

Irrigation Values Shown in Test on Harper Place, Gervais

Overhead Type To Be Adopted

Fraction of Acre Planted to Beets and Ladino Clover Pays Well

By C. GENEVIEVE MORGAN
In view of the too recent experience with all-time record June rainfall, it may appear almost indelicate to talk about irrigation. But just the same, as one of the Marion county farmers who are experimenting with and appreciating the results of irrigation, Robert Harper, farmer near Gervais, is getting equipment in readiness with expectation of starting artificial downpours.

Harper, interviewed at the 112-acre farm which he operates just across from the Ceckerboard service station on the highway south of Gervais, gave this account of his first experiment with irrigation last year:

"Last year we used the flood system, though this year we are switching to the overhead system. The water comes from a 139-foot casing. The well has a 500-gallons-per-minute capacity, though last year we pumped only 300 gallons per minute, using a turbine-type five-horse motor. We watered an acre every 10 hours, and with Ladino clover watered every 10 days through the hottest part of the summer and until November.

On Ladino Clover
"The trials last year were on Ladino clover, in a six-tenths acre field here north of the house, with pasture mixture grass and mangel or stock beets."

"The Ladino clover—you know it is strictly an irrigated pasture crop of fast growth—was planted April 29 and clipped back some at first to keep the weeds down. From August to October the field carried 20 head of fattening lambs. We bought them as stockers and sold them as fat lambs and in six weeks time they fattened from 50 to 75 pounds on the Ladino on which they were carried continuously.

"Two lambs we lost; a few would not fatten. But on the six-tenths acre we made a profit of \$50 in less than three months." Harper's "includes" his father, John S. Harper, on whose home farm his son now lives. The elder Harper retired more than a year ago and now resides at 1363 Court street, Salem. Some there be who will recall that John S. Harper is the pioneer seed grower in Marion county, the father to an industry which today claims fully a thousand acres of land in this county.

Raised Onion Seed
The senior Harper unloaded the first carload of onion seed at Gervais 10 years ago, and the Harper farm is still raising annually seed crops, with 15 acres in onion seed and 34 acres in Austrian field peas.

But let's hold on, and keep to irrigation. Suffice it to say for the present that the Harpers have found seed production shows a reasonable profit; that the average onion seed crop is 500 pounds to the acre; that it is all laborious hand work to plant and harvest; and that last year that evil visitor, mildew, took practically all the crop though this year it looks—said Harper with a gleam in his eye that seemed to indicate he'd like to knock on wood—like mildew will not make such inroads. At least, mildew hasn't appeared so far.

But to continue with Harper's story on irrigation last year: "With the beets, we had a half acre in several check plots. On the basis on an acre production, where the crop received four waterings, we received 30 tons per acre; on what we didn't water, the crop was eight tons to the acre, as accurately as we can figure.

"However, this comparison may not be quite fair to the unirrigated plots, because the growing season was very dry. Both irrigated beets and those not watered were of excellent quality.

Beets Feed Cattle
"The beets were stored in pits here and used as feed in the winter time. They served as a stock conditioner for the 11 head of cattle, taking the place of ensilage. Of course, they were fed along with dry hay and grain."

This summer, Harper will irrigate six acres of land, and in the next few years he plans to bring under irrigation 25 acres, the total which the present pump can serve. Ladino and stock beets will be the only irrigated crops, these being laid out in acreage adjoining to the north the 1936 irrigated land.

Dr. Powers Assists
Mention should have been made earlier that the whole irrigation setup on the Harper farm is being carried on with the assistance of

Irrigation Has Big Future in Valley, Belief

Irrigation has a definite future here, believes Robert Harper, Gervais farmer. He irrigated three crops last year; has increased the acreage this year.

Twenty head of lambs, bought as stockers and fattened on 6 acre Ladino clover, brought a \$50 profit in three months. Irrigated stock beets produced at rate of 30 tons to the acre; unirrigated check plots grew 8 tons per acre; but it was excessively dry last year.

Overhead irrigating will be done this year; has advantages over last year's flood system.

"Ancient Mariner" Lost at Sea



Another mystery has apparently been added to the saga of the seven seas with the disappearance of 74-year-old Capt. Thomas Drake, voyageur extraordinary and grandson of the famous swash-buckler and naval hero, Sir Francis Drake. Captain Drake has sailed his little 37-foot schooner more than 26,000 miles during the past 20 years, roaming the waterways, always by himself. Eight months ago he took off from San Francisco for Hawaii and has not been sighted since. Search by coast guards failed to reveal any clue to his mysterious disappearance and it is presumed that he has gone to join other "old salts" in "Davey Jones' locker."

Dr. Powers of the state college extension service, and that this year Dr. Powers plans to run checks all summer on the experiment.

