

By J. J. Imke

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

The Clackamas County farmers' contribution to the economy, discussed in this column last week, does not stop with income at the farm gate. Supposing he is obtaining 40 percent of the consumer's dollar at that point, his total contribution to the community will approach 67 million. The 40 million difference between the 27 million he receives and the 67 million the consumer pays is dispersed for processing, packaging, package material, transportation and costs. Labor taking a generous cut with each marketing step.

And then, there are the service industries allied to and affected by Agricultural activity and income. Enterprise which supply goods and services used in the agricultural production process include, sellers of plant foods, insecticides and fungicides, weedicides, farm implements, loaning agencies, fuel suppliers, transporters and the like.

Change is the order of the day down on the farm. Few will guess when drastic change, both social and economic, will end and how far it will go before slowing down. Let us take a look behind the

scenes.

The numbers of Clackamas County acres of tillable land have shrunk from 150,000 to 135,000 during the past 15 years. Production costs are skyrocketing. Inroads made by new highway right of ways, subdivisions, and the like are taking their toll of our best farmlands. High land values and taxes have forced many to new locations or out of production altogether. As a pattern our farms are small, much too small for successful general farming. It has become necessary to engage in intensive enterprises to increase gross income in order to obtain enough net to remain in business. Intensification is taking place rapidly. As examples we cite increased production of nursery products, greenhouse products, poultry enterprises, vegetable and small fruit production, idation and a few incorporations. There may be more.

Certain of our soils are not of intensive enterprises. Their future is obscure at the moment. Expansion of intensive enterprises depend upon managerial ability, market outlets, land costs, taxes and availability of hand harvest labor. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find enough berry and bean pickers.

Farming has pretty well ceased to be a way of life. It has become a business except for those who purchase

small acreages where they establish rural residences. The contribution of the latter to farm income is not too great. In many such instances the farm enterprise is subsidized from other income. Many part time farmers might well consider reforestation as a practical venture. Not many are doing so at present.

Despite a hardy core of able and avid forest farmers, the farm forest picture is not a pretty one. As stated before, we have in this county approximately 135,000 acres of tillable land. We also find approximately 300,000 acres of nontillable land in farm ownership. Much of the latter represents some of the finest timber sites to be found in this nation. Timber on these acres is being harvested much faster than it can be grown. Much of this harvest comprises immature second growth just reaching the stage of really rapid growth. Too much acreage is left in such condition that natural reproduction is impossible. There are few restraints. Competent foresters tell us that we are reaching a point where there will be little more to cut and that it will take a lapse of 20 years or more to grow to merchantable size on these particular sites.

In addition we find a considerable acreage of potential farm timber land growing to ferns, hazel brush, and the

like, where costly preparation is necessary if they are to be reforested. These unproductive acres represent a major economic problem of our time.

A number of progressive farmers are casting an apprehensive eye toward the future supply of irrigation water, all of our streams are over appropriated. Our ground water supply does not present an optimistic outlook. Further agricultural intensification will depend upon development of a dependable water supply. The time may soon come for coordinated study of our water resources as they involve irrigation, domestic use, power, wildlife, and recreation.

Increasingly acid soils present another problem. At the moment, 300 thousand tons of ground limestone would be required to neutralize our acid soils. Approximately 25 thousand tons are needed to care for annual depletion due to crop usage and leaching. Our farm operators are applying less than 10,000 tons annually. Our present source of supply is hardly able to cope with peak demands that appear at planting early spring and fall planting periods. Shortages of both major and trace elements are also becoming evident in many of our fields. Present prices of many farm products fail to lend encouragement for their wholesale correction.

Very few young men are staying on the farm. They find urban employment more attractive. This is also a situation which may have a profound effect on our agricultural economy in a few years.

For a further look at the farm scene we quote from "Keeping Abreast of Change in the Rural Community," U. S. D. A. Federal Extension Service Agriculture Information Bulletin no. 21: "If one word typifies the present day rural community, that word is change. All evidence testifies to change in many sectors of life, changes that have come rapidly and recently."

"The rural resident" shares the farm-to-market road with the farmer's pickup or truck. Increasing numbers of farm people are getting used to the rigors of commuting to jobs in town or city. In 1958, nearly one-third of the income of the farm population came from nonfarm sources. Petroleum fuels have largely replaced oats and hay as a source of motive power. Not too many years hence sayings such as "He lacks horse sense" and "Stubborn as a mule" will need interpreting to the younger generation.

"Despite the obvious changes in rural America, there is a time lag in understanding. The one-time farm boy and girl who have been in the 'Big City' for a good many years retain a clear image of the rural community of three or four decades ago. Their city counterparts are apt to think of it in terms of Currier and Ives' or they think little of what has made it possible."

"The school bus symbolizes the change from the one room school of song, story, and legend to the consolidated school. And the 'Little Brown Church in the Dell' has in many rural areas become a big church in town within easy driving distance of farm and rural nonfarm families. Rural America no longer thinks of 'miles to a place' but 'driving time'."

