



**GERNESEY'S**—Tom Sherwood, 10, left, and his sister, Barbara Sherwood, 12, show their purebred Gernesey's which they'll take to the 4-H clubs exhibits at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show. (Observer Photo)

## Who Is The Average Rodeo Cowboy?

In this age of numbers a great many people end up as statistics. It's possible to delve into the lives of the average banker, the average bootblack, the average jockey, the average man. Through its public relations THE RODEO COWBOYS' ASSOCIATION is many times called upon to furnish figures on the "average" professional rodeo cow. THERE CAN BE NO SUCH PERSON. The professional rodeo contestant can be tied to no figures. Each is an individual and remains so under all circumstances.

First off there are the men who are good enough to make a satisfactory living by straight contesting one a year around basis. Their expenses are heavy and varied; so varied that even as a group there can be no average. One man may not travel too far to make his rodeos, and work events that call for no horses and little equipment.

His gross winning may be half that of the man who travels far, hauls dogging or roping horses, and needs much equipment, but his net may be higher.

Then there are those who have their own ranches, feed stores, cattle yards, or other businesses, and who contest only part of the year. If forced to it, they could probably make a living by contesting year around.

Probably in the largest category are those who make a living solely from professional rodeo, but not entirely from contesting. They may be the old-timers, long in rodeo, who never quite had that "something" that would put them at the top. They may be the comparative newcomers who may, through experience, natural ability, and luck someday reach the top. These men contest at every opportunity, but on the side they work for Stock Contractors, Rodeo Producers, Rodeo Committees in various jobs at various rodeos. The money from either the work or winning in the contest along would not be enough, but combined it totals enough over the year.

On the fringe is another group. The young hopefuls. They haven't yet what it takes to win consistently, and are not well enough acquainted to get rodeo jobs. By teaming up for travel expenses. Borrowing. Splitting with a partner. HOPING. This way they can last for years, winning back barely more than their entrance fees as a rule; getting lucky for a big win on occasion, and waiting for the skills to develop, the experience and the breaks to put them in the winners circle.

One of the features that makes rodeo a highly competitive sport is that there is not enough prize money, even with entry fees added, to go around. There never will be.

## Seed Growing Is Major Industry Now And Not Just Afterthought

Oregon farmers can take a lot of credit for the fact that seed growing today is recognized as a major industry—not just an afterthought.

In the past, the seed industry was treated like a little brother or who had to wear "hand-me-downs." Storage methods and equipment development for cleaning and harvesting of grain were adapted for use by seed growers. But now that "little brother" is growing up, storage methods and new equipment are being developed specifically for seed crops.

Dr. D. D. Hill, head of the farm crops department at Oregon State College, looks for many other advances in the seed growing industry, which is worth \$20 million to \$30 million a year to the state.

Oregon currently grows more kinds of field crop seeds than any other state in the nation. Seed is grown in all parts of the state except in the Columbia Basin wheat producing counties.

Oregon grows all of the rye grass, much of the vetch and winter pears, most of the fine fescues and the bentgrass, large amounts of red, trefoil, alsike, Landino, ermon and subterranean clovers, not to mention the wheat grasses, blue grasses, oat grasses and many others.

The reason Oregon has taken the lead in developing the seed industry is simply because farmers took advantage of their environment. In doing what they could do best. Cool growing conditions and dry harvest weather have proved ideal for production of high quality seed, according to Hill.

Hill says the rest of the country has come to recognize the West as a major seed-producing area. He expects Oregon growers in the future will be called upon to grow specific varieties of seeds for certain areas of the country.

## OREGON'S RANGE INCOME IS EXPECTED TO DOUBLE

Income from Oregon's ranges—roughly a dollar an acre for range grass—may double in the next 25 years.

America's vast range lands, popularized by television westerns, are about due for a face lifting, predicts E. R. Jackman, Oregon State College extension range crops management specialist.

Chemicals to kill unwanted brush, and machines to seed the land are now available. Pioneer ranchers are leading the way and experiment stations, such as the Squaw Butte-Harney station near Burns, are providing the answers, Jackman continued.

For many years the country's ranges were pretty much as the westerns portray them: Where, after a lightning split gallop down the mountain and through the creek "they cut 'em off at the gap." Where herds bawled, flocks based and horses neighed. Where livestock roamed with buffalo and played with deer and antelope.

Much of Oregon's range land has fallen into this pattern. "Western" is a misnomer for Oregon's range-land tales, however, because most of the state's range is east of the Cascades, Jackman notes.

And a lot of Oregon is range land if you consider all unpopu-

## Hog Raising Ideas Told In Booklet


Opportunities and some of the risks of raising hogs in Oregon are set forth in a new booklet just published by Oregon State College extension service.

Pacific Coast states now raise only one per cent of the hogs in the U.S., creating strong demand for pork since 10 per cent of the nation's people live in Oregon, Washington, and California. As a result, hog prices in the area are among the highest in the nation.

The illustrated, informative booklet, "So You Want to Raise Hogs," points out some of the risks such as sharp fluctuation in hog prices. Present large supplies of barley and other locally-grown grains could also change, but the longrange outlook is good for local hog farmers, say the experts.

The booklet discusses feeding and costs, good cross breeding programs, housing of hogs, and marketing. Copies of the booklet are available on request to Oregon residents from local county extension officers or the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

There's an old saying that the only way you can kill a rodeo cowboy is to cut off his head and bury it where he can't find it. After one afternoon in a rodeo grandstand, you begin to believe it.



