be discussed. This is one phase of proposed legislation to curb drunken driving. Statewide hearings will be held later

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