

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

## Conservation Award Winner Gives Credit to Family Help

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

TURNER—It couldn't have happened to a better farmer. This opinion was subscribed to, too, by Mrs. John Shifferer, when she remarked: "I'm so proud of John. I'm certainly glad he got the honor of being the most cooperative farm conservationist in the state. He's worked hard on this farm." The two of us were talking at our end of the table.

"You know I couldn't help doing this without Mother's help. She knows just as much about it as I do. I only wish she could go with me on the trip to Arizona," said John a few minutes later when we were talking at that side of the table.

"And that cooperation is one reason why John won the Oregon Soil Conservation farmer-cooperator award," said Ralph Wilson, Salem, chairman of the Santiam Soil Conservation district board and named top conservation board member for the year. As was announced in the Tuesday morning Statesman, the Santiam district was named the top conservation district in the

state this year. John Shifferer was named to top farmer-cooperator in the state.

**A Family Affair**  
Soil conservation must always be a family affair to be successful. No individual can work alone, really, and make a go of it, Wilson explained.

Then I asked John Shifferer on what practices he won the honors.

"You ask someone else that one. I really don't know. The Soil Conservation district has helped us a lot in recent years," was Shifferer's answer.

"Selection wasn't easy—in spite of Mr. Shifferer's excellent farming. This southeast end of Marion County is full of good farmers," Wilson said.

Shifferer had gone along with the soil conservation in all practices that could be applied to his farm, Wilson went on. He cooperated with cover-cropping all steep slopes to hold down erosion. He ditched and drained completely on the lower levels. Permanent pastures were planted, and suggested fertilizer programs were carried out, Wilson explained.

While I got busy on my strawberries, coffee and home-made sugar cookies which Mrs. Shifferer had set before me, in real farm hospitality fashion, I asked Mr. Shifferer to "bring me up" on the history of his farm operations.

John Shifferer, the first (so far as this history goes into the family), moved with his family, onto this farm a few miles south of Turner, on Oct. 11, 1893.

**Came 62 Years Ago**  
"I remember the date real well. It was my fifth birthday," Shifferer (John the II) said. The family came from Elgin, Ill.

"There was just a little old house up here," he went on. (We were sitting in the Shifferer dining room where a view window gave up a beautiful panorama of the valley, clear across to the Cascade range and its mountain peaks. We had followed a little gravel road from the highway below, to get here.) Forty-five years ago, the Shifferers built their first house on the hill top. The present house, of 1928 vintage, a good, roomy house, was built for the second and third generations of Shifferers.

The home place has 96 acres. To this has been added further operations, including 186 acres of low-land on which now lives one of the sons, Carl, a third generation. And in addition, the 85 acres of a brother and sister of John Shifferer, the Second, have been included in the operation. In addition to Carl, Robert is in the John Shifferer & Sons project.

"Years ago we set out a walnut grove on the hillside. It was beautiful. After seven years, we got our first small crop—all jumbo nuts. Then that Oct. 31 frost hit us. The trees were so badly injured, that we had to remove most of them. Italian prunes have been one of our top crops here. We took 40 tons of prunes off our first orchard. Some of these trees were replaced 15 years ago, but there is still one acre of the old 45-year orchard left and this gave an excellent crop last year. So long as I manage this farm there'll be prunes on it," Shifferer said.

So far the farm is dry-land farmed. Besides soil conservation, there is a game conservation project in the form of a 1 1/2-acre duck pond. A fish pond will be added shortly.

Shifferer and Wilson will be guests at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, sponsors of the Conservation Contest at Wigwam Resort and Goodyear Farms at Litchfield Park, Ariz., in November.

In addition to Wilson, the Santiam district has an outstanding heavy equipment program headed by Ed Gilbert of Aumsville. Other supervisors on the Santiam board, with Wilson and Gilbert, are Douglas Heater, Stayton; Max Schultz, Jefferson; Floyd Bates, Salem; Vernon Jette, Shaw, and Samuel Galvin, Turner.

