In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Question:

How do you tell the age of a pine tree without chopping it down and counting the rings?

The answer?

Apparently it all depends on where the question is asked and who does the answering.

FOR example:

According to the always interesting Wall Street Journal, five girls, members of a nature study class in a big Eastern city suburb, were out on a field trip the other day with their instructor. The trip led them through a pine forest, and it occurred to one of the youngsters to wonder how old the trees were. So she put the question cited above to the leader.

The leader answered:

"You start at the tip of one of the lower branches of the tree and count the clumps of twigs all the way back to the trunk. Each clump equals one year's growth."

HMMMMMM.

That was a new one to me. So I jumped Doug Puckett – on the theory that if anything like that was going on in the timber business Doug would know about it. His reply: "Never heard of it."

I then tried Larry Shaw and John Moehl at Modoc Lumber company. Neither had ever heard of it. John said: "Try Tom Orr at Weyerhaeuser. He knows everything about pine trees."

Tom's answer: Wel-l-l-l-l, it could be done, if you weren't much interested in accuracy. On a young tree, that is. On a sawlog tree, it would be a bust."

ALEX SMITH, Winema Forest supervisor, went along with Tom. It could be done, he said, but it would be a lot better to use an increment borer – a jigger that takes a core out of the trunk of the tree so that the rings can be counted.

All agreed that if a timber cruiser used the method recommended to these Eastern youngsters by their nature study leader he would soon lose his job – either he would be fired or his employer would go broke.

BACK to Oregon's recent election:

Statements filed with and audited by the Oregon Elections Division reveal that in the 1962 campaign for the post of U.S. Senator from Oregon $179,126 was spent in behalf of Senator Morse, the incumbent. There comes now from Salem the Official Abstract, showing that Senator Morse got 344,716 votes. That figures out at 51.9 cents per vote.

Sig Unander, Senator Morse's opponent in the campaign, did a little better. He spent $132,322, and got 291,587 votes. His votes cost him only 45.4 cents each. The average for both the Morse and the Unander campaigns figures out at 49 cents per vote.

THE political historians tell us that in the sinful old days, back in dens of iniquity such as Chicago and Kansas City, where the campaigns were run by political machines governed by political bosses who didn't have to report their expenditures, $1 a vote, cash on the barrelhead at political headquarters, was about the going price – although there were wild tales that in close contests the price might run as high as $2.

At least, we're doing better in these modern days.

STILL—

The fact that in the U.S. Senatorial campaign in Oregon this year nearly two and a half times as much was spent as the Senatorial job will pay in salary during the entire Senatorial term of six years is rather shocking. It was all perfectly legal and above-board, of course – but what it adds up to is that a whale of a lot of money was spent.

It's hard to escape the conclusion that if that much money is going to be spent in Oregon political campaigns the amounts given and the IDENTITY OF THE DONORS ought to be revealed to the voters BEFORE the voting begins, instead of after it is all over.

Two Plead Innocent To Federal Charges

Portland –(UPI)– Two logging contractors entered innocent pleas to federal income tax charges Monday.

The pleas were entered by Floyd Griffey, 49, Port Orford, and Wilfred S. Laird, 55, Bandon, partners in a Coquille logging firm.

The charges involve some $24,000 in taxes, according to the U. S. attorney's office.

Federal Judge John F. Kilkenny set trial for Jan. 14 and took under advisement a request for a trial without a jury.

Telephones to Dial Automatically Are Available in Area

Two new telephones, the Card Dialer and the Rapidial, which dial numbers automatically, became available in the Medford area recently through Pacific Northwest Bell. Limited trial instruments have been in use in the state during the past year.

The automatic dialers are designed primarily for business use. However, they can be of great help to residence customers who do a lot of calling for church, social and charity organizations. Both instruments work on the principle of automatic dialing of pre-recorded numbers.

