

**Botanist Predicts
Great Arboretum
For Puget Sound**

Special to The Christian Science Monitor
SEATTLE—Contending that the

University of Washington Arboretum will become "the greatest institution of its kind in the world," J. Bert Forbes, botanist of Puyallup, Wash., says that "a more comprehensive representation of the earth's vegetation can be grown on the southeastern shore of Puget Sound than in any other place in the world."

This contention was made, partly because at a point somewhere between Everett and Tenino, Washington, can be found the center of plant distribution for the entire Pacific Coast.

"Botanists have known for over 150 years that within this small area a more comprehensive representation of the earth's vegetation can be grown than in any other place in the world," says Mr. Forbes.

Since comparison is one of the principal sources of information, and hybridization is the greatest method of improvement of plants, it is obvious that the scientific investigation and improvement of plants could be conducted with greater accuracy and dispatch with specimens growing side by side than with specimens distantly separated, the botanist continued. A location "where the greatest number of genera and species could be represented would be the best for such scientific study and development." Thus an establishment of an arboretum on Puget Sound seemed inevitable.

Since the earliest explorations, the botanist said, foreign botanists have collected Pacific Coast plants and sent them to their countries for development. That accounts for the fact that Douglas Fir, one of the outstanding plants of the northwest, is named for David Douglas who collected it at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1824 for the Arboretum at Kew, England. The development and use of Pacific Coast plants by distant Arboreta was extensive and their frank acknowledgments were among the first indications of the unparalleled magnificence of the Pacific Coast flora, Forbes said. With these experiments being conducted in the University Arboretum, with acclimated plants in the midst of climatic conditions which caused their growth, they will become much more comprehensive, he added.

There are still hundreds of undeveloped plants in the Pacific Coast states, according to Forbes, which have decorative and economic values unknown to all but a few who have lacked the facilities for their development. These facilities, he showed, can be supplied by an arboretum.

May 5, 1939 **THIRTEEN FISH** Salem, Ore.
Capital Press
Dr. William L. Findley is a noted naturalist and is one who is doing effective work in the National Wildlife Association to stop the destruction of wild animals, birds and fish. He is admirably zealous in his work; but, as is perfectly natural, he loses sight of all save his own side of the picture. In his recent address before the Salem chamber of commerce he opposed the Willamette valley flood control project, his opposition being based on his claim that the proposed flood control dams on the Santiam and McKenzie would stop the run of salmon up those streams. The same cry was made regarding Bonneville, but was proved without foundation by an official count of millions of salmon going up the fishways provided for them, and Dr. Findley's objections might be dismissed by merely citing this experience. But this paper has a further grouch against Dr. Findley and the National Wildlife association. As far as saving the salmon in the Santiam and the McKenzie is concerned, the point has been reached where it is scarcely worth while. At the last estimate there were about seven of the fish in the Santiam and maybe six in the McKenzie, although there was a time when there were millions of them. The reason they are not there is not because of dams. They have been suffocated while trying to swim up the poisonous sewer called the "beautiful Willamette". For many years a great many of us have been howling about this condition and trying to get the river purified so that the fish could be invited to come back. If we had the active help of the National Wildlife association we might have been able to accomplish something along that line. The failure of the association to get into the game when there were some fish to save cannot be offset now by its lectures about savnig fish when there are none left to save. Dr. Findley's idea that we must continue to suffer damaging floods and the destruction of hundreds of acres of valuable garden land in order to save thirteen fish is sublimely idealistic—but also fantastic and ridiculous.