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Farm forestry is part of the conservation practices on the farm of John Shifferer which helped win him the top award in farmer-cooperator soil conservation in Oregon this year. The little Douglas fir at Mr. Shifferer's feet are developing root system before being set out in the forest. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

"More Prunes Planted  
We went out to view the trees. They—which included a 15-year-old orchard—looked excellent. Promise of a very fine crop showed. Over the hill apiece, Shifferer told us a "really pretty orchard" was growing. In it, the trees were just nine years old and in their third year of bearing.

"Those trees in this last orchard are really good. They've been brought up right from the beginning," their owner claimed, as he explained that years ago "we didn't know all about prune raising as we do now. All we tried to do was push the trees—we didn't think of long term bearing." Forty years. That looked like comparatively "long term bearing" to me.

But even the older trees had been cover-cropped in recent years and this gave them new life, I was told.

"Some of you farmers don't think of cover-cropping as rotation farming," said H. Ralphs, work unit conservativist in charge of the Santiam district office in Stayton. Ralphs had just been at the strawberry brunch.

"But actually if you cover-crop properly, which Mr. Shifferer does, then your crop rotation and your soils are built up even in orchard lands," he continued. "Mr. Shifferer used nitro-phos on his cover crop in the prune orchard, and so fertilized through the cover crop."

Ralphs brought to our attention then, a row of four or five inch-high Douglas fir trees growing amid rows of carrots, peas, beans, in the nearest kitchen garden I had ever seen.

"There are 10,000 Douglas fir trees in a nursery on top of the hill," he said. These will be used to plant 10 acres of logged-over land on the far hillside of the farm. They will be planted in November. Already there are 2,000 in one "patch". On a low-land spot, 1,000 Cascara trees will be planted.

"Why are they in nursery rows and not planted out directly?" I queried, thinking of other farm woodland projects I had seen.

"Well, we tried some directly, but the trees are so tiny that brush, ferns, and wild grasses choked out some of them. I find they do better if they have a year in the nursery row to develop their root system than to be planted directly into the woods lot," I was told.

"I was in Germany during World War I," Shifferer began. "I still remember the beautiful forests all trimmed and thinned out—just like Marion Square in Salem. So I trimmed and thinned out a part of our woodland. It makes good pasture. And like in Germany, I will plant a tree when I take one out. . . . Just think of what our cut over, logged-off areas would be like now, if we had done that down through the years," the farmer-operator said, and his wife added: "I never saw anyone so after trees. John plants them in the most artistic places. He covers the farm, and they all grow."

Ralphs agreed that the thinning operation on the standing woodland was "beautiful to behold."

**Supports Beef Project**  
There is a trial field of Montgomery Red clover, a clover that matures late, which if experiments prove successful, will be combined later with timothy grass to make a late crop that avoids the present haying rains.



H. Ralphs, work unit conservativist for the Santiam district with offices at Stayton, and Ralph Wilson, chairman of the Santiam Soil Conservation district, look over the farm plans which won for John Shifferer, Turner, the individual honors in the state. Wilson was winner of the second top honor, that of high point man in the district governing bodies. Wilson and Shifferer to go Arizona in November on a paid vacation trip as part of their awards. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

### Nut Growers To Market, Pack Holly

English holly will be packed and marketed this season by Northwest Nut Growers for Holly Growers, Inc., John W. Graham and Gordon Hanson, presidents of the two cooperatives announced Wednesday.

Plans are going ahead rapidly for cutting, dipping, packing, selling and shipping. John E. Trunk, general manager of northwest said. He added that his organization had been "seeking diversification for some time, and Oregon holly fits into the picture." The holly will be processed at the quiet season so far as nuts are concerned, Trunk added.

Trunk also explained that many of Northwest's fibert and walnut members are holly producers, also.

"Some holly growers have been able to find fairly satisfactory markets as individuals," Hanson said, "but our members feel that the only opportunity for a healthy holly industry in the future is through a cooperative effort such as this."

Information on the new cooperatives' venture will be handled through the Portland office at 3601 N. Columbia Blvd.

### Shipping Fever Biggest Killer Of Livestock

Pasteurella, a livestock shipping fever, killed more animals than any other livestock disease reported in April, according to Dr. K. J. Peterson, chief veterinarian for the state department of agriculture. The disease killed all 78 swine of a Multnomah county herd afflicted with it.

Swine erysipelas was next on the livestock killer list, causing 24 swine mortalities. Seventeen of 41 cases reported in Yamhill county proved fatal.

