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INCREASE OF SEVEN BUSHELS PER ACRE

County Agent Reviews Subject of Crop Improvement By Fertilizing.

To provide readers of the Athena Press with a statement of the activities of the county agent's office the following report is submitted. This review is of necessity brief, with the full annual report of activities available at the county agent's offices at Pendleton and Hermiston.

It is generally understood that the office of the county agent and his assistant, the former at Pendleton and the latter at Hermiston, represent the extension service of the state agricultural college which cooperates with the United States Department of Agriculture. Practically all phases of the county's agriculture are included in the activities of this program, aimed at increasing the income and otherwise improving agricultural conditions.

The subject of crop improvement involves the larger classification of farming in Umatilla County. There are two major divisions of the wheat production problem in the county. One has to do with the attempts to locate a winter-hardy, high-yielding wheat to take the place of varieties now being grown, while the other problem deals with soil management, the importance of the latter becoming more pronounced as time goes on. In addition to the work being done at the Pendleton Field Station the county agent has established field trials in the lower rainfall districts including five different varieties of winter wheats. These are on sufficient scale to be harvested with a combine.

For a number of years the extension service has been conducting fertilizer trials and in most of all of these where wheat was involved results have shown that soil fertility may be improved. Fertilizer trials in 1929 continue to demonstrate the need for changes in soil management practices. These trials showed an increase of 70 per cent in the case of continuous cropped wheat, while in summer fallow wheat there was an increase from fertilizers amounting to more than seven bushels per acre, both of these in the Athena-Weston district. Trials have been established with a view to determining the practicability of turning under all straw and stubble as a step in stopping the rapidly increasing erosion or soil washing problem and as a factor in otherwise improving the soil.

Another important subject now receiving the attention of the county agent's office has to do with the improvement of grain storage facilities within the county, both at the farms and railroad sidings. This office is arranging to supply suggestions as to the most desirable types of storage, to provide plans and costs of such equipment and in other ways assist growers to better meet the storage problem. The United States Department of Agriculture has submitted figures to show that the 1929 grain terminal congestion cost wheat farmers 10c a bushel for the wheat sold between July 15 and the 1st of October.

Oregon State College Will Take Crop Census

Oregon State College—While Uncle Sam is preparing to take a complete census next year that comes only once in 10 years, Oregon State college is gathering some "census" figures in advance of some agricultural phases not touched by the government's questions.

In an effort to find exact facts as to growers' experiences with different grain varieties and to get information on acreages of the various grains, county agents are this month mailing out simple questionnaires to grain farmers in every county. These ask only for varieties grown, month sown, number of acres, and total yield of wheat, oats and barley.

It is hoped from this information to check growers results with those obtained at the experiment station and help the growers to concentrate on the highest-yielding varieties for every district.

One Week Vacation

The Athena high and grade schools will have one week of holiday vacation, from this afternoon when school is out until Monday, December 30th. Instead of taking the regular two weeks vacation now, school will be shortened one week at the end of the school year in May.

Indoor Baseball

Indoor baseball is attracting attention from the male population of Adams, where the school gymnasium is utilized for practicing and playing the game, which has become popular there.

Oregon Woman In Japan Attend Pacific Relations Conference Held In Kyoto

A foreign looking letter postmarked Kyoto, Japan, and addressed to Miss Beulah Smith was received here recently. Mrs. Lucy Perkins, formerly Alpha Delta Pi house mother at University of Oregon is enjoying a third trip to the Orient. She is accompanying Mrs. Murray Warner, donor of the Murray Warner art collection at the university. Excerpts of her letter follow:

"I am having a wonderful time. It's like coming home to be in Japan again. Mrs. Warner is a delegate to the Pacific Relations Conference which opens next Monday. There is also the World's Convention of Engineers meeting in Tokyo, so Japan is crum full of visitors.

"The foreign hotels are filled to overflowing, for foreigners do not care to go to the Japanese inns. Everything is so different from our customs and one's legs get so tired sitting on a cushion, even though it be a most beautiful one and one's feet get very cold in our thin silk stockings and we could not step on their beautiful fine matting or polished floors with our shoes with heels.

"There are any number of celebrated folks here for the conference. Rockefeller's youngest son is coming through Russia and will arrive any day; and his sisters, Mrs. Aldrich and Mrs. McFadden are here. There are the most interesting delegates from England, Australia, India, etc. Did you ever know anyone so fortunate as I am?"

