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FARM MECHANIZATION CONTINUES ASPACE

The average farmer has probably forgotten how to harness a team, particularly if the process is anything out of the ordinary, even though it has not been many years since most of the farmers used horses. The best figures available say that there are now 3,250,000 tractors on 5,600,000 farms. The number of tractors on farms represents an increase of about two million since 1940.

The mechanization of the American farm has become more or less of an old story. Nevertheless it may still be somewhat of a shock to realize that the number of horses and mules on the farm has dwindled from 20,000,000 in 1920 to 8,000,000 in 1949 and a large number of the remaining horses could be classed as saddle horses. The colt drop in 1948 was only 200,000, sufficient only to maintain a horse and mule population of only 3,500,000 head.

The increase in the number of garden tractors has probably been more rapid. It was only in the last few years that the garden tractor came into general use. The increase from 1945 to 1948 amounted to 130,000.

Tractors have meant larger American farms and fewer farmers and they are largely responsible for the big increase in farm foods and farm grains.

As has been discussed before in these columns mechanization of the farm and highways has brought a number of changes to the rural people. It has made them less dependent on the community or general store and more unfortunate perhaps it has erased the identity of community thru the consolidation of the school districts.

FEAR PLAYS ITS PART TOO

Now that prices are sliding on a good many commodities, some are inclined to be a bit panicky and express a fear of another 1932 era, which is what might happen if enough people felt that the nation and the world in general was bound to hit bottom.

It has not been but a few short years that we were living in an era of rising prices and prospective shortages; in fact as recently as the 1948 election the average candidate for national office did not know whether to advocate controls for rising prices or legislation to scotch another depression. We realized then just as we must realize now that high prices can not continue indefinitely and that we must face a period of adjustment. Now that the period we were sure would come is here there is no need to get panicky about the situation that must come with resumption of normal peace time activities.

The real danger lies not in thinking the situation through as most of us should, but in getting in the same frame of mind that makes us flee from a fire and trample our fellow human beings to death in trying to reach safety. A lurking dread is generally much worse than facing the real thing.

Whether we continue to prosper or whether we let things go to pot depends on us. A good thing to remember is that bad times, if and when they come, as they probably will, do not actually reduce the material wealth of the world. It's fear that gives us the urge to get what ever we can for our material possessions, the same urge as makes us in a hurry to get out of a burning building regardless of the consequences.

A SAFE FOURTH

Fourth of July is still some distance away. But it's a good idea to plan, well in advance, certain precautions that can prevent the holiday from being a time of tragedy.

The old saying about observing "a safe and sane Fourth" may seem trite from years of repetition. But it is as sound as it ever was. Every year, failure to follow it results in death and injury, and property destruction by fire.

Fireworks are the most obvious hazard. At best, they are dangerous. They should never be used in congested areas, or in woods and fields where a spark may cause a runaway fire. Children should not be permitted to handle them except under strict adult supervision.

Each Fourth of July, millions of people go into the country for picnics. The national parks and other beauty spots are filled to overflowing. The careless use of matches, smoking materials and campfires is responsible for a disgraceful and totally unnecessary toll of the woods and the wildlife in them. The simplest, most obvious precautions will save these resources for the future.

Fire safety should be practiced on the Fourth—and on every other day in the year. Of late, there has been a small but encouraging decline in monthly fire losses. The waste is still criminally high, and the experts say that around 90 per cent of it is attributable to human carelessness alone. It is up to us to decide whether fire shall continue to kill and maim and destroy. We can stop it if we will.

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Campfire Permits Not Required in Five Nat'l Forests

Campfire permits will not be required in 1949 on the Rogue river, Siuslaw, Whitman and Umatilla national forests in Oregon and the Olympic national forest in Washington, according to an announcement by H. J. Andrews, regional forester, Pacific Northwest region of the U. S. forest service, Portland, Oregon.

On the other national forests in this region, campfire permits will continue to be required during the period July 1 to September 30, except on certain specified improved campgrounds.

"The lifting of the campfire permit requirement on these five national forests is on a trial basis," Andrews stated. "We hope to be able to use the experience gained this year in determining whether permits for building campfires are necessary and justified as a fire prevention measure or whether further easing of requirements can be made."

