

86 Attend 'On Farm' Veteran Training Classes



GERVAIS, Dec. 18—Learning to be better farmers are the veterans pictured above attending one of their weekly classes at the Gervais high school. These men come to the classes and farm demonstrations from all northern Marion county communities to enlarge the class from 10 men a year ago to 86 today.

\$10,000 Given A. J. Elliott in Damage Suit

A jury in Marion county circuit court Saturday awarded \$10,000 in damages to Archie J. Elliott, 1964 N. Capitol st., for personal injuries suffered in an auto-truck collision at North Winter and Market streets Dec. 4, 1945.

The judgment was awarded against the Portland General Electric company. Elliott was also allowed \$600 for damages to his auto. The suit grew out of a collision between a car operated by Elliott and a PGE truck operated by L. Dewey Howell of Salem.

Records show Elliott was driving south on Winter street and

Howell west on Market street when the crash occurred. Elliott's auto ended up against a house in several hundred feet from the point of impact. Elliott alleged he suffered severe head injuries as a result of the collision. The jury deliberated for more than three hours before returning the verdict. The trial had been in progress for three days.

Chiang Forces Stage Retreat

NANKING, Dec. 18—(AP)—A general government retreat was reported in progress today from the broken Hwai river line to positions little more than 30 miles north of this Chinese capital.

Pengpu, anchor of the line, 108 miles northwest of Nanking, had been outflanked on both sides by communists who crossed the river.

board of directors consists of Bibby, Bernt, Kirsch, Donald Cummings, Brooks, and Jesse Owe, Hubbard.

Much of the credit for the success of the agricultural program at this small high school is given local school board members and the high school principal, Paul L. Reiling. The agricultural program was started at Gervais on July 1, 1947 when Leonard Burns, now with the Soil Conservation service at Stayton, was hired to teach both high school ag students and veterans. The school now has a large, modern, well-equipped shop and ag classroom, built in the summer of 1947, which is in charge of Al Ringo, high school ag instructor.

Some veterans thought they could not afford the time to study how successful farming is accomplished, but after taking a field trip remarked "Well, we really could not afford to miss learning the tricks of the trade."

Enrollment in Vets' On-Farm Training Program Mounting

GERVAIS—From 10 to 86 veterans in a year is the record enrollment set by the Veterans Institutional On-Farm Training program at Gervais Union high school. Where once a part-time instructor handled ten veterans along with his class in high school agriculture, now there are four instructors and one full-time high school agriculture teacher.

The agricultural program is operated all over the state under the G. I. Bill of Rights, sponsored by high schools and under the supervision of the state division of vocational agriculture of which Ralph L. Morgan of Salem, is supervisor.

Morgan has two assistants, Elmer Sullivan, Salem, and Allen Lee, Molalla, who work directly with the program in his office in Salem. Valley towns having similar training facilities include Silverton, Salem, Canby, Newberg, Independence and Dayton. Woodburn's program was moved to Gervais last April.

Started 2 Years Ago

The agricultural training program was started in Oregon on July 1, 1946 with three veteran instructors at three centers, Woodburn, Salem, and Hillsboro. At present there are 85 vet ag teachers throughout the state with more than 2000 veterans enrolled in the farm training.

The 86 veterans enrolled in farm training at Gervais live in the areas of Mt. Angel, Lake Labish, Mission Bottom, Gervais, Woodburn, St. Paul, Donald, Hubbard, Brooks, Monitor and Mar-

quam, on farms owned or leased by themselves and operated as year-round employment or under an employer-trainer set-up wherein the veteran is employed by an established farmer and supplements his training by the courses as offered by the vet program at the high school.

Training includes field trips to successful farms, talks by specialists in various phases of farming, and investigation of any good example of successful farming practices.

The four vet teachers are all graduates of Oregon State college in agriculture except Franklin P. Hopkins, a 1948 graduate of the University of Wisconsin in agricultural engineering. Hopkins, in the army during the war, married an Australian girl, and came on a vacation trip to the west coast in February. They picked Salem as a place they would like to live and have a home there now. Hopkins and his wife live in the Lake Labish, Mission Bottom, and Brooks area.

William H. Coffield lives west of Silverton and supervises the veterans in the Mt. Angel district and those east of Gervais. Coffield majored in farm management at OSC and taught on the veteran program at Silverton last year.

A navy veteran, Paul H. George, has charge of the men in and around Gervais and St. Paul. George is also a farm management major, graduating in 1943, and lives at Gervais. These three men were employed July 1, 1948.

Carl A. Magnuson, one of the three original veteran instructors in the state, is in charge of the vet program at Gervais. He was graduated from OSC in 1940 in animal husbandry and farm management and spent two years in graduate study at Oregon State and Texas A&M. He previously taught vocational agriculture at Molalla and Woodburn. Magnuson lives at Woodburn and supervises the veterans in the northern part of the county.

Outstanding in the program at Gervais is the Veterans' Cooperative association, an organization separate from the school and with no connection with the on-farm training classes. Several pieces of heavy equipment have been acquired by the association, including a bulldozer, tractor, truck and drayage. The association rents a garage on highway 99E two miles south of Gervais and employs a full-time mechanic. Farm machines are used by the veterans cooperatively.

Has Purchasing Agent

The association is also a purchasing agent, being incorporated under state laws for such business and enables the farmer-veteran to buy machinery, appliances, fertilizers, dusts, sprays and other materials at a considerable saving. Max Bibby, Brooks, is president; Joe Kirsch, Woodburn, vice president; Edward Bernt, Mt. Angel, secretary-treasurer. The

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