"We have Judge Carey and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams of Portland at this hotel and they are much interested in the museum and the university.

"We attended a tea yesterday at Doshisha University in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Martin of the University of Washington. Dr. Martin is sent by the Rockefeller Foundation to lecture in all Pacific countries, on any subject that will help nations to understand each other. They are delightful people.

"Tomorrow we are entertaining a young Harvard student who is here to study Japanese art for the Fogg Museum of Harvard. After the conference is over we are going to Peking for the winter and hope to find some lovely things for the museum. Our new building is started and no doubt this will be my last visit to this country."

Wauna Camp Fire Girls Will Present Play Soon

The Wauna Camp Fire Girls will present a play at high school auditorium some time in January, the date to be announced later. The title of the play is "Returning of Rosalia." and the plot has to do with a girl who was kidnapped by gypsies and later discovered and returned to her home by a group of Camp Fire Girls.

Mrs. Blatchford, guardian of the Wauna Camp Fire group, is directing the play. Rehearsals have been under way for sometime. The cast is as follows:

Mina.....Beatrice Hiteman
Rosalia.....Mildred Hansell
Nita.....Arleen Myrick
Aunt Maria.....Mary Tompkins
Vivian.....Nylene Taylor
Viola.....Helen Barrett
Miss Robinson.....Velma Ross
Marguerite.....Marjorie Montague
Pauline.....Mary Berlin
Rachel.....Marjorie Douglas
Susan.....Laura Ross
Betty.....Valeria Cannon
Peisis.....Esther Berlin
Helen.....Rhoda Nelson
Jeanette.....Myrtle Campbell
Bess.....Esma Hiteman
Eleanor.....Roberta Cannon

Six Inches of Snow

Six inches of snow greeted the vision of Athena folk when they arose from their beds yesterday morning. The snow followed rain during Wednesday evening, and thoroughly covers the growing grain, which is now protected to withstand freezing temperature. In the mountain district east of Athena snow was falling in the higher altitudes when this issue went to press.

Cutoff Survey Ordered

It is probable that the Wallula cutoff will be completed next year. Work comes from Portland that a survey has been ordered by the state highway commission. The Wallula cutoff has long been a part of the federal aid map, and it is believed federal pressure is being urged for completion of the work, notwithstanding the fact that it is known the state highway department favors road construction at this time which is of more importance to state traffic.

Athena Study Club

Mrs. J. F. Kershaw entertained the members of the Athena Study club at her home on Fifth street, last Friday afternoon. Mrs. Dudley Rogers, Mrs. W. S. Ferguson and Miss Beulah Smith read papers on Oxford, the study topic for the afternoon. Mrs. Boyd will entertain the club Saturday afternoon, December 28.

Splendid Lodge Gathering

The members of Wild Horse Lodge, L. O. O. F. and Mignonette Rebekah Lodge, their families and friends, enjoyed a splendid meeting Monday evening. Members of lodges from surrounding towns were present to swell the number at the gathering. After a fine banquet dinner an impromptu program, comprising short addresses, readings, stunts and music was greatly enjoyed by the assembled guests.

Lodge of Antlers

The Pendleton Lodge of Elks instituted the formation of one of the first Lodges of Antlers on the Pacific coast Tuesday evening when some thirty young men ranging in age from 16 to 21, were initiated as charter members into the Lodge of Antlers of Pendleton Lodge, No. 288, B. P. O. Elks.

Virginia Indians Follow Custom 309 Years Old



Chief George M. Cook of the Pamunkey Indian tribe accompanied by a delegation from five tribes of Virginia, with the first game killed during the hunting season which the red men presented to Governor Byrd, Col. Peter Saunders, secretary to the Virginia governor (at right) accepted the game for Byrd. It has been the custom of the Indians to present the first animal skin to the Virginia governor since 1620.

"The Shepherd's Vision" A Pageant At Christian Church On Sunday Night

The pageant, "The Shepherd's Vision," (White Gifts for the King) will be presented in the auditorium of the Christian church, Sunday evening, under direction of Mrs. C. M. Eager, who for sometime has had the cast under rehearsal.

