

FARM & HOME PAGE

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

(By John J. Inskeep, County Extension Agent)

The first quarterly meeting of Clackamas County's new Forestry association was a bang up affair with seventy persons attending and a fine agenda arranged. President Ernest Zahara, Molalla, conducted the meeting held in South Molalla, Farmers' Union hall, Willard Deardorf, Liberal arranged the excellent program and a committee of the women folks served doughnuts and coffee. Hope we don't leave out anyone noted in the kitchen—Mrs. Walter Hardy, Mrs. Willard Deardorf, Mrs. Clyde Ramsey and Mrs. Ernest

Zahar, all of Molalla or nearby. Clackamas County Project Forester Al Parker reported results from a thinning experiment conducted at Wind River, Washington in Site 4 land. Thinning of fir trees began at 23 years of age. Area A had a relatively thick stand. Area B had a relatively thin stand. Twenty years after thinning Area A contained 200 percent more board feet of timber than the unthinned portion. In Area B the thinned portion contained 127 percent more board feet per acre.

Don Baisinger, Research Forester, Crown Zellerbach Corporation, Portland, told of fir timber management practices on site 3 lands in England and Denmark. Douglas fir is an introduced tree to these countries. Management starts from the time of planting for timber products are extremely valuable in Europe. To make a long story short, extensive thinning is practiced before the stands reach 20 years of age.

Spacing is uniform because of artificial planting. Only the best trees are saved. At 80 years of age the European plantings contain twice as many board feet per acre as our natural unthinned stands on similar production sites. Don Baisinger said we would have to be thinking of the time when we could adopt similar

practices. "Trees are not just trees," said Tony Gruba, Publishers Paper Company Forester. There have been many planting failures because the stock planted was unadapted to the area." He pointed out that seedlings should come from seed gathered in a like altitude and without great variation of latitude. Gruba predicted that the time will come when all planting stock will be certified as to origin. Foresters in England and Denmark obtain Douglas fir seed from the United States. They insist on knowing the exact location from which seed was taken—even the exact section of land.

What Gruba said elicited greater interest in the possibility of growing planting stock on the farm from seed selected from the right kind of trees right at home. We hope to develop some exact information on this subject during the next few months.

Willard Deardorf provided an interesting exhibition during the meeting. It consisted of two six foot fir trees denuded by mountain beavers or boomers. And of a slightly defunct but well preserved mountain boomer specimen guilty of the damage.

Willard's fortitude was greatly appreciated by the men of the audience. It seems he collected the specimen considerably in advance of the Molalla gathering. It was preserved, so the tale goes, in the family food locker and not with the approval of the other half of the family. Some of these days he is likely to find out who is who in the Deardorf family.

Last week we left Louie, our hunting and fishing partner from out Molalla way. In the midst of a conversation on mountain beavers or boomers. This week Louie continues his narration.

"These critters" Louie told us, "Are short legged rodents 12 to 13 inches long. They look somewhat like a muskrat without a tail. Many folks do not realize they are about because they are nocturnal and seldom seen in the daylight. It is easy enough to witness their depredations on larger trees, 5 to 20 years old. But their greatest damage consists of destruction of small seedlings which they cut off at the ground level. Such damage remains unseen except on close examinations.

And now Louie continues with his story take from Extension Bulletin 629 'Controlling Rodents & Other Small Animal Pests in Oregon. That is, he continued after lecturing us soundly for not giving the matter closer study.

"The mountain beaver is one of the most curious rodents found in the Northwest. While much like a tailless muskrat in appearance, it lacks the soft underfur that makes the skin of the muskrat so valuable.

"It digs long, winding tunnels with several entrances, usually on hillsides. It is only within the past few years, as man began to clear more and more of the hillside lands, that the mountain beaver has appeared in the role of crop pest. The animals seem to eat along any garden and field crop. They usually cut the tops

THESE WOMEN! By d'Alessio



"Never again! I just couldn't stand the clean-eyed, level gazes of those men in there a minute longer!"

off various plants and pile bundles of them like hay shocks at the entrance of their burrows; after these are dried they are carried into their underground storerooms. The young are born in April. The litters are small compared to most of our rodent pests, two or three being the usual number.

