

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

### Farm Editor Takes Trip—And Camera.

## Apples In Top Spot Up North

By Lillie L. Madsen  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

There are 1,800,000 apple trees in the state of Washington. That's what a little booklet handed me in Wenatchee said.

I have a feeling they are all between Yakima and the Canadian line. In fact, they didn't stop at the line, but went up beyond the border—up to Penticton. We—the farm photographer and I—had no real business at Penticton. We were at Yakima and Wenatchee to visit relatives and help celebrate wedding anniversaries.

So at Keraga we left the highway we were following and drove the extra nine miles to Penticton. We weren't sorry. Aside from finding out that the heavy apple production did stop there, we found a very neat, interesting little town with nice auto courts, nice hotels, a lake at each end and good food.

Had we expected to get some "strange" English food, we'd have been disappointed. There were no scones, no crumpets, but plenty of ham and eggs, steak, tomato salad—any of the things we'd find on a Salem restaurant menu. Only, in spite of all the trees, no apple pie. There was however, a very fine apple "pudding," which I think we'd have termed cobbler here.

Apple picking in the apple area was just getting under way. Huge stacks of apple boxes and ladders were appearing along the roadside and short distances in the orchards. The big apple packing plants—and there were scores of them—were steaming up.

Youngsters of the apple district aren't permitted to forget what it is that makes their valley famous. When picking reaches its peak—which is early in October—schools are dismissed to give the students a chance to give a hand to the industry. The "vacation" last for two weeks. To provide for this, classes take up early—August 27, this year.

Picking An Art  
In the Wenatchee area you don't just go out and pick an apple and put it into the pail with or without stems. Picking apples, we were told, is an art. Even little pamphlets and stories in the local papers, are published to tell how properly to pick an apple. Warning is issued new pickers "not to overdo the first day of work." All pickers were warned to keep "the body erect while picking and not to reach too far for apples."

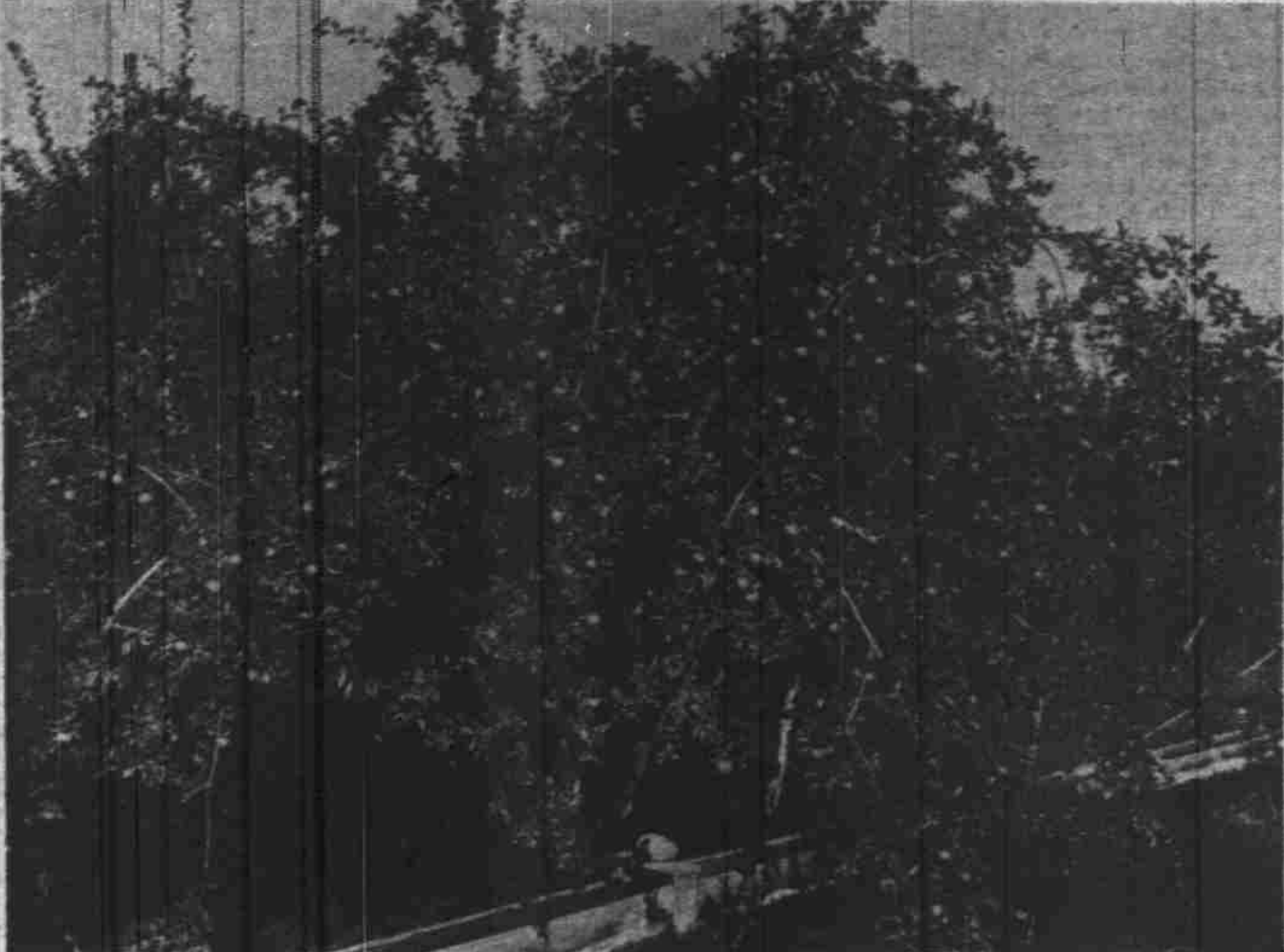
To speed up picking, the advice continued, the pickers were "to keep your eyes on your hands and your hands in front of you, pick with both hands and make every motion count, set ladders carefully and keep well balanced on the ladders."

