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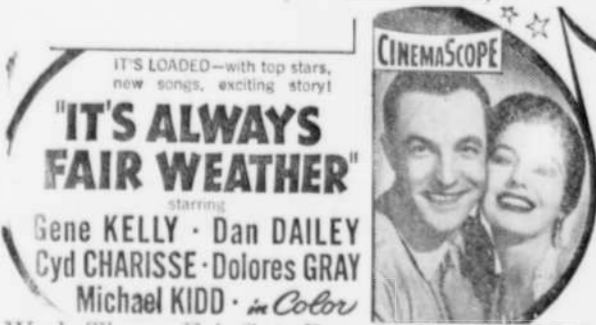
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Sun. Mon. Tue., Dec. 11-12-13,



NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

by J. J. Inskeep, Extension Agent

Notes by the Wayside

A short time back we described the field corn harvesting operations conducted by Otto Lucht and his sons west of Molalla. At that time we described hand harvesting operations as they existed in the middle Atlantic states and the midwest 30 years ago. We did not remember how many bushels a good "husker" could pick in a day.

Now comes a letter from Ora Keith, Canby. He tells us that he has picked in many Nebraska fields where it would hurry a man to pick 50 bushels a day. In exceptionally good fields, a real good picker might pick as much as 90 to 100 bushels.

—o—
This reminds us that one of the great weather damage items suffered this fall was not due altogether to the unseasonable freeze at all but to excessive rainfall which stopped corn harvest before it was well started. Extension agent Clive Cook estimates that better than 50 percent of our field corn acreage remains in the field.

Exceptionally heavy fall rains made it impossible to take harvesting machinery in the field. The heavy November freeze caused excessive lodging. "However", Clive Cook continues, "a good many growers expected to 'hog off' these fields which are heavily interplanted to rape."

We may expect considerable rotting of immature ears in these unharvested fields. And, surprisingly enough, the loss from wild ducks is considerable.

Louie, our hunting and fishing partner from out Molalla way, says that the wild ducks are now doing consid-

erable damage. "I have been doing a bit of duck hunting in the corn fields around the neighborhood" Louie reports. "We do not have the number of ducks now that may be expected in December, January, and February. During past years I have seen them descend on corn fields by the thousands. Just think of the amount of corn four or five thousand ducks can eat each night. Those I have shot this season, at Malheur, have been full of corn, and not the liquid kind either."

We have heard some tall tales around this county about corn yield increases from the use of magnesium-bearing fertilizers.

During a recent soils conference on the Oregon State college campus this came up for discussion.

The soils department is quite reluctant to make recommendations at this time. There are two factors responsible for this reluctance.

1. Research in other places does not necessarily apply to our soils of Clackamas county.

The actual amount of magnesium found in the soil of a given field may or may not be significant. The relationship between the number of pounds of potassium found per acre and the number of pounds of magnesium may be significant.

For instance, if the potassium content is not too high but sufficient, then the magnesium content does not need to be very high. But if the potassium content is very high, then the magnesium content must also be relatively high. It is quite possible that we have many soils with high potassium content and a relatively low magnesium content. Where this is true, use of dolomitic limestone or magnesium sulphate might be expected to increase crop yields.

In the meantime, the soils department is stepping up research pertaining to the need for magnesium in our local soils. This research includes a study of actual magnesium contents of the soils of this county.

The Oregon State soils laboratory started operations January 1, 1953. During 1953 and 1954 no analysis for magnesium were made so far as Clackamas county soils were concerned. However, during 1955, the Clackamas county extension service began recommending analysis for magnesium. As a result, 38 of these tests have been made during the current year. One sample showed less than 300 lbs. of magnesium per acre. Thirty-eight showed from 300 to 500 lbs. per acre, and 49 showed over 500 lbs. per acre.

These figures may not mean too much, but it is interesting to note that the magnesium content of our soils is averaging consistently lower than has been found in Willamette Valley counties lying to the south of us. Individual Clackamas county samples showed a variance from 160 to 3000 lbs. per acre.

Until more is learned, we are basing recommendations for use of magnesium on potash content as shown by actual soil analysis.

Clackamas county is not the only portion of Oregon suffering from unusual weather conditions. Hi Sandquist, county extension agent of Malheur county, told us during the recent seed league meeting at La Grande that the freeze caught quite a sizable acreage of sugar beets unharvested. He also reports a good share of the field corn acreage unharvested. "However", he added, the unharvested acreage of beets are not damaged and we can still get them out of the ground provided we encounter favorable weather. Our soil is saturated. We expect to harvest our standing corn also, but this will be a hand picking job. mechanical pickers are impossible. Fields are so wet that use of sible.

Viola News

The Viola Extension Unit, postponed their monthly meeting this month, due to the cold weather. However, the candle making lesson will be held at the December meeting along with the Christmas party.

Mr. Vestal has been quite ill with a bad chest cold. Mrs. Esther Weston went to Seattle the weekend of Nov. 26 to attend the funeral of her

brother-in-law.

Mrs. Jeane Hense was well feted on her birthday a week ago. Mr. Sam Roth baked her a beautiful angel-food cake, and surprised her with it in the afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. John McKenzie also took a cake and celebrated her birthday Friday evening. The following Sunday Jean's mother gave a big birthday dinner at her home on 137th and Halsey, for all of Jean's family.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hubbard visited their oldest son and family at McMinnville.

The Viola Community church Christmas program is well underway. Practice for the high school group is on Tuesday nights.

Airman 3C William Nicholson has returned to duty with the air force and will be sent to England. His wife hopes to follow him soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Fouts and Fred Riedel were among those attending the Territorial Riders' dance at Redland, Saturday, Nov. 26. They had a very good orchestra which the Cascade Riders hired for their New Year's Eve dance to be held at Milwaukie.

David and Linda Riedel, Ramona Tracy, Danny Fouts, David Lloyd were among those tending Mary Skinner's birthday party, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 27. Mary was eight years old.

Garfield Grange Youth Installation Team Visits at Vernonia

The Garfield Grange Youth Installation team and 26 members chartered a bus Fri., Dec. 2 and went to Vernonia where the team installed Vernonia Grange, Natal Grange and Winema Grange. Sunday 22 members accompanied the team when they installed Abernathy Grange. Bernice Miller of Springfield was musician as Mrs. Qualls could not attend. They will install Redland Grange on December 9.

Springwater Grange will install Garfield on our regular meeting night December 10.

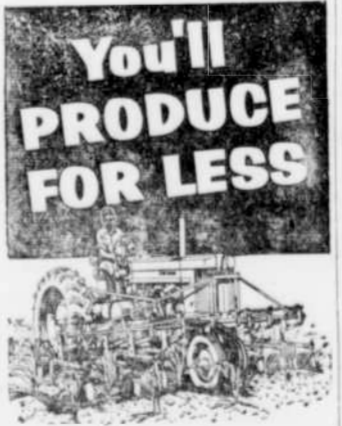
The Garfield Dorcas Society will have their Christmas party at Mrs. Peggy Anders home on December 15.

Mr. and Mrs. John Abbott entertained the Ray Gordons on Saturday eve, to a Spanish dinner. It was delicious. The evening was spent watching television. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Dornovek were also guests.

Mrs. Gene Ballou was not ill Monday that she has a new grand daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ballou of Stafford, Oregon. Mother and baby are at the Hutchinson hospital in Oregon City.

Mrs. Norma Lee has returned home. Her mother and father were both ill but are improving. She has been caring for them and her grandmother passed away Thursday and was buried Saturday in Albany.

John Hershberger was feeling some better Monday. He had been confined to his bed for a week but was up and about again.



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