Andrews pointed out that there has been a marked decrease in the number of forest fires caused by campfires escaping. During the past five years, the number dropped from 123 to 49. During the same period, the use of the national forests in this region by campers increased from 597,380 to 739,200. Heavy recreational use has caused additional problems in giving the public adequate service in the issuance of permits for campfires. This year on five national forests, the forest guards who have been spending much of their time at their stations issuing permits will be able to give more on-the-ground assistance and advice to campers on how to build and put out a campfire.

Andrews praised the public for its cooperation in being careful with fire in the forests. He said that the fire prevention record was excellent during the war years and that this trend has continued since then. If the experiments this year indicate that the campfire permit is not needed to make campers fire conscious, it may be possible to ease this requirement more widely in the future. Easing of the campfire permit requirement in no way relieves the camper of the necessity of and responsibility for building his campfire in a safe place and putting it dead out before leaving. These are state and federal requirements that will be rigidly enforced.

Campers using the five forests exempted from the permit requirement are urged to camp at improved spots where stoves, fireplaces and other facilities have been provided for their safety and enjoyment.

M. M. Nelson, forest supervisor of the Umpqua national forest adds the following note:

"The Umpqua has gone as far as they can in marking designated camping spots which are even only slightly improved where camping is permitted without a campfire permit. This gives the public a wide selection of the places where they may camp without securing a permit. This has been made possible through the excellent cooperation received from the camping public during the past ten years, as over that period of time only two fires have occurred on this forest which could be attributed to campfires. This is an excellent record considering the fact that the Umpqua has been visited by an average number of approximately 100,000 campers each year during this period."

Bohemia Nuggets

Franc L. Hard, president of the Vesuvius Mines Co., of San Jose, California, was a recent visitor in Cottage Grove, stopping over to confer with Ray Nelson, lessee of the Vesuvius Mines, on business connected with the work being done this year.

The 125 ton ball mill of the Champion Mine is being placed in condition for the seasons run, by Wm. Bartels, Jr. A flotation expert has been employed to handle the mill and arrived this week at the mine.

50 Years Ago, from Nugget. Stocks and Harlow started their 5 stamp mill ten days ago and are running full blast. They are raising from their lower tunnel on a large body of free milling ore.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:
 Will you please print this as I think our town should wake up.

I am a native born citizen of Cottage Grove and have always been proud of it until June the 15th. Here is my reason:

One of our small grocery men passed away very suddenly and at the funeral I looked around and only one business man could I see. Where is our respect for those who have gone before us and the dear family left behind. The least that could have been done was for all stores to close during the funeral. That would have only been about forty-five minutes and I don't think any one would have missed that! I have seen them close for several hours for a ball game. Mr. William Stilling has always been a good citizen. He always helped in any small way he could, but it seems like the "Big Boys" across the river forgot the "Small Boys" on the west side. The trouble is that our side of town is the wrong side.

We are proud of it as in the old days the west side was the main street of Cottage Grove. When our merchants treat the old part of town the way they do, it reminds me of the way people say the children are treating the parents. Well, why not? The parents are setting a very good example. The only time the "Boys" on main street remember the west side is when we do not want something and they think we should have it. Then they get behind it and try to shove it over. But thank our heavenly father they don't always win!

Boys or men, I should say let's see if we can't show more respect in the future. And remember our departed brother still has a widow and son in business on the west side of the river. Let's show them we are behind them. Here is hoping this will never happen again.
 Mrs. Wilda King.

Navy Shows the Eskimo How to Cut Ice Fast

Navy men in the Arctic are showing the Eskimos how to harvest their water "crop" with modern machinery methods.

Ice, the main source of water supply in many sections of the Arctic, has been harvested by the Eskimo with a rudimentary hand saw and leather thong each fall since time immemorial.

Navy Seabees at Point Barrow, Alaska, decided they could improve upon the slow manual method used by the Eskimos of cutting ice into blocks with a hand-saw and then physically dragging the blocks out of the water with a leather thong.

They adapted a motor driven, circular-blade timber saw mounted on wheels to the ancient task of ice cutting, brought up a wengel (snow tractor) to pull the sawed cakes from the water, and then slid the finished products ashore on bent-pipe skids.

