

Rogue River Courier.

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WILL FEAST ON MELONS AND FRUIT

Visitors at Fruit Growers Meeting
Have Opportunity to Test
Rogue River Products.

It is planned that Grants Pass will entertain in a manner creditable to the town that is the commercial metropolis of Southern Oregon, the guests that will be in the city next Monday to attend the Fruit Growers meeting. There will be an unusual number of prominent persons from abroad in the city on that day. Among these will be Dr. James Withycombe, Prof. A. B. Cordley and Prof. C. I. Lewis of the State Agricultural College; E. H. Shephard, manager of the Hood River Fruit Growers Union, A. J. Mason, one of Hood River's largest and most successful orchardists; H. E. Lounsbury, of Portland, district freight agent and H. A. Henshaw, traveling freight agent for the Southern Pacific; S. A. Herrin, of Portland, of the Amour Refrigerator Car Company; A. J. Leland, traveling agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. From Ashland is expected President A. L. Irwin, Manager A. L. Kitchen and Secretary M. C. Lining of the Ashland Fruit & Produce Association and from Medford President S. L. Bennett and Manager J. A. Perry, of the Rogue River Fruit Growers Union, and J. D. Olwell, the well known fruit raiser and buyer. C. E. Haskins of Gold Hill, who has a state reputation as a scientific orchardist and originator of new varieties of cherries and other fruits will attend as will also a number of other of the Jackson county fruit raisers.

The visitors will be given a generous treat of watermelons, cantaloupes, cassabas, peaches and grapes to give them a demonstration of what Rogue River Valley can produce in that line. And it is planned to have an exhibit of apples, pears and other fruits both ripe and green at the meeting. As many farmers are not able to recognize the various pests an exhibit of them will be made and orchardists are expected to bring in samples of pests as well as of fruits and other things of interest to fruit raisers. That the visitors may see that Rogue River Valley is a land of flowers as well as of fruit, it is desired that the ladies assist the reception committee in making a fine display of roses and other flowers.

The meeting will be held in the room of the Grants Pass Miners Association as it is well suited for the purpose. There will be ample seats for those attending and table space for holding the exhibits. There will be forenoon, afternoon and evening sessions and all who are interested in the fruit industry are invited to attend. As fine fruit is of interest to the ladies they will be made welcome at the meeting and then there are many women who are successfully managing orchards. The development of so profitable an industry as that of fruit will be in this county with the increase of wealth that it will bring makes it a matter of importance that the business men of Grants Pass give it every encouragement possible and to that end they should attend the sessions Monday.

From Grants Pass the speakers will go to Provolt where Tuesday a fruit growers meeting will be held, with Wednesday at Murphy and Thursday at Wilderville. There will be evening sessions in addition to the day sessions at Provolt and Murphy. Basket dinners will be held at the Murphy

and Wilderville meetings. The meeting for Friday has been changed from Lee school house to Woodville as hop picking is at its height in that district. The business men of Woodville and the farmers about there are making preparations for a meeting that will be well attended and the equal of any of the others. The series of meetings will be closed at Merlin where forenoon and afternoon sessions will be held Saturday and this meeting will be a success too as the citizens of that bustling town are making ample preparations for it.

FRUIT GROWERS TO HOLD MEETINGS

At Six Places Next Week, the
First to Be Held at
Grants Pass.

That the Hood River Fruit Growers Union at their annual sale last week got \$3 a box for their Spitzenberg apples and \$2.25 for their Newtowns of this year's crop f. o. b. Hood River, has given a greater impetus to the fruit industry in Rogue River Valley. Rogue River growers will not get that price for their apples this year though it is conceded by experts that apples can be grown here that fully equal those of Hood River in quality, color and keeping, for they are not up on raising or advertising their fruit like those hucksters of the north. But the time is not distant when Spitzenberg and Newtown apples can be sold at Grants Pass for Hood River prices for the growers of this county are awakening to the necessity of using more skill and care in growing the trees, pruning, thinning, picking, grading, packing and in advertising their fruit.

It is with the object in view of educating the farmers of this section of Rogue River Valley in the art of raising apples and pears that will go as fancy pack that the series of six fruit growers meetings were arranged for by the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union and which will be held next week under the joint auspices of the Union and of the State Agricultural College. These meetings will be held at Grants Pass, Provolt, Murphy, Wilderville, Woodville and Merlin in the order named that for Grants Pass being on Monday and Merlin on Saturday.

The best array of talent will be at these meetings that ever was at a fruit growers meeting in Southern Oregon. As the Rogue River orchardists are particularly desirous to learn the Hood River methods of growing and marketing fruit the addresses of E. H. Shephard manager of the Hood River Fruit Growers Union, and of A. J. Mason, one of the largest and most successful orchardists of that famous district, will be of special interest. Then the very practical talks of Dr. Withycombe, Prof. Cordley and Prof. Lewis, from the Experiment station of the Agricultural College, will be of value to every person who is striving to raise high grade fruit. Then it is expected that a number of prominent orchardists of Jackson county will be present to give their experience in raising Rogue River fruit.

