

GROUND IS DRY IN WALLOWA CO.

With Fall Grain Seeding Nearly Completed, Few Fields Are Sprouting.

By G. C. Meek (Observer Correspondent)

WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—Moisture conditions in this section have not yet reached a very favorable point for the starting of the fall wheat crops. While a fairly heavy rain fell over the entire county recently and some showers a day or two following, the ground has been dry for such a long period of time that the moisture did not wet down to any great depth and warm sunshine and drying winds during the past few days has dried everything out rapidly since. Some of the farmers who have investigated the depth to which the moisture from the recent rains has gone into the summer-fallowed fields, say that much of the seed grain still lays in dry dirt and will not start until considerable more moisture comes. Some of the fields which were seeded two and three weeks ago are beginning to show up green in places where the soil contained some moisture. The rains this far have been insufficient to start the new grass to any extent and all dry land pastures and range areas are in poor condition for grazing, even where there is an abundance of old grass, stock are not doing well, with everything so dry the stock do not eat the dry feed well. Farmers who are milking cows and depending on dry forage from fields and pastures report milk production at a low point. Pastures in the irrigated sections are being irrigated frequently to keep them growing during the dry weather. There has been some shortage of irrigation water at some places in this part of the valley. Practically all fall seeding has been finished and a few farmers have started to do some fall plowing, however, with the soil so extremely dry it is difficult to get much ground turned. The first killing frost to reach gardens in the hill sections occurred here Saturday night when all tender vegetables were nipped severely. The most of the tender vegetables in the gardens in the lower sections of the county were badly frosted several weeks ago when some severe frosts occurred there.

Orin Hudson of Middle Valley was an Enterprise visitor the last of the week. Mr. Hudson owned one of the race horses entered in the meet at the county fair.

T. L. McBeth was busy a few days the last of the week doing some papering and cleaning work at the school house in district 40.

W. M. Downing and family, of Leap, attended the fair at Enterprise last Friday.

Kenneth Kester and wife, who have been working for Oscar Maxwell at his ranch in the hills, left the last of the week for Milton where they expect to visit with relatives for a few days.

L. C. Johnson, of Snake River, was a business visitor in town the last of the week.

The grasshoppers, which have been in evidence in many parts of the community in great numbers during the past several weeks, appear to be less numerous. The recent rains and cooler weather in thought to have killed many of them and farmers say they do not believe that enough of them remain to cause any damage to speak of to the fall wheat which is coming up in places. Many of the gardens and orchards in the hill sections have been closely trimmed by the grasshoppers while all other vegetation has been so dry.

Mrs. Bertha Taylor finished work at C. H. McElroy's in Middle valley the first of the week. She visited at Mrs. Meek's a few days during the week and left for her home at La Grande Saturday.

Oscar Maxwell finished seeding a large acreage of summer-fallow at the U. G. Couch ranch in the hills the latter part of the week.

Deer hunters have gone into the

timbered sections in large numbers during the past few days in search of deer which are reported to be quite plentiful at many places. No reports are yet heard of in this community where hunters have been successful in bagging any of the bucks. The drying weather of the past few days has again made everything nearly as dry as before the recent rains and results in conditions being very poor for hunting. It is difficult to get through the brush without making much noise.

Oscar Maxwell lost a valuable work horse last week from being foundered when turned into a field where some sacks of grain had been over-looked when the grain was hauled from the field following combining.

Mrs. Susie Meek and sons Sam and Grover and Earl, Burchfield visited Sunday at the J. H. Williams home north of Evans.

Chinese pheasants are reported to be scarce in many parts of this county. Usually at this season of the year the birds are seen in large numbers. Many express the opinion that the open seasons of the past number of years have been too long, allowing too many of the birds to be killed off.

Colds and 'flu' are prevalent in this section of the country. Many people from this end of the valley were in attendance at the county fair held at Enterprise during the latter part of the week. The weather during the entire three days was cold and disagreeable and the crowds were not as large as usual. Good programs were put on each afternoon and greatly enjoyed by those attending. The livestock showing at the fair this year was considered by many to have been better than ever before.

