

Farm Labor Office to Close On Jan. 1; Wartime, Postwar Record of Recruiting Cited

By Conrad Prange
Staff Writer, The Statesman

At the end of this year another familiar wartime emergency agency will leave the local scene when the Marion county farm labor office, 361 Chemeketa st., closes its doors and its activities are returned to the state employment service.

The Salem office is one of thousands over the nation set up in 1944 by the federal government as recruiting and placement centers to help save and harvest farm food crops. Originally a part of the U.S. employment service, the farm labor employment division was separated from its parent body and established as a separate agency by the U.S. department of agriculture.

In Oregon the program was placed in the hands of the Oregon state college extension service with J. R. Beck of Corvallis as state supervisor. It was handled in each individual county by the county agent's office, which in turn appointed a county farm labor assistant.

Mrs. Turnbull Appointed

Mrs. Gladys Turnbull was appointed as the Marion county farm labor assistant April 1, 1944, by the acting county agent, W. J. Nibler, and immediately set up shop in the Chemeketa street office. Mrs. Turnbull is an Oregon State college graduate in economics.

Mrs. Turnbull's assistant, Dean Omans, a four-year navy veteran, was appointed in February of 1946 and assisted in the last two harvest seasons, which proved to be record-breakers for the office.

"It was my job," Mrs. Turnbull recounted this week, "to recruit women into the harvest fields. Farmers had been encouraged by the government to increase their crop acreages. At the same time the labor supply was dwindling as men and women went into the services and war plants."

Organized Communities

Although she had no pattern or previous program to rely on, Mrs. Turnbull said, the first goal of her office was to organize the communities in the county into effective farm labor recruiting agencies. "Stirring up interest in harvesting crops was our main task—at first," she recalled.

Ray Glatt of Woodburn headed the county farm labor advisory committees in other towns in the county. These towns and their committee chairmen included Woodburn, Mrs. Walter Miller; Silvertown, Mrs. Wendell Heath; Stayton, Lawrence Spraker; and Mt. Angel, the Rev. Hildebrand Melchior, OSB.

Reduced to 2 Offices

Salem's chairman was Mrs. Herbert Rahe, and West Salem, Mrs. Drew Michaels. Gradually, however, the community committees outside Salem were dropped, as the movement became better organized, until this summer only Salem and Woodburn offices functioned.

"The response I received from

every civic, church, patriotic, social and service group was overwhelming," Mrs. Turnbull related. "If it had not been for the wholehearted support and cooperation of these groups and the teachers' organizations, the farm labor recruiting program would have failed."

In addition to committees, the program was carried into the schools where students were taught the various crops harvested in this county. House to house canvasses were made to sign up housewives for field work. Radio and press programs were carried out.

Housewives Recruited

A feature of that first year, Mrs. Turnbull remembers was the "Housewives Special," which gained nation-wide publicity. It was organized here to take care of the 1944 bean crop which was threatened with a lack of harvesters. Thousands of Salem women were recruited from their kitchens and gave odd hours of the day to harvesting beans.

During the first full year of operation, the Salem office placed 28,485 men, women and children on harvest jobs. The placement has increased each year since. Mrs. Turnbull said, Marion county for the past four years has been second each year among counties of the United States in the number of farm placements.

Gasoline Rationing

"The biggest headache of all, during that first year," the farm labor assistant said, "was the rationing of gasoline coupons to farm laborers. Separate records had to be kept for each individual and a lot of red tape was involved in getting enough gas to drive out to a harvest field."

At first many growers were skeptical of women and children workers and also of women recruiters and organizers. "But," says Mrs. Turnbull, "the women and children literally saved this county's food crops during those years. Farmers soon came to recognize this, and last spring many voluntarily placed orders with this office for school children platoons and women workers."

Recalling experiences of the tremendous organizational cooperation of "all citizens of the county," Mrs. Turnbull said this week that the job "was one of the most interesting and fascinating of my life." She said she "thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it."

4-H Club Has New Officer Staff

BRUSH COLLEGE — A 4-H Sewing club was held at Brush College schoolhouse November 28. Members are Donna Kron, Nancy Osterberg, Sandra Larson, Suzanne Mathis, Elizabeth Jakubec, Patsy Morarty, Katherine Singer their leader, Mrs. Oliver Sargent. Elected to office were: President, Sandra Larson; vice president, Nancy Osterberg; secretary, Elizabeth Jakubec; publicity, Katherine Singer.

