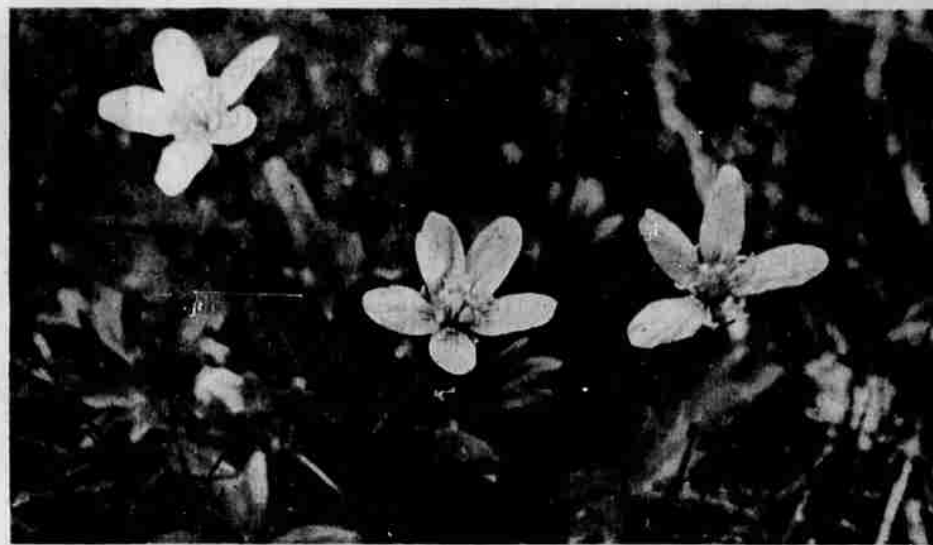




The March wind was cold and a spatter of rain was falling, but the two little girls didn't mind. They went wild flower picking on a hill near Jacksonville just as little girls have been doing every March for years and years.



Bright yellow buttercups grow thick in the fields and meadows of southern Oregon, and their blossoms are a sure sign of spring. To the botanist and wild flower expert, these are known as occidentalis buttercups, and are in the ranunculus family.

MEDFORD **MAIL** TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1963

When Spring Unlocks the Flowers

Reginald Heber



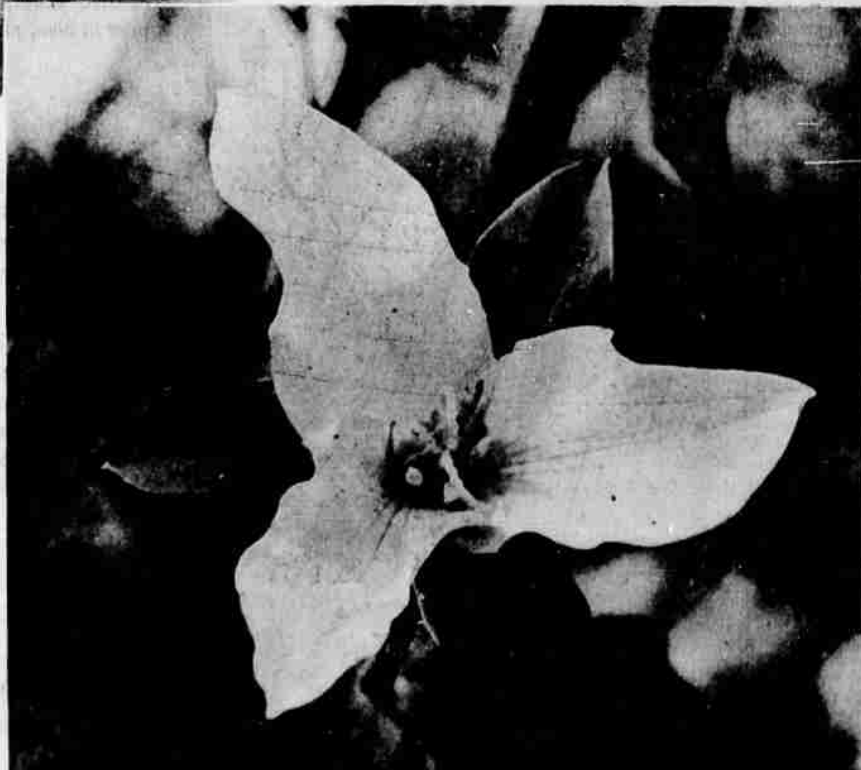
Theresa Jean McBeth, 5, and Michele Foran, 2, didn't find many flowers, but that didn't matter either. Theresa, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. C. Lind McBeth, 403 Oak street, Jacksonville, and Michele, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Foran, 115 North C street, Eagle Point, know that a few flowers are ever bit as pretty as a basketful.



One of the most beautiful of Oregon wild flowers is the erythronium, known in Jackson county as lamb's tongue. This is the deep cream citrinum but the lavender petaled ones are more common here.



Another early spring flower of this region is the bird bill, or shooting star. This rose purple flower with back-turning petals is listed by the botanists as dodecatheon hendersonii.



One of the most familiar wild flowers of the far western states is the white trillium; it is to be found in cool, moist spots and there are a number of variations. This variety, trillium ovatum, is common to the Rogue valley.



"It's my turn to hold them now," said little Michele, called Shelley by her family, but Theresa Jean had to find out first if the flowers smelled good. To be able to pick wild flowers on a hillside in the spring is a wonderful adventure which all little girls should have; those who love Oregon's native flowers hope that everyone who picks or digs them will be careful and remember to be a good neighbor and conservationist.