

OSU Scientists Probe Secrets of Plants Used for Medicine by Area Indians

Modern science will probe into the medicinal secrets of Pacific Northwest Indians in an attempt to find out if plants used over the centuries really have therapeutic value.

A three-year \$125,700 grant from the U. S. Public Health Service has been awarded to the Oregon State university School of Pharmacy for the study of plants growing in the Pacific Northwest. Special attention will be directed to plants found in the Warm Springs Indian reservation.

Dr. Leo A. Sciuchetti, professor of pharmacognosy, will direct the program involving authorities in botany, pharmacy and medicine at several universities and institutions throughout the country.

To Study 20 Indian Plants

The first year of the project will be devoted to plants of reputed medicinal value to the Indians. Dr. David H. French, professor of anthropology at Reed college, Portland, and an expert on the medicinal and nutritional uses of wild plants used by Indians in the Warm Springs area, will collect and identify about 20 Indian medicinal plants believed to possess therapeutic value.

Some of the plants to be collected this summer and studied are wild columbine, wild peony, bitter cherry, ocean spray, creek dogwood, poison hemlock, shelf fungus and alum root.

Scientists believe that these plants and others may have medicinal value as antibiotics, sedatives, tranquilizers, pain killers, astringents and in the treatment of heart disease, venereal disease, diabetes and nervous system conditions.

No Intensive Screening Held

According to Sciuchetti, some of the plant species have been studied but there has been no intensive screening of the plants of the Pacific Northwest area for medicinal value.

The climate and topography of the area are suited to an abundance of plants ranging from temperate coastal to alpine types, Sciuchetti said.

ROLLER SKATING SESSION PLANNED BY SEWING JETS

Members of the Sewing Jets 4-H club met March 2 at the home of Mrs. Carl Piercy.

A talk and demonstrations on different materials for various types of figures were given by Judy Pratt, junior leader. The group decided to hold a roller skating party in April.

Next meeting will be March 16 in the Piercy home.

—Rita Piercy, Reporter

VISITORS FROM BAKER

Frank and Don Leuck of Baker were Saturday guests in the home of their brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson.

RETURN FROM CALIFORNIA

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Haroldsen returned home March 5 after spending six weeks with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Savage and family in Covina, Calif.

During the second and third year of the research, plant material will be collected from the coast range and coastal areas of Oregon and from the higher elevation areas of the Cascade range and Eastern Oregon by Dr. Kenton Chambers, OSU associate professor of botany.

The OSU pharmacognosy department will prepare and extract the plant materials during the study. Dr. Rob S. McCutcheon, professor of pharmacology, will be in charge of screening all plant material for medicinal activity. Plants which indicate possible properties in treatment of heart, nervous and insulin-like activity will be studied in detail by McCutcheon.

National Scientists Involved

Study of plants indicating tranquilizing effects will be undertaken by Dr. Joseph P. Buckley, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pittsburgh. Antitumor activity in plants will be determined by Dr. Jonathan L. Hartwell of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. Antibacterial activity will be tested by Dr. Philip Catalfomo, assistant professor of pharmacognosy at Oregon State.

Work on the chemical identification of active compounds discovered in the program will be performed jointly by the pharmacognosy and pharmaceutical departments at OSU under the direction of Dr. H. Wayne Schultz, assistant professor of pharmaceutical chemistry.

Sciuchetti explained that the field of medicinal use of plants for new drugs is "wide open" now and credits new methods of extraction and evaluation with creating an expanding interest in plants throughout the world.

Rauwolfia Use Sparks Research

He indicated that the recent discovery of reserpine and other alkaloids in the India plant, Rauwolfia serpentina, now widely used in the treatment of hypertension and as a tranquilizer, sparked much of the recent plant research.

Other plant screening programs are now being carried on in Ohio, the Southwest and in Mexico, Sciuchetti noted.

The importance of the OSU research, Sciuchetti pointed out, is emphasized by the fact that 47 percent of all new prescriptions filled in 1960 contained a drug of natural origin as the sole ingredient or as one of two or more ingredients.