For Fire Insurance

The O. F. R. A. of McMinnville are the cheapest and have 12 years standing without a peer in Oregon for settling fire losses. That tells the tale. Don't be deceived by other agents who have selfish motives. In no event will it cost you more than the standard stock companies charge per annum. H. B. HENDRICKS, Agt Grants Pass, Ore. 7-27 tf

HOOD RIVER GETS \$3.00 A BOX FOR APPLES

Raises Fancy Fruit and Makes
Big Profit, Rogue River
Could Do Same.

The Hood River Fruit Growers Union inaugurated three years ago the plan of selling their apple crop on a sale day to the highest bidder for cash f. o. b. Hood River station. Under this plan the union fixes a date on which its board of directors will open bids and award the sale of their fruit and notices to that effect are sent to all the buyers of the world. This year the union set Monday, August 20, as the date for opening bids for their apples. Bids were filed by many large buyers and two of the biggest New York firms and who are the largest fruit dealers in the world, E. P. Loomis & Co. and Rae & Hatfield were represented by the heads of the firms who came to Hood River to inspect the orchards and then to bid on the fruit. Loomis & Company were the successful bidders and they pay for the apples a record breaking price and the payments are made as fast as the cars are loaded. Of the details of this record breaking sale of apples the following is from the Hood River Glacier and the subjoined article is by the Hood River correspondent of the Oregonian: "The superiority of the Hood River apple over that of other fruit has been fully demonstrated by the sales of Hood River fruit which have taken place here in the last few days. While buyers who have been here to bid on Hood River fruit have bought fine quality Ben Davis apples in Missouri which they say can be delivered in Europe this year for \$2 a barrel—a three bushel barrel at that—Hood River fruit has sold for more than that for box fruit containing one bushel. Buyers who have traveled the country over from coast to coast estimate the crop this year at 72,000,000 barrels as against 29,000,000 last year. Larger they say than the famous crop of 1896 which year previous to this one broke all records for apples. Still they have come west for apples and have paid for them prices that exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine.

"While it cannot be learned exactly what was paid for the crop of apples disposed of by the Apple Growers' Union Monday, those in a position to know say that it will average higher than last year which was the highest known in the history of apples growing in Hood River. Purchases made by buyers independent of the union in the last few days brought the top notch price of \$3 per box for Spitzenbergs and \$2.25 for Newtowns and it is said that the union has received a higher price than this for these varieties of apples. The union's fruit was bought by the firm of E. P. Loomis & Co. who were the highest bidders, winning out over Rae & Hatfield, who last year handled the product of the union. The purchase of the Loomis company will include about 65 cars of 40,000 boxes and is the largest purchase of apples ever made by one firm at Hood River. This does not include the entire product of the Apple Growers' Union, but when it is known that the entire production of the valley last year was only 60,000 boxes, it will readily be seen how much more fruit will be shipped from Hood River this year than last and how much greater the returns will be to growers. In fact it is estimated at double or about 120,000 boxes for all varieties.

"Without the increase in price which growers are said to have received this year, and taking the average price per box for last year's fruit the apple crop of Hood River should be worth \$100,000 more than it was then.

"Any increase added to this will make the figures run up very rapidly and show a marked increase in the valley's revenue.

"While the officers of the union will not at present make any statement as to the exact prices received they say that the sale has been a most satisfactory one, but that for business reasons they do not care to announce them as yet, but will do so later.

"The bidders will not make any statement in regard to their bids as some of the unsuccessful ones are still in the market for some of the Hood River fruit and naturally consider it bad business policy to make known the amount of their bids when they

are still trying to purchase from independent growers. It can be stated however, on the authority of one of Hood River's most astute apple men that when the price is known it will be the most conclusive evidence of the superiority of Hood River apples that has ever been given and settles, he says, for all time the question as to the future of Hood River apples."

Predictions by applebuyers and growers that the price of Hood River's fancy fruit would be lowered this year on account of the bumper apple crop, both in the East and the West were rudely upset when it became known that the highest price ever paid for the fruit was obtained here Monday.

Just what the price is cannot be known as the directors of the Apple Growers' Union are not prepared at present to give it out. It is stated, however, that it is probably over \$3 a box. The meeting of the directors of the union to receive bids was not concluded until a very late hour Monday night and while nothing could be learned from them except that the apples were sold, events that transpired during the day indicate that they brought the record price.