Health and future usefulness of the tree, too, was considered. Pickers were told to be careful to "leave spurs on trees and stems on apples. Spurs bear next year's crop and apples minus stems are culls."

Further advice was to wear shoes with "gripping soles." We had never been quite sure that Oklahomans picked as many things as they were given credit for. But any doubt of the veracity of such statements was wiped away after our stay in Wenatchee and Yakima. For every one Oregon or California car (and we saw few California cars compared to Oregon's), there must have been a dozen or more from Oklahoma.

Crop Good  
Trees were positively loaded with fruit. Also trees were set rather close together judging by the planting distance we employ here in the Willamette valley. While the vast majority of trees (and we traveled 200 miles without getting out of sight of apple trees) were Red Delicious, we noted a yellow apple tree here and there throughout the orchards. Stopping to make inquiry, we learned that these were used to furnish proper pollination. They must be good. We are sure 't'ast ever, bloom on the tree developed into an apple. Each tree had from 10 to 20 props placed under the limbs to support the heavy load of fruit.

The orchards themselves didn't look so neat as those which we are accustomed to seeing in our own valley. But, we were told when we complained slightly of this—that the great necessity for irrigation is the cause. Had we come four weeks earlier, we would have seen much neater orchards.



Apple trees grow almost on top of each other in the Wenatchee valley. Trees are heavily loaded with fruit. Note the irrigation trough at front of picture. (Farm photo for The Statesman).



From time to time we passed water holes such as this in the Okanagan country of British Columbia. The cattle—Aberdeen Angus in this instance—graze up and down the hillsides and travel to the holes for their drinks. (Farm photo for The Statesman).

850,620 pounds in Yakima county alone.

At every hop meeting we have attended here in the Willamette valley, we have heard something said about hops in the Yakima valley. But we didn't see as many hop yards as we expected. Some, yes, but not too many. However, we were told that acreage had jumped from 8,490 to 12,740 in the past five years, while harvested funds went from 14,755,871 to 17,658,854. We read effect of hop marketing agreement into these figures as acreage increased 38.3 per cent, while production went up by 19.2—the difference being approximately that called upon by the agreement to be unharvested, a similar situation to that found here.

Lots of Peppermint  
Too, we were surprised immensely at the peppermint crop in the Yakima valley. Somehow, we thought peppermint was grown chiefly only in western Oregon and Michigan. And here, we found Yakima valley was producing 400,000 pounds this year—scarcely 150,000 pounds of oil less than Oregon. Growers were anticipating approximately 1,000 barrels would be taken from the Yakima acreage with oil valued at around \$2,400 a barrel—not a bad crop to have grown this year.

We had expected to see hard upon herd of Hereford cattle all over the farm area in this central Washington region. But the cattle must have been off grazing elsewhere. Only an occasional herd did we spot and then it was apt to be Aberdeen Angus as Herefords. The cattle we did spy were as fat and sleek looking as those exhibited at the fair. While we noted some dairy animals pasturing on irrigated greenery, most of the beef cattle were eating off dry little bunches of grass and seeming to thrive upon them.

Both in Wenatchee and Yakima the business folk were greatly interested in the surrounding farming country. It was, they said, their bread and butter.

Peaches Plentiful  
In contrast to our own short peach crop here, peaches seemed plentiful. Trees were well loaded—the later varieties, that is. But we were told that prior to the difficult winter two years ago, there were many more peach trees. A large number had been winter-killed.

