

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Advantages of 'Gracious Living' Maintained on Polk County Farm

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

"Gracious living" are the only words which actually describe family and home life at the Eldon Riddle farm, which lies between Dallas, Independence and Monmouth school and trading center.

The house itself—now about eight years old—is comparatively large, peaceful, comfortable and lived in by five in a neatly kept lawn shaded by four huge maples, and against a backdrop of coast hills, green pastures, white farm buildings and fences.

Living on the farm—or farms, to be more correct—are Eldon and Laura Riddle, their five children, one dog, 70 sheep, one horse, one very important, according to four-year-old Kathy—a cat with four kittens.

A College Senior

Bills Jean, eldest of the children, just completed her third year at the University of Oregon. Her major is sociology. She is 17 and has made three trips to Chicago and Kansas City with the Future Farmer contingent, will enter Oregon State College this fall. David, Elizabeth and Kathy will remain at home, attending school at Monmouth, 2½ miles away.

We found Eldon pitching a little hay away from the fence, readying for the hay bales.

Eldon greeted us pleasantly, as we sat at first chatting about his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Riddle, whose home farm in the old Camp Adair—before camp was established south of Monmouth—was one of the show places of the area. William Riddle was the first Willamette Valley sheep raiser to import purebred Romney's from New Zealand.

"You still have some of the strain," I asked Eldon. He said he did. The sheep are better, the Romney's, Southdown and Suffolk. "The Romney's, an excellent wool sheep, go mostly to the farmers who want to increase the wool production by doing some cross breeding," Eldon told us. The Suffolk are excellent range sheep and go to buyers throughout the country. The Southdowns furnish the fast growing fat market lambs.

Chiefly Breeding Stock

Only a few late "runts" go to the market from the Riddle bands. These are culled out along in July and August. Other Riddle sheep are sold for breeders.

"We run from 700 to 900 head—which includes ewes, bucks and lambs," Eldon answered to questions. "We do not closely but there are only a few actual culls in the flock each year."

County records show that the Riddle's now farm some 900 acres, which includes the old home place on the Adair grounds.

"We bought this back after the war but there are no buildings there—the government tore these all down," Eldon said. There are, he explained, 275 acres in the place which in recent years has become "home" to the family.

The farms are planned so that a minimum of farm help is needed. Only one man is working the year around on the Riddle farm. There is much more seasonal labor, particularly through haying and grain harvest.

"Hay fits in with our summer pasturing," Riddle continued in answer to more questions. "Actually there are now 200 acres in red clover, counting the new plantings, the three-year olds, and the fields in between these in age."

Considerable hay is fed on the farm to the sheep. But also considerable is sold off the farm in baled form.

"In late winter and early spring we pasture the clover, letting the ewes run there with their lambs. Then in May we take off the sheep, clip the clover, turn the sheep and lambs out on the permanent pasture, and in about six weeks we take the lambs from the ewes and return the former to the clover."

Pasture Most Crops

I gathered that Riddle pastures "almost everything." He said he pastured his hairy vetch and his wheat up to May 1, and his rye grass all winter.

"I have 42 acres of hairy vetch from which I took the sheep May 1, and wish I had left them until May 20—it was that rank growing, but we couldn't have them on later than May 1 to 10, most years. A pretty good rule of thumb is to quit pasturing vetch and wheat by May 10 each year."

I was told. This year has been an "exceptional year for pasture and forage grass," Riddle said.

He sees his clover with sudan grass and rye usually the latter part of May—this year it was May 23. The sudan grass and rye make excellent summer pasture, being ready to use within a month after planting.

While grey oats make excellent livestock food, the sheep pull the plants out root and all, making it more short-lived for pasturing.

"I'm willing to try anything in a fertilizer program, I rather like to experiment," Riddle said in reply to questions concerning his fertilizer programs. "Usually I give the clover 60 pounds of actual phosphate. Planting so much clover on the ground, we do not need to use much nitrogen."

Arranged For Farm

The house is delightfully arranged for a farm home. The living room, with its big picture window, looks across the highway over fields to the south. It is at the right of the entrance hallway.

To the left of the hall is the dining room, opening onto the kitchen, both of which also face the highway, with the west windows of the kitchen looking toward the lane leading to the barn, as well.

From the kitchen, one enters the large utility room, nicely finished end. In the office, there is another into this office from the outside.

and comfortably holding the pretty outdoor entrance, as well as an entrance to the living room.

In the winter when it is wet and muddy, people who want to see Eldon on farm business always has about going into the living room, with the completely finished floor, with an additional bath.

They like that," Mrs. Riddle told us as she showed us through the house. Sometimes, she said, the office or den, is turned into a guest sleeping room. And she added, the upstairs above the garage had been completely finished for sleeping, with an additional bath.