Although there are many new synthetic drugs, he said, the natural products play an important role in the practice of American medicine.

J. Carter Assigned To Virginia Command

Army Sergeant Major James R. Carter, whose wife, Wanda, resides in Louisville, Ky., was recently assigned to Headquarters Company, Second Logistics Command at Ft. Lee, Va.

Sergeant Carter, a son of Mrs. Hazel F. Tyler of Caldwell and brother of Mrs. Fred Huffman of Nyssa, entered the army in March 1943 and was last stationed on Okinawa. He was graduated from Ontario high school with the class of 1941.

VISITORS FROM BURLEY

Mr. and Mrs. Max Dane and Tami Lynn left Monday for their home in Burley after visiting during the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Myrick and other relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Myrick and Vicki Lynn, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Miner and Lori, the Myrick and Dane families were Sunday dinner guests in Ontario.

NEWLY ORGANIZED CLUB NAMED THE HEALTHY 24's

First meeting of "The Healthy 24's" 4-H club was called to order by President Kenneth Vandewall on March 9 in LeVerne Shell's fifth grade classroom.

Pledge of allegiance to the United States flag was led by Steven Ross. Pamela Labby led the 4-H pledge with motions demonstrated by Karry Cleaver.

Reports on "What to Eat for a Balanced Diet" were given by Judy Simpson, Jeanine Schoen, Nancy Jackson and Pamela Hamilton.

Following a number of suggestions, the club group decided on the name "The Healthy 24's," since there are two dozen members.

A "yes or no" game was played. Object of the game is to try to tempt participants into answering "yes" or "no" to questions and if they do so are eliminated and have to be seated.

—Susan Howes, Reporter

Atagi Serves Aboard Navy's USS Coral Sea

Ryuichi R. Atagi, disbursing clerk third class, USN, is serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea, operating out of Alameda, Calif., according to a recent Navy news release. He is a son of Mrs. Asako Atagi of route 1, Nyssa.

The Coral Sea is currently conducting refresher training and carrier landings in preparation for deployment to the Far East.

During the deployment, the carrier will call at such ports as Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Yokosuka, Japan; Hong Kong and ports in the Philippine Islands.

GUESTS IN LEUCK HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leuck of Canyon City, Ore., were weekend guests of his mother, Mrs. Minnie Leuck. Sunday visitors in the Leuck home were her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vetsch and sons of Boise.

Area Stockmen Attend Recent Meet To Discuss Calf Losses From Disease

Eighteen Malheur county stockmen and veterinarians traveled to Baker recently to participate in a discussion on a calf disease complex causing heavy losses in much of Eastern Oregon, according to George Bain, county agent.

The meeting, arranged and conducted by the Oregon Cattlemen's association, was attended by over 100 cattlemen from Baker, Harney, Walla, Union and Malheur counties besides some attending from neighboring states.

Local, state and federal veterinarians and research personnel, including Dr. G. B. Van Ness of the National Animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, discussed their findings and observations of the disease complex that, in a few herds, is causing as high as a 50 percent loss of young calves from a few hours to several days old.

They reported that, in addition to the scours that have plagued cattlemen for years, many new diseases and deficiencies for which one of the symptoms is scours are evident. Sensitivity tests on the causative bacteria using all available materials have not revealed a satisfactory treatment in many cases, according to Van Ness.

Additional research both on a state and national level was urged by the group and a long-standing request for a livestock disease research facility in the intermountain sagebrush area was re-emphasized.

VISIT FROM HILLSBORO

Recent visitors in the Jake and L. W. Fischer homes were the men's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baldwin of Hillsboro, Ore.

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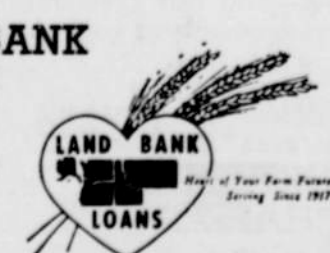
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