

Waldo Hills Farms Still Produce Well

(Continued from page 8)

of the old apple and pear trees from the pioneer nursery. One still finds in the Silverton country and occasional Early May, May Duke or Red Marilla cherry, the ancestors of which came from the early Geer nursery.

But not only did Grandfather Geer raise and sell trees, he also raised and sold fruit. At the farm fair at Salem in October, 1854, he took 12 first premiums in the fruit division. And besides his fruit, he experimented with hops and Merino sheep.

Today two grandsons, A. A. Geer of Salem and Frank Bower of Waldo Hills, own two divisions of the old land donation claim. But Geer doesn't farm at all, and Bower cultivates only about 25 acres of his 178. Geer moved to Salem some years ago. His farm land is leased and general-farmed. The old house, most of which was built in 1851, stands vacant.

Bower, in 1896, forsook farming to follow cartooning, working in San Francisco and later on the Indianapolis Star. He had the same ability as his well-known cousin, Homer Davenport, but his eyes did not have the strength of the Davenport eyes. Because of this, he was forced to retire just as he was gaining a name for himself. He returned to ancestral farm. But he claims, he really likes farming, particularly stock farming, and only in winter, when Oregon mist continues to fall, does he ever linger over the thought of office life.

"However, I never linger long," he smiles. "We seem to live longer on the farm, and living in Waldo Hills has been pretty good and interesting." Mr. Bowers' own cartoon talks have added much to "the good and interesting" living in Waldo Hills, community folks report.

Real Farming on Robert Riches' Place
But it is about a mile from the old Geer donation claim that real farming is going on on one of the pioneer places. Robert Riches, youngest son of Charles Riches, and grandson of George S. P. Riches is farming 533 acres, of which 373 are in the old land donation claim of the grandfather, who was born in Norfolk, England, came to Oregon in 1847, and four years later took over the claim which had been settled and relinquished first by Rankin McCord.

"Grandfather Riches grain and stock farmed. My father continued in the same manner when he took over," Robert said, as he paused a moment in his tractor-spreading of commercial fertilizer on a grass field. "We have had to change our methods of farming. Too much grain farming, too much cultivation in 'the good old days.' Grass farming is taking its place. It keeps the hills from eroding, it rebuilds the soil, it permits grazing and gives us a cash crop."

Riches raises some hogs, some cattle and a few sheep, but grass farming is one of the main ventures on the old donation land claim.

I recall as a child, I liked to be taken through Waldo Hills and see the acres and acres of wheat and oats waving in the wind. I like just as well now to drive through the hills, but there are changes. On the Will Hoberly farm, where once were grown chiefly wheat and oats, and where one of the largest old steam threshing machines had its winter quarters, now grows rye and poultry. Across the road where other grain fields were growing, Theodore Riches, also a grandson of George S. P. Riches, is raising a huge flock of turkeys. There are also turkeys on the Alex Doerfler farm, where just a few years ago, chambers of commerce from both Silverton and Salem visited the "cleanest hog pens" in the county. I see filbert and walnut groves where once grew only wheat. But most of all, I see grass fields, big ones, little ones, on the north and on the south slopes of the hills.

I found John Goodknecht tilling with a team of horses, but now only a few farmers still use horses, where in days gone by each farmer had from eight to ten horses. Tractors, trucks, cars have taken their places almost completely. Grandfather, who didn't believe much in and fertilizer on the fields, and much less in commercial fertilizers, would be surprised to see from 150 to 200 pounds of phosphate being scattered over the soil with a tractor-pulled vehicle.

Farmers Union Has Conference
A conference of county educational leaders of the Farmers Union was held Tuesday at the state headquarters of the union in Salem. The conference was called by Ronald Jones, state president, to outline a discussion program for the various locals of the state union during the coming year. Alma Knower, state educational director, presided.

Those attending included Mrs. Knower, Jones, Harley Libby, Mrs. Harold Cooper, Mrs. Aubrey Tangen of Newberg, Mrs. S. D. Beiden of Corvallis, Hubert Esser of Mt. Angel, Leonard Perlich, Don Steffen, Mina Lee Spranger, Mrs. Percy Lamb of Independence; Mrs. A. C. Tiede, J. R. Graham of Corvallis and Arthur H. Bone, editor of the Farmers Union.

Ranch Ramblings

By the Rural Reporter

John Tweed, who is field representative from Willamette Production Credit association, with Mrs. Tweed, are on a trip into Arizona. They plan to be gone two weeks.

The Clackamas County Jersey club has 54 members, 85 percent of all eligible breeders. Its members, during the past 12 months, tested 78 cows officially, making ten records, establishing one silver, one gold, and one merit medal sire.

