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Wayside Notes by the

(By John J. Inskeep, County
Agent)

Evolution down on the farm is going on at a rapid rate. In fact, the changes in American agriculture are transpiring so rapidly that we might call the phenomenon a revolution of sorts.

These occurrences affect all of us, regardless of where we live or what our occupation might be. Housewives are apt to look upon the farms of our country as sources of food supply only. They are so accustomed to a bountiful and diversified food supply, that they complain only about the prices they pay at the super market.

Most Oregonians recognize our important timber industry as a source of wealth. Oregon's income from agriculture is second only to timber in this state, depending on how the estimate is made. That fact is not so generally recognized.

In Clackamas County alone the annual gross farm income approaches \$25 million. This by no means represents a healthy farm situation for many of our farm commodities are in trouble because of low prices. Regardless of whether or not the individual farmer has made a profit on his year's operations, he has had to lay a lot of cash on the line which aids society as a whole. He must pay for farm machinery, fertilizers, labor, payments on the mortgage, taxes, and for personal goods and services for the family. Taxwise he is often imposed upon to provide schools for others who do not pay their way, at least this appears to be the case. He is subject to extreme fluctuations of major importance. For instance, in 1937 Clackamas County blackcap growers received 16 cents a pound for their fruit. This year the price dropped to nine cents. He still had to pay 5 cents for picking and increased prices for every item he had to purchase. Industry and labor are in better position to bring supply in line with demand. Intergration is

coming along rapidly. The time may come when most farm products are grown under contract.

Consider for a moment the changes in Clackamas County agriculture during the past 30 years. In the 20's the typical Clackamas County farmer owned six or eight milk cows. He may have raised a few prunes or berries for sale or he may have had a farm flock of as many as 2000 hens. Today those small diversified farms as a source of total income are not very important. The trend is to specialization. Berries, truck crops, nursery crops, large poultry flock and larger dairy herds are the order of the day.

In respect to changes, Clackamas differs from most areas in the United States. Farms are becoming larger in most places. In Clackamas County, small, part time farms are on the increase. There are two distinct movements in this direction.

1. Many whose principle income is derived from non-farm sources, purchase a small farm so they can raise their families in the country. Many retired persons live on small acreages.

2. Former full time farmers have found 'off the farm' jobs. Many of these rent to the neighbors.

Dean Earl Butz, Purdue University has written a recent article entitled "The Agricultural Dilemma" with a subheading "The Grand Finale of the Small Operator." He mentions a number of transitional problems. We quote only his introduction and his treatment of the problem of capitalization.

"Agricultural Technology and from belt politicians have squared off for a major tug of war. Modern agricultural science and technology are bringing far reaching sociological and economic changes.

"The dilemma we face, therefore is this: Will the people who man the farms of America be permitted to share fully in the benefits growing out of modern science and technology, or must they live with a ceiling over opportunity imposed by governmental programs designed to maintain small, inefficient, often peasant-type production and living units on the land?

"Capital requirements for agriculture will grow, in total, per farm and per man. It is becoming increasingly difficult for an individual, during his productive years, to accumulate a sufficient amount to finance an economically sized operating unit. This will become increasingly true in the decades ahead.

"Many family commercial farms today have total capital investment exceeding \$100,000. It's not uncommon to have a capital investment approaching or exceeding \$200,000 on family commercial farms in the Corn Belt.

It's not necessary to dwell at length on the difficulty of passing farm unit intact from father to son without passing at least to catch one's breath as he passes the tax collector."

We do not have the time or space to dwell on the many other phases of Dean Butz' article. The problem of capitalization of the larger farms, family or otherwise, serves to illustrate one of the many coming up.

INCREASE SHOWN IN AUTOMOBILE INJURIES

Traffic accidents in Oregon sent to hospitals more than nine people a day during July, the Department of Motor Vehicles reported.

The monthly breakdown showed that 286 people were injured to the extent that they had to be carried from the scene of the crash with bleeding wounds or distorted members.

Another 552 people received other visible injuries, such as bruises, abrasions, swelling and limping; and 358 people complained of pain without visible signs of injury, or momentary unconsciousness.

The department said injuries so far this year are running ahead of last year, despite the fact that total accidents and deaths are down. During the same period a year ago 9,057 people had been injured. Through July this year 9,659 were injured in traffic

Foreign car sales have increased 14 times in a few years. They accounted for one half of one per cent of new car registrations in 1954...and now account for more than 7 per cent.