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## RECORDS

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for the first time at the horse races.

During the war years, 1942, 43, 44 and 45 the show was discontinued, although 4-H and FFA youths held exhibits.

When the shows resumed in 1946 G. I. Hess, present president, headed the show. M. F. Conley was vice president, Tony Smith, secretary and L. H. Bramwell, treasurer. Adelaide Huffman was the first post-war queen. He '46 show drew the largest crowd up to that time due to the fact servicemen had returned—and money was "loose."

Thirteen counties were represented in the 4-H and FFA exhibits in 1948 with 500 head of stock on display. A new grandstand was constructed and extra stalls built. Norma Curteman was queen of the show.

In 1949 Carolyn Kilenbeck reigned as queen and Kay Dawn Edvalson in 1950. Harley Tucker's rodeo was hired for the '50 show.

In 1951 the management of the association took over the concessions which were run by the people of Union. Vern White was elected treasurer. Queen was Darlene Beverage.

In 1953 John Beck was appointed chairman for the square dance jamboree. Over 100 couples took part in the dance. Donna Rae Ellsworth was named queen.

The queen and her court for 1954 was Sandra Bradley, Janice Baum, Joyce Standley, Barbara Berry and Dot Ann Anson. Judy Hutchinson was the 1955 queen. The stock show queen and court attended the Rose Festival in Portland that year.

In 1956 Bradley was queen—her sister was queen in 1954. Queen in 1957 was Linda Rogers. The queen, President G. I. Hess and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Taylor appeared on TV in Portland and Spokane before the show to advertise the show.

Last year was the 50th Anniversary of the show—and one of the largest crowds in history attended the three-day affair. The parade was the largest on record.

## HOW BIG IS RODEO?

During the Rodeo year of 1955 from January through December there were 541 rodeo approved by the Rodeo Cowboys Association with total purses of \$1,549,789. Entry fees for the year totaled \$1,200,215, for a combined total of \$2,749,994. There were 1,750 performances over the year, or an average of nearly five performances for every day in the year.

Following are comparative figures for the past four years:

1952—Rodeos in 32 states and Canada.  
Total Purses—\$1,489,608.  
Total Entry Fees—Not recorded.  
1953—Rodeos in 35 states and Canada.  
Total Purses—\$1,486,805.  
Total Entry Fees—\$1,006,051.  
Grand Total—\$2,492,856.

1954—Rodeos in 34 States, Canada and Washington, D. C.  
Total Purses—1,485,488.  
Total Entry Fees—\$1,240,702.  
Grand Total—\$2,726,190.

1955—Rodeos in 36 states and Canada.  
Total Purses—\$1,549,789.  
Total Entry Fees—\$1,200,215.  
Grand Total—\$2,749,994.

In addition to the above figures representing only purses and entry fees, there are the millions involved and invested in livestock, chutes, arenas, trucks, and miscellaneous equipments. Also are the actual costs of staging a rodeo, stock contracts, acts, announcers, labor list, etc., of which the purse put up by the rodeo is only a small percentage.


On the other side is represented the total gate receipts for which there are no available figures at this time, but which based on the Wall Street Journal estimates of annual rodeo attendance of over 13,000,000 will run into a high monetary figure. A further fring value of rodeo as expressed in the financial magazine on an article on Cheyenne runs into fabulous figures. From material gathered at Cheyenne during the Frontier Days Rodeo, the Wall Street Journal article estimated that the 200,000 gate receipts represented only 10% of the total amount brought into the town by the Rodeo during its five day run. This in varying degrees will hold true in most of the rodeos listed as R.C.A. approved.

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## Corn Production Is Increasing

Corn production is increasing so rapidly in the Pacific Northwest that in 1959 Oregon, Washington, and Idaho farmers may raise as much corn as has been used each year in these states, believes Marion D. Thomas, Oregon State College extension agricultural economist.

This might seem quite an about-face for Oregon, long considered a corn-importing state. Until recently, Oregon shipped in more than two million bushels of corn a year, mostly from the Midwest.

The state's total corn production last year topped the three million bushel mark for the first time, nearly triple the amount five years earlier. Early planting plans indicate a 30 per cent increase for 1959.

## Wool Still Rates High For Rugs And Carpeting

Wool still rates high among rug and carpeting materials although many synthetics are underfoot today, reports a new bulletin available from Oregon State College.

Wool is a good choice for dining and entertaining areas. It is resistant to grease stains and stands up under heavy traffic, the college specialists point out.

Home economists from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington prepared the bulletin, "Buying Rugs and Carpets," as a joint project. The bulletin lists commonly used rug fibers with advantages and drawbacks of each.

When shopping for rugs, families often listen to their neighbors' preferences, and end up buying a rug that fits the neighbors but not themselves, they say.

Consider the number of years your carpet must last, amount of traffic it will get, how it reacts to stains, its effect on the whole feeling of the room, and facilities available for commercial cleaning. Then decide what you can spend, the home economists advise.

A formula for figuring yardage and cost of wall to wall carpeting and room fit rugs is included in the bulletin. Home economists recommend spending a little extra money and buying a rug cushion to increase rug service. Cushions absorb part of the weight of heavy furniture, reduce noise and add to rug resilience.

Oregon residents can obtain a free copy of the bulletin from their local county extension office or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

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