Farm House Follows 'Ranch House' Style



This is one of the many attractive Polk County farm homes—the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Riddle, two and a half miles from Monmouth. The coast hills in the background give a nice backdrop to the farm scene. (Statesman Photo)



Eldon Riddle (left) admits he is "pretty lucky"—one of the nicest "crops" he has been growing on his farm are the five children, of which Elizabeth, 6, shown here is one. The youngsters say they like life on the farm, and at they become old enough take part in 4-H club work. (Statesman Farm Photo)

Care Needed In Handling Pesticides

Pesticide chemicals make it possible for farmers to win the annual battle with insects, but the fight remains a hazardous one each year, reports Robert W. Every, extension entomologist at Oregon State College.

Don't Kill Yourself

The problem farmers face is to kill insects and other pests without killing themselves. Every says, "Chemicals must also be applied in such a way and at such a time that no harmful residues are left on food crops when they reach market."

Nothing is as closely regulated as the nation's food supply. Every adds, "The federal food and drug administration, under the Miller bill, has set up tolerances limiting the amount of pesticide that can remain on food crops when they are harvested. Food crops are regularly inspected as they move to market, and any crops carrying more chemical residue than listed or a residue from a pesticide chemical that hasn't been approved for use on the crop, are subject to seizure."

Choose With Care

To protect themselves from personal danger and possible financial loss, Every advises farmers to use only those pesticides approved by the food and drug administration—and to use them in a way that will make it possible for the crop to pass inspections at harvest time.

Growers can get information on which pesticide chemicals to use, and the correct rate and method of application, from their local county extension offices.

Some pesticides are extremely dangerous and should be applied only by an experienced person who is fully equipped with necessary safety equipment. Among these are TEPP and Systox. These materials should never be used on home gardens or stored around the home.

Farm Calendar

June 13-15—Lebanon Strawberry Fair
June 13-15—Final day of annual Oregon State Grange meeting, Bend
June 13-Annual meeting of Oregon Broiler Growers Association, Withycombe, OSC
June 14-Annual meeting of Oregon Broiler Growers Association, Withycombe, OSC
June 14-Final meeting of Waldo Hills Community Club before Summer Vacation, Waldo Hills Hall, five miles south of Silverton, 8 p.m.
June 15-19—Western Poultry Congress, San Diego, Calif.
June 20-Wheat Quota Referendum
June 23-Oregon Milking Short-horn Breeders' annual picnic, Harry Wicks farm, McMinnville
June 24-25—Western Society of Crops Science annual meeting, OSC
June 25-28—8th annual Fertilizer Conference of Pacific Northwest, Benson Hotel, Portland
June 25-28-Pacific Branch of Entomological Society of American, Multnomah Hotel, Portland
June 25-Annual meeting Pacific Wool Growers, Portland
July 2-4-St. Paul Rodeo
July 2-7-Willamette River Days Festival, Salem
July 8-9-Livestock Judges training school, OSC
July 10-12-Astoria Regatta
July 20-Oregon Broiler Association Festival, Willamalane Park, Springfield, noon to 7 p.m.
July 25-Annual Aberdeen Angus field day, Hoots Ranch, Grants Pass
July 30-Aug. 3-Santiam Bean Festival, Layton
Aug. 1-10-Multnomah County Fair, Gresham
Aug. 2-Willamette Valley Ram Sale, Albany
Aug. 8-Fifth annual OSC livestock sale, Judging Pavilion, OSC, 1 p.m.
Aug. 8-10-Newberg Berrian Festival

Bent Growers Voting Places Set in Valley

A Highland Beirgrass growers referendum on the proposal to create a commodity commission will be held June 24 to 28 according to the state department of agriculture. The referendum follows public hearings held during the month of April.

Paul T. Rowell, chief of the division of market development, says under the 1957 amendments to the commodity commission act, any producer of Highland Beirgrass seed who registered with the department at least twenty days prior to the referendum is eligible to vote.

Each properly registered owner, operator, renter or share landlord is entitled to vote including a single vote for a partnership, corporation or any other business entity.

The polling places are as follows:

June 24 to 28, 4 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the county extension agents' offices in the courthouses at Salem and Albany, and in the post office building at McMinnville.

June 25, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Union Hills Grange Hall, 6 miles northeast of Sublimity just off the Silver Creek Falls highway, and at the Mt. Pleasant school north-east of Seilo.

June 26, 7 to 9 p.m., in the fire hall at Sublimity.

Rowell states any eligible voter who cannot cast his vote at one of the polling places due to disability or absence, may arrange with the department to cast his vote by absentee ballot.

The commission will be created if affirmative votes cast by two-thirds of the registered producers voting and if the total of those voting produced more than one-third of the total production in Oregon in 1956.