The pageant is considered to be an important undertaking and the public is evincing more than ordinary interest in its presentation, which presages a capacity audience. The cast of characters and ensembles follows:

- Cast of Characters**
- Shepherd Boy.....Aaron Douglas
Shepherds—Carl Calvert, Lowell Jenkins, Garth Pinkerton, Lester Towne, Howard Reeder.
Angels—Betty Eager, Arleen Myrick, Mildred Hansell, Mary Tompkins, Myrtle Campbell.
The Madonna.....Mrs. Ed. Montague
Sage.....Mr. Ed. Montague
Guardian Angel.....Esther Berlin
Rich Man.....Walter Edger
The Youth.....Lee Crawford
A Princess.....Marjorie Douglas
A Little Child.....Belva McIntyre
A Maiden.....Mary Berlin
Gift Bearers—Jewel Pinkerton (Leader), Gloria Garfield, Wilma McIntyre, Joyce Pinkerton, Maurine Edger, Fern Carsten, Marjorie Martin, Doris Linfoot, Maxine Martin, Doris Jenkins, Alberta Ball, Rachel Smith.
Small Angels—Virginia Eager, Melba Montague.
Torchbearer.....Billie Johns
Wise Men—Milton Miller, Chase Garfield, A. J. Garner.
Quartet—George Gerking, C. M. Eager, Mrs. Floyd Pinkerton, Mrs. I. L. Michener.
Reader.....Mr. Sias
Pilgrims—Wendall Shigley, Mrs. Edna McIntyre, Leo Sanchez, Mrs. Lyle Gray, Carl Ball.
Director, Mrs. C. M. Eager, Accompanist, Mrs. Laurence Pinkerton.

Home Wanted For Boy

County Judge Schanep informs The Press that he very much desires a permanent home for Laurence Stamper. The boy has lately been with a family residing at Tillamook, and this family is returning the lad back to the jurisdiction of the court. Judge Schanep likes the boy very much and does not want to send him to an orphanage only as a last resort. Any responsible person wishing to adopt this boy and who would be interested in his welfare may notify the county court or the Athena Press.

McEwan Will Stick

Captain John J. McEwan, who resigned as coach at University of Oregon at the expiration of his present contract, January 1, 1931, says: "My plans remain fixed to complete my coaching at University of Oregon. Am trying to arrange intersectional games for us for years 1931 or 1932."

The J. T. Club

Mrs. Vern Smith of Weston, entertained the J. T. Club last Friday afternoon, when sixteen club members met at her home. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. C. L. McFadden in Athena, January 10.

Is Fraternity Man

The Oregon Emerald, U. of O. paper, announces that George Gross, Athena freshman has affiliated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. George will be home for the Christmas vacation period.

Games With Pendleton and Adams Have Close Scores

Athena has gone 50-50 on her first two scholastic games of the season, in close scores. The Pendleton Buckaroos took Friday night's contest 19 to 16. Tuesday night, in one of the closest checking games seen on the local court for some time, the home quintet won from Adams 11 to 10.

In the Pendleton game, Athena came back in the second half strong enough to overcome a lead and tie the score at 15. Inability to hoop free throws by Athena players allowed Pendleton to come out in front again with the above result.

At the end of the first half in the Adams contest, the score stood 7 for Adams, 5 for Athena. The home team rallied in the third quarter, with the score tied at 8 all. In the last quarter, opportunity for shots were plentiful for both teams but players were wild in looping the ball through the hoop.

"Pike" Miller's girls' team put up an impressive game against the Adams girls and won handily, 27 to 19. This was the first game of the season for the Athena girls and they showed to advantage in both offensive and defensive playing.

Coach Miller is looking for a game to be played on the local court next Friday night, and may be successful in taking on Eddie Buck's fast Prescott quintet. Touchet high school will play Athena on the home court Tuesday evening, December 31. This afternoon Athena plays Wa-Hi at Walla Walls, the tilt being in the vernacular of sports, a case of little 'uns going up against big 'uns.

Case Dismissed

At the hearing before Judge Fee in the circuit court, set for yesterday morning at 10 o'clock the case brought by Homer I. Watts, George Green and C. T. Smith against members of the board of directors of Union High School District No. 7, was dismissed on motion of Mr. Watts, attorney for the complainants. Following dismissal of the case, word was at once telephoned to Athena by Chase Garfield, clerk of the school board and everyone here was greatly pleased that the matter had been settled amicably, the general opinion being that hereafter the school would receive united support.