Early Monday, consternation was thrown into the ranks of the apple bidders by the announcement that the Davidson Fruit Company had bought several crops of apples for which they had paid as high as \$3 a box. This caused other buyers to readjust their bids and is said to have been the direct cause of sending the price of Hood River apples to a higher price than they have ever gone before, for New York buyers realized that unless they made a higher price than the Davidson Company, the control of Hood River's fancy fruit might pass out of their hands. It is therefore said that the firm of E. P. Loomis & Co., who secured the fruit, must have paid more than the price offered by the Davidson Company. While the bidding requires that the bids must be sealed, bidders are allowed to make any number of bids. So that Loomis & Co., learning of the much higher price than they had expected for the apples, boosted it to a figure high enough to secure them.

The Davidson Fruit Company's purchase was in the neighborhood of 1000 boxes for which they paid \$3 per box for Spitzenbergs and \$2.25 for Newtowns.

George Rae, of the firm of Rae & Hatfield, who were the next highest bidders to Loomis & Co., and who handled the product of the Apple Growers Union last year, said that while he regretted very much that his firm did not get the fruit, their bid was as high as his firm cared to go in view of the enormous apple crop in sight. When asked what maintained the extraordinarily high price for apples grown in the Hood River valley, when it was known that there was so much fine fruit in other localities this year, Mr. Rae said: "The keeping qualities of the Hood River apples is what brings their big price. I have seen other apples in the West that looked just as good and tasted just as good as Hood River fruit, but they do not, as a rule, stand the test of time. That is the secret of their success. When other apples have been all sold and shipped, the Hood River article is still in prime condition. I do not care to make known what my bid was this year. It is a matter of confidence and will remain unknown until announced by the Apple Growers Union."

E. P. Loomis, who was the successful bidder for his firm, while very much pleased in having secured the union's apples said he did not care to announce the price today.

MORE GOOD ROADS TO BE BUILT

Clatsop County Joins the Procession of Progress—Josephine Soon Do Likewise.

Clatsop county and Astoria have taken up the work for good roads in a manner that assures highways for that county that will be passable for the entire year and give the city the benefit of an increased trade from the outlying districts. Clatsop county is heavily timbered and in the wettest section of Oregon and road building is more of a problem than here in Josephine county, where nature has done so much and man so little for securing roads that are not a canal of

mud in the Winter and a sifting bank of dust in the Summer months.

Four years ago Clatsop county bought a large portable sawmill and with the plank it has cut a number of fine plank roads have been built. But rock roads have been found to be more economical where heavy travel is had and two years ago the county bought a crusher. But a road covered with loose rock left for the vehicles to pack down with the surface full of chukholes and ruts was found to be an expensive effort and of little value as a modern highway. Recently the city of Astoria purchased a 16-ton steam roller at a cost of \$3500, that is a road roller, traction and stationary engine combined. Some firstclass road and street work is being done this Summer and within a few years Astoria will have streets and Clatsop county roads that will be

permanent and be passable at all seasons of the year and which will attract the better class of settlers and bring in investors who will add to the taxable wealth of the county.

When Josephine county gets a system of modern roads then will modern, prosperous farms replace the hundreds of poverty stricken, ill-kept places that now give proof to a belief that this is not an agricultural section, the few good farms being confined to extra choice locations. Jackson county, which has identically the same soil and climate and no greater area of arable land than has Josephine county, is building a system of macadam roads that can not be excelled and which are the leading factor in bringing the prosperity to that county that has given it an assessed valuation of \$12,500,000 and made farm land sell readily for \$75 to \$200 and orchard land \$500 to \$1000 an acre and towns that are as thriving as any in Oregon.

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 <p>TRUNKS—A few to close 20% Discount \$9.00 goods for \$7.20</p>	 <p>Rolling Pins 10c</p>	 <p>Cake Turners 10c</p>
 <p>Table Oil-cloth White and Colored.</p>	 <p>Clothes Pins 1 cent for 1 dozen</p>	 <p>Towel Arms 10c</p>
 <p>SINK STRAINERS 25c</p>	 <p>French Cake or Egg Beater 20 and 25c</p>	 <p>Wire Dish Covers 15c to 25c</p>
 <p>LUSCH BASKETS all sizes 10c up to 40c</p>	 <p>Skimmers 3c or 2 for 5c</p>	 <p>ALARM CLOCKS 32 hours \$1.00; good value.</p>
 <p>LEMON SQUEEZERS 10c</p>	 <p>GLASS BOWLS—heavy imitation cut 7 inch 15c — nice big line Pickle Dishes 5c. Butter Dish 10c. 4-piece Sets 40c. Jellies 10c. Vases, very pretty new styles, 10c, 25c, 35c.</p>	 <p>Leonard Cleanable, best made, 8 walls. Don't miss this if you need a Refrigerator 20% Discount to close the season.</p>
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<p>We have the following Second-hand Goods to dispose of at prices to suit. They consist in part of: 1 Steel Range, 1 Desk, 2 Spring Mattresses, 2 Iron Beds, 2 Steel Cook Stoves, 2 Heating Stoves, Tubs, Graniteware, Fry Pans, Laundry Irons, Kitchen Utensils, Stove Pipe and a lot of other articles all in good order.</p>		
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