Carl Hanson and his son, Robert, planted five acres of alta fescue and subterranean clover last June 12th of which they are now very proud. Without limestone or fertilizer, this five acre furnished a week of pasture for 20 Jersey cows and heifers in October, a week in November and a week in December. The Hansons report planting 12 pounds of fescue and four pounds of clover per acre on this field which is too steep and rocky for successful rotation and cultivation. Five more acres are being planned for this spring on the Hanson farm. The Hanson farm is in the Deep Creek section in Clackamas county.

Klein Brothers, Charles, Fred and Sam, who recently sold their larger Holstein herd, are for the present buying their milk -- the first time in the memory of most of the family members. They do not, they report, like the sensation sufficiently well to continue it. Likely they add, a dairy cow of nondescript breed will find its way to the farm for household purposes. They are planning a farm sale of extra equipment for March 27. Their farm is four miles from Silverton, and an equal distance from Mt. Angel.

I hear rumors of a new summer leaf lettuce called Slobolt which is being increased by seed growers to make it available to gardeners. It is to be listed in the 1946 seed catalogs.

This new lettuce withstands midsummer temperatures without quickly shooting or "bolting" to seed.

The US department of agriculture tells us that if the plants are set 10 to 12 inches apart and only the basal leaves are used as they reach a desirable size, lettuce may be harvested from the same plants over a period of several weeks, making it a very desirable home-grown variety.

ODT Makes Rulings For Farm Auctions
Livestock auctions, which at first appeared banned under the ODT no-convention rule, are permissible if the showing of animals is confined to those offered for sale or additional animals drawn solely from the local trading area, according to a ruling obtained by the Western Oregon Livestock Growers association.

Meetings or other gatherings held in conjunction with livestock sales require a permit if more than 50 persons in attendance would be from beyond the normal commuting zone or local trading area.

Marion County Jersey Breeders Meet Sunday
The Marion county Jersey Cattle club will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis McAllister, Sunday, March 18.

The McAllister place is reached by highway 99 south from Salem for about four miles, then turn left on the Parrish Gap road for about two and one half miles. A no-host dinner will be served at one o'clock. All Jersey breeders and friends are invited to attend.

Spray Program to Be Commenced Soon
Ben Newell, assistant county agent, is reminding fruit growers that the spray program is at hand and suggests a 10-90 lime sulphur spray for blossom blight on peaches. This should be applied just before the buds open.

Cows Find Airways Good for Travel
One of the most experienced air travellers is the cow. Many cows have gone to Alaska during the last five years via the air route.

JEFFERSON -- Milton Libby, waist gunner in a B-24 bomber with the Eighth air force in England, has been awarded the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious service, and advanced to staff sergeant. He has been overseas since last September and Mrs. Libby and son Stevie live in the Parrish Gap district. She received the medal and citation from Sergeant Libby recently. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Libby.

TURNER -- Henry J. Hatfield, aviation machinist mate 2/c, is home on leave after 18 months in the south Pacific. This is his first leave home since he has been in the navy for 30 months.

IN THE... Nation's Service



Salem Man One of First U.S. Soldiers to Enter Famed Walled City in Manila

(Special to The Statesman)
WITH THE 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN MANILA—Three Oregon infantrymen were among the first American soldiers to enter the famed walled city of Intramuros in Manila, when members of the 145th infantry regiment of the 37th division took the fortress by assault.

Privates First Class Kenneth Birdeno, Astoria; John C. Neilson, Astoria, and Pfc. Floyd A. Douglas, of 1700 North Front st., Salem, are members of company "G", which already holds the coveted blue and gold Presidential Unit Citation for its outstanding work in the Battle of Hill 700, on Bougainville last March.

The old walled city, built in 1590 to withstand any attack, had served its purpose well for 355 years. Its walls, in some places 40 feet thick, had withstood fire and cannon, and had never fallen to an attacking force. When it was finally taken it was a crumbling ruin.

Company "F" bypassed the general postoffice, where other members of the regiment were engaged in room-to-room fighting, crossed Taft Ave. moving across open ground under machine gun fire, and entered the famous Quizon gate. They raced straight across the city, eliminating pockets of enemy resistance as they went, and by nightfall had taken a portion of the opposite wall.

Inducted Together, 1944
The three Oregon veterans were inducted together in February, 1944, and in their five months of overseas service have served in New Guinea, Bougainville, and Luzon. They landed on the first day of the Luzon invasion, and marched with company "F" from Lingayen gulf to Manila in the victorious campaign which brought them to the old walled city of Intramuros.

