

Pastime Now Business for Silverton Man

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Retiring isn't just sitting on a bench to watch the world go by. It's doing the things you've always wanted to do but thought you hadn't time for.

That's what I. B. Alfred told me Wednesday when I stopped at his Silverton garden to see what he was doing. I had been hearing about his "best sellers" for some time now. While it was still early in the morning, Mr. Alfred admitted he had been "at it quite a spell."

"You see," he sagely pointed out, "I don't have to get up at a definite hour to get ready to be at the store at 9 a.m. Now I get up when I want to go to work when I want—so I get up earlier and work later. People are funny that way!"

Mr. Alfred, who was 73 on his last birthday anniversary, decided a few months ago that it was time to "stop work." He had really planned on retiring two years earlier but the war came on and his help was badly needed. He came to Silverton in 1921 with the H. L. Stiff company store. He had been employed there since.

But Mr. Alfred was born in Iowa where the corn grows tall. He had always done a bit of family gardening in a vacant lot at his South Water street home. This spring, when he had time, he increased his plantings, buying another vacant lot 100 by 130 feet near his home. He planted at random, not thinking in terms of selling, he admitted. In June, he sold \$80 worth of vegetables. People came to his home and "almost demanded" potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Cabbage is one of the very "best sellers," Mr. Alfred smiled. Carrots and corn are also in great demand. Mr. Alfred has made three plantings of carrots and six of corn. He is now experimenting with plantings for autumn gardening.

Mr. Alfred's three sons in the service are interested in his garden ventures. They are asking time to keep them posted on how "tall the corn grows in Silverton." The oldest, Major Frank Alfred writes of the gardens in Asia. Lt. Col. Lee Alfred, wounded in action in the South Pacific, writes of the garden in the locality of the hospital. The third son, Harold Alfred, chief pharmacist, has just recently been transferred to the naval hospital at Seattle.

Mr. Alfred is reading everything he can find on gardening. Next year, he says, he will plant with more system.

When you retire, you have time to do this, says I. B. Alfred, Silverton, as he shows one of his big squashes he raised after he "quit work." Mr. Alfred's quitting work means that he is spending long hours in his two gardens, one a 100 by 130 foot lot and the other on a 104 by 90 foot lot. The gardening, which was begun as "just a little pastime" has become quite a business venture.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden — BY LILLIE L. MADSEN.



Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

Those with experience say that lotus major seed shatters as badly as hairy vetch when ripe. It should not be mowed a day too early or a day too late. It appears that about five acres is the limit for any one combine to harvest in one season unless soil conditions vary enough to vary seed maturity in different fields. At any rate, the difference in ripening will not vary over a few days and combining is a very slow operation.

The C. A. Lynds farm two miles from Pratum has been bought by Harold Gwynn of route 1 in Polk county. He will take possession September 1. The Lynds are moving to a place in Linn county.

The Pete Packard matted row strawberry field in Clackamas county is making an experiment in fertilization. The difference in summer growth shows great favor to the rows receiving a deep application of complete commercial fertilizer last spring, as compared to rows receiving a surface application of the same fertilizer in the same amount, and the third group receiving no fertilizer.

These demonstration trials will be continued this fall on the Harold Bushue farm, the Oregon Bulb farm and by Hammond Paulson, who has a fertilizer applicator on his cultivator.

Last spring's application showed a decrease in labor in controlling weeds and increased yield over the old surface method of applying commercial fertilizers as well as saving in time and labor incident to applying the fertilizer.

During the past week there have been 950 bean pickers in the U. S. Alderman 75-acre bean field out near Dayton. Dusting from airplane on later fields is going on in the early morning and late evening hours on the Alderman farm.

The reporter finds great interest in lotus major wherever she goes. Because of its spreading habit and tolerance to a wide range of soil conditions along with its other good qualities lotus major seems destined to become a crop of importance in many parts of the United States and in foreign countries. Seed production may lift many a mortgage in the postwar era when folk are looking for a crop in great demand and the seed of which cannot be universally grown. And another thing, farmers have babbled and coddled lotus major to obtain a stand many times without success only to find the best stands yet, broadcast in fields of wheat by those foolish enough or should one say, with nerve enough to sow two-dollar-a-pound seed in this manner.

More Butter Last Year in State Plants

Oregon plants licensed to manufacture dairy products received three per cent more butterfat (milk and cream) in 1944 than in 1943. Receipts of whole milk for fluid use were up five per cent. Receipts of whole milk was offset partly by a reduction of 15 per cent in receipts of cream. A number of farmers who formerly sold cream changed to the sale of whole milk during 1944 extending the trend shown in recent years toward sale of whole milk rather than cream. Butter production in 1944 decreased nine per cent below a year earlier while American cheese output increased 11 per cent and evaporated milk production increased 25 per cent.

Total 1944 creamery butter production was reported at 24,130,000 pounds or 2,417,000 pounds less than was produced in 1943. American cheddar cheese production amounted to 2,568,000 pounds, an increase of 2,568,000 pounds over 1943. The 1944 output of soft cream cheese was stepped up 23 per cent above 1943 and totaled 1,379,000 pounds production of this type of cheese was increased materially in 1943 but very little had been produced in

earlier years. Cottage cheese production was 2,204,000 pounds in 1944, representing a 13 per cent decrease below the very large output of 1943.