But of everything we saw, it was the apple trees with their heavy load of fruit, which impressed us most. It just didn't seem possible that there could be that many apples anywhere—or being that many apples, that there could be a market for them—and yet, we were told, the "market is very good."

FIREMEN CALLED  
MARQUAM—The Monitor fire department was called to the Harvey Jackson farm for a trash fire on a stump that was supposed to have burned out. It had been plowed around so there was no real danger.

## Salem to See Big Heifer Sale, Sept. 24

Twenty-eight Dairy Breeders association heifers and cows are scheduled for auction at the state fairgrounds, Salem, Monday, September 24 at 12:30 p.m. Marion County Dairy Breeders association president, Vernon Hepler, Canby, says animals from two other county groups will be included this year. Auctioneer Ben Sudtall will handle this second annual association sale.

Twelve Jerseys from association sires have been consigned. W. T. Putman, Jr., Hillsboro, has three in the sale. Jim Daugherty, Woodburn, consigned two, one is the granddaughter of his Cherry cow that topped the Dairy Herd Improvement association records for several years. Silas Torvond and Jim Phillips of Silverton have a fine Jersey calf and Lawrence and Robins, Aurora are offering a registered calf from Oregon Priceless Benjamin. Vernon Hepler, Canby has two entries and Oscar Overlund, Silverton, Paul Chambers, Corvallis, and M. A. Crippen, Forest Grove, each one Jersey. Joe Rice of Silverton has a February calf entered from J-18, Guernseys Second High.

Nine Guernseys will be headed by two third calf cows from G-59, Commander of Prairie Bloom. R. L. Freeburg, Woodburn, has consigned the cows. Paul Mann, Silverton, has two bred heifers entered, one to be fresh by sale time, September 24.

Leland Kocher, Hubbard, and Howard Klopfenstein, Silverton, each have bred Guernsey heifers consigned. Oscar Strand, Silverton, two and Carl Swanson, Colton, Oregon. D. H. Gordener, Canby, entered a G-68, Tideland Arbitrator calf that freshens in January. Holsteins Offered

Seven nicely bred Holsteins have come in this year. George Kruse, president of the Mt. Angel Creamery has listed two registered Holstein heifers. Walter Von Flue and Sons, Silverton are sending a well grown animal, and Edward Freudenthal, Hillsboro, has consigned two yearlings and two calves.

Extension dairymen, Harold Ewalt, assisted the sifting committee and reported the animals to be of high quality. Several will be registered animals.

Catalogues are available from Bill Williams, 803 Oak st., Silverton.

## Farm Calendar

- September 20-22—Marion County Fair, Woodburn.
- September 24—Second annual Marion County Dairy Breeders' association heifer sale, Salem.
- September 24—Farm Labor meeting, Labor Temple, Salem.
- September 28—Strawberry Growers meeting, Corvallis, 10 a. m.
- October 6-13—Pacific International Livestock Exposition, North Portland.
- October 26—Oregon Jersey Heifer sale, Malheur county.
- October 30-31—National convocation of churches in town and country, First Baptist church, Portland.
- November 15-16—Oregon Reclamation congress, Bend.
- November 26-December 1—Farm Bureau federation convention, Senator hotel, Salem.
- November 29-30—Oregon State horticultural society meeting, OSC.
- December 1—Oregon Jersey Cattle club meeting, Salem.
- December 3—Oregon Wool Growers association, Portland.
- December 4-7—Pacific Coast Turkey Show, McMinnville.
- December 4-7—National Wool Growers association meeting, Portland.

## Fall Peach Spray Time Now at Hand

Fall sprays to control peach spray or California blight on peaches are now in order, county extension agents are reporting. Sprays are recommended for use as soon as peaches are harvested. Phygon, three-fourths pound to 100 gallon of water, is the best spray to use for this control, the agents state. For home garden spraying, use one-third ounce of Phygon to each two gallons of water.

## New Marshall Berry Subject of Meeting

Strawberry growers and processors will hear about a new virus-free Marshall strawberry plant at a state wide meeting Thursday, September 27, at Oregon State college. The meeting has been set for the Memorial Union building, starting at 10 a. m. To be discussed with plant and berry growers, as well as processors, will be foundation stock production, new standards for certification as well as cultural information. The Marshall has been the old stand-by in the state's strawberry processing industry.

## Time to Plant Annual Cover Crop Here

Annual cover crops are recommended for western Oregon fruit and nut orchards and canebery plantings. These crops should be seeded early in the fall and knocked down or disked under early in the spring.

Full cover crops used in the Willamette valley include Willamette vetch, hairy vetch, crimson clover, Austrian winter field peas, and winter grains. A combination of a legume and a grain is suggested for the average farm. Vetch and grain are used, at least 100 pounds seed should be seeded per acre. A suggested combination is 35 to 50 pounds of Willamette vetch and 60 to 70 pounds of winter oats or barley.

