

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

## Salem Town Ranch Grows Fine Figs

By Lillie L. Madsen  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Anyone who believes figs do not grow as well in Oregon as elsewhere should take a few hours off before the first frost and motor out over South Commercial street to the Liberty district and 390 Ewald street and take a look at the fig orchards of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. French, where more than 75 trees are thriving extraordinarily well with, Mrs. French says, "not too much care".

Mr. French was born in Albina, near Portland, but went to school in Tacoma. Mrs. French was born Jessie Robins, daughter of Henry Robins of a pioneer Dallas family.

Now the two are settled on their little "farm" south of Salem where Mr. French is not busy with his work in the state automobile license bureau, they grow a great variety of fruit and nuts. It is now 15 years ago since they bought the place. With the exception of four years in the Portland shipyards during the war, they have made Salem their home during those 15 years.

The trees were growing on the place when the Frenches acquired it and Mrs. French admits that these were a part of the inducement in buying it. The age of the trees, they will tell you, furnish conclusive proof that figs can stand Oregon winters.

"We have had all kinds of winter in those 15 years," Mrs. French points out.

Of the three varieties grown on the French ranch, the Lattarula, the Asiatic honey fig, is perhaps the best known. The trees are now loaded with their second crop of sweet fruit. Another variety in the orchard is the Gillette, a yellow variety from France which bears but one crop. The Granada, the black Persian fig does well. It is quite large and just beginning to ripen its second crop.

The Frenches say there are many reasons why they like fig growing. For one instance, the trees seem to need no spraying and very little cultivation. The first crop is ripe in late June or early July and the last is harvested in October. Usually the first frosts still catch a few of the figs ripe on the trees.

But Mr. French is rather versatile. Besides his "farming" and his work with the state operator's license bureau, he writes. Among his published works is "Railroadman", the story of his father, Henry Clay French, who started as a messenger and call boy on the Hannibal & St. Joe line when he was 13 and for almost 57 years thereafter he saw active service as telegrapher, switchman, brakeman, fireman-engineer, conduc-



Two sets of triplets pose here at Oregon State college's John Jacob Astor experiment station. The tow-headed Astoria lassies are Carla, Cathy and Carol Koski. The triplet registered Guernsey calves, just a year old, will be seen at the Pacific International Livestock exposition in North Portland, October 7 to 15. Statistics show the three little heifers—Anna Mae, Anna Lou and Annabelle—had only one chance in 7,520,000 to survive but they did. At the 1948 exposition they were quite a drawing card in the Guernsey division.

## The Statesman's Farmer-of-the-Week

Perl Bye, who is known among his friends as "an awfully good farmer", is just as good a fisherman. Here the Statesman farm photographer caught Perl just as he was coming home Tuesday night from a rather successful fishing trip out on the Nestucca.

Perl was born in Canada but came to this country when six months old. It was not until he returned there for a visit 10 years ago that he learned he hadn't become a citizen when his father did. He hurriedly corrected this error.

He has a nice, small dairy on his 50-acre farm which lies to the west of the Pudding river bridge on the Salem road about four miles out of Silverton. Here he raises some grain and hay, experimenting a bit with various fruits, vegetables and pasture feeds.

Evelyn, who was Evelyn Stewart before her marriage, is as widely known as her husband. She is employed in the offices of the Cooley Iris Gardens at Silverton and otherwise keeps busy with her two youngsters, Stewart, 9, and Diane, 5.

The whole family likes fishing and last winter, during the slack period on the farm, Perl made a handsome boat which the family loads on the trailer and takes out for the river fishing trips.

tor and yardmaster on 15 different lines.

Macmillan Company published the book in 1938 and since then a number of short stories and articles have come from the French typewriter out on the fig farm.



Perl Bye

## Oregon Man Will Preside at Meet In New York City

Oregon cut flowers on the New York City cut flower market as well as Oregon fruit in the fruit auctions on the piers there, will be of interest to Frank McKennon, chief of the division of plant industry, Oregon state department of agriculture.

McKennon will visit there while he is in New York during the week of October 10 to preside at the annual meeting of the National Association of Marketing Officials. He was elected president when that group met in Portland a year ago.

The marketing officials will go on inspection trips scheduled to the wholesale fresh fruit and vegetable markets in New York city, the cut flower market and the fruit auction. The Oregon official is eager to view at first hand the condition in which the western products arrive after the long haul across the United States.

The marketing officials will inspect also the wholesale live poultry terminal owned by the city of New York.

