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About The Farm - - -

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

A Holiday Visit to Frisco Bay Area Leaves Our Inskeep a Bit Confused

A holiday visit to the peninsula south of San Francisco to become acquainted with a new granddaughter was a delightful occasion, so far as family relationships are concerned. But close contact with the rustic and bustle of a rapidly expanding urban economy of that area leaves one, with country boy leanings, confused and slightly disillusioned.

An account of my observations should be taken for what they are worth because of my bewilderment. Eighty-five thousand people living on the peninsula dash madly to work every morning. The six and eight-lane highways are crowded. Motorists change rapidly from one lane to another going 65 miles an hour, with inches to spare. Sometimes they don't make it.

Other Commuters

A two-lane railroad carries its share of commuters with one train following another as closely as safety regulations allow. Buses come in for a small share of the traffic. The whole procedure is reversed in late afternoon and early evening. All mass transportation facilities claim they are losing money.

New housing tracts are opened for occupancy almost daily. Young married couples purchase these not unattractive but small homes with a few dollars down. They long for the day when amounts expended for monthly payments represent more for principal than for interest.

Road Construction

New highway construction, including overpasses goes on at a terrific clip. Construction of new school buildings to accommodate a rapidly expanding population is of enormous proportion. The problem of providing funds for new public school buildings and other public institutions and utilities defies the imagination. Every device now known for raising taxes is being used.

Inventory Sales

It's the day of the fast buck. Department stores, all of them currently featuring inventory reduction sales, were virtual madhouses of struggling females. Males of the species of homo sapiens approach these places timidly.

But just try to purchase a really worth while article of clothing at a decent price. "Sorry" the salesman says "but Christmas rush depleted my stocks and I won't have spring goods on the rack until February."

Almost every store invites charge accounts. Interest on unpaid balances represents really big business. The average customer wants to know only "How much down?" Discount merchandise houses had customers waiting in line before the Christmas holidays. The out of state check is accepted with a passing glance. State colleges are turning away prospective students. There is no room for more. College enrollment will double during the next 18 years. That's not a prediction but a statement. The kids are now in rompers or diapers. The need is for more and more workers with college training. It is estimated that the time will soon arrive when 50 per cent of our high school graduates will go to college. Big families are the order of the day.

Large outfits are suing retailers caught selling fair trade items below fair trade prices. Certain elements of the profession are accused of gouging. Salaried young people who have a hard time stretching the monthly stipend to meet monthly demands are resentful.

The younger married college graduate couples are typical of the area. They represent the more conservative element. Most of them drive used cars.

Teacher Shortage

There's a teacher shortage and the teachers union is demanding a higher minimum wage scale of 4,000 dollars. A large steamship construction corporation is receiving a 70 million dollar subsidy for a new 175 million dollar construction program. Such subsidies pass by unnoticed but everyone notices subsidies to agriculture.

Residential Areas

Residential areas are taking over once valuable farmlands to an alarming extent. Remaining farmlands must be planted to intensive crops—or else. Meeting of the states largest farm organization in San Francisco rates a six-inch story on an inside page of one daily. But another notes editorially that San Francisco has too long ignored agriculture and welcomes the convention. At any rate in the race and scurry for new industry the farm meet will hardly be noticed.

Workers in the financial district ape the dress and mannerisms of Wall Street. Aside from this distinctive few it is doubtful that visiting farmers and their women folks can be distinguished from regular city

dweller appearing on San Francisco streets.

Future Problems

Dangers and problems of forthcoming world and national overpopulation keynoted the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which met in Berkeley. Dr. Allen Greg, medical researcher of the Rockefeller Foundation likened effect of the population growth rate to a human cancerous growth. Another speaker noted that many workers of the day, many of them enjoying Doctor of philosophy degrees, are highly specialized, but poorly educated.

Conclusions

What I have seen and heard on this trip lead me to several conclusions. Modest because of a modest and limited background and again to be accepted for what they are worth.

1. Too much of our present prosperity is due to population expansion in comparison to scientific and industrial development.

2. We are so busy dividing the loot of the day that we are ignoring the problems of tomorrow.

3. Eventual population in this country will be limited by water supply and ability to produce food.

4. Our present farm surplus problem is not without its blessings and will soon melt to oblivion. The American housewife now spends one third of her grocery bill for imported items.

5. The day will arrive when food and fiber are no longer adequate to supply our needs. At that time our national economic and social philosophies will undergo sharp revision. In other

Walther League Elects Delegates to Attend The Winter Conference

The Yuth Fellowship of Immanuel Lutheran church at their meeting January 10, elected Curtis Isakson and Barbara Neumann as delegates to the Walther League Winter Conference. On February 11, 12, and 13 leaguers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah will meet at Calvary Lutheran church in Portland for this spiritual, business and recreational meeting.

Pastor Dey led a discussion on "Building For Christ", a national Lutheran campaign.

Ruth Clark and Twila Krebs were accepted into membership. Barbara Kubitz, Norbert and Elizabeth Dey, Jon and Curtis Isakson and Lyle Swartz attended the Winter Zone Rally at Oregon City, Jan. 9. The one accepted an invitation to come to Sandy in June for a summer rally.

Ernest Schwartz was elected treasurer. Ruth Clark and Darlys Thomas were appointed by Carl Neumann to provide recreation and Jon and Curtis Isakson were appointed by Earlyne Anderson to be hosts for the next meeting in February.

Twelve leaguers enjoyed tobogganing on Mt. Hood last Saturday.

Carl Neuman and Ernest Schwartz were hosts and Lyle Schwartz and Norbert Dey provided recreation.

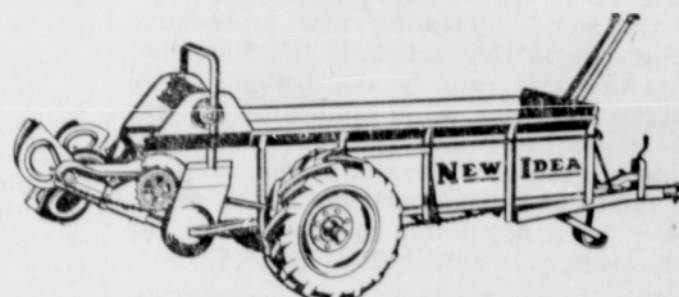
words, we have not yet reached a degree of maturity.

6. American farmers need a sound public relations program. Later on I may report on some of the tremendous advancements brought about by the electronic age which I heard about on this trip. I certainly want to report on observations of speakers attending the scientific meeting previously referred to regarding the world population trend.

What does all of the above have to do with Clackamas county? Well, just look around Clackamas county and make a few comparisons.

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