Where vetch is used alone, the suggested rate per acre is 75 to 90 pounds. On depleted upland soils, winter rye at the rate of 90 to 100 pounds per acre will usually grow where other grains may not give good stands. The main objection to rye as a cover crop is that the rank growth may be hard to knock down during a rainy spring season.

Drilling is suggested for the larger seeded legumes and grains. However, some farmers report good stands by broadcasting the seed and then disking or harrowing.

Nitrogen fertilizers are recommended for use with fall cover crop seeding. Up to 40 pounds available nitrogen per acre is a safe rate that will help fall growth of the cover crop without forcing of the trees or berry plants. Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 200 pounds per acre or 16-20 at 200 to 250 pounds per acre are the highest rates suggested for fall cover crops.

## Twin Jersey Cows Are High Producers For Boring Folk

Registered twin Jersey heifers owned by Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Marshall, Boring, are alike in more ways than just appearance. The twin heifers, named "Star" and "No-Star", because of their markings, have just completed their first lactation. "No-Star" produced 655.7 pounds of butterfat in 10,627 pounds of milk, and "Star" produced 677.1 pounds of butterfat in 10,189 pounds of milk. Both lactations were made in 305 days, and being twins, the heifers were both three years and one month.

The Marshalls have been frequent exhibitors at the Oregon state fair at Salem as well as the Clackamas county fair at Canby.

## Milk Output Costs Tripled In 20 Years

While retail milk prices in the past 20 years have only doubled, milk production costs are three times as high as they were in that period. Feed costs alone per 100 pounds of milk produced, are better than two and one-half times as much today as they were in 1910.

Feed still takes the biggest slice (46 cents) of the dairyman's cost dollar. Labor which figured 23 cents out of each cost dollar 20 years ago, now figures 30 cents. Cost of the cow herself is six times more today than it was in 1910.

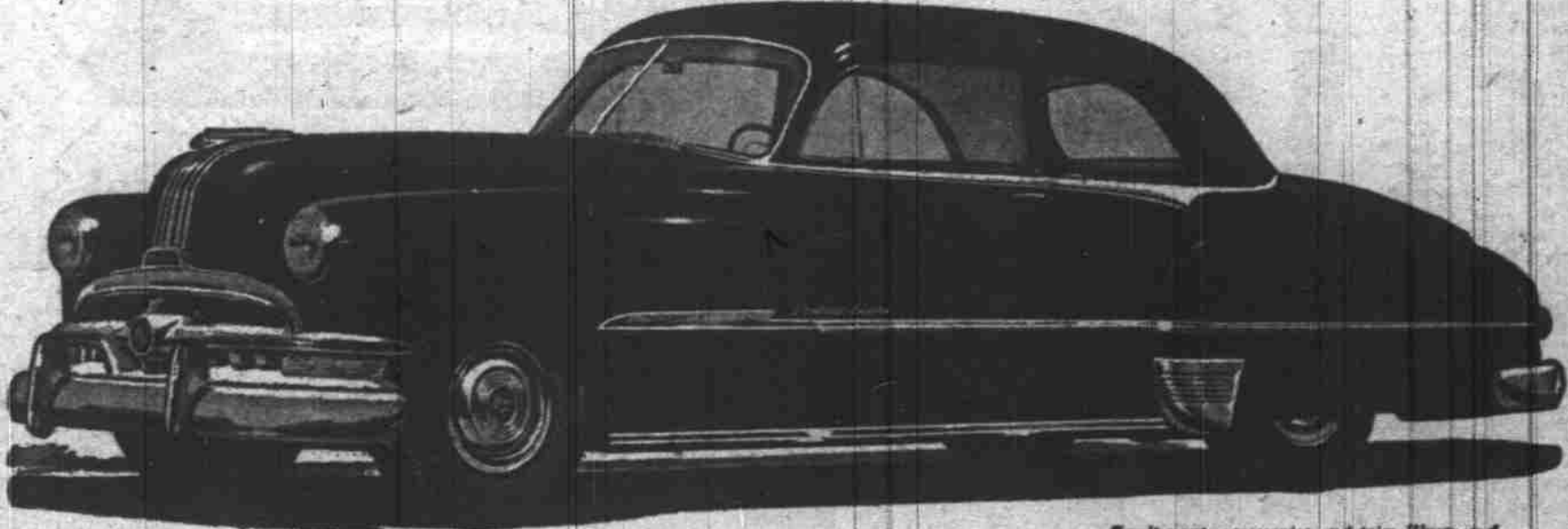
These figures were released this week by D. Curtis Mumford, Oregon State college agricultural economist, who has studied records taken from 60 Willamette valley dairy farms in recent months.



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