Production of evaporated milk was increased 25 per cent in 1944 and totaled 41,926,000 pounds. The output of sweetened, skimmed condensed milk has been practically eliminated in recent years and amounted to 476,000 pounds in 1944. Production of nonfat dry milk solids for human food by spray and roller process in 1944 totaled 6,617,000 pounds, 13 per cent less than the 1943 output. The largest percentage increase shown for any product in 1944 was dried whole milk with an increase of 442 per cent. The output of dried or powdered whey increased 7 per cent in 1944, while dried buttermilk and dried casin was reduced. Ice cream production was reduced five per cent in 1944.

While hog receipts continue light in comparison to pre-war days, this week there were 101 brought to Valley Packing company compared to 77 a week ago. John Mackie, Aberdeen, Scotland, farmer, who is visiting the valley, said this week that Scotland was going back to increased "pig raising" when the war is really over. Salem packing houses are hoping the Willamette valley will follow this shortly. Hogs were still bringing top price of \$15.45 this week at the Valley Packing Co.

Salable receipts of lambs and ewes continued comparatively heavy. Valley Packing officials are still asking that farmers make a date for their delivery before hauling lambs to market. Lambs received numbered 313, with 53 ewes and 29 yearlings.

Not quite so many dairy type cows are now being brought to market as some few months ago. It is presumed most of the culling has been done. Veals are a little more numerous as a whole although only 20 were received during the week ending August 14. Beef steers and cows continue very scarce. Only 47 were bought locally this week by Valley Packing Co.

It is known that with the increase of permanent pastures and more irrigation in the valley, beef cattle ranchers are also increasing, but to date most of these are doing one or both of two things: increasing their own herds or selling their surplus young to others who are starting out with a few beef cattle.

Prices this week in the beef market remained the same with Valley Packing Co. paying from 4 to 6 cents for boners and cutters, 6 to 7 1/2 cents for common cows; 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 for top dairy cows; 9 to 11 cents for beef type, 14 cents for veals and from 7 to 11 cents for bulls.

Shortage Fails to Foil Woman; Harvests Half Acre by Hand

Where there's a will there's a way, may sound pretty trite but it still works. Just how well it works was demonstrated this week by Mrs. E. M. English out on Cherry avenue.

Mrs. English had a half an acre of wheat growing for chicken feed. The wheat was ready to be harvested. No combine could be expected (these are Mrs. English's own words) to come into town to cut a half acre of grain.

"I decided to cut it with a scythe," Mrs. English continued, "but it didn't work so good. Then I thought I'd pull it. That was better, but it was slow. I went to the farm labor office and got three Mexicans. Together the four of us pulled and tied into bundles the wheat in four hours."

Mrs. English explained she had already cut the binder twine into regular lengths. The bundles were neatly and securely tied and just as neatly shocked. The Mexicans were paid 75 cents an hour.

Later neighbors will haul the grain, with car and trailer, from the little field to the chicken house. Here it will be cone-stacked and covered with a piece of canvas. The chickens will do their own threshing as the bundles will be placed in the chicken pens as they are needed for feed.

Mrs. English came to her present home 36 years ago with Mr. English. Sixteen years ago he died. There was some mortgage on the place, she tells but there is none now. Mrs. English gardens raises filberts, berries and chickens.

It isn't so much what you make as what you are able to save, says Mrs. English. There is nothing, she says, that goes to waste on her five and a half acres. Limbs broken or injured from trees on her little place are cut up into wood for the stove. The waste in trees and in wood in general was especially regretted by Mrs. English. A fir, reaching some 30 feet toward the sky, was, when it was a foot high, the first Christmas tree for the Englishes on their Cherry ave. home. The English children got it out of the woods themselves. It was planted in a soap box and later planted out to the lawn where it has grown since. A few limbs were broken off this past year and these, Mrs. English cut up into stove wood.

Mrs. English, who was 78 last April, insists that work keeps one young. She gets up with the dawn, rests a bit during the warmer part of the day and works again in the cooler part of the evening.

Some Markets Still Small

Decline in Prices Of Lambs Smaller Than Farm Subsidy Payments

Decline in prices for fat lambs, following the withdrawal of the lamb subsidy payments to slaughterers, was generally less than the compensating subsidy payments to be made to the farmer, effective August 5.

The bulk of the Eastern Oregon feeder lambs is reported contracted and will go mostly to central Idaho and Washington feed lots. Some will go to the midwest, particularly Iowa, to be finished.

Midwestern grass cattle markets were still reporting unseasonably small receipts of grass cattle during the week ended August 9. The total of all cattle arriving at 13 principal markets continued somewhat smaller than the same period of last year. Receipts of calves and sheep were substantially smaller than a year previous, with hogs down to 41 per cent of last year.

Mohair buying in Texas continued moderately active at 52 1/2 to 56 cents for adult mohair and 20 cents more for kid hair. Trading in domestic wools continued very slow on the Boston market with buying limited to immediate requirements.