Next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Oliver Sargent on Tuesday, December 2.

Farm Recruiters to Cease Work



"Pitch in" to get those crops harvested has been the cry for Salem's farm labor office which soon will lose its separate status and return as a function of the state employment service. Chief of the special office at 361 Chemeketa st. since April, 1944, has been Mrs. Gladys Turnbull, pictured above with her assistant, Dean Omans. (Photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

Keizer Scout Troop Inducts New Members

Seven new members were inducted into the Keizer Boy Scout troop 4 at a scout court of honor Tuesday night in the Keizer Grange hall.

Seven scout advancements and 16 merit badges were awarded at the ceremonies, followed by a basket social which netted \$76 for the troop fund. Chairman of the court was Paul Geil, assisted by Scoutmaster Michael Hickman.

Awards were made by court members who included Hickman and Robert Schroeder, Ralph O'Connor and George Durham, sr. Guests of the court included Lyle Leighton, Cascade area council scout executive, and Elmer Kleinke, district chairman.

Tenderfoot scouts invested were Kenneth Wulf, Richard Schmidt, Roger Morse, Fred Rose, Claude Golsby, Owen Stockard and Charles McClenny. Merit badge awards went to Gary Nessing, Willard Moore, George Durham, Dwayne Snook, Gary Hise, Richard Vaughan and John Rehtuss. Scout rank pins were approved for Robert Engle, second class; Kenneth Pringle, Snook and Vaughan, first class; Durham, star, and Nessing and Durham, life.

One year service stars were given to Kenneth Lawrence, Lewis Schroeder, Glendon Geil, Vernon Luke, Engle, Snook and Moore. Perfect attendance pins were awarded to Lawrence, Luke, Engle, Nessing and Durham.

Boys Born at Mill City

MILL CITY — Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kanoff are the parents of a second son, born Nov. 21 at the Salem General hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Catherwood are the parents of an 8 pound 2 ounce son, Arthur Franklin, born Nov. 24 at the Salem Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Beck are the parents of a son, Roger Stephen, born Nov. 13 at the Salem Memorial hospital. Mrs. Beck is the former Eva Short and Mr. Beck is coach of the Mill City high school.

High Content of Leaves, Stems In Hop Bales

A summary released by the Oregon hop analytical laboratory, covering its 1947 operations, based on 80,675 bales (including 1,905 from Idaho) handled up to November 13, shows that hop pickers got more stems and leaves in the basket than in 1946.

Of these 80,675 bales, the weighted average leaf and stem content was 8.09 per cent against 7.67 per cent in 1946. The Oregon laboratory in Salem found only 263 bales with a leaf and stem content of 1 per cent. Other bales, numbering 8359, showed leaf and stem content of 12 per cent or over. A few bales ran as high as 21 per cent.

The Oregon average of 8.09 per cent compares with 5.28 per cent on the 1947 Washington crop and 8.17 per cent on the California crop. All three states showed higher leaf and stem percentages than in 1946.

Officials of the Oregon agricultural department which operates the hop laboratory under joint agreement with the federal government, said the higher percentage of leaf and stem content in Oregon probably was due to wider use of hand picking than in the other two Pacific coast states. Mechanical pickers are used extensively in Washington and California.

The laboratory work is a self-sustaining activity.

Community Club Hall Will Be Considered At Middle Grove

MIDDLE GROVE — Monday night, November 24, representatives of clubs and organizations of Middle Grove community met at the home of Robert Pickeral to hear about an offer made by George Hardy, local business man, who will donate a plot of ground near Lancaster drive and Silverton road for the building of a community hall. A general discussion meeting for the community will be held at the Middle Grove school Monday, December 1, at 8 p.m. to determine whether the community is in favor of such a project. All who are interested are asked to attend this meeting.

Supervisors Club Hears Ellenwood

James Lee Ellenwood, national YMCA staff member from New York City, discussed "The Man and His Job" at the Salem Industrial Supervisors club banquet at the YMCA Wednesday night.

About 100 supervisors and their wives attended the banquet. Music for the gathering was furnished by the Wonder Valley orchestra. Ellenwood stressed that American industry can make any type of product in large volumes, but cannot succeed fully in its task unless supervisors maintain harmony with their employees.