The college is especially interested here because the soil is similar to the Canby irrigation project. The change from the flood to the overhead system—which represents in financial outlay only expenditure for 1,000 feet of pipe to service the six acres—is made this year because it will have, it is thought, several advantages.

First, from the overhead irrigation, water will go on more slowly and does not present the run-off problem of the other plan. Ten hours flowing using 100 gallons of water per minute will get the same results as the flood system using three or more times as much water.

Second, distribution is better. Water must go directly on the land for successful irrigation. It won't soak through crossways for any appreciable width. In the flood system, every 20 feet must be level to get the water to flow evenly, and that would mean terracing of the gentle roll on the additional acreage being brought under irrigation.

Needs No Watching
Third, no one needs to watch the overhead system during the irrigating period.

In the change over, a main line of pipe will be run across the field, and the 1,000 feet of pipe will be picked up and carried across the field for relay irrigation. Around 30 minutes time is sufficient for setting the pipe each time.

Harper plans to run cattle in the additional Ladino acreage, and on the part were planted last year, he has pastured six head of cows every day for the last three months.

Irrigation does not take the place of fertilizing; the soil on which Ladino grows should be fed 200 pounds per acre of superphosphate or some commercial feed each year, Harper believes. He uses superphosphate.

"I believe irrigation has a definite future in the valley," Harper says after his preliminary experiments. He, by the way, has been farming nearly 15 years and was located earlier on a smaller farm north of Gervais. Now he farms both places.

Polk Non-Hi Meet Is Set for Friday

DALLAS, June 26.—The Polk county non-high school board will hold its annual meeting Friday night at 8 o'clock at the Polk county courthouse, at which time it will recount the ball is for one board member of zone No. 1.

It will also consider new petitions for transportation and allow tuition and transportation bills for the year 1936-37. Transportation contracts for the year 1937-38 will be let at the next meeting which will be held on about July 18.

Benton Will Name Red Cross Chiefs

CORVALLIS, June 26.—Motion pictures of flood scenes and relief work in the Ohio-Mississippi valley flood of last spring combined with election of officers, will occupy Benton county members of the Red Cross Tuesday at 7 o'clock when they meet at their annual banquet.

The director of relief measures in Louisiana during the great Ohio deluge will be on hand to show the pictures taken during the course of his daily program

Lebanon Has Many At Pioneer Picnic

LEBANON, June 26.—Lebanon was well represented at the Brownsville pioneer picnic in the program and the audience Friday. The drum corps had a place in the parade and Mrs. Hugh Kirkpatrick sang in the forenoon. In the afternoon the high school girls' quartet sang.

The Lebanon cannery has increased the number of workers the past week.

Mrs. V. S. Winerstein, a resident of Lebanon 21 years ago when her husband was a partner in the Reeves-Clark and company store, called on Lebanon friends this week while returning to her home in Pennsylvania after a visit with a son in Los Angeles and one in Washington. She visited Mrs. Grace Crandall Harden who was a clerk in the store during their residence here.

The Hamblen club, an organization within the R. N. A., featured a covered dish dinner Friday at their meeting on the lawn at Miss Bella Smith's home. An impromptu program followed and plans were made for a picnic on the lawn at Mrs. Carrie Sagart's July 14.

J. M. Bonaca, who is spending a few days in Seattle, will be at home to resume his place as mill foreman at the Sewell and Winn mill, which will resume operations Monday.

Work on a Mountain States project to install a 66,000 volt transmission line between Lebanon and Albany is expected to be resumed following a delay caused by a strike. It is estimated that the line will be installed at a cost of \$100,000.

Caseys, Sodality Win Softball Tilts

MT. ANGEL, June 26.—The Sodality and Knights came out victorious in Friday night's softball doubleheader. In the first game the Sodality ran away with a 5 to 1 win from the league-leading Foresters. The Forester's one tally was brought in in the last inning.

The second game was a close contest between the Knights and the North Howell nine, the K. C.'s winning 8 to 7. Two thrilling plays were made, one in the second innings when Kehoe's peg to home turned a Forester home run into an out and the other in the third when Gilles knocked a three bagger to bring in three runs for the Knights. Batteries: Foresters: M. Kaser and Uelman; Sodality: May and Beyer. Knights: Bean and Wagner; Kaser and Nys.

Story of Bobby, The Wonder Dog, To Be Broadcast

SILVERTON, June 26.—The story of "Bobby," the Silvertown wonder dog, will be heard Tuesday, June 29, over KGW on the Union Oil "thrill" program.