Roy Gastin has been busy several days the past week cutting hay for T. G. Johnson. An ensilage cutter was used in cutting the hay and putting it into the barn for use in feeding the Johnson dairy herd during the winter.

L. W. Minor and George Cussing moved their sheep to range in the Whiskey creek section during the early part of the week. For the past few weeks they have been ranging the sheep on land Mr. Minor has leased from Mrs. Margaret McDonald in the hills a few miles east of town, but with the continued dry weather the grass has become quite short there for

the sheep to do well. George Cussing is herding the sheep on Whiskey creek.

Eugene Gastin who has been herding sheep for L. C. Johnson in the South Fork canyon range, came home the first of the week for a few days visit with relatives.

Giles Plasse was busy seeding fall wheat at his farm in the hills during the past week.

Part of the county road building crew has been busy recently moving the machinery of the gravel screening plant from near the H. D. Bechtel farm to the C. W. Mumford place just east of town where they will secure surfacing material to finish surfacing this end of the connecting link between the Whiskey creek market road and the Lostine-Leap road.

Joe Gastin was a business visitor in town the last of the week. J. H. Hawn of Evans left Sunday for La Grande where he goes for medical attention. He has been troubled considerably during the past few months with nose and ear trouble.

John Henry, of Dry Creek, was a business visitor in town the latter part of the week. He reports that all harvest work in that community has been finished and that the most of the farmers are nearly through with their fall seeding but that the ground is too dry in most fields for the grain to germinate.

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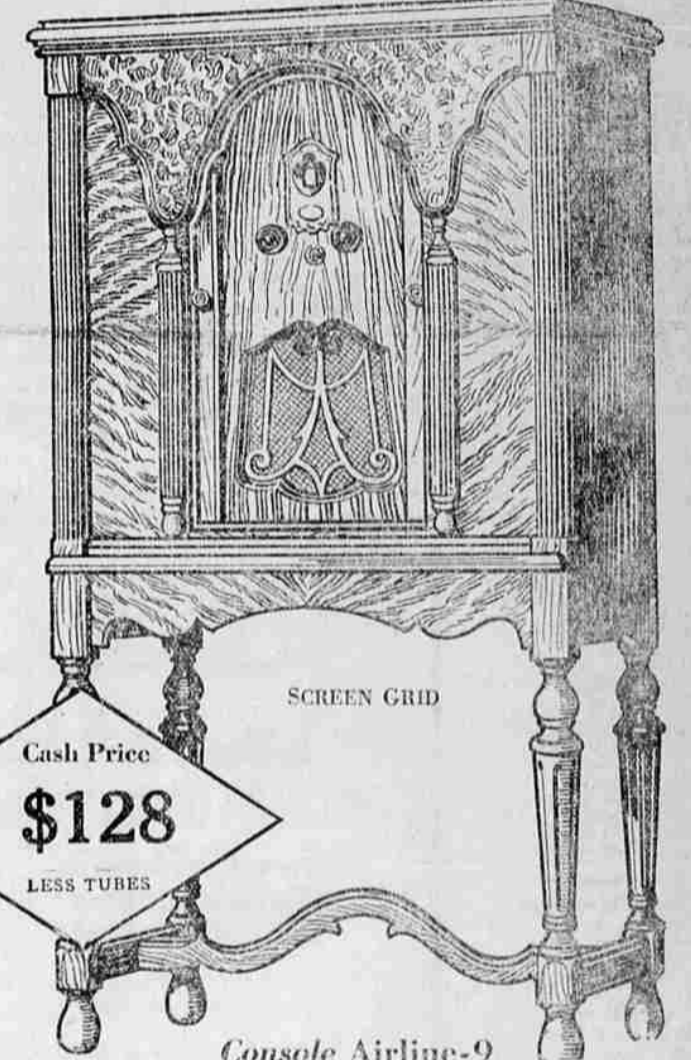
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