The Card Dialer is a two-in-one unit combining the telephone and the automatic dialer. It has a place for punched plastic cards on which telephone numbers are recorded. The number is dialed by placing a card in a slot and pressing a start bar. An unlimited number of cards can be used.

Desk-Top Unit

The Rapidial is a desk-top unit which is used along with a regular telephone. It stores up to 290 numbers on a magnetic tape. Numbers are recorded for future use by merely dialing them onto the tape. The numbers are automatically dialed by turning the selector knob to the name of the person or business desired, lifting the telephone receiver to get dial tone and pressing the start bar.

In trial use of the dialers in Oregon this year, two Portland lumber firms have used them to speed nationwide telephone sales contacts. The Portland fire department uses a Card Dialer to call civic and law enforcement officials in emergencies.

A credit organization is planning to install a number of the dialers to increase the efficiency of its calling operation.

The dialers are faster than conventional dialing; eliminate the danger of dialing a number incorrectly; and make it unnecessary to memorize or look up frequently called numbers. They also can be used by some handicapped people.

IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS

Angola, N. Y. – (UPI) – A service area near this town on a section of the New York State Thruway that was closed because of snow and zero visibility, has posted this sign for motorists: "Road conditions — impossible."

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A COUPLE OF newspapermen were having a cold soft drink at the corner drug store one afternoon when a pretty girl, neatly dressed, came in and asked the pharmacist to read a letter for her. It was obviously a rather intimate letter, too, because the girl blushed while she listened, and gave the pharmacist a hug and a kiss before she rushed happily out of the store.

"Don't think she's an illiterate," the pharmacist hastened to explain to the newspapermen. "Matter of fact, she's a senior at Radcliffe. But her boy friend is a doctor—and only a pharmacist like me can make heads or tails of his handwriting."

* * *

Hank Meyer, extolling the virtues and miraculous growth of Miami Beach, insists that a postman stopped him on Collins Avenue to ask him where the new post office was located! Hank denies vehemently that one new hotel has installed a meter in the ocean front rooms where tenants have to deposit a half dollar by the Venetian blinds so they open for ten minutes.

* * *

"Papa," said a doting mother, "Vincent's teacher says he ought to have an encyclopedia."

"Encyclopedia, my eye," grumbled the father. "Let him walk to school like I did."

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Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)

Cranesbill Leaves Make Jelly Delightfully Pleasing

You would hardly believe what a couple leaves of cranesbill can do in flavoring a glass of jelly.

The flavor not only tickles and pleases human tastebuds, it excites them hilariously. What a leaf of cranesbill does for apple jelly you could rightly call "delightfully pleasing," and that wonderful flavoring doesn't add a single cent to the cost. That's one of the advantages of it: no extra money involved . . . just an added exquisite flavor. Cranesbill is a natural flavor . . . nothing artificial about it.

This added, zestful taste is attained by merely adding a couple of the right kind of leaves from a common garden plant. Of course, it is necessary to have that particular kind of plant, but most old fashioned gardens had them and the housewife who knew the secret of deliciously flavored jelly always grew the herb in her garden. The plant was seldom called cranesbill; most folks knew it as the rose geranium. The cranesbill idea came from the peculiar beaklike projection on the seed.

Most Fragrant

There are a hundred or more species of geranium. Most all have pleasantly scented leaves, but the "rose geranium" is about the most fragrant. The lobed and lacy-edged leaves of this plant are rich in aromatic oils . . . oils that are released slowly over a considerable time in a glass of jelly.

The housewife, planning an extra measure of taste in the jelly, prepares the fruit in the regular way. While the sweet mixture is cooking she goes into the garden and collects a handful of "rose geranium" leaves. Selecting the firmest and freshest leaves, she washes them carefully, enjoying at the same time the aromatic, slightly spicy scent. Even the water in which she washes the leaves smells good. Then she drops one or two leaves in each empty jelly glass.