In recognition of their excellent performance of duty in action in the Luzon campaign, they have been awarded the Combat Infantry badge. The decoration, a silver rifle on a blue field, surrounded by an elliptical silver wreath, is presented to fighting infantrymen who show exemplary conduct in combat.

Martin Elle Now a Major in S. Pacific
(Special to The Statesman)
HEADQUARTERS, 13th AAF, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC--Martin J. Elle, husband of Ella M. Elle, 1690 North 17th St., Salem, Ore., recently was promoted to major.

Major Elle was originally commissioned in the infantry in 1931, and received his commission in the AAF in 1942. He is operations officer in a photo unit of the 13th AAF in 1942. He is operations officer in a photo unit of the 13th AAF, veteran jungle airforce and is stationed at an advanced airbase in the Netherlands East Indies.

A graduate of Oregon State college, he received the master's degree from the University of Oregon. Prior to entering the army Major Elle was employed by the state of Oregon as assistant superintendent of public instruction.

JEFFERSON -- Royal Hart, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hart of Jefferson, and a V-12 student at Willamette university, expects to continue there three more semesters and receive his commission there, instead of going east to the midshipmen school.

any family in this country without at least one person in the service.

I've been mixed up with the troubles of many service men in the past two and a half years, and it's now my intention to keep abreast and if possible ahead of the trials and triumphs of ex-service men and women.

Basically my job will be to report for you the facts on developments affecting veterans or their families -- and to get them straight.

There'll be no predictions -- such as those made by the military experts who tell you today what will happen tomorrow and next day tell you why it didn't happen. No politics, no prejudices -- and few personal opinions.

In other words, this is purely a service for Uncle Sam's ex-service world.

UNCLE SAM TO HAND OUT 32,000,000 EXTRA RED POINTS
The greatest windfall of extra red points ever is going to be made, and you're following it to American housewives throughout the country.

32 million extra red points, approximately, will be handed out by mail dealers to customers who turn in used fats in a great victory drive for this essential medicine, gunpowder, synthetic rubber, soap, paints and a hundred other necessities on the battlefield and home front. For each pound of fat turned in, every housewife is entitled to 2 red points.

The need for used fats is still urgent. Women are urged to save every drop, every spoonful of grease possible and keep saving until final victory over both Germany and Japan.



Two Salem Sergeants Return From Pacific After 39 Months
Among those who have arrived in the United States on furlough from the southwest Pacific theatre of operations, are two Salem servicemen:

T/Sgt. Clayton R. Balding, son of Mrs. Alen Burd, Rte. 1, Box 328, who served 39 months with the army infantry corps.

S/Sgt. Richard Veneman, son of Mrs. Anna Veneman, 1415 Norway St., who served 39 months with the army infantry corps.



Bronze Star Awarded to Jess A. Nunn
(Special to The Statesman)
WITH THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION IN GERMANY--First Lt. Jess A. Nunn of Salem, Ore., has been awarded the bronze star by Major General Louis A. Craig, commanding general of the veteran Ninth infantry division, for meritorious service in operations against the enemy from July 5 to September 30, 1944.

Lieutenant Nunn, a member of the division's 47th infantry regiment, was commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1942, and saw action in the North African invasion and the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns before entering operations in Normandy shortly after D-day. He served with the regiment during its drive across the Cherbourg peninsula, into the city of Cherbourg and through northern France, Belgium and into Germany.

Spending five days leave with her parents is Alice Titus, hospital apprentice 1/c, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Titus, route one, Turner. Miss Titus, a graduate of Aumsville high school, enlisted in the WAVES at Salem, March 15, 1944, and took her indoctrination at Hunter's college, New York. Following completion of basic training she was transferred to the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., and is presently assigned to the Treasure Island hospital staff medical record department. A brother, Glenn, is serving with the South Pacific fleet aboard the USS Drake.

JEFFERSON -- Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Campbell received a letter a short time ago, from their son, Pvt. Delbert Campbell who has been in the army, with the artillery for seven months, is stationed at Ft. Meade, Md. Another son, Earl Campbell, fireman first class in the navy, stationed at Little Creek, Va., made a trip to Ft. Meade to see his brother. The boys hadn't seen each other for eight months.

Another son, Leo Campbell has been in the navy for nine months. He is a fireman first class.

L. A. Wehner and V. D. Black At B-29 Base in Marianas

(Special to The Statesman)
TWENTY-FIRST BOMBER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Guam -- (Delayed) -- Two men from Salem, Ore., are among the hundreds of enlisted men at a huge Superfortress base in the Marianas whose diligent efforts have made it possible for the giant B-29 bombers of Maj. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay's 21st bomber command to strike regularly at the heart of Japan's war industry.

