

### NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

by J. J. Inskeep, Extension Agent

The Clackamas county soils and water resources committee met recently and issued a report of general interest to citizens of this county. This committee is headed by Oliver Buxton, Molalla.

The committee found a rather alarming decrease in the use of ground limestone on Clackamas county farmland. It was reported by J. Wescott, Jr., Stabilization and Conservation office, Gladstone, that Clackamas county farmers used 7300 tons of limestone on 5600 acres in 1951. In 1955, usage had dropped to only 2000 tons on 1200 acres. "However," Wescott replied, "our records included

only those who sought cost sharing through our office." The committee found that this decrease is statewide.

"The soil test requirement may be a factor in this reduction. It was pointed out that many farmers, even though they know they should have a soil test made, usually just don't want to take the time to have it done.

"Unavailability of an adequate number of trucks to haul lime to the farm at the time needed is another factor involved in reduction of use of limestone. Peak season requirements on the farm serve to aggravate this situation. Members of the

committee also believed that the loading dock of our only source of supply is inadequate. They stated that when sacked lime is being loaded from dock to truck, farmer's trucks have to wait in line sometimes for several hours.

"Mr. Buxton, chairman, reported that in 1940, there were 9 1/2 million people in Oregon, Washington, and California, and at the present time the population has increased to nearly 17 million. The increased population will affect two things: competition for farmland for homes and, it will change the market picture for what we produce here.

"About a year ago, the area of farmland in Clackamas county that was used in subdividing, building airports, etc. approached 1800 acres; in Multnomah and Washington county, 18,000 acres.

"There was quite a little subdividing going on for awhile in the Damascus area, but it seems to have dropped off at present. However, it was believed by committee members that the rate of subdivision is increasing in Clackamas county and that eventually much of the present forming area in the north and west portions of the county will be urbanized. Urbanization is also proceeding in areas surrounding our county cities and towns.

The Wilsonville freeway took 1000 acres of farmland in Clackamas county.

In Los Angeles and area, farming groups have set up a zoning restriction. There is one, 14 miles square in the center of Los Angeles zoned strictly for dairy production. Taxes are taken care of in the zoning laws.

This question was brought up: what is a family-size farm?

In 1935 the committee said that for general farming 80 acres would be needed, plus 80 acres of timber and past-

ure. They said at that time that for a man, his wife and two or three children to earn a living with berries, he would need a minimum of 40 acres. At the present time, he would need 40 acres in production, and another 40 acres to rotate.

A family of four needs to invest \$40,000 to provide a labor income of \$4500 a year, the committee believes.

Extension agent Hugh Catton reported that the dairy committee agreed that it would take about 30 to 40 cows to make an economic unit at the present time. The dairyman must invest about \$1500 per cow when establishing a grade A dairy farm.

The committee defined the family-size farm as a unit that is big enough to justify the farmers full time and declared the acreage and investment necessary had increased considerably since the 1936 land report. The committee hesitated to make more definite recommendations because of the variation production per unit. For instance a dairyman whose production per cow exceeds 400 lbs of butterfat per year might be in a better position with 30 cows than another with 40 cows with average production of 300 lbs.

Water will be a major factor in the development of both agriculture and industry in this county from here on, the committee reports.

The committee recommended continued interest in farm pond construction. Opportunity for development of wells for irrigation water is limited and uncertain. We have a few very good sites for irrigation dams that could be constructed on a community basis. Most water shed structures are for flood control but there is a new law that will make it possible to use water sheds for irrigation also.

There seems to be some degree of feasibility of bringing water to Clackamas county from the Santiam when the

is right. The committee believes that one or more dams on the Molalla may be necessary for future irrigation in the Molalla-Canby area.

Tile drainage and open ditch construction have been the biggest soil problems encountered by Clackamas county farmers during the past ten years. Tile installed through the ASC office since 1950 approximates four and one-half million feet. The ASC office believes that we have tiled 50 percent of the acreage in the county needing

tile. The committee recommended that land owners tile by 'saturation' method—not just the wet spots but the entire farm or field. Many drainage problems will have to be solved by community projects.

There is a good possibility of growing horticulture crops on Amity soils if they are drained.

The individual farmer cannot do much about flood control but it should be approached from the standpoint of community cooperation. They can be helped by the ASC office, Army engineers projects, etc.

Following are the recommendations by the committee:

1. That the committee go on record approving increased drainage and flood control, and in addition do everything possible to encourage the building of small farm dams, all types of storage dams, and also to encourage the reforestation of timberlands in order to hold back some of the waste water.

2. That the committee go on record approving a study of storage on the upper Molalla and also include any other water storage that might be available for this area.