"You'll have to go into the far by-ways of the countryside to see evidences of America's rural past. The spring house that served so long as the refrigerator of many a rural home has been displaced by the refrigerator and freezer locker. Today's farm homemaker and transplanted city homemaker in the rural community have kitchens that are the envy of some of their city cousins who are apt to have kitchens that lack elbow room."

The massive changes in shift from horse, mule and human muscle to mechanical or electric power. They are a genetic revolution as well-witness the millions of acres of hybrid corn. They are also a managerial change of the first magnitude. Today's modern commercial farm is not a face-lifted traditional farm. The skills required to manage its complex of technical, economic, and biological factors are of a high order."

KELSO...

Kelso Helpers club had their Christmas party last Monday evening. It was held at the home of Della Reckman. Loraine Levan assisted. Seven others were present. Three were unable to attend. Games were played and secret pals were revealed. Refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Levan, Marsha, David and Suzanne, drove to Forrest Grove Christmas Day and had dinner with relatives.

Renar Churchill of Sandy was a recent lunch guest of Jean Meyers.

Lan-ten Osakawa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nogi Osakawa spent Christmas weekend in Seattle, Washington with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Kinoshita.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cassidy received a call from St. Louis,

Mo. on Christmas Day from Mrs. Loretta Blattner, sister of Mrs. Cassidy.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Dobson and family spent Christmas Day at the Wayne Dobson home in St. Helens. Families attending were Mr. and Mrs. Mike Felsman and Loni of St. Helens, Mr and Mrs. Vernon Dobson, Cathy and Jean of Gresham, Mr and Mrs. Jess Adams and Linda of Milwaukie.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lauer of St. Helens visited at the Virgil Dobson home, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reckman had a very busy holiday. Christmas eve was spent with Mrs. Reckman's mother and sisters, Mrs. Von Allmen, Joanne and Jeanne. Christmas Day dinner was enjoyed at the Reckman home with Joanne, Jeanne and Mrs. Von Allmen. In the evening, the Reckmans visited with the Harold Meinigs of Portland. Also visiting were Albert Arena family and the David Moss family. Sunday, dinner was again served at the Reckman home with the Harold Meinig family as guests. That evening found the Reckmans at the Von Allmen home where a buffet supper was served with the William Yungs, Harold Meinigs, Albert Arena, Larry Frosts and Richard Von Allmens as guests.

Sunday afternoon visitors at the Carl Boyko home were Pete and Joe Boyko.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bernhardt visited Sunday with Mr. Bernhardt's mother, his sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. Bernhardt and Mr. and Mrs. Eklund.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Buswell drove to Willamina for Christmas with the Buswells.

Lyel Buswell has been staying with his brother Guy for a few days since his discharge from the service.

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Sunday Services

Bible Classes 10 AM

Worship Services

11 AM and 7:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 PM

Gerald Long, Minister

MU 7-3091

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SPAGHETTI and MEAT BALLS 4 for \$1

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Stewed Tomatoes 6 for \$1

DUBUQUE 12 oz tin 39c each or 2 for 75c

NABISCO 2 lbs., Reg. 55c CRACKERS 49c

CARNATION 8 quart Instant DRY MILK 69c

DEL MONTE 46 6oz. GRAPEFRUIT - PINEAPPLE JUICE 3 for \$1

OCCIDENT Regular 5 lbs for 63c 5 lbs

FLOUR 45c

NESTLES QUIK 38 oz reg. 98c

COCOA 89c

SKIPPY 1 lb tin 6 for Dog Food 55c

HI C 46 oz.

Orange Drink

OR Grapeade

YOUR CHOICE

3 for \$1

PRODUCE

5 lb Cello Bag Juice Oranges 39c

EMPEROR Grapes 2 lbs 25c

Bananas 2 lbs 29c

HUBBARD Squash lb 5c

Avocados each 5c

GERBER'S STRAINED

Baby Food 4 1/2 oz. tin

10 for 79c

3 LB. TIN

Swiftning 3 lb. tin

59c

VAN CAMPS

300 tin

Pork and Beans 300 tin

Reg. 9 for 31c 4 for 49c

LARGE PACKAGE

Ivory Snow regular 37c

2 for 45c

JOY

12 oz tin

Liquid Detergent 3 for \$1.00

HUNTS

2 1/2 tin

Peaches halves or slices

4 for \$1.00

TASTEWELL

Margarine 6 lbs. \$1.00

BORDEN'S

Mayonnaise FULL QUART

full quart 49c

ZEE 4 ROLL FAMILY PAK

BATHROOM TISSUE 35c



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Tender Steer Beef

Pot Roast lb.

49c

PICNIC STYLE

Pork Roast lb

29c

SLICED

Bologna 2 lbs

79c

Sliced Home Cured Bacon Squares

2 lbs 35c

READY TO EAT

PICNICS lb

28c

UNSLICED SLAB

BACON 39c lb.

A REAL BARGAIN

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8 lbs for 75c

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