Generally firm markets have prevailed for grains and feedstuffs so far this season. Feed grain markets have not been especially active. Demand for commercial feedstuffs has been very strong in relation to offerings, with prices held firmly at the maximum ceilings. Some of the nation's principal hay markets developed a weaker tone recently. Prices at Portland remained nominally unchanged last week. Very little trading was done, as buyers were inactive and growers were not pressing supplies on the market.

A strong demand during the week ended August 4 was reported for chowings fescue grass for seed for immediate shipment. Austrian winter pea prices also reflected good demand. Otherwise, trading was about steady on Oregon's principal seed crops that are now being harvested and prepared for shipment.

Set-aside of creamery butter for the government for August has been reduced to 20 per cent, although it was originally scheduled to be 30 per cent. The reduction as made possible because the army has arranged to buy some butter in Denmark for feeding the soldiers in that vicinity.

Oregon Butter Vitamins Up

Oregon creamery butter has an average vitamin A content of 16,535 international units per pound compared with a national average of around 15,000 units.

This slight variation favoring Oregon is not so significant as the facts developed in the study showing a direct and almost immediate relationship between the feed cows eat and the vitamin A content of the milk they give, says J. R. Haag, agricultural chemist, who conducted the Oregon phase of the national study.

The vitamin A potency of milk and butter depends upon the quantity of carotene in the cow's diet, Dr. Haag points out. The cow's principal sources of carotene, from which she manufactures vitamin A, are fresh green pasture and good quality roughage of other kinds. Properly stored butter retains its A content.

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Okinawa Kids Organized Into First 4H Club

Okinawa youngsters are getting a taste of 4-H club work. Lt. (jg) Ralph Backstrom of St. Paul, Minn., who formerly was associated with 4-H club work at the Minnesota college of agriculture, is credited with organizing Okinawa's first 4-H club. He says the children line up and an Okinawan teacher lectures them on agriculture and gardening. Then they take their hoes and march off to the fields.

Organization of United Nations to Up Food Standard

United States joined the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations, effective July 21. Our financial contribution for the first full year is \$1,250,000. The FAO will act as a clearing house for better ways of producing and distributing food, and attempts to raise the eating standards of the world.

Hit by Fires

Several fires in the Pacific coast area, labor vacations, and strikes in various sections of the country have contributed to a shortage of lumber stocks. Supplies of hardwood flooring, shingles, softwood and plywood are very scarce, USDA reports this week.

Jersey Club Meets Sunday

Marion County Jersey Cattle club meets Sunday, August 19 at the Lewis Judson Salem farm. There will be a no-host picnic at 1 p. m. followed by an afternoon program.

M. G. Gunderson, president, reports he has a "half-way promise" of a very entertaining speaker, but he wasn't "quite sure." There will be reports of the state meeting at Corvallis last Sunday which was attended by both Mr. Gunderson and Mrs. J. Buysert, secretary.

Discussion of a proposed consignment sale for the state is also slated for Sunday. Reports last Sunday at Corvallis showed that both Washington and California had done very well at their consignment sales.

In Salem Markets

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State Examines Buttermakers On August 20

The state examination for butter makers will be held at the state department of agriculture on Monday, August 20, all day starting at 9 a. m. Cheese makers will be examined the following day. Examinations embody written, oral and technical forms.

These examinations are in compliance with the state law as butter and cheese makers employed in licensed plants must pass these examinations. This is a part of Oregon's quality improvement program.

O. K. Beals, chief of foods and dairies, announces the examining board to include E. L. Stack, dairy superintendent for state division of agriculture; Dr. G. H. Wilster, representing the dairy manufacturing department at the state college; and Marvin Davison of Redmond, representing the dairy manufacturing industry.

Next to man, raccoons are the mammals most dangerous to bird life on the islands of the Louisiana coast.

Farmers Can Afford Phosphates

Linn county farmers can well afford to use more phosphate fertilizer in the fall on cover crops, annual legumes, perennial legumes and fall seeding of grass mixtures including subterranean clover in the opinion of O. E. Mikesell, county agricultural agent.

Trials conducted the past several years in a number of Willamette Valley counties indicate that fall applications are equal to or better than spring top dressings. This is particularly true where spring applications must be delayed because of wet ground or weather. Spring applications of phosphate are effective when done at seeding time.

Mikesell states that Linn county is very fortunate in having approximately 240 tons of 19% and 20% superphosphate on hand for distribution to farmers who are cooperating in the AAA program. The agent is suggesting that farmers who are eligible for this material take it out of storage at an early date and make use of it this fall and next spring. Details on securing superphosphate may be obtained at the county agricultural office.

In commenting upon the nitrogen fertilizer situation the agricultural agent says that allocations for delivery to distributors up until January 1, 1946, are down as compared to quantities for a similar period the previous two years. This indicates that it is again going to be difficult for farmers to secure all of the nitrogen fertilizers that they want. Mikesell is suggesting that farmers take delivery on nitrogen fertilizers at any time that supplies are offered by dealers.

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