On his return trip, he will stop in Chicago for two days for the meeting of the national plant board, October 17 and 18.

Both this and the New York meeting group are composed of state officials concerned with the movement of agricultural products between states. The associations have been working for uniformity in the fields of grades and standards and for the elimination of unnecessary quarantines and other trade restrictions between states.

## Swine Men Meet to Work On Research

Formation of a long-range swine research program at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station was initiated by station officials and swine grower representatives here this week with the tentative research program to be presented for group approval at a second meeting at the Pacific International in Portland in early October.

Reduction of cost is the overall program of the industry, the growers told station officials. Problems specifically mentioned as needing investigation were pasture establishment and management, parasites and diseases, herd management, equipment, improvement through breeding, and impaired fertility.

**FI Meeting Set**

The most acute industry problems will be incorporated into the research program which will be presented to the industry representatives for approval at the P-I October 13. Research investigations will be started once the final program is drafted.

Dr. Fred F. McKenzie, head of the animal husbandry department, called the meeting of the growers and station officials. He will present the proposed research program at the Portland meeting. Cooperating with the animal husbandry department in the program will be the departments of veterinary medicine, farm crops, agricultural chemistry, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering and entomology.

**Breeders Present**

Grower representatives who attended the meeting included Lyle McKinley, Shedd, president of the Oregon Purebred Swine Growers; George Kraus, Silverton; Leonard Forster, Tangent; A. J. Zielinski, Silverton; Fred Shuetz, Baker; Glen Hawkins, Shedd; Bruce Hooftagle, Alice; Amos W. Crenner, Haines; Clinton Hudson, Baker, assistant agricultural agent, Baker county; and Burns T. Bailey, La Grande, assistant county agent, Union county.

## CHAMP TOPS 6,000 GIRLS

Jo Ann Roberts, 17, Shedd, winner of the state fair style revue contest, represents the best sewing accomplishments of more than 6,000 different Oregon 4-H club

## Farm Calendar

Oct. 5—Oregon Jersey Cattle club meeting, Salem Chamber of Commerce, 8 p.m.

Oct. 7-15—Pacific International Livestock Show, Portland.

Oct. 12-4-H fairstock auction at Pacific International 10 a.m.

Oct. 11—Silver Creek Soil Conservation district meeting, Silverton, 8 p.m.

Oct. 12—Santiam Soil Conservation district meeting, Aumsville.

Oct. 15-18—Capital City Rabbit Breeders association show, Salem.

Oct. 16—Marion county Jersey Cattle club. Buysert & Son, Woodburn.

Oct. 19—Marion County Pomona grange, Waldo Hills. Canning contest.

Oct. 22—Guernsey Heifer sale, state fairgrounds. 4-H, FFA and World War veterans.

Nov. 5-12—National 4-H club achievement week.

Nov. 6-8—Annual convention of Oregon Wool Growers, Portland.

Nov. 14-15—Agricultural cooperative council of Oregon, Multnomah hotel, Portland.

Nov. 15-17—Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, LaGrande.

Nov. 15—Pacific Coast Turkey exhibit, McMinnville.

Nov. 17-18—Annual meeting of Oregon State Horticultural society, Eugene.

Nov. 19—Marion County Corn Show, Central Howell.

## Turkey Price Outlook Mixed This Season

The price outlook for turkeys this year, Norton believes there will be a gradual price rise as the Thanksgiving market approaches. He thinks the holiday market in general will bring 45 to 47 cents net to growers for hens and 35 to 37 cents for toms.

Disturbing factors, however, are the threatened large-scale strikes in the east and the uncertainty caused by devaluing the English pound sterling and the Canadian dollar. This may work against higher turkey prices, Norton suggested.

The association asked for continued government price supports for turkeys as long as other commodities are supported, and objected to the present policy of penalizing heavy toms. The association also

wants the USDA to report on number of breeder hens to be carried over by around Thanksgiving, and also wants the National Turkey federation to meet in Oregon next year. W. R. Schwedler, Portland, is the new president.

The United States produced more than 3,500,000,000 bushels of corn in 1948, about a billion more than were produced in 1938.

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Beef Roasts Tender Blade Cuts	lb. 39¢	Lean Cubes Boneless—Nice To Braise	lb. 45¢
Boneless Rump Nice To Slice	lb. 50¢	Round Steak Center Cuts	lb. 59¢

**PORK PRICES HAVE DROPPED** A help to the housewife who has to figure her food budget. We have purchased a plentiful supply of those small grain-fed pig porkers. They have that chicken-like flavor and texture.