Picture Program

A heart-stirring, authentic picture of the World War, filmed on the battle fields of France, featuring French actors and soldiers, is what the "Soul of France" is which comes to the Standard tomorrow for one night only. The picture is the French epic of the war, portrayed from the French viewpoint of the thrilling part French soldiers took in the major engagements on French soil. Through it all runs a thread of mother-love and human courage seldom depicted on the silver screen. For holiday showing, the Standard will present Clara Bow in "The Saturday Night Kid" on Christmas eve and Christmas night. On New Year's eve and New Year's night, Richard Dix is coming in "The Love Doctor."

Voting Contest

The standings of the candidates in the voting contest at McFadden's Pharmacy showed the following totals at noon, yesterday: Dorothy Burke, 5960; Helen Barrett, 1715; Marjorie Douglas, 5925; Betty Eager, 3438; Mildred Hansell, 1640; Blanche Johnson, 7155; Arleen Myrick, 15308; Mary Tompkins, 15248; Rhoda Nelson, 2817; Marjorie Montague, 1985; Carolyn Kidder, 1945; Virgie Moore, 1275; Marjorie Wilson, 970.

In Portland Postoffice

Ralph McEwan has a position in the Portland postoffice as an extra assistant to the regular force until after the end of the holiday season. Mr. McEwan held a position with the office last year. On January 1 he will enter the Portland branch automobile license department of the state, where he will remain during the rush period following the first of the year.

Carl Calvert Ill

Carl Calvert, Athena high school boy, has been seriously ill for the past week. He took down with a relapse of the flu, and for a while he was threatened with pneumonia.

Union Pacific Ordered To Build the Road From Crane to Crescent Lake

The Oregonian's Washington News Bureau says that a section of the transportation act of 1920 which apparently confers upon the interstate commerce commission power to order construction of new lines was invoked by the federal rail body for the first time in requiring the Union Pacific system to build a 181-mile link across central Oregon. The largest area within the United States still without rail facilities.

There was some hesitancy within the ranks of the commission about such use of its authority, for four of the 11 members dissented from the report prepared by Commissioner Frank McManamy, who earlier this year held hearing on the complaint of the public service commission of Oregon and recommended to his colleagues that they require construction of the road.

The cross-state line, required by the commission mandate would leave the present Ontario-Burns branch of the Oregon, Washington Railway & Navigation at Laven, near Crane in eastern Oregon and extend westward to a point on the Cascade line of the Southern Pacific at or near Crescent lake. Construction is ordered by the commission to commence by July 1, 1930.

The new road would be completed and in operation by July 1, 1933, under the terms of the order. The cost of the line is estimated by the public service commission of Oregon at \$9,000,000, or about \$49,000 a mile, while the railroads say it would cost at least \$11,717,677, or approximately \$63,340 a mile. It was held by the commission that neither figure would impair the ability of the Union Pacific system to perform its duty to the public, as its net earnings approximate \$40,000,000 annually.

The efforts of the public service commission to bring about the building of a railroad across the central part of the state have been bitterly fought by the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and the Hill lines in combination, on the ground that the sparsely settled section the line would penetrate is incapable of producing traffic sufficient to make railroad service profitable.

Christmas Program To Be Given at Baptist Church

An event of interest will be the Christmas program that is being prepared for entertainment of the church people and general public at the First Baptist church, Sunday evening, beginning at 7:30.

The program will consist of two parts. Part one will include songs, recitations and drills by the primary department of the Baptist Sunday school, and part two embraces the rendition of the cantata, "The Word Fulfilled," with the following cast of characters:

Choir—Mrs. Blatchford, Mrs. Clarence Zerba, Mrs. Lee Hiteman, Mrs. Ross Payne, Mrs. Kohler Betts, Mr. Clarence Zerba, Mr. Lewis Stewart and Mr. Jack Dow.

Pilgrims—Arlene Foster, Roberta Cannon, Wendell Shigley, Genevieve Barrett, Mildred Alkire, Laura Ross, Annabel Payne.
Angels—Helen Barrett, Jean Zerba, Mary Jane Miller, and Barbara Lee.
Truth.....Valerie Cannon
Shepherds—Velma Ross, Bob Lee, Marvel Zerba, and George Pittman.
Wisemen—Monta Montgomery, Eema Hiteman and Loie Hiteman.
Mary.....Bonnie Alkire
Joseph.....Dorvan Phillips

Accident Fatal To Minister

Milton friends have received word of the recent tragic ending of the life of Rev. C. W. Park, former pastor of the Milton Baptist church, who left there about two years ago reports the Eagle. According to the report received Mr. Park was struck by a motorcycle on the street in Portland, November 7 and taken to a hospital where he seemed to be recovering from his injuries until unexpected complications developed and the end came almost without warning. It is stated that post mortem examination revealed that death was due to the formation of blood clots. Since leaving Milton Mr. Park has been located in the west end of the state.