Brucellosis moved into the top spot as the most widespread livestock disease during April with 135 cases reported. The increase was due to a number of reactors in two range cattle herds. Otherwise the number of brucellosis reactors is normal, reports Dr. Peterson.

Infectious keratitis, a pink eye disease in livestock, was the next most widespread disease with well over 100 cases reported mostly in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

### Strawberry 5-Ton Club Back in Action

Membership in the Five Ton Strawberry Club is open to any strawberry grower in Oregon or Southwest Washington who harvests at least five tons per acre from a total of five or more producing acres. The "Five Ton Club" is sponsored by the Oregon-Washington Strawberry Council. The main purpose is to help increase the average yield of strawberries per acre.

Application blanks can be obtained from the offices of county extension agents in strawberry-producing counties. In some counties, including Marion, growers can obtain blanks from processor fieldmen. Upon the completion of his strawberry harvest, the grower can fill in the blank and return it to his county extension agent for checking and forwarding to the secretary of the strawberry council.

In 1955, Marion county had 40 growers who qualified for membership in the "Five Ton Club." This was nearly half of the 90 growers who qualified from Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Although no one expects this many growers to qualify in 1956, County Extension Agent D. L. Rasmussen says Marion County will have some growers who qualify for membership. These and other eligible growers will be invited to the annual strawberry industry banquet slated for Friday evening, August 10, in Portland. Additional details on the banquet and program will be available later.

### Root Fungus Not Native To Valley

Phytophthora cinnamomi, a fungus capable of causing serious root rot in many kinds of plants, is not widely distributed in western Oregon and is likely not a native organism in this state. L. B. Loring, pathologist for the state department of agriculture, made this announcement at a recent Phytophthora conference at Oregon State College.

Loring's information was based on a recent survey of 108 samplings of rhododendrons, an apparently preferred host. The soil and root samples were from western Oregon locations. Forty-four were from home and cultivated plantings distributed throughout the Willamette valley. The remaining 64 were largely from wild plants growing in the Cascade, Coast and Siskiyou mountains.

Loring's survey in home and wild plants is independent of a phytophthora study made earlier in Oregon nurseries by the department's bureau of nursery services. The earlier survey found this fungus in a few Oregon nurseries, for which a control program was mapped by the nursery officials.

### Lawyer Given Suspension By High Court

PORTLAND — Attorney James I. Means, who had pleaded guilty to a federal charge of failing to file income tax returns, was suspended from law practice for six months Wednesday by the State Supreme Court.

The Board of Governors of the Oregon State Bar had recommended a suspension of one year.

The court said it found the offense was undoubtedly a violation of laws, but also found mitigating circumstances. It said Means had maintained all of his records, had cooperated with the investigation and appeared to have dealt at all times honestly with his clients and in all his professional activities.

### Portland Girl Orchestra to Tour Again

PORTLAND — The all-girl Portland Chamber Orchestra which toured Europe and Scandinavia last year has planned another tour for 1957.

Conductor Boris Sirpo, professor of music at Lewis and Clark College, said a 2 1/2-week tour is being planned with concerts in his native Finland, and in Sweden, Norway, England, France and Italy.

Sirpo, who has just returned from Europe where he made arrangements for the tour, said that the U.S. State Department has made inquiries about whether he would consider taking the 16-girl orchestra to Asia for a good will series of concerts.

### Polk County Club Picnic Set Sunday

The annual Polk County 20-40 club family picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, June 24 at the Buell Park, according to Bob Scharf, president.

Scharf stated that all 20-40 members, their families and friends are invited to participate in this family event, which will get underway with a potluck dinner at 1 p.m.

The club will furnish ice cream, coffee and pop for the dinner.

Scharf stated that in case of rain, the picnic will be held in the Buell grange hall.

The 20-40 club, which meets regularly the second Tuesday of each month, starting in September, climaxes the year's activities with a family picnic in June. The club does not meet in July and August due to rush of farm work. The next regular meeting will be held Sept. 11, Scharf stated.

### Lower Valley Bank Debts Note Increase

EUGENE—Bank debts in the lower Willamette Valley area, including Salem, showed an increase of 20.5 per cent for May, 1956, over May a year ago. At the same time, the area reported a rise of 6.3 per cent over April, 1956.

