

**Farm Land Values Upped 15 Percent During 1951**

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Agriculture department reports that farm land values increased 15 percent during the year ending Nov. 1 under the influence of favorable agricultural returns. Values are no 29 percent above the pre-Korean war level. The department said, however, that the rate of land price increase had slackened during the four months before November. During this period values increased an average of 2 percent compared with 4 percent in the corresponding period a year ago. The department said fewer farm sales were made during 1951 than last year. It said that in the better farming areas it has been difficult for real estate agents to get listings of farms because of favorable farm income and a desire on the part of owners to keep their investments in real estate. Elsewhere, it said, many of the farms listed for sale are less desirable and are priced too high. The department said, however, there still appears to be sufficient

demand in most areas for the limited number of farms on the market to maintain prices at least at their present level. "However, in contrast to a year ago when all available farms sold readily at sharply higher prices, some prospective buyers are again showing a reluctance to meet current asking prices," the agency said.

**Wilbur**

By **ELSIE BROZIO**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Barrett and family, Wilamina, and Mrs. Mamie Bruce, of Hebo, were weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Russell. Mr. and Mrs. Vern Lerwill of Tillier spent Monday at the home of Mrs. Lerwill's mother, Mrs. Carrie Blakely, in Wilbur. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Harvey and family of Weiser, Ida., are spending a few days visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Harvey. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Grubbe and son, Rollie, motored to Portland for the holidays to visit relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Neiss and family of Bayonne, N. J., spent the Christmas holidays visiting at the home of Mrs. Neiss' parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Stout, in Wilbur. Neiss is with the US navy and expects to leave for Yokohama, Japan soon. The Neiss' are now in San Francisco until he leaves for overseas duty, after which Mrs. Neiss will return to Wilbur for a two months' visit with her parents. She then expects to join her husband in Honolulu.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Brown spent the weekend in Portland visiting at the home of their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Leithner. They expect to meet their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Van Cleve, there and return home together.



**YULE FESTIVITIES TURN INTO HORROR**—The city of Tijuana, Mexico was plunged into mourning as grieving relatives searched among the 42 charred victims of the worst fire in the history of Mexico. More than 200 persons were attending an annual Christmas party for needy children and orphans in the auditorium when the fire broke out. Some were trampled and others burned as the crowd stampeded for the single exit that could be opened. The roof collapsed before all could escape.

**WITNESSES INVITED TO OPERATION**

This city's chairman today announced that witnesses are now being invited to watch operations performed here daily. He pointed out that, even though an arm or leg is occasionally removed, the technique employed makes it a fascinating spectacle. The chairman, sometimes known as the sofa man, but better known as Mrs. C. Wolf of Expert Furniture Cleaners & Upholsterers, 2132 Hollis, directly behind Richie's Root Beer Drive-In on Highway 99 North, has this to say: "Everyone in this upholstery shop proudly welcomes your watching the operation on your chair or sofa." You'll say: "So-fa, so good." We say: "Our phone is 3-3121. . . It's an ad."

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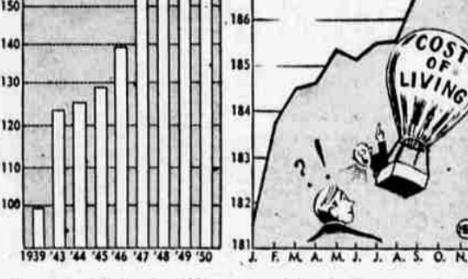
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**Highway Income, Disbursements Shown in Report**

Income of the Oregon state highway commission for the calendar year 1951-largest in its history was approximately \$38 million; its disbursements, exclusive of bond fund income, totalled \$40 million in round figures, according to the commission's annual statement covering activities for the year 1951. Gross revenues from road user sources (gasoline taxes, etc.) are expected to total \$44,200,000, or \$1,700,000 in excess of the year 1950. Of this sum \$8,500,000 will have been paid to counties for county roads; \$4,350,000 to cities for city streets; \$1,050,000 to the state police department, thus leaving approximately \$30,300,000 to the highway commission for its share. Added to this latter figure the highway commission will receive during 1951 \$7 million from the federal government for use in highway construction work plus \$1,600,000 from other sources bringing the final total income approximately \$38,900,000. During 1951 highway maintenance has cost approximately \$11,100,000 due in large part to the great increase in heavier and faster commercial hauling. Highway construction, exclusive of rights of way costs, has cost \$19,000,000. Rights of way purchases have taken \$3,400,000; capital outlays \$1,600,000 and operating expense, (including park operation, travel information, debt service and bridge and ferry operation) \$4 million; grand total \$40 million. Approximately 70 percent of the was federally aided, which means 60 percent of the cost exclusive of rights of way is furnished by the federal bureau of roads and 40 percent by the highway commission. This federal aid amounted to \$7,450,000. Both federal and state funds will finance an annual construction program of approximately \$12,900,000. The record shows that 96 percent of the 1950-51 program (\$18,900,000) and 47 percent of the 1952-53 program (\$25,800,000) either is completed or under contract as of December 31, 1951, with Oregon standing in first place among all the states of the union in percentage of available federal aid completed or under contract. In supplement of current highway revenues, 1951 legislature, the commission has awarded construction contracts totalling \$11,600,000 of which \$1,200,000 presently has been expended for work done; this out of the initial annual bond allotment of \$15,000,000.