Roberts Mothers Club Buys Balls for Play

ROBERTS — Mothers club members will buy football and soccer balls for the school. Recent rummage sale netted \$135. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Eyerly presented the school with a new electric range for the noon lunch program. Mrs. Roach and Mrs. Barker served.

Pinball Press Stories Fail to Impress Jury

Several jurors on a pinball case indicated Wednesday they either didn't read much in the newspapers on gambling or were reluctant to admit it if they did.

The jurors were asked if they had read any of the barrage of recent accounts of the pinball machine controversy here and over the state.

Of four women questioned, two said they had read nothing of the press accounts, one admitted she had "read very little" on the subject and the fourth testified "she only noticed the headlines and skimmed through the rest of the articles."

One of the men jurors said that he had read "some" of the newspaper accounts while the other answered that he had noticed a few stories in an out-of-town paper.

All jurors live in Marion county. The questions came during jury interrogation of the trial of Ethan B. Reed, Hubbard, charged with possessing, operating and maintaining a slot pinball machine.

Lincoln Woman Visits in South

LINCOLN — Mrs. Fanni Emel is in California to be with her son and his family for Thanksgiving.

Mr. and Mrs. George Walling and Marion of Baltimore are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Walling. He plans to return on a Victory ship early next year as junior engineer while Mrs. Walling and Marion will remain with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Walling are hosts for the annual Thanksgiving family dinner. The guest list includes Mr. and Mrs. George Walling and Marion; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Upham, Linda and Gary; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Camillo and Mike. Mrs. Ira Fisher and Inez, Iris, Donald and Edward; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith and Julie and Dick, John Walling, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walling.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hackett will be Thanksgiving hosts for Mr. and

Mrs. John Miller and Joan of Portland.

Jean and Peggy Crawford of Portland, were guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Lois Crawford last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Meisner had as their house guests for four days recently his cousin and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Rittbaler, Perry, Okla. They went to Eugene and Roseburg to visit other relatives later.



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to OPEN HOUSE on Saturday,
November 29, from 2 to 7 p. m.

Salem's independent bank will open for business on Monday morning, December 1, at 10 o'clock.

This Saturday afternoon, before we get down to the routine of daily banking operations, we want to show you through our new bank. The building itself isn't elaborate or large, but it will serve the bank for sometime and will be a pleasant place in which to do business. The interior is neatly arranged and a bank's various functions are well-provided for. The roomy lobby contains especially-designed fixtures, and excellent lighting arrangements for both the public lobby and work sections.

Behind the counters is the newest and most modern banking equipment, including recently-perfected automatic teller's machines. These machines will be demonstrated during Open House. When in operation, each teller will issue machine-printed deposit receipts for all checking account deposits. . . speeding up service to customers and making the bank's accounting procedures more accurate.

FREE PARKING FOR BANK CUSTOMERS

A paved parking lot for the convenience of customers adjoins the bank building. Located at the corner of Hunt Street and Fairgrounds Road, it is readily-accessible with double driveways from either street.

The Officers and Directors foresee a great future for the Willamette Valley. We are proud of our new bank and know it will fill a definite need in a growing community. As business demands, we will expand our facilities. Our policy will be to give complete banking services and credit facilities which will contribute to the progress and development of our trading area.

If you are in business, in farming, or need some personal banking service, we think you'll like to do business with a friendly bank where you will receive personal attention at all times.

Come in and visit us at Open House and see Salem's newest bank. If you can't make it then, we'll welcome you any time after we open on Monday, December 1st.

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Who May Buy:
Veterans of World War II only (discharge papers or photostats are only required certification).

HOW AWARDS WILL BE MADE
The office equipment listed above, samples of which will be on display in the Mold Loft Building on Dec. 3, will be sold on a first come, first served basis to all prospective purchasers who will be registered upon entrance to the Mold Loft Building. Prospective purchasers must attend the sale prepared to make immediate settlement and take immediate delivery.

The furniture will be offered to Veterans of World War II only upon presentation of discharge papers or facsimile, and by signing certification that the furniture will be used for personal, business, professional or agricultural use and not for resale.

Additional information about PDD-1361 may be obtained from . . .

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