

OREGON'S FIRST DEATH FROM AN ELECTRIC FENCE

On Friday, August 2, 1940, "Jackie" Walker, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsie Walker, Route 1, Springfield, was electrocuted when he contacted an electrically energized wire used as a fence around the property of Al Campbell, a neighbor.

An investigation of the circumstances disclosed the fact that the death of this boy was a needless sacrifice of life on the altar of economy. While it is true that this is the first death of a person in Oregon from a homemade electric fence, numerous horses and cattle have been killed with these devices and they would probably have been fatal to human beings had they contacted the fence under proper conditions.

The device used to energize the fence was built for Mr. Campbell by a neighbor's boy who constructed it in accordance with a description and diagram published in a nationally distributed magazine "Mechanix Illustrated". It did not comply in any respect with recognized safety standards. The current was continuous and had a value twice that known to be safe. This accident will serve to indicate the truth of our oft repeated statement that it is impossible for the layman to build a safe electric fence unit. This is a job for a trained engineer and even he must have electrical laboratory testing equipment before he can construct a device having proper safety factors.

When the electric fence first appeared in 1936 the hazards to life were immediately recognized and the Oregon Bureau of Labor, under authority of Chapter 318, Oregon Laws 1935, took steps to insure that all devices offered for sale in Oregon were so constructed that they would be safe under all conditions. After holding hearings to which we invited engineers and doctors from our state colleges as well as all others in the state who were interested, together with representatives of the various manufacturers, rigid specifications for the manufacture of these devices were adopted and all manufacturers were required to submit stock models of their devices for tests. This move spread throughout the country and our specifications with some additions have been adopted for the nation by the U. S. Bureau of Standards, the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. and by a number of states through action of their legislature.

The Oregon law prohibits the sale of unapproved electrical devices and provides severe penalties for violators, but no punishment by a court can equal the remorse that must be felt by the young man who constructed the device that caused the death of this innocent child.

All devices that have been approved for sale and use in Oregon bear a label stating that they have been approved by the Commissioner of Labor and can be purchased through any dealer in electrical merchandise for a small sum.

We again wish to issue the following warning to all prospective users of electric fence equipment. Do not try to construct your own unit. You may be responsible for the death of a neighbor or a member of your own family. Drawings and instructions taken from magazines are not to be trusted. Purchase only those de-

vices bearing the approval label of this department or the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. If you are offered a unit that is not so approved, report it at once to the Bureau of Labor, Salem, Oregon.

Investigation of this accident was made by W. R. Volhwey, Chief Electrical Engineer for the Bureau of Labor.

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

According to Edwin Keltner the Rotary club of Oregon City has just announced special prizes totaling \$10 will be awarded to 4-H club members who show livestock at the Clackamas county fair. Three prizes will be awarded to sheep club members who do the best piece of work in herdsmanship with their animals during the entire fair. The same will be awarded for pig exhibitors.

This is the first time we have had any special awards for hog and sheep showmanship, and with the entries up one-third this year there will be keen competition.

Scoring will be done on the following basis: Display and care of animal, 40 points; care of equipment, neatness of alleys, 40 points; appearance and attitude of club member, 20 points.

ROAD PROGRAM NEAR FINISH

Clackamas county's summer road improvement program is nearing completion, County Commissioner L. L. McFarlane, Park Place, declared Monday.

A bridge built on steel beams has just been finished over Milk creek near Mulino by a county crew under Bridge Foreman Jerry Baty. The span replaces an old covered bridge. Work is now going ahead on a bridge over Abernathy creek on the Thayer road, which will replace one that gave way under a wood truck about a month ago.

The road oiling crew will finish up its work in the Canby district Wednesday, and will resume operations after Labor day on the Clarkes-Meadowbrook road, McFarlane said.

Bunkers and other permanent construction are being put up for a crusher site at Elwood, between Springwater and Colton. A bulldozer has cleared the soil off the gravel deposit.

Mountain Music



ASHEVILLE, N. C. . . . Samantha Bumgardner loves her mountain music so well that she has won the banjo-picking contest at the Asheville Mountain Dance and Music Festival for 12 years in a row.

War or No War—Fashions Go On



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Bull Run

Mr. and Mrs. Kealher visited at Cle Elum, Washington the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robley Butler and Charles Butler visited at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Butler Sunday.

BORING

12 year old Kermit Markvardson enjoyed being up in the air on his recent visit at St. Paul, Minn. with his father Peter Markvardson and the latter's aunt and uncle. The quartet enjoyed their first airplane ride. The Markvardsons returned Sunday after a very interesting trip east covering 4800 miles. They visited Yellowstone Park on their way home.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Rannon and family are at home again after spending their vacation at Newport, Oregon.

Mrs. Fred Bowers spent a week at her home here, resting in between early and late hops. She expects to return to the hop fields near Salem next week.

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