Pork Roasts Picnic Cuts	lb. 37¢	Pork Steak Lean Blade Cuts	lb. 45¢
Loin Chops Dainty Lean	lb. 59¢	Bacon Squares Makes Vegetables a Main Dish	lb. 10¢

PURE PORK  
**SAUSAGE**  
40c lb.  
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PURE PORK  
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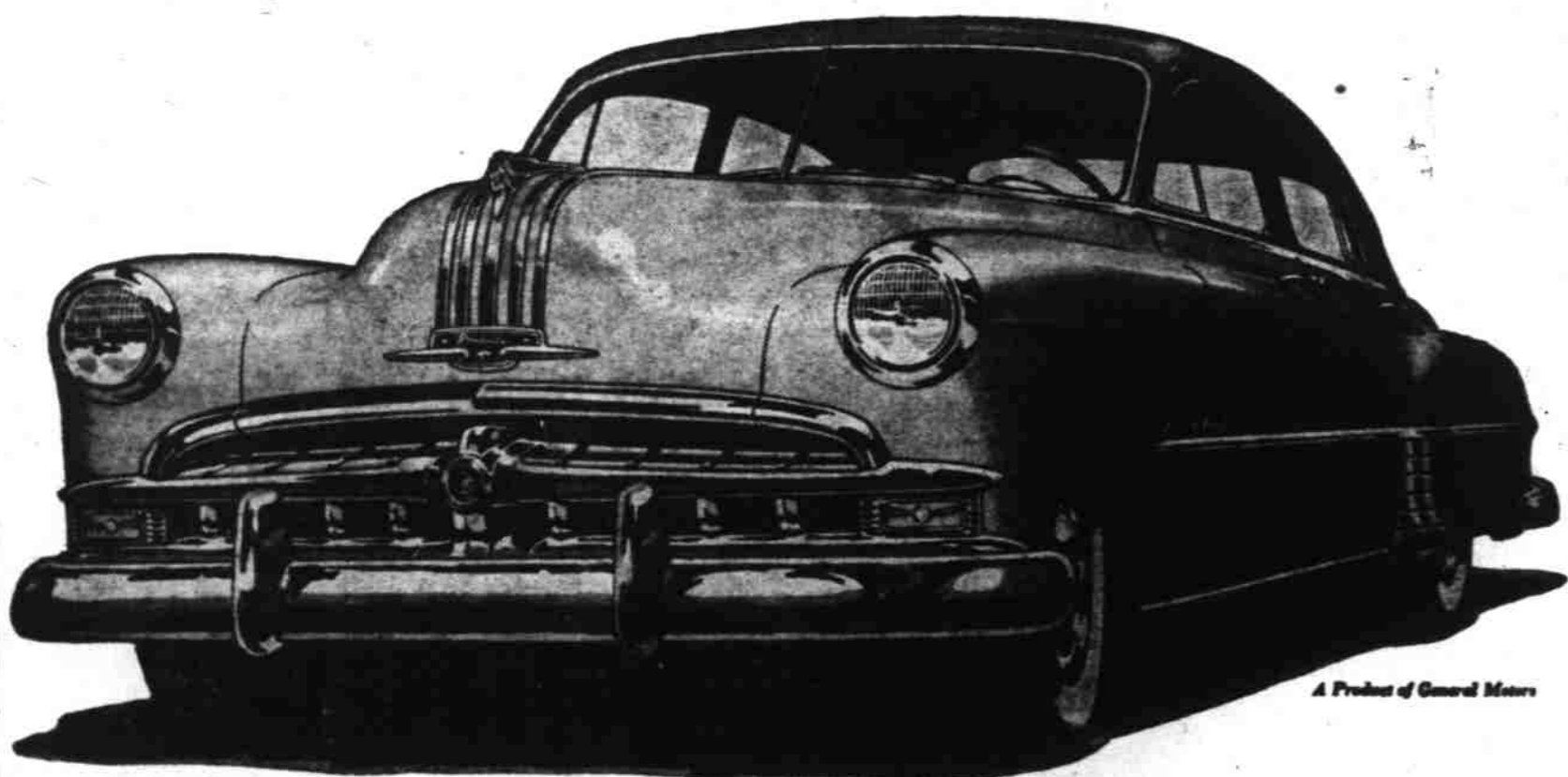
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