

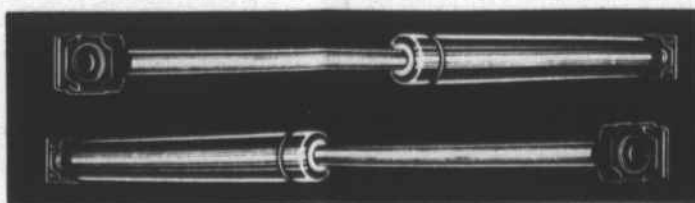
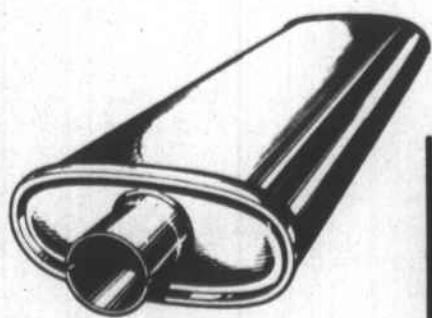
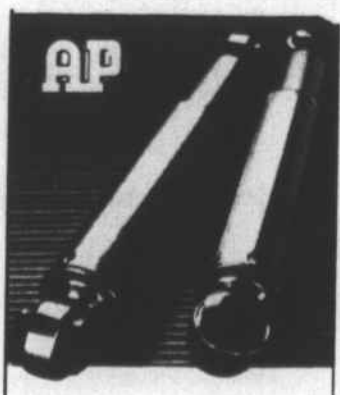
WHY IS CHARLIE BEING PAID TO WATCH TV AT PREVATTE AUTO PARTS?



ANSWER:
CHARLIE IS ONE OF TEN COUNTERMEN AT PREVATTES THAT RECEIVES INTENSIVE TRAINING IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF TODAY'S AUTOMOBILE SO, WHEN YOU ASK WHAT THAT "THING-A-MABOB" IS THAT HOLDS THE "WHATCHA-MA-CALL-IT," CHARLIE CAN ASSIST YOU.

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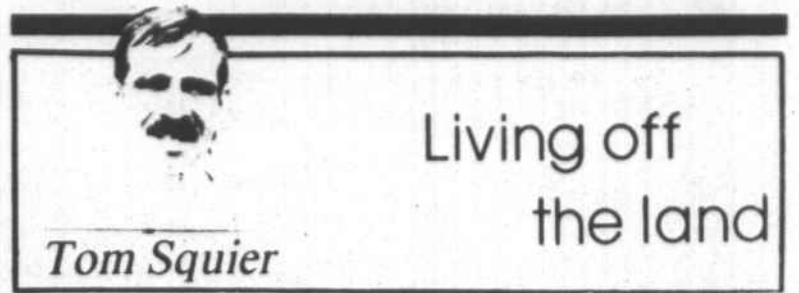


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Tom Squier

Living off
 the land

It's all in a name

When we talk about plants and call them by name we can easily get into an argument. Depending on where you live and who you talk to there are about 15 different plants named "pigweed" and at least a dozen "sourgrasses" and who knows how many "wild spinaches?" I know several, including dock, lamb's quarters and even poke.

Poke always presents problems to novice weed eaters because even some authors who are writers and not botanists think that the words "poke sallet" belong in a "hillbilly cookbook." There is in fact a recipe collection called "Things Yankees Ain't Never Et" which can be found in every gift shop and tourist trap in the Carolina mountains. But in fact, the word "sallet" came over on the Mayflower! It is an old English word that means "cooked greens." So those in the know realize that poke must be cooked in at least one or two changes of water to avoid gastric distress (or as they say, nausea) and not used in a salad.

Because of all the confusion of regional names for various plants, a binominal classification of two-word labeling system for plants and animals was devised. It works pretty good, too. In France the dandelion is called "pis-en-lit" and the Spanish speakers call it "armagon," but no matter where you are, the botanical name is *Taraxicum officinale*, which translates out from the Latin as the "official cure for disorders." The scientific names are universal no matter whether the persons involved use the same alphabet we do or symbols like those found in Oriental and Arabic writings. Even with these "chicken scratch" (not a derogatory description) writings, the botanical names are still the same and written in letters we can read.

These too can be confusing, but there are some clues. In "plain English" any time we see the ending "wort" on a plant's name, it means the plant is used in herbal medicine or as a food plant. The

ending "bane" means that it is somehow poisonous. Examples are wolfbane, dogbane and fleabane. All of these have some toxic property. At one time plants were given names which indicated a part of the body they might have an effect on. The "doctrine of simples" surmised that if a plant looked like a certain bodily organ it would be effective in maladies of that organ. An example of this is hepatica or liverwort with its three-lobed growth pattern resembling the three lobes of our liver.

Scientific names can provide us with clues, too. Any plant ending in "officinale" has been used and recognized somewhere as an official drug or remedy and is listed in some governments' pharmacopeia (list of drugs and treatments). All plants with "edulis" in their name indicates usage as a food plant, while "tinctoria" tells us this plant provides some dye to us. "Virosa" means poison. Other words describe a plant's growth pattern. "Procumbens" means it grows widespread along the ground, and "tuberosa" clues us in to the fact that this plant will have very large underground parts. Two plants with this clue are *Helianthus tuberosa* or Jerusalem artichoke and *Asclepias tuberosa* or butterfly root, also known as pleurisy root because it is used in complaints of the breathing system. An ending of "communis" tells us that a plant is widespread, while "sylvaticus" indicates a woodland growth pattern.

We have several common wild plants around here to which we can apply these guidelines. A wild aster known as "fleabane" was used for repelling these nasty little biters. The lovely wet habitat plant, Orange Milkwort, was once used to increase the flow of milk in nursing mothers, and Ebony spleenwort, a fern, was used in ailments of this organ. "Sanguinaria" which means "bleeding" is the name of our spring wildflower bloodroot. Called "puccoon" by

Continued on Page 6

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