3. That the committee recommend that more study be made of community-type projects for storage on dual or single purpose (flood control or irrigation dams on the headwaters of rivers in Clackamas county).

4. That the committee encourage and recommend the use of limestone to the fullest extent needed on individual farms.

5. That a committee be appointed to check with the lime company in regard to the availability of limestone. The chairman appointed Rodney Pitts and Ward Seely, Jay Wescott, Hugh Williams and Ed Seagraves to work with the ASC office.

6. That any future zoning in the county give farming due consideration because agriculture is very important to the economy of the county.

7. That the chairman be given authority to appoint an interim committee to take care of any matters that need to be given attention with the advice of the county extension service.

Members of the soils and water resources committee in attendance were: Oliver Buxton, Molalla, chairman; Oke Ekholm, soil conservation service, Odessa, Damascus; Ward Seely, Wilsonville; Vernon Hepler, Barlow; Arthur Shrock, Needy; H. Williams of Beaver Creek; Elmer Deetz, Canby; Jay Wescott, Gladstone; Everett Shibley, Springfield; Rognar Anderson, Clifton; Art King, Oregon State college; Rodney Pitts, Canby; Steve Eyman, Molalla; Larry Aylsworth, Sandy; Ed Seagraves, Logan; Jack McDermid, Oregon City; Al Parker, project forester, Oregon City; and extension agents Clive Cook, Lee Garoin, Hugh Catton, Claron Mace, and J. J. Inskeep.

Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Frank Marshall Tuesday afternoon.

The women made many crepe paper flowers for the veterans' hospital wheel chair parade held annually in June on the hospital grounds.

Mrs. Marshall served angel food cake, strawberries and jello, whipped cream, tea and coffee to Mrs. George Tracy, Mrs. O. W. Carpenter, Mrs. Don Showerman and Debbie; Mrs. Leslie Kiggins and Bobby. Also present was baby Nancy,

Mrs. Eva Dooley, Mrs. Forrest Erickson, Mrs. S. E. Lawrence, Mrs. Adolph Still, Mrs. Fred Millard, Mrs. Frank Chevon, Mrs. Oral Stormer, and Mrs. Meta Kiggins, all past presidents. Mrs. Merle Marshall and Judy and Jerry came in for refreshments.

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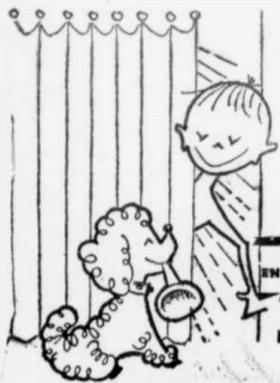
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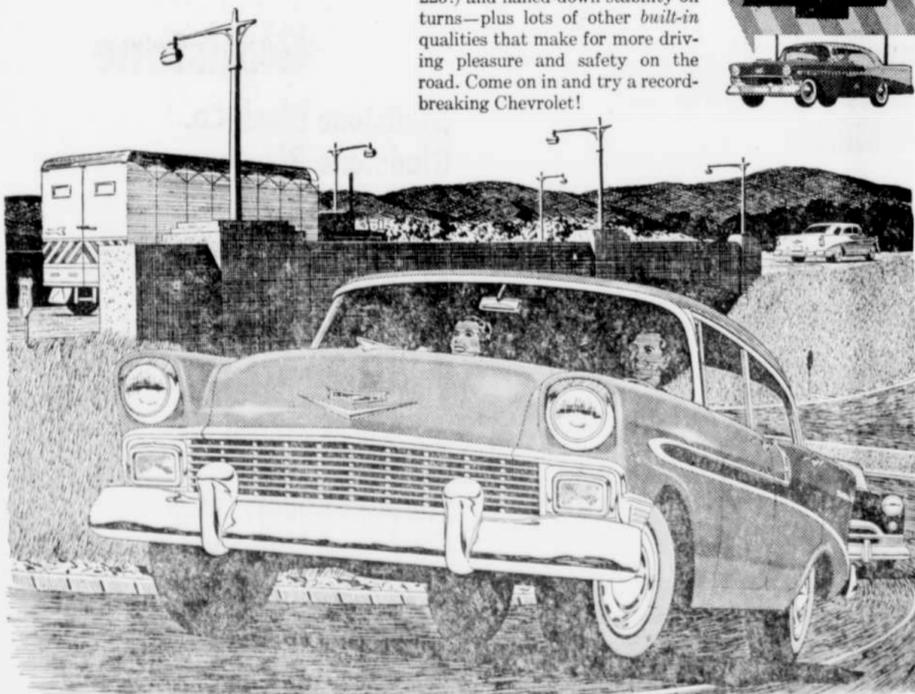


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