Once the jelly is cooked she removes it from the stove, allows it to cool a little, then pours the sweet juice into the jelly glasses. The jelly cools and turns into a shivery solid. She pours a little melted paraffin over the top to seal in all the fruit goodness as the hardening jelly seals in all the color and fragrance of the geranium leaf.

Stays Fresh, Green

It is surprising how very fresh and green the leaf stays, even after a long interval of time on the shelf. Months later, when the jelly trembles enticingly on a plate, the leaf looks fresh and green and gives to the jelly that mild, elusive flavor. It's a flavor that one could hardly say was either "this or that," but a delightful deliciousness. The aromatic oils of the geranium leaf permeate the entire mass.

The natural translucence of the jelly revealed the green, lace-like leaf. To apple or quince jellies the leaves added flavor as well as eye-appeal, both of which would have been lost in heavier flavored fruits such as currant or plum.

Many housewives credited jelly-water with having medicinal properties. A spoonful of jelly, mixed in a glass of warm water, made a pleasant, healthful drink. She probably didn't know that jelly-water was cooling and acidulous but she did know how delightful a leaf of "rose geranuim" was in a glass of apple jelly.

Owl Forces Jet To Halt Takeoff

Portland –(UPI)– A jet flight to the east coast with 63 aboard was halted here Monday when the plane sucked in a large owl as it was starting to take off.

The pilot braked the Boeing 720 to a halt without trouble.

Passengers on the Flight 712 jet for Denver, Kansas City and Baltimore were put aboard another flight about three hours later.

United Airlines said the jet would need a new engine.

Community Groups Helping Emotional Illness Reviewed

The role of five community groups in helping people with problems of mental and emotional illness was described at a recent meeting of the Jackson County Mental Health association.

Speaking for the Jackson county health department, Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health officer, said the department's roll is multi-phasic and important.

The department is responsible for the operation of the Family Counseling and Child Guidance clinic, and in addition to specialized service offered by clinic personnel, the public health nurse is the liasion between families needing help and the service available.

First to Realize

The public health nurse, he added, is many times the first to realize that help is needed and assists with arrangements for such help. When a patient is ready to be released from the state hospital, the public health nurse checks on home situations and visits the patient for as long as needed, Dr. Merkel said. They also make pre-commitment reports and have been given special training and orientation for this at the state hospital, he added.

The Rev. Fred Evans, pastor of the First Christian church, Medford, said that historically ministers are often the first to whom a family turns for help with mental and emotional problems.

Pastoral psychiatry courses are now being offered to ministers, he said, so they may recognize mental illness and know where to refer the patient for professional help in his community. He mentioned seminars offered for in-service training in Oregon.

Schools' Primary Interest

Don McLarrin, special education director with the Ashland schools, noted that the schools' primary interest is in prevention, identification and early treament and discussed the program of conferences with parents, teachers and community agencies in carrying out the objectives.

Speaking for the guidance clinic, Miss Ethel Shumway, psychiatric social worker, said the clinic offers help with child guidance, marital counseling, patients from state hospitals, mental retardation and alcoholism. Many people go to the clinic individually, and some applications are by telephone.

She said there is now a waiting list of six months, but an attempt is being made to obtain some help through community resources during the interval.

Family Therapy

Recently, a system of group and family therapy has been inaugurated, and it is hoped there will soon be a larger staff, she added.

Circuit Judge James M. Main reported that the court is confronted with all types of mental problems, and the court attempts to solve as many as possible.

He added that many people wait too long before seeking professional help, and the circuit court becomes the court of last hope.

Although an estimated 65 per cent of the admissions to state hospitals is voluntary, the two circuit court judges are the only ones by law to authorize involuntary commitment. Judge Main pointed out that there is a need in Jackson county for care for mentally retarded children since there is such a long waiting list at Fairview.

During the question period, Dr. Merkel said that atempts are now being made to decentralize the care of the mentally and emotionally ill, and plans are being made to do this on a regional basis.

