By J. J. Inskeep, County Extension Agent

What are the problems facing American, and Oregon farmers? Pick up a copy of almost any newspaper these days and the farm surplus. Actually the ing production by another 40

Farmer. It was made to the Extension workers of Oregon assembled in annual ence in Corvallis recently.

Agricultural extension work, life. backed by research, residential teaching and the cooperation great dilemma created by our you read about the horrors of of farm groups, has succeeded abundance. Is our agricultural over the years because it has plant actually over -expanded? percentage of surplus is small.

Actually we are faced with the necessity of further increassystem of ours—I speak of ex
Will we be able to meet the food needs of the future, Will system of ours—I speak of ex
the movement of workers out tension education rather than of agriculture be permanent? percent or more by 1975 if we classroom teaching— is the en- How do we learn to live with are ta feed our growing popu- vy of the world. It is important the new large-scale, highlythat we understand why and competitive , technological ag-preserve the elements of that riculture which seems to be

Editor, Prairie ing neels of our time." Let me review with you some

confer- of the perplexities and urgencies of today, especially as they affect agriculture and rural

"At the top of the list is the

Following are excerpts from success even as we adapt ex-upon us? If we are to make most important talk by Paul tension work of the fast-break- wise decisions in the face of of vision. this fundamental change, will need economic literacy and socialogical perspective far beyond that which we have been called on to supply in the

> want to continue farming, technology, and managerial skill have become suddenly matter of economic life death. We can't afford to take 10 years to change our of farming. Knowledge is needed at once. Expansion must be plotted boldly and intelligently. Suddenly you must be a good farmer or you are not a farmer at all. This puts a tremendous responsibility on our research and extension program.

At the same time, we cannot abandon overnight the many good people who are wroking their way out of agriculture.A great many will remain as part-time farmers or rural residents who rub elbows daily with the remaining commercial farmers.

In fact, we find ourselves confronted with a new kind of rural community, composed on-y in part of fulltime mercial farmers. The rest are part-time and rural residents who do their work in business, in the professions, or in skilled or unskilled labor

Farming is no longer primarily a way of life. It has grown into a business comparable to running a hardware store,a garage, or a clothing store in town. The new custodians of the rural way of life are not farmers alone, but a composite of people who earn their living in many ways.

While the need for technology and farm management skills has been intensified for a smaller number, there is no decline in the number o rural people and their desire for the extension type of education

A great decision is being forged in our generation— whether education can keep the rank and file of people up to the task of dealing with new problems, within the framework of democratic freedom, or whether we will resort increasingly to regimenta-tion. This issue is especially especially acute in our nation's agricul-

We are short of time. We are short of research. We are short skilled educational workers.

Sometimes we are even short The adversary in this

our educational role is the authoritarian who is more interested in making people obey understand . The authoritarian always has a crisis and a time-What is more, for those who table. He is always in a hurry and his purpose is to get people to act according to a preconceived pattern.

> For education to adppt the ethods of this adversary methods of this adversary would be fatal. For our goal is understanding an rational decision, not indoctrination short-term action. The purpose of education is to develop the full, unpredictable scale of human imagination an capabili-ty, not to regiment the thought and action of the individual.

We want no brainwashing. not even with our own kind of

Sound research and useful information are still the heart of all extension education. We can never turn extension work over to professional communicators. I have found that in my work, whichis the publication of a farm magazine, we can be more effective if the majority of our staff members are sci entists who know how to write. As yet our journalism schools are not turning out people ad-equately trained for educational journalism. Prehaps some day we can find the proper ingredients for a good agricultural communicator or writes. I am sure that when we do will find that a sound education in subject matter is first need and that the munication skills are suppleentary, although important.

During the war when I was an extension editor, I felt that our extension message was often too superficial,, that were exhorting our people action but not always supplying them with information with which to act intelligently. This superficiality is the pitfall of the mass media of our day. Superficiality and brevity are not the some. By continually nagging we establish immunity to an idea rather than plant it and cause it to grow and bear fruit.

Let's take a quick look mass media.

People are hungry for a sane, analytical press and radio. I believe they are tired of hys-terical headlines and souped-up radio presentations. I have noticed that many city people like to listen to farm programs and like to read farm papers because they like the constructive tone and the calm ap

I keep thinking how much easier it would be to teach soil conservation to farmers who really loved the land. surpluses wou d melt if the older farmers who have money in the bank would store productive capacity in the land instead of hauling it off to the government bins. How much How much easier it would be to keep our farms in good hands if everybody would lend a hand to the young couple starting out. How much better off farmers would be in the future if we accept self-discipline and market disipline now in place of government discipline and questionable security.

Mr. and Mrs. Del Gant, Mr. and Mrs. William Miller Mr. and Mrs. Larry Meade celebrated the birthdays of Vernita Gant, Del Gant and Larry Meade with a dinner at the Old Towne Crier in Portland on Friday evening of last week. Afterwards Mr. and Mrs. Gant and Mr. and Mrs. Meade attended the wrestling matches at the National Guard Armory in Portland and witnessed the sensational bout between Kurt Von Poppenheim and Bull Montana.

ENGAGEMENT IS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK

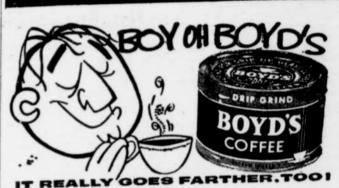
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph P.Thomannounce the engagement of their daughter Alice Dar-lene to Wallace E. Shepard, Jr. of Molalla, Oregon. No wedding date has been set. Alice is a graduate of Estacada Union High School and is a student at Phagan's School of Hair Design at Portland. Wallace graduated from Molalla High and recently receive his discharge from the Air Force.

The many friends of Louie Leonhardt were glad to sse him again as he returned Estacada this week for a few days visit.Louie who now lives at Longmont, Colorado, has also been visiting in California

Mrs. Marie Fontana thanks her friends for their kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy during her recent hospi-

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