Attention Cherry Growers

This highly effective insecticide with remarkably long residual action is recommended by Experiment Stations in Washington and Oregon (and in other areas) to control cherry fruit fly.

PERTHANE is one of the safest insecticides available. It has been granted a residue tolerance of 15 ppm and can be sprayed to within two days of harvest to control late season flare-up of flies.

PERTHANE is economical. Often just a few applications will keep your cherry orchards safe from fly damage all season. It is available as an emulsion concentrate or as a dust from your supplier. See him about PERTHANE today. Ask for your copy of our folder, "Control Cherry Fruit Fly with PERTHANE."

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Fruit Fly Program to Continue

"Continue dusting or spraying for cherry fruit fly control at 7 to 10 day intervals until harvest," reminds County Extension Agent D. L. Rasmussen. Repeat applications after rains.

There has been a heavy emergence of cherry flies under emergency cages in the Cherry Hill orchard near Maclean during the past weekend. Growers must assume a similar emergence is occurring in their orchards if warm cherries were found in 1956. These flies must be killed promptly.

Lead arsenate, methoxychlor, parathion, or rotenone are recommended control materials. The purpose of these materials is to kill the cherry fruit flies before they lay eggs under the skin of the cherries. Once eggs are laid, it is too late to prevent wormy cherries. Sprays or dusts must be repeated so that protective cover can be maintained on the trees.

There is no tolerance for wormy cherries at processing plants. Whether cherries are sold or used at home, a cherry fruit fly control program must be carried on to prevent wormy fruit.

Loopers Said Damaging in Mint Fields

Alfalfa loopers are doing varying amounts of damage in the Tall-Jefferson area peppermint fields. Marion County Extension Agent, Hollis Ottaway, says that while the loopers are found in nearly every field, only a few fields will justify control methods.

The greatest damage occurs in fields, or parts of fields, where the growth is very good. In these areas, loopers are found on the terminal growth area of the plant, and often on the ground.

At some stages of growth, loopers often resemble, and are often mistaken for, cutworms. Dr. H. H. Crowell, Oregon State College Entomologist, reports that although these loopers are observed in many crops, they seldom require control programs. Dr. Crowell suggests that DDT be used at the rate of 1½ to 2.0 pounds of actual per acre in fields where the looper is damaging the peppermint. This can be applied as either spray or dust, and by ground or plane.

New Faith Costs Father His Children

DUBLIN, Ireland, June 12 (AP)—Five Irish children whose father had become a Jehovah's Witness were made wards of the Dublin High Court today and ordered brought up as Roman Catholics.

Mrs. Josephine May, mother of the children ranging in age from 15 months to 11 years, had asked the court to prevent her husband from removing her three boys and two girls from schools where they get a Catholic education.

The Catholic-born husband told of his decision in 1955 to leave the Church and join the Jehovah's Witnesses and said he wanted his children brought up in his new faith.

Mrs. May said her husband tried to enroll the children first in a Methodist school, then in an Episcopal school, and finally in a Jewish school, but to get them away from Catholic teachings, but that all had turned him down because of the family quarrel.

Body Identified

PASCO, June 12 (AP)—A body found in the Columbia River near McNary Dam has been tentatively identified several hours later as that of Mrs. Sam Anderson, 66, who had been missing from her home here since Thursday.

Ranch Ramblings

By JOURNAL REPORTER

NICE GOING—If you are hankering for some pretty country driving, take a run into Polk County south of the Dallas-Salem highway. We started out toward Independence, and before we got there, took off west on a gravel road. We have never seen such beautiful vetch and wheat. We became rather accustomed to Marion County's flattened large crops in the North Howell-Mt. Angel area since the heavy rains and flood.

Evidently the over-ambitious storm-maintained strictly Polk County. Everything we found in our drive was standing up very straight and proper.

CROPS MAILED US—We were particularly impressed by the excellent wheat growing along the roadside, and we tried west toward Mt. Angel. While the vetch was tall, the roadside appeared to be big and full of promise.

Barley was very considerable in the best fields we still very small and would have to do considerable growing before it is ready to compete in the annual State Fair barley belt contest. Growers set between Rickreid-Dallas-Monmouth-Independence have always captured this coveted prize.

We haven't asked Howard Maple yet, but we imagine that the contest will go as usual.

A PLACE TO EAT—We've heard a lot about eating at the old Monmouth hotel, so we stopped there at noon and to one stretched the complimentary remarks at all. The quiet place serves excellent food at very reasonable prices. And we found the variety pleasant, too. For if you can get a complete kitchen—almost dinner—including some excellent home-made pease-berrie the day we happened in.

LIKE "LIFE," WE GO TO A PARTY—At the State Fairgrounds, the Fair board members were there, so were Governor and Mrs. Bob Holmes, and all their new and the few old (in point of service) superintendents of departments at the fair. The affair gave us an opportunity to meet "Who's Who" in the state and to see the order of the evening, and what a BEAUTIFUL day—all in State Fair colors—lavender predominating.

