

# Looking over 4-Leaf Clover Brings Back Childhood Days

One of your scribe's pleasant memories of early summer is that of fragrant fields of clover about on her grandfather's Ohio farm. These common plants are often confused with the grasses.

But aside from their similar use as forage crops, the two families bear little resemblance to each other. The clovers are legumes whose pea-like flowers easily identify their members whether they be trees like the locust and acacia, shrubs like mesquite, climbers like wisteria, garden flowers like the sweet pea or weeds like tick-trefoil or the poisonous loco weed of the West.

Here too belong such important garden vegetables as peas and beans. The peas whose flower stalks lengthen after fertilization, burying the blossoms underground where the so-called nut ripens, is also a legume. Only two other plant families, the grasses and the roses have contributed as many useful species as have the peas.

Of the many forage crops in this family, red clover and alfalfa are the most important. It is interesting to note that the former is almost solely dependent on the bumblebee for fertilization. The small purple flowers arranged in a global head, yield a plentiful supply of nectar.

THIS SWEETNESS is just out of the reach of the tongue of the smaller honey bee, which turns to white and alisk clover for the nectar that makes the choicest of our honey flavors.

Butterflies are not sufficiently heavy to depress the keel of the red clover flowers, leaving the fields to the sturdy bumblebee who, as he "bumbles along" among its millions of blossoms, makes of himself the number one pollen disseminator for the above plant.

OTHER VARIETIES in this important plant family include the tall bush clovers, the small yellow hop clovers and the decorative rabbit clover. The two latter may be found growing in the sterile soil of old fields, in sandy pastures and along roadsides.

The well-known yellow and white "sweet" clovers, abundant along Michigan roadways. They are responsible for much of the fragrance of the summer air especially in our North Woods country.

NEXT IN IMPORTANCE to the above clovers are the peanut and the soy bean. Mothers, can you imagine life without the convenience of peanut butter?

While on vacation several years ago, your scribe took special pains to roast a turkey for a picnic in the North Woods country only to have the visiting children in the party demand peanut butter sandwiches which alas, she had not provided!

It was the Negro scientist, George Washington Carver, who discovered peanut butter. He also developed more than 300 products from this versatile fruit including an unsaturated oil, one of several highly recommended by food experts and by some nutrition experts.

OTHER ITEMS which he made from peanuts include beverages, pickles, sauces, flour, coffee substitutes, bleach, washing powder, paper, ink, plastics, axle grease, linoleum and synthetic rubber. Peanut milk, one of his most valuable discoveries, will not curdle or sour and can be made into cheese and butter.

The soy bean which is native to China and Japan also supplies quantities of oil which are made into soap, lubricants and a rubber substitute. The above plant is used extensively both as a forage crop for cattle and as a staple ingredient in processed stock food.

SOY BEAN FLOUR is largely used in bread and as a wheat flour substitute. The bean sprouts, so widely used in Chinese dishes, are young shoots grown from the above versatile seed.

When in doubt in classifying a plant, look well to its flower for it is the "index" to the species. The pea-like blossom of the

The Institute for Safer Living states that many motorists fail to do their homework—which means that before starting out for the day's driving, they should take a few moments to check vital operating parts of the car, including brakes, windshield wipers, horn, lights and directionals.

legumes may be arranged in global heads, in racemes or sprays.

THEIR CALYX is tubular; its two uppermost segments united with the two lower form a lip. The corolla has five petals arranged in pairs, the lowest pair united to form a keel. This protects the anthers until a visiting insect forces it downward, exposing the pollen.

Another vivid memory of my childhood is that of picking a large bouquet of sweet peas from the heavy laden vines growing on my grandmother's garden fence with which to center the Sunday dinner table. The variety of their beautiful colors and the wealth of their fragrance are with me still. And that was long before I studied the "leguminosae"!

## Invites Adventure Cruise of Alaska

Six boys from Birmingham are among the group of 21 taking a three-week trip to Alaska covering a total of more than 8,000 miles.

They include J. Patrick Dawson, 880 Yarmouth; Tim Kuhn, 1965 Saxon Drive; Neil Marzella, 1901 Wrenwood; Bob McIntyre, 6085 Old Orchard Drive; Bruce Ryding, 2612 Amberly Road; and Gordon Smith, 4105 Valley Forge.

George E. Buchanan, Detroit lumber and coal dealer, started his trips in 1923 and before his death in 1939 had taken more than 500 boys of the nation. Edward J.

Kuhn, a social studies teacher at Hazel Park High School, is the leader of the trip.

LEAVING DETROIT TODAY and returning July 30, the boys will visit such places as Winnipeg, Jasper Park in Alberta, the Columbia Icefields, Wrangell Narrows, Puget Sound and will live aboard the SS Prince George for eight days.

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