Said "Directly Responsible"
They are members of a combat unit commanded by Brig. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., who led the first B-29 striking force from Saipan to bomb Tokyo's aviation industry on November 24, 1944.

"The work of these men and their fellow soldiers is directly responsible for the success of the B-29s in bombing Japan's war industries," General O'Donnell said in congratulating them. "The men realize their responsibilities in the pre-mission tasks of insuring the maximum chance for safe return of the air crews."

"Without the spirit of teamwork which has been exhibited by every man, our pioneering job, which is only beginning, could not have been a success. They have given their services fully and in complete disregard for personal comforts and pleasures in lieu of hard work and long hours."

An additional tribute has been paid to members of the unit for their toll in constructing their B-29 bases. They arrived last August and September and, since aviation engineers were busy with the high priority task of airstrip building, they constructed homes for themselves and for the aerial combat crews who arrived later.

The Salem men are: PFC Lester A. Wehner, whose wife, the former Sylvia R. Johnson lives at 336 Oak st., Salem. His mother, Mrs. Martha Marie Wehner, lives at Hillsboro. He was graduated from Hillsboro Union high school and attended Portland university for two years, majoring in business administration. Prior to entering the army in September, 1942, he was owner and operator of the Wehner's Shoe Store, Tillamook. He is a member of the Kiwanis and Elks. Two brothers are in the service. Warren, a second lieutenant stationed in the states, and Arthur, a staff sergeant with the army in the European theatre of operation.

PFC Valentine D. Black, whose mother, Viola L. Olson, lives at 861 South 12th st., Salem. His wife, the former Merian C. Smith, lives at Dexter, Minnesota. He entered the army in April, 1943.

For the past six months Private Kellogg served as supervisor of station housing at the base, and relates many interesting experiences, all the way from finding new recipes for new brides to solving in-law problems. She received her boot training at Camp Lejeune, NC, where she was stationed for ten months and served as clerk at the hostess house part of that time.

Her husband, Second Lt. Robert Kellogg was wounded in action in the drive on Bologna, in northern Italy, while with an infantry division. He is now convalescing in a hospital near Naples.

Wife of Dexter, Minnesota. He entered the army in April, 1943.

Washington (Special) -- With more than 30,000 wounded soldiers being returned from the world's fighting fronts every month, the War Department today asked for thousands more medical and surgical technicians to help in army hospitals throughout the United States.

15 SALEM WOMEN NEEDED NOW TO SERVE WITH A SPECIAL MEDICAL UNIT FROM THIS AREA

Those selected will represent Salem in a special medical unit which will receive training at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., and then return to duty at the hospital they choose within the Ninth Service Command. Call at the Women's Army Corps Recruiting Station and join the special Medical platoon from this area, leaving for training soon.

Write, Call or Mail the Coupon Now!

Women's Army Corps Recruiting Station, 211 Post Office Bldg., Salem, Oregon.

Please send me information about how I may help our wounded fighting men as a member of the Medical platoon from my area.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____

() I am between the ages of 20 and 49

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VETERANS' GUIDE

BY MAJOR THOMAS M. NIAL



WASHINGTON, March 14. -- (Special) There are a million of us now -- late of the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard -- with many more to come.

We've done our large or small bit, and now we are out of uniform. But somehow we don't feel exactly like civilians again.

There seems to be a difference. There is a difference. We are Veterans.

There are more than eleven million men and women in the armed forces. This means that when this war is successfully completed, our crowd of veterans will multiply rapidly. Some will appear a bit chesky, even a little superior in a civilian world. Secretly, however, many of these veterans will feel strange, perhaps somewhat lost.

It isn't easy to lose that ex-service feeling -- that kind of G. I. pulse -- that is difficult to describe but to us doesn't need description.

We as veterans have certain rights. Congress has said so already, as have some of the states. We're supposed to have made sacrifices for our country, so benefits have been bestowed on us -- on paper -- perhaps as a partial repayment.

Some of these benefits are not fully proven. How are they going to work out in practice? Aside from (1) pension and retirement allowances for disability caused by military or naval service and (2) the right to get your old job back -- both of which I will discuss in detail -- most of the new federal benefits for veterans are part of public law No. 346 passed by the 78th congress -- a popularly known as the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Many of these benefits aren't understood because they haven't been made fully clear; some are subject to easy misunderstanding and others are too numerous to mention.

In this column I want to write in the interest of all ex-service men and women and their families. That means practically everybody -- since there's scarcely