The result was 40 tons of ice cut and stored in an eight-hour day—the equivalent of 280 commercial-size, 300 pound cakes of ice, or more than an energetic Eskimo could cut and store in 80 days.

CORVALLIS VOTES NO ON LIQUOR

Oregon State College—A proposal to ask the state liquor commission to establish a store in Corvallis has been voted down by close to a two-to-one majority in an advisory election held in conjunction with another ballot item. The college town has banned the sale of hard liquor since 1906. When the state liquor commission was established the city council asked that no store be established here. The popular advisory vote was sought locally to see if sentiment had changed. It hasn't.

Wedding Announcements and Invitations.—The Sentinel.

Washington Letter

By Harris Ellsworth, Rep. in Congress from Oregon

For some time the two federal district judges in Oregon have been badly overworked. The population of our state has increased nearly 50 per cent. An additional federal judge is badly needed. The House recently sent to the Senate a bill creating a number of new federal district judges, including an additional judge for Oregon.

Although the bill was passed without many negative votes, an interesting floor battle developed over an amendment offered by Representative Keating, a Republican from New York. He pointed out that federal judges are appointed for life and that during the last 18 years of control by the one party numerous vacancies have occurred. The result is a federal judiciary preponderantly of one party. His amendment simply provided that no more than two-thirds of the newly created judges should be appointed from one political party. A hot fight developed on the floor. It was pointed out in the debate that of the last 189 federal judges appointed, 182 of them were registered as Democrats and only seven Republicans. Thus it was correctly declared that our system of government which is supposed to consist of three independent branches—legislative, executive, and judicial, has in fact for some time (except for the years 1947 and 1948 when the Republicans controlled Congress) been completely controlled by one political party. The Democrats fought the amendment and it was defeated.

For the benefit of members of the democrat party who might like a chuckle at the expense of Republicans, it may be noted that the Republican Congress could have passed this legislation last year but decided to wait until this year so that a Republican president (we thought) could appoint the new judges! Now they will be appointed by President Truman anyhow.

Washington has been pretty much agog over the spy or espionage or perjury trials—which ever you might call them—going on now. As one member put it "we seem to be just about knee-deep in 'red herrings' around here now."

I have been deeply disturbed over the blow dealt a splendid organization, the FBI, because the judge in the Coplan trial allowed papers in their secret files to be read in open court. These papers contained numerous names in reports accumulated by the FBI. It was sensational stuff, of course, but I think the reporting of the trial has been generally if uninten-

tionally unfair to the FBI. The stuff read at the trial was merely miscellaneous data gathered from all sorts of sources. It was not supposed to be factual and did not represent conclusions or reports by the FBI. Obviously an investigating agency must accumulate material of this sort and sift it out. Practically all of that which was read in court and widely printed in newspapers represented nothing but worthless chaff. The reading of it not only did harm to those whose names were mentioned but untold harm to the FBI.

Thanks to the excellent work of Representative Homer Angell from Portland district with whom I have been working very closely on the problem, I think some additional needed authorization for the Willamette flood control projects will be passed at this session. Mr. Angell is a ranking member on the House Public Works Committee which handles this legislation.

The original Willamette project authorization which was passed more than ten years ago did not permit the appropriation of

enough money to complete the job. This was partly due to the fact that construction costs increased and partly due to changes in the original plans. As a result of Mr. Angell's work with the committee, I think an additional sum will be authorized. Also, it was found necessary to substitute two dams on tributaries for one large dam on the McKenzie River. The two substitute dams require technical authorization. Apparently this matter will be cleared also.

REEDSPORT LOGGER KILLED WEEK AFTER MARRIAGE

A New Hampshire girl who came west to get married left for home Saturday in tragedy. With her will go the body of the man she married a week ago.

He was Douglas Birney Mitchell, fatally crushed by a log near Scottsburg Thursday. His bride, the former Janet Catherine Messier, came to Oregon ten days ago.

They were married at Reedspport June 10, then Mitchell went back to his job as a log loader. He will be buried in Derry, N. H., where both lived previously.

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