It was a pleasant affair—and we learned about some new plans. The Fair building will not be started until after fair but will probably be ready for the 1958 event. The garden is getting a complete going over, and the waterfall with its mountainous rock—all gone—but we gather there is to be some sort of stream or something. The parking area off from Silverton Gate, the one in the grove of oak trees, will also be gone as a parking area. It is to be a picnic area with some 40 to 50 new picnic tables added. The fence immediately back of the Fair Administration building is being moved back to the third road right inside the fairgrounds. Talking away parking spaces? Well, it seems that some space has been provided for around 1800 cars on what was once a dump on the outside of the grounds. Anyway it was interesting listening at the pre-arranged party.

PICKERS STILL NEEDED—Say strawberry pickers. Silverton Hills are in the peak season. There is a lot of good picking out around Brooks, Haverhill—dozens of places. Get in touch with your farm labor office. Pickers are making nice spending money this year.

SOME DISEASE is being reported in the onion fields—"Pink root," the growers say. However, one grower said that "we always have some of this with us."

ANOTHER MEETING—The Marion County Jersey Cattle Club is meeting Sunday at the home of the Leonard Hays, Rt. 1, Box 232, Astoria. The farm lies one mile south of Shaw. There will be the usual no-host dinner at 1 p.m. (and what a dinner) and plans for the state picnic to be held later in July or early August will be discussed.

Father of Divided Siamese Twins Sued by Ex-Wife

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, June 12 (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. William N. Freeman, parents of Siamese twins born April 24 and successfully separated May 23, Tuesday welcomed home their boys, Johnny and Jimmy, from the hospital.

About the same time, the 43-year-old father learned that he has been charged with non-support of seven minor children by his former wife.

The charge was filed by Mrs. Georgia Freeman, Kittanning, Pa., who said she and Freeman were married Oct. 21, 1935. A hearing was set for June 27 in Domestic Relations Court here.

Plywood Group Elects

GEARHART, Ore., June 12 (AP)—The Douglas Fir Plywood Association's 21st annual meeting ended Tuesday after electing an its new president A. W. Agnew, Sonoma, Calif. He succeeds B. C. Hancock, Portland.

'Solar' Clock Run by Light

NEW YORK, June 12 (AP)—General Time Corp. said that it has developed a new "solar" clock which is operated by light.

The clock requires no electric cord, is completely portable, and requires no winding or battery recharges.

Donald J. Hawthorne, president, said the clock contains a series of voltage generators when exposed to incandescent light or sunlight. These cells generate voltage which charges an accumulator cell, this, in turn, operates the clock mechanism.

Hawthorne said that if exposed to light from time to time, the clock will run indefinitely without further attention.

Umpqua Search Ends

ROSEBURG, Ore., June 12 (AP)—An organized search ended here for John Q. Vickers, about 26, Dillard, Ore., who Sunday was pitched into the North Umpqua River from a small boat.

Michigan GI Involved in Girard Case

DETROIT, Mich., June 12 (AP)—The mother of a Detroit area soldier said today he "must" be sent to military hospital "in lieu of being sent to a court-martial."

The soldier is Army Specialist 3-C Victor N. Nickel, whose mother, Mrs. Oscar A. Edwards, lives in suburban Inkster.

Mrs. Edwards found the Detroit Times that her son wrote her in March that the reason she had not heard from him was because he had been "questioned" so much about the shooting.

Charged With Manslaughter

Girard has been charged with manslaughter and faces trial in a Japanese court for killing a Japanese woman who was foraging for scrap metal at an Army firing range.

Nickel wrote his mother "New I am an associate to the fact and am facing a court-martial."

He had been assigned with Girard to guard duty at the firing range.

In his letter Nickel said "I didn't shoot the woman. I am innocent but it's got to be proven. I need \$50 for a civilian attorney as I don't want an Army lawyer."

Mrs. Edwards said she was unable to send the money, she said she could not accept a telephone call from her son on Easter because of the cost.

Was Present at Shooting

Meanwhile, the Columbia Broadcasting System reported on a radio news broadcast it had learned that Nickel went to Army authorities in Japan last Saturday and told them he was present when the rifle-range shooting occurred.

CBS said its information was that Nickel did so upon becoming frightened by the growing publicity given the case, but voluntarily and with the knowledge that his act might implicate him also.

106 Iraqi Officials Suspended in Purge

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 12 (AP)—The Iraqi government suspended 106 officials Tuesday in a roundup of a year's work by a purge committee formed to clean the administrative machinery of corruption. The action brought to more than 300 the number of officials fired in the investigation.

Among officials fired were Ahmed al-Sadi, director general of finance.

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