

COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES

Seen For Blueberries in
CURRY COUNTY
By George D. Asdel

The many small plantings of blueberries in Curry county have proven that our soils and climate are suitable for successful growing of this delicious and popular berry. This berry's wonderful keeping and shipping qualities make it possible to grow them here commercially for the fresh market in spite of our lack of speedy transportation to the large population centers.

Mr. Tilley and Mr. Stankavich of Langlois have been experimenting with blueberries for years. Joe Stankavich has a small plot of bearing age and is now planting out more. A larger planting of bearing plants may be found at the Stankavich home place north of Langlois.

Mrs. Henry Adolphsen of Sea View ranch near Port Orford has a well-cared-for and producing patch for home use. The Oregon Coast Berry Company of Port Orford has a nursery of 2700 two-year-old plants that will be planted in the field next fall and is also propagating plants for their own use and for sale as well at the rate of approximately 7500 plants per year.

At the southern end of the county Dr. J. E. Stevenson of Brookings, has approximately 1/4-acre of producing blueberries on Easy Street, and plans additional planting soon. A. Hoffeldt of Harbor has a small planting and Mr. Asche, south of Harbor, has a nice planting that he plans to expand. A number of smaller plantings are scattered throughout the county.

R. M. Knox, county agent, established five official test plots on various types of soil throughout the county last year.

When packed for the fresh market the berries may be handled in transportation and storage about ten days and still be good to reach the retail trade.

This fact will make it possible for Curry county producers to ship to the principal population centers with existing transportation facilities. A large producing company, doing a wholesale business in this area, has purchased some of the berries produced locally at a favorable price and

picked them up at the producer's farm, thereby eliminating any shipping by this producer. This could probably be done by others until the tonnage produced in this area warranted additional outlets.

An acre of mature blueberries should produce approximately five tons if grown under suitable conditions and with adequate care. At present market prices this'd mean a return of over \$3000 to the grower, out of which he must pay picking and packing costs, plus other expenses involved in raising the crop.

A man shouldn't find it necessary to hire much outside help when raising three to five acres of blueberries except at picking time, when local women, children and transient families are available as pickers. Picking five tons of berries cost \$500 this year. Fertilizer applied at the maximum rate would cost \$175 to \$200 this year. The cost of irrigation would depend on local conditions.

Many Curry county farmers view such figures with distrust due to the experience of the Eastern lily and cran berry growers. However, it should be remembered that both these crops have limited marketing possibilities, and therefore will probably continue to be specialty crops and easily over-produced. The blueberry is not associated with any holiday or special use.

It is in heavy demand by the fresh market and the canners and freezers as well. The western berry is preferred by the eastern buyer over those produced in the east and the rich markets of the western states are closer to the western producing areas, thereby giving the western grower an advantage. A greatly expanded production can be asorbed by an ever-expanding market. The Pacific Northwest Blueberry Growers' Association has been operating with and growing with the northwest producers and will help develop new markets as required. While the price of this berry will fluctuate with other commodities due to general economic conditions no sudden drop due to over-production is expected. When, in years to come, production does approach the maximum amount marketable, sufficient advance warning should be evident to avoid over-production.

Dr. R. Ralph Clark, extension horticulturist at Oregon State College, has made the following

statement: "I am sold on the blueberry crop. I feel that in a relatively short period of time blueberries will be one of our (Oregon's) regular berry crops like strawberries, raspberries, and the trailing crops. These berries are as universally liked as any of the other types and apparently live for a longer period when properly handled. It will take all our help to build this crop up in the right way, but I feel sure it is worthy of our efforts."

Specific information on blueberry culture will be printed in next week's issue.

I WRITE as I See It!

—BARTON W. MARSH—

Not long ago a publishing-house executive, accompanied by his wife and daughter, were out strolling through a deep woodland and came upon a blind lamb. Naturally they viewed with pit the helpless animal and considered ways for getting it to a place of safety. First they attempted to drive the lamb, but soon learned that it was quite impossible to drive a blind lamb anywhere, next they tried to lead it but the lamb was not leash-broken and it was afraid to move. At last they abandoned their attempt to save the blind lamb and left it to the heartless mercies of the wild things of the forest.

I decided there was something tragically wrong with this incident and set about to discover what it was that appealed to me as being wrong about it. I read ones and asked them what they or told the story to different thought of it. The first gentleman whom I told the story, a stranger to me, replied with flashing eyes, "Those people did not perform their whole duty in the matter. They should have picked the lamb up and carried it to a place of safety."

I received varying replies from different people until at last I asked a little girl, without telling her the story. What she'd do if she should find a lost blind lamb in the woods. With an expression of exceeding tenderness glowing upon her countenance, she replied: "Why I would gather the poor, little blind thing in my arms and carry it home."

This brought to my mind another incident. A social gathering. Attending this social evening was a famous actor and an old, gray-headed minister of the gospel. As the evening drew near the close someone suggested that the actor recite the Shepherd Psalm. The actor graciously responded and when he took his seat there was a prolonged round

of applause. After the applause had subsided it was suggested that the old minister recite the same Psalm. When the minister sat down there was no applause, but nearly every eye was moist and tender. After a considerable period of silence the actor slowly arose and expressed the following simple statement: "I know the Shepherd Psalm, but my minister friend knows the Shepherd."

Now I understood what was so tragically wrong with the first incident. The publishing huose executive proably knew the Shepherd Psalm. Had he only known the Shepherd better, the lost, blind lamb would have found a refuge in his arms.

The Shepherd Psalm: "The is my Shepherd: I shall not want, He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He resoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Isaiah 4:11.

Salem Scene Of 'Problem' Session

Murray Wade, is in his "Capital Parade," gives Pilot readers an insight upon the tremendous task faced by the lawmakers of Oregon, now convened at Salem,

where decisions may mean advancement or ruin of this state.

Beginning last week, and continuing until the session is over, these weekly columns, carried by the Pilot, will give the story as best the Pilot is able to obtain it.

These comments, Wade's own, are his version of what happened. People who wish to contact any of the lawmakers, should do so, through him, and the Pilot, for by that method a united front may be presented.

Nook Cafe Undergoes Face-Lifting Work

To match the front of Ken's Tavern, next door, the Nook Cafe has delays it opening a few days longer to have a "face-lifting."

The front will be re-finished in knotty pine. The entire interior has been re-painted, and some remodeling work has been done.

Credit Obtained By His Claim Of Pilot Ownership

Coming as a surprise was announcement that "suit" would be filed against the Pilot for an alleged credit for printing supplies, a Los Angeles firm revealed that a former employee claimed he owned the Pilot, and obtained this credit.

A second letter said that this would be a "deduction" from the 1948 income tax report.

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