The debts are collected monthly from 152 Oregon banks by the bureau of business research at the University of Oregon. The bank debts represent the dollar value of checks drawn against the deposit accounts of individuals and business firms. Debts are regarded as good indicators of current business activity.

Totals for the state for May were \$1,601,724,448, an increase of 13.5 per cent over May 1955, and a 2.5 per cent increase over April.

### Post T. S. Eliot Leaves Hospital

LONDON — T. S. Eliot, 67-year-old poet and playwright, left the hospital for home Wednesday after eight days of treatment for heart trouble.

The American-born Nobel prize winner for literature had an attack aboard the liner Queen Mary while returning from the United States.

### Gas Refund Forms Now Obtainable

Forms for claiming refund of federal tax on gasoline used on the farm are available now at the county extension agent's offices. The application for tax refund is in card form and contains complete instructions for filing. Farmers may pick up copies at Room 75 (courthouse). Forms will be supplied to gas companies on request for distribution to their customers, according to Oris Rudd County Extension Agent.

Claims are to be filed between June 30 and Oct. 1 for refund of the 2 cent tax on gasoline used on the farm between June 1 and June 30 of this year. Subsequent refund claims will be filed on a fiscal year basis ending June 30 each year. Farmers should keep sufficient records of gasoline used to enable the Internal Revenue Service to verify all claims.

Farmers may apply for the tax refund on all gasoline used in their farming operations. This includes gasoline used in hired equipment as well as in the farmer's own equipment.

### There's a Trick To Getting Milk Out of Cows

How do you go about getting your cows ready for milking? Wisconsin Agriculturist and Farmer says the recommended practice is to wash only one cow ahead of the machine, instead of going down the line and washing all of them. But you'll actually be time ahead.

Research has shown that a hormone made in the cow's pituitary gland helps speed up the milking process. This hormone contracts the muscles that force the milk out of the cells where it's stored in the udder.

But the hormone only does this work for a few minutes. If you wait too long the stimulation caused by the warm water has worn off and you're right back where you started.

### Hen Disease Problem of Veterinarian

Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser, a veterinarian for the State Department of Agriculture, was recently designated to spend his entire time on poultry disease problems throughout Oregon. Formerly Dr. Bodenweiser spent a portion of his time on poultry diseases and the remainder on general livestock disease control.

Dr. K. J. Peterson, state veterinarian for the department, made the appointment because he believes Oregon's multi-million dollar poultry industry needs the assistance of a full-time veterinarian from the department veterinary staff.

In working with the poultry industry, Bodenweiser will visit poultry ranches, hatcheries, broiler operations and processing plants. He will also work closely with the Oregon State College diagnostic laboratory in poultry disease problems. Bodenweiser will be available to assist practicing veterinarians in diagnosing and treating poultry diseases.

Bodenweiser has three years experience with a large midwest poultry producing manufacturer and 17 years general veterinary practice in which he handled large midwest poultry and turkey flocks. He has been with the agriculture department about a year.

### Less Onions Being Sent Than in 1955

Fruit and vegetable inspections in Oregon last month totaled 411 cars. This was the second lowest point of the shipping year, because most products were shipped earlier in the season, reports W. L. Close, federal-state shipping supervisor for the state department of agriculture.

The May inspection volume was 558 cars under a year earlier and 445 cars under May, 1954. Potato shipments, the greatest item inspected, followed this same trend. Last month inspectors checked 244 cars of potatoes, over 1,000 cars under April of last year and almost 600 cars under May, 1955.

Onion and apple inspections were down, too. Onions were almost three times less than a year earlier and apples were down twice the May, 1955 volume. Peas reversed the picture, however, with 101 cars, a 75 car increase over May, 1955.

### Bean Picking Price to Be Set

This year's bean picking price will be decided by Oregon State Bean Growers Association membership at a meeting in Mayflower Hall, Salem, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 28, reports Gordon Walker, Independence, president.

Last year, pickers received a 2 1/2 cents a pound.

The association will also elect officers at the meeting.

### Morse Rejects Delegate Job

PORTLAND — Sen. Wayne Morse said Tuesday he will work for re-election rather than as an alternate delegate to the Democratic national convention. Sen. Neuberger and Rep. Green had asked that he serve as an alternate for them.