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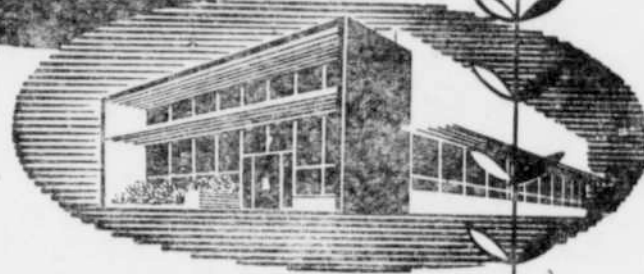
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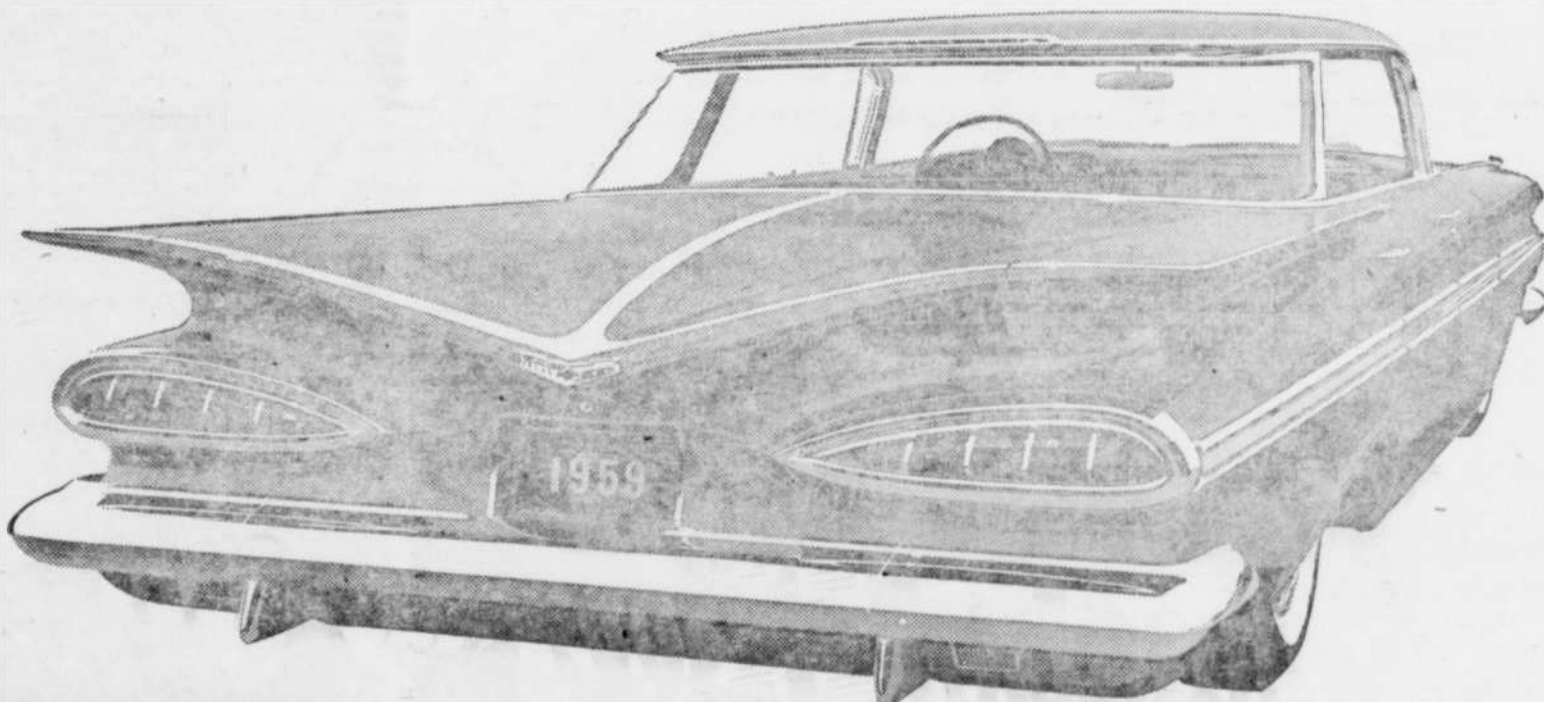
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Never before has an automobile manufacturer made such sweeping changes two years in a row. And never before has any car been new like this one.

The 1959 Chevrolet is more than a restyled car—more, even, than a completely new car. It's your kind of car. Shaped to reward your new taste in style with a fresh Slimline design that brings entirely new poise and proportion to automobile styling. Inside the new and room-

ier Body by Fisher you'll find truly tasteful elegance. And you'll have clear seeing from every seat. The new Vista-Panoramic windshield curves overhead—and there are new bigger windows, too.

When you take the wheel, you find Chevy's newness goes down deep. A new steering ratio makes handling easier. New suspension engineering gives you a more stable ride. There's a sweet new edition of Turboglide*. A new Hi-Thrift 6 that

goes and goes on a gallon. Vim-packed V8's. New and bigger brakes. Even tougher, safer Tyrex cord tires.

There's still more! A new finish that keeps its shine without waxing or polishing for up to three years. New Impala models. New wagons—including one with a rear-facing rear seat. And, with all that's new, you'll find those fine Chevrolet virtues of economy and practicality. Stop in now and see the '59 Chevrolet.

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—J. Petit Senn

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