"The animals are captured easily, blundering into steel traps set in their runways without any attempt at concealment. Over small areas trapping can be employed. On large areas poisoning can be done and followed with trapings. The best poison bait known at this time is apple cut into about four slices, or quartered and dusted with powdered strychnine in the proportion of 1 ounce of strychnine to 16 quarts of bait.

"Before exposing the poisoned bait it is advisable to place clean piece of apples in active runways and holes and leave for two or three days. Then replace these with the poisoned baits. There may be a few that will not take the bait; so where it is observed there is fresh activity following the poisoning, use traps.

"Reinfestation of deserted runway systems has been observed to take place quickly, which indicates distant migration; entire colonies should therefore be treated at as nearly the same time as possible.

"The recommended winter bait for mountain beaver consists of sword fern frond broken into pieces about 10 in. long and dusted with strychnine (alkaloid) at the rate of 1 ounce of strychnine (alkaloid) to 10 pounds of fern fronds.

About three of these pieces should be placed back in the active burrows where they will retain their lethal qualities for as long as 5 months. The active portion of the burrows are indicated by food piles. These food piles should be removed when the bait is placed.

HIGHER PRICE PUSH FIZZLES 'OUT SAYS CROW

The recent push toward higher prices has fizzled out; and Crow's Lumber Price Index for April 18 showed a drop of 13-cents in the industry average. The dry Douglas Fir component of the Index moved up 8 cents, however, mainly due to a good demand for Utility dimension. Green Fir registered the biggest decline in the Index - 23 cents.

Unfavorable building weather in most parts of the country has kept demand for home construction lumber down. In the Pine region species most of the slump in the Index is attributable to the D select grade.

Crow's cross country telephone survey reveals that many wholesalers have restrained optimism about future demand as soon as weather has improved enough to encourage building, although no one expects a spurt as has often been seen in years past.

YOU GOTTA KNOW THE LAW—OR ELSE

It pays to know the law before attempting to get a driver's license in Oregon just as it pays to obey the law in order to keep the license, the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission commented today.

As a matter of fact, failure to pass the rules of the road test, the written portion of the Oregon exam for a license, flunked almost as many first-time applicants last year as the actual behind the wheel driving test, according to Department of Motor Vehicles figures.

The department reported that 10,843 of the 60,895 first-time applicants failed to pass the rules of the road test in 1956 in their first try. Another 14,485 flunked the behind the wheel exam. Most were successful on subsequent attempts the department said.

The high number of failures, especially when a passing grade of 75 is all that is required for the rules of the road test clearly shows that too many people fail to study the drivers manual before they make the test, the Commission said.

This is especially true of people who may have held licenses in other states and thus assume they can pass the Oregon test without study.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse for a violation, especially in view of the fact that failure to obey laws is noted in about 90 percent of all Oregon accidents, the safety group concluded.

SUNSHINE By C. T. E.

Put two figures of the same sort together and make eleven. Its not my brother, its not my sister, yet its the child of my mother and my father. Answers below.

Profit to some people is a world that wears a high silk hat. The communists foster that idea. They get along without profit. They also get along without anything else— I. C. Bulletin.

Here is the pledge taken by the girls who belong to the 4-H Clubs. How much better this old world would be if everybody made this pledge and stuck to it. Here it is officially: "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to greater service and my health to better living for my community, my state and my country." There is quite a number of Estacada girls who take much interest in the 4-H, its work and what it does and what it stands for. Among the young women who devote considerable time to the 4-H are two of its leaders and admirers Mrs. Cynthia Broadhurst and Mrs. Betty Cody. They are doing much in making this world better.

Its generally conceded that somebody once said that a fool and his money are soon parted but what would be more interesting to learn is how they got together in the first place.

WINGS OVER ESTACADA

(By Kathryn Mock)

Now is the time to put up those nesting boxes for the birds you've planned to put up. If you like concerts put up a small house with a hole one inch in diameter and you will probably get a wren for a neighbor. They like to be close to the house so we put ours on the porch where we can see the whole process.

Blue birds like nest boxes too, but if you have English sparrows they will take over the box unless you keep constant guard.

Violet-green swallows and barn swallows will build in anything, but they like apartment houses, the more units the better. Then they gang up on the English sparrows.

Robins usually build sloppy

looking nests in trees but will build in nest boxes if they are large, and believe me, it is better for the appearance of your grounds to have them out of sight. Birds soon learn if they are wanted and appreciated. They will come back each year to places where nest boxes, baths and feeding stations are kept for them.

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