Recently Mrs. C. H. Dickerson received an airmail letter from the company offices at Los Angeles asking for information and permission to use the story. Mrs. Dickerson replied that her mother, Mrs. Frank Brazier, was now in the east but that she was sure there would be no objection. At once she received another letter inviting her mother, should she return in time, to come via Los Angeles and be guest of the Union Oil company while there and also be heard in the broadcast. Mrs. Brazier planned to leave for the coast Friday and will be at Los Angeles for the broadcast.

Mrs. Brazier and her late husband owned the dog, Bobby, who gained world fame when he was lost in Indiana and found his way unaided back to his Silvertown home. He had traveled east by car with the Braziers.

Dallas City Band Gives Opening Season Concert

DALLAS, June 26.—The first concert given by the Dallas city band on the courthouse square this season took place Thursday night. Concerts had been scheduled for the two previous Thursday evenings but because of bad weather they had been postponed. H. N. Stoudenmeyer of Salem is director of the local group.

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Mrs. Mae Dimick Attends Session Of State P-T. A.

SCOTTS MILL, June 26.—Mrs. Mae Dimick, county P. T. A. president, spent this week in Portland where she attended the state meeting of the P. T. A.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Woodward and a nephew, Kenneth Curry of Albany, have recently returned from a motor trip to Bottonsue, N. D., former home of the Woodwards.

Charles Hartman, who was taken to the Silvertown hospital in a serious condition with a heart ailment last week, is improving and is expected home soon.

Frank Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Miller, who live on the Albiqua and Ethelida Lippert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Lippert of Scotts Mills, were married in Salem last Thursday. Both young people attended the local high school.

Genevieve, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shilts, who fell from a speeding automobile recently is recovering satisfactorily from cuts and bruises. One cut on the scalp required several stitches.

Jones Criticizes Pension Policies

ASTORIA, June 26.—(A)—The Fraternal Order of Eagles, at its state convention here, approved a resolutions committee recommendation rejecting a proposal that the organization urge the governor to call a special session of the legislature to make mandatory the payment of not less than \$50 a month to needy persons.

A resolution asking the governor to give consideration to the appointment of at least one Eagle to each county welfare board was adopted.

State President A. Warren Jones of Salem criticized the attitude of Governor Martin toward the Eagles' old age pension program as expressed at the last legislature, charging that the chief executive was the chief obstacle to the passage of an adequate old age pension measure which would not have harmed the state's financial standing.

Straight A Marks Given 22 Students

CORVALLIS, June 26.—(A)—Twenty-two Oregon State college students proved impervious to "spring fever" and made perfect "straight A" grades during the spring term, while 184 others rated the honor roll with better than a B average.

Leading the straight A group were Phillip Ackerman, junior in pharmacy, and Dorothy Evenden, sophomore in lower division, both of Corvallis, who achieved the honor for the fourth time. Edna Liams, Corvallis, sophomore in secretarial science, and Marion Tatom, freshman in the same course, made the A average for the third time.

Health Clinic Tuesday

SILVERTON, June 26.—A clinic for children who plan to start to school this fall will be held Tuesday morning, June 29, at the health center in the Eugene Field building. The committee in charge is urging parents to have their children examined so that necessary adjustments may be made during the summer.

Harry E. Buxton Dies at Corvallis

CORVALLIS, June 26.—Harry E. Buxton, 62, passed away here yesterday at the H. J. Anderson hospital following a tonsil operation. His condition had only been serious a few days.

Born near Forest Grove October 18, 1876, Mr. Buxton was a son of early Oregon pioneer parents, Edward and Elizabeth Rodrick Buxton. The town of Buxton, east of Forest Grove, is named after the family. In 1926 Mr. Buxton came to Corvallis to attend Oregon State college, graduating from that institution with his engineer's degree. He was owner of the Buxton Planing mill here.

Mr. Buxton was a member of the Corvallis lodge No. 14, A. F.

& A. M. and a member of the local lodge of Elks.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Lucille J. Buxton; two sons, George of Corvallis and Charles, Portland newspaper man; one brother, George Buxton of Portland, and two sisters, Mrs. Daisy M. Dingham of San Francisco and Mrs. Henry Matthew, Corvallis.

Final rites will be held at the Portland crematorium.

Arrested Third Time On Non-Support Count

DALLAS, June 26.—Lawrence Swearingen was arrested Thursday on a bench warrant issued by the circuit court on a charge of non-support. He is being held in the county jail.

He has been arrested twice before on the same charge. He has entered a plea of not guilty.

Bradley Freed of Battery Charges

SILVERTON, June 25.—N. D. Bradley was found not guilty in the Silvertown justice court today on an assault and battery charge. Judge Alf O. Nelson heard the case. Appearing for the defense was Attorney Edwin Keach while Ty Gillette represented the state. Witness for the state were Margaret Ramseyer and Mollie Rolland; for the defendant, Walter and Ben Betker.

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