Morse, although turning down the request, said that "if they need any help from me they'll get it. I don't need to be an alternate to help them."

### BAPTISTS TO REORGANIZE

SEATTLE — The American Baptist Convention Tuesday night adopted a reorganization plan to centralize authority in the General Council, administrative wing of the 1,500,000-member sect.

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### Farm Calendar

- June 23-24 — 10th All-Arabian Horse Show, State Fairgrounds, Yakima.
- June 28-29 — 7th annual fertilizer conference, Chinook Hotel, Yakima.
- June 28 — Salem Chamber of Commerce Farm Tour.
- June 28 — Oregon State Bean Growers Association meeting, Mayflower Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- June 30-July 1 — Pacific Coast District Sokol Gymnastic Festival, Seaside.
- July 1-4 — Molalla Buckaroo.
- July 15 — Aberdeen Angus Field Day, Hawthorn Farm, Hillsboro.
- July 20 — Wheat Quota Vote.
- July 22-28 — National Farm Safety Week.
- July 26 — 4th annual OSC purebred livestock sale, OSC 1 p.m.
- July 29 — Oregon State Jersey Cattle Club picnic, Sunset Bay, North Bend.
- July 31-Aug. 4 — Santiam Bean Festival, Stayton.
- Aug. 4 — Willamette Valley Ram Sale, Albany, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 12 — Clackamas and Marion County Joint Jersey Club Picnic, Rivercrest Farm, Wilsonville.
- Aug. 15-18 — Clackamas County Golden Jubilee Fair, Canby.
- Aug. 23-25 — Yamhill County Fair, McMinnville.
- Aug. 24-26 — Polk County Fair, Rickreall.
- Sept. 1-8 — Oregon State Fair, Salem.
- Sept. 12-15 — Pendleton Round-up.
- Sept. 20-22 — North Marion County Fair, Woodburn.
- Sept. 21 — Annual Oregon Turkey Improvement Association, 3 a.m., OSC.
- Oct. 15-18 — 10th annual Town and Country Church Conference, OSC.
- Oct. 20-27 — Pacific International, Portland.
- Nov. 8-10 — Oregon Wool Growers annual convention, Imperial Hotel, Portland.
- Nov. 12-14 — Oregon Weed Conference, Bend.
- Nov. 15-17 — Western Oregon Livestock Association annual meeting, Eugene Hotel.
- Dec. 3-5 — Oregon Seed Growers League convention, Eugene Hotel.
- Dec. 4-5 — Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington, Yamhill Fair Building, McMinnville. pi 7kcmfwp jp jp qp kwk



Max M. Manchester, Portland, will manage the horse show at the Oregon State Fair this fall.

### Horse Show Returns to 1956 Fair

STATE FAIRGROUNDS — Completion of arrangements to stage a combination rodeo and horse show at this year's Oregon State Fair in Salem, Sept. 1 through 8, has been announced by the fair commission. It has been six years since the last horse show and three years since the last rodeo at the fair.

Selected to manage the horse show is Max M. Manchester, Portland, a veteran in the Pacific Northwest Horse Show circles, and a recognized judge by both the American and Canadian home show associations.

Manchester served as steward for the last two Pacific International horse shows and managed the Portland civic horse show. He is a past president of the associated Hunt Clubs of Oregon and has been secretary-treasurer for three years. He has been president of the Portland Hunt Club four times, on that group's board for 11 years.

Manchester will take a leave of absence without pay from his position as executive secretary of the Public Employees Retirement board to be the fair horse show manager, according to Dr. E. B. Stewart, Roseburg, fair commission chairman.

### War Waged on Soil Root Pests

Fields and garden pests that feed on plant roots are forcing rapid expansion of underground chemical warfare by growers of high-cost ornamental and other specialty crops.

Chemical control measures this summer will be largely on valuable lands near cities where specially growers are combating the destructive pests with soil fumigation chemicals and equipment ranging from hand-operated guns to tractor-drawn applicators.

Soil fumigants—liquid chemicals that turn to deadly gases when released beneath the ground surface—are popular weapons against such pests as nematodes, symphylids, and certain insects that eat roots.

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