

Farmers Told Rodent Control Time at Hand

By Lillie L. Madsen
Statesman Farm Editor

Willamette valley rodents came through the winter in very fine condition, farmers are reporting. Many add that they have scarcely seen so many moles, gophers and gray diggers as are at work this spring.

Rodent control is most effective when done in the spring while food supplies are not too plentiful and before the young are born—especially in the case of those rodents that bear young but once a year. This information comes from the various Willamette valley extension agents.

Poisoning, the specialists report, is usually the most economical method of control and provides a quick method of reducing the rodent population. Trapping is an effective means of control but is more slow and costly where large areas are involved.

Gray diggers are making themselves evident with the coming of warmer weather. They are the largest ground squirrels found in Oregon and the most destructive as individuals, reports show. The fact that they have a wide range of acceptable food and that they habitually store sufficient food to last through the winter causes them to do great damage to crops.

Poisoning is particularly effective in the case of the diggers. A ready-mixed strychnine-treated bait prepared under the supervision of the Oregon extension services is available from the county agents' offices and from some of the feed and seed stores.

Gophers and moles are making heavy inroads in clover fields, particularly in fields of sub-clover. These, too, may be poisoned but the types of food eaten by either of these are fewer. Trapping immediately will cut down the population greatly, county agents are reporting. Demonstrations in trapping may be scheduled in some of the Willamette valley counties later this spring.

Poison for control of rats and mice are also available. Persons handling poison baits are warned that they are dangerous to livestock in some cases, as well as human beings, and are advised to handle them with great caution.

Funeral Set Saturday for E. E. Getchell

Services for Elmer E. Getchell, 965 S. Liberty st., will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the W. T. Rigdon chapel.

Getchell died Wednesday night at a Salem hospital following a stroke he suffered a week ago. He was 89.

Deceased had lived in Salem for 15 years and lived in Aumsville for 12 years before moving here. He was born at Springfield, Maine, May 8, 1861 and lived in Canada before moving to Oregon.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Otto Rollier, Salem; son, Frank Getchell, Toledo, a sister, Mrs. Lizzie Mahar, Springfield, Maine, and two grandchildren.

Interment will be at Stayton cemetery.

Whistling Swans Gain in Numbers

LA GRANDE, Ore., March 22—Whistling swans, once feared doomed to extinction, were making the annual rendezvous in the Grande Ronde valley today.

For the past two years the big birds showed up on St. Patrick's day. A few made it this year, too, but the bulk of the flock did not arrive on the annual spring migration until several days later. Observers said about 50 were paddling about in ponds today.



AN OLD HABIT—Willie Mosconi (left) and Willie Hoppe pose with trophies after winning world pocket billiards and three-cushion billiards titles, respectively at Navy Pier, Chicago.

Prowl of RFC Probe Secret Files Reported

WASHINGTON, March 22—(AP)—A story of midnight prowlers who apparently tried to get access to secret files of the reconstruction finance corporation during the recent senate RFC inquiry was related today.

Officials said an investigation is being made. RFC Chairman W. Elmer Harber told newsmen he did not know whether any of the confidential documents—some of them linked with the senate probe—were stolen.

Other informants said the only item definitely known to be missing is a bank or building and loan association passbook owned by Mrs. Donald Dawson, who has charge of the files. Mrs. Dawson is the wife of a White House aide who has been named by a senate banking subcommittee as having exerted pressure on RFC in connection with loans.

Informants said a severed chain on a door leading to the file rooms gave the first tip-off on the prowlers' visit. Officials said the disclosure led the agency to install an electric lock and burglar-alarm system.

Couple Held In Dallas on Check Charge

DALLAS, March 22—Mr. and Mrs. Harry James Erickson were held in Polk county jail here today, following their arrest in Salem on bad check charges and their appearance before West Salem Justice Elmer Cooke today.

Both were bound over to the Polk county grand jury. Erickson, 24, is charged with forgery and his wife, Dorothy Marie Erickson, 26, is charged with obtaining money by false pretenses. Bail was not set immediately.

The couple was arrested Wednesday night by Salem city police who reported they later signed statements admitting passing two fraudulent checks at grocery stores there.

Neuberger Article In Reader's Digest

Recent Oregon elections are examples of the failure of labor leaders to swing votes of their followers in a bundle, State Sen. Richard L. Neuberger writes in the April Reader's Digest. The article

U.S. Marines Arrive from Korean War

OAKLAND, Calif., March 22—(AP)—More than 1,500 joyful U. S. marines and 57 of the nation's heroic Korean war dead came home today.

The 1,529 marines, many of whom had fought through the 25 below zero cold of the retreat from the Changjin reservoir, basked in warm sunshine at the rail of their transport, the USS General G. M. Randall, as it docked at an Oakland pier.

They smiled until it appeared their cheeks would burst and craned their necks eagerly for loved ones among the hundreds of welcomees at the dock.

The marines streamed down the gangplank to one joyful reunion after another. In sleek convertibles they wound through the streets of Oakland in a long parade to Treasure island.

Back in the ship were the dead—57 fighting men from the navy, the army, the marine corps and the air force. Their rank ranged from private to major general. Their homes had been in 23 states from California to Maine and from Louisiana to Michigan.

In mid-afternoon the Randall pulled away from the pier and carried the dead to the army's Fort Mason at San Francisco. There members of the unified armed services were to hold memorial rites.

is condensed from The Nation. Neuberger contends that labor leaders forget that union members also are members of churches, school and other civic groups—and that decent sewer systems, better schools and such issues may transcend upon problems in importation.

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