K. of P. Officers

The following officers were elected at a recent meeting of Pythian Lodge, No. 29, Knights of Pythias, to serve for the ensuing year: William Campbell, Jr., C. C.; William Coppock, V. C.; W. J. Kirk, Prelate; Lew McNair, M. of W.; York Dell, K. of R. & S.; Bryce Baker, M. of F.; F. B. Radtke, M. of E.; Frank Williams, I. G.; Jesse Gordon, Trustee.

Teachers on Vacation

Athena teachers will spend the holidays at their various homes. Miss Brodie will go to Oakland, California; Miss Bryant to Marshfield; Superintendent Coad to Cove; Miss Smith to Island City and Miss Thorson to Stanfield.

December Rains

The Walla Walla Union announces that precipitation at Walla Walla for the first half of this month, totaling 2.69 inches is greater than the total for any month of the year, one of the driest years in the history of the weather bureau.

LICENSE STICKERS FOR THE NEW CARS

Temporary Permits May Be Secured at the County Sheriff's Office.

Salem.—People buying new cars around this time of the year and dealers who have been waiting for the 1930 license season will be happy over the announcement made here today by Secretary of State Hal E. Hoss, who has said that 1930 license stickers may be used on cars registered for the first time on and after December 20. In other words, people having new cars or old ones not registered here in 1929 may apply for their 1930 registration and operate under it at that time. This action will tend to greatly expedite the giving of automobiles as Christmas gifts and will move a great many cars from the dealers' floors, according to reports that have come into the secretary of state's office from all parts of the state.

Another important announcement made by Secretary Hoss is that sheriffs will issue temporary permits effective commencing December 20th, so that people who do not desire to mail their applications to Salem may secure temporary permits at their county seats. These will be good until the regular license sticker is sent to the applicant from Salem to be affixed to the windshield in place of the temporary permit. A fee of 25 cents is charged by the sheriff for each temporary permit issued by him. In Multnomah and Marion counties, the Portland office at 69 Fifth street and the Salem office in the State Building will continue to serve those who do not desire to apply for licenses by mail.

People registering new cars, or cars not registered in Oregon in 1929, will be issued a windshield sticker and a set of 1929 metal plates, while those who are re-registering will retain their 1929 metal plates and will receive only a windshield sticker as evidence of having paid the proper fee.

Purchasers of motor vehicle licenses for the first six months of 1930, which should be in the hands of car owners by January 1, must retain for the six months ending June 30 of next year their present motor vehicle license plates. Plates covering the full year July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1931, will be issued by the state department prior to July 1 of next year.

This procedure is necessary, because of a law enacted at the 1929 legislature providing that hereafter the annual automobile license fees shall be paid on July 1 instead of on January 1, as has been the practice in the past.

A Unique Reminder of Holiday Fire Prevention

Salem.—Recalling the regrettable disaster in which three young girl students of the Monmouth normal school met a horrible death in a students boarding and rooming house last year, when a warm-hearted house mother carelessly placed a "welcome home" candle in the window in too close proximity to the Christmas tree, and in the hope of avoiding the destruction of property through holiday carelessness, State Fire Marshal Clarence A. Lee has designed and is sending out to the fire chiefs and press of the state a "Holiday Happiness Declaration" as a unique reminder of the dangers that lurk in holiday season decorations and festivities. The declaration is prepared in the form of a resolution, in appropriate holiday colors, pledging the signatories thereto to exercise care and good judgment in their Christmas preparations and observances. The resolution is supplemented by a list of things to avoid in holiday preparations as a guide to a "Happy New Year because of a Safe as well as a Merry Christmas."

Town Basketball Team

A town basketball team has been organized in Weston and worked out Monday night in the school gymnasium for the first time. Arrangements are in progress for a practice tilt next week with a team from Weston mountain, and if this is pulled off the public will be invited to witness it without charge. Charles Hill is coaching the Weston team and the squad includes the following veterans: Snider, Greer, Kirkpatrick, Banister, Weber, Masters and Staggs.—Weston Leader.