U. S. Lowers Tariffs On Goods From Britain

Washington – (UPI) – The United States agreed Monday to lower tariffs by 20 per cent on 17 types of goods imported from Britain. The goods amount to $9.3 million in trade a year.

The main items are certain small electric motors, some packaging and wrapping machines, mustard, certain flat threads and yarns, lawn tennis balls, oil-tanned chamois leather and fancy goat and kid leather.

London – (UPI) – Lady Ellis said today she cleans the teeth of her two dachshunds daily with banana-flavored toothpaste – and the dogs love it.

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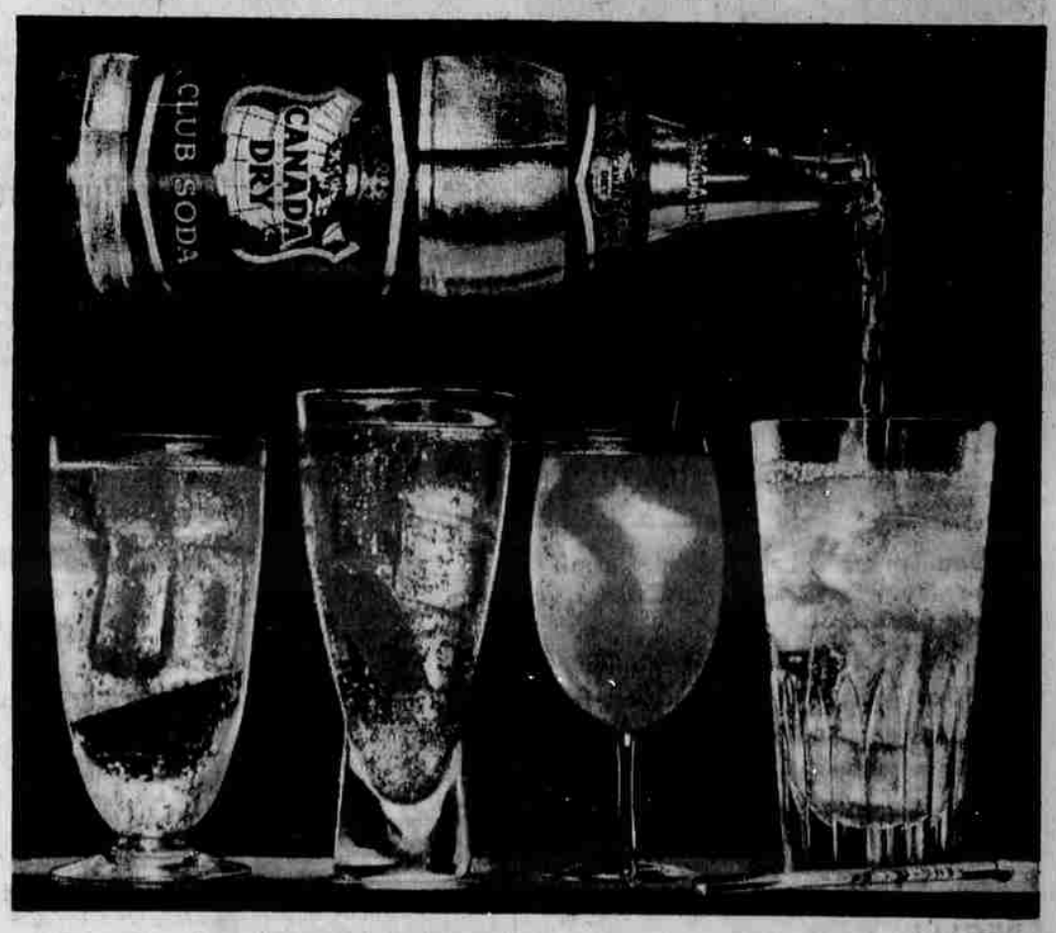

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