**DEAN NAMED AS 'LIST PRISONERS'**

**PRISONERS WILL GET MAIL**—After hearing that there will be an exchange of letters between prisoners of war in the Korean conflict and their relatives, Mrs. William F. Dean pens a note to her husband, Maj. Gen. Dean, in her Berkeley, Calif., home. The photo on the desk of the general was made two days before in the North Korean prison camp where he is held.



The cost of living for 1951, measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, continued to reach record highs each month as shown on Newschart at right. In October the index hit an all-time high of 187.8—with government experts predicting more inflation and higher cost of living for the immediate future. Chart on left shows the index from 1943-50 using the 1935-39 average of 100 as the "norm."

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**Local News**

**Home From Hospital** — B. H. Laird is convalescing at his home on Winchester street, following his discharge from Mercy hospital, where he has been a medical patient for six weeks.

**At Home** — Mrs. W. I. Dixon has been confined to her home on East Douglas street for the past several days by illness.

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**Salt Water Or Natural Gas Injection Revives Old Oil Fields In Attempt To Increase Fuel For Defense Needs**

By **SAM DAWSON**  
NEW YORK — (AP) — Oilmen know exactly where billions and billions of barrels of oil lie under the United States that they haven't yet been able to coax to the surface. Some of them think they're going to be able to find the way — and soon. Defense needs of the nation for oil reserves that can be used spur the oil engineers and chemists on. Other billions of barrels that oilmen once gave up as lost forever they have now learned how to bring forth. By injecting salt water or natural gas deep into the earth they have brought back to life old oil fields they once thought milked dry. They expect this way to recover an estimated 75 billion barrels once thought lost. But that still leaves oil they know is there but can't pull out of the pores of the rock and sand where nature produced it. Perhaps 150 billion or 200 billion barrels are in known oil fields but beyond the reach of current methods of recovery. This oil is a prize worth working for—especially in the nation's defense. Now they are turning to chemistry to get at it. They are sticking hypodermic needles of acid deep into the earth to eject the oil from the rocks. Some are using detergents to flush oil loose from the porous rocks in which it hides. Some use carbon dioxide in the water with which they flood old oil fields to push the oil toward the bottom of wells that are going dry. Fatty acids and ammonia salts are also said to induce the rocks



**ACCLAIMED** — Che Allen, 12-year-old soprano from Columbus, O., was acclaimed by critics in his role as a crippled boy in Gian-Carlo Menotti's opera that was telecasted Christmas Eve. Critics say the young singer helped bring television "of age."

**Defrocked Priest, Girl Wed After Hectic Romance**

MILAN, Italy — (AP) — Claire Young, a Chicago girl, 21 was married Wednesday to Luciano Negrini, 43, a former Roman Catholic priest and missionary. The way to marriage had been tangled with red tape that took months to untangle. Claire gave up her American Citizenship, Negrini was defrocked by the church during their romance. The ceremony took place in Milan's city hall. Claire also was a member of the Catholic church. The ceremony was performed by Carlo Pedroglio, the city assessor, representing Milan's mayor. The bride, an ash blonde, is the daughter of James J. Young of Chicago, a professor at Loyola University, Chicago, a Catholic institution. The wedding climaxed a series of hectic events that began last year in Chicago where the couple met while he was doing China mission promotion work. The rugged road to romance included a short stay for Claire in Milan's San Vittore jail, and a trip to Milan by her mother, Mrs. Eileen Brady Young, who tried to break up the love match. Claire was jailed for making a disturbance and allegedly striking a policeman while trying to get her Italian visa extended. Negrini was expelled from the priesthood while Claire was in jail. Claire underwent a sanity hearing and was declared to be of sound mind before she was freed on Aug. 2.

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