

Former Grass Valley Man Passes On

GV City Council Urged To Permit Celebration On July 4

John VanMetre, former resident of this vicinity and city, was buried here Saturday afternoon. The body was brought here from Sunnyside, Wash., where death occurred earlier last week.

Mr. VanMetre left here about eight years ago for the Washington city and has lived there since. He farmed the Krusow place now owned by Tom Coyle. The May place north of town and the Schenk place while here. Present for the funeral were six of the surviving seven children. Clifford, Mrs. Patrick McCarty, John, Marion, Cyril and Opal and Mrs. VanMetre. A daughter, Fay, was buried in the local cemetery.

Grass Valley is planning a celebration the fourth of July if the wishes of committee which called on the city council Monday night materialize. E. E. Gervais and W. Ray Blake were the committee. Plans include racing, dances, ball games and all the accoutrements and appendages that go to make up a live and lively celebration of the nation's birthday.

Curtis Stark and wife and Tom Coffman left last week for Roseburg where they will work during the summer.

Art Bibby and wife left for Portland last week for a business visit.

Roy Baker closed up his store and turned the key over to Herman Zeigler for the day. Herman Schilling and I. D. Pike put on their go away clothes and the three drove to The Dalles Tuesday to attend the session of the League of Oregon Cities as officers of the City of Grass Valley.

W. Ray Blake is now working on compliance forms for the wheat production control association.

Mr. Fay Fields and Miss Jessie Pike were in Portland last week where Jessie is thinking of entering school.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Alley moved this week into the rooms above the drug store and power company men have been installing electric equipment for the past few days.

Matt Simon and wife were in Goldendale Sunday for a visit with friends.

Mrs. Soren Hansen of Moro spent a few days here visiting with friends.

The fishing was good along the creeks last Sunday and one can still hear about it by engaging the proper persons in conversation.

The Dough Girls, cooking club met at the home of our leader, Mrs. Perry Johnston on Monday afternoon. We reported on work done at home and then had a program. Mrs. Johnston demonstrated Hot Cross Buns and Parker House Rolls.

We went on a picnic and hike Saturday and while there had a meeting and a marshmallow roast. Betty Jeanne Vinton, reporter.

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State College To Supervise Forage Crops

Supervision of federal forage crops and disease investigation in the Pacific northwest states will be centered at Oregon State college in charge of Harry A. Scotho, for many years federal agronomist stationed there. Under a new organization setup recently announced by E. V. Gordon, chief of the division of forage crops and diseases in the bureau of plant industry, Scotho will direct investigational work in various places throughout the northwestern states. Close cooperation will be maintained as in the past with the state college experiment stations and with soil conservation service.

Improvement of dry land forage plants for the Inland Empire and similar areas of the west is a major project being undertaken immediately. D. C. Smith, formerly on the OSC staff, has been transferred to federal work and will carry on plant breeding activities at Pullman in connection with the dry land forage development work. H. H. Rampton, assistant agronomist, has been added to the staff at Oregon State college. Continued studies in seed crop development will be carried on.

Fewer Spuds Next Year

Higher Prices Predicted For Next Crop

A decrease in late potato acreage for 1936 as compared with last year is in prospect, according to the best information available, it is announced in the current agricultural Situation and Outlook report issued by the Oregon State College Extension service.

If food prices and domestic demand remain at least at present levels, potato prices may be expected to be higher than for the two previous crops, if the indicated reduction takes place. Early potato growers are also expected to plant an acreage somewhat below average. Stocks of old potatoes are much smaller than a year ago in the country as a whole, and probably below average.

Fluctuating yields, as well as changes in acreages have large bearing on the final potato crop from year to year. The report points out. Some observers believe that plantings of late potatoes in 1936 may be as much as ten per cent below the 1935 level, but production cannot be forecast reliably this early.

Unless unfavorable weather and disease interfere, a large increase in number of turkeys to be grown in prospect this year the report continues. The number of hens retained in the country for egg production is unusually large, and turkey hatcheries are experiencing heavy demand. In considering prospective prices for turkeys, however, other factors must be taken into consideration, such as buying power of consumers, prices for competing meats, and the manner by which the turkey crop is distributed and marketed.

The general level of farm prices in Oregon has shown little change in the past three months. It still stands at about 72 per cent of the 1926-30 average. In the country as a whole, the latest government index of prices received by farmers stood at 109 per cent of the 1910-1914 level. Purchasing power was only 87 per cent of the pre-war average, inasmuch as the index of prices paid by farmers, together with interest and taxes, was much higher.

NATURE BY EROSION CARVES PERFECT ARCH IN BRYCE PARK



Engineers may easily learn a lesson from nature which through the ages by erosion caused by wind, sun, rain and frost has carved a perfect arch to form the natural bridge in Bryce Canyon National Park in southern Utah. In this colorful section fantastic sculpturesque formations reveal the weird work of nature at work, of which this natural bridge is but one.

Erosion Prevented By Rotation

Canning Peas and Spring Wheat Found Good Combination

The introduction of canning peas in rotation with spring wheat and elimination of the early plowed protected summer fallow is an important factor in the prevention of erosion and run off on the Willhorse Soil Conservation Project at Athena, Oregon, according to C. Edwin Hill, District Manager, following an inspection of the area this week with Bernard M. Otness, Project Manager.

"Pea land that was plowed or chiselled after harvest and left in a rough condition over winter apparently absorbed all of the winter moisture, while adjoining clean fallow land showed the results of heavy run off with consequent severe sheet erosion and gullying," Hill reported.

"These benefits from growing peas were lost where the land was worked down in the fall after pea harvest and seeded to winter wheat. The most damage was found where the fall seeding was not done on the contour. In seeding up and down the slope, and especially where drill turnways were seeded out, each wheel track and drill furrow concentrated the water and caused ruts which in many fields cut to the depth of the plow furrow during one heavy rain."

"Leaving the land rough over winter by plowing or chiselling af-

ter pea harvest is recommended," Hill says, "not only because this practice reduces run off and erosion, but also because spring seeding after peas produces higher average yields than fall seeding as reported by Superintendent G. A. Mitchell of the Pendleton Crop Rotation Experiment Station. The Spring wheat in the Athena area is also usually of better quality than fall wheat and contains less smut."

Hill states that pea growers and soil conservation in the Athena district are now working on methods and equipment for returning the valuable green pea residue to the soil to restore nitrogen and organic matter for soil building and protection. When this is worked out, an ideal set-up for soil conservation and sustained production will have been established for this area which is becoming so widely known for its high yields of superior quality green peas.

A Washington mother was very much put out because the teacher insisted on a written excuse explaining her son's absence from school following a severe snow storm. Whereupon the mother sat down and dashed off the following note:

"Dear Miss Kitty: Little Eddie's legs are 14 inches long; the snow was 18 inches deep. Very truly yours, Mrs. Johnson."

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Flax Production Possible Under New Program

Change In Farm Planning Will Be Necessary

The new federal farm act provides encouragement for the production for seed flax which makes the growing of this crop in parts of western and northwestern Oregon more advantageous than ever before, believes G. R. Hyslop, head of the division of plant industries at Oregon State college.

Although seed flax is classed as a soil depleting crop, an increase in its acreage is being encouraged because it is on an important basis. A direct allowance of 20 cents per bushel is made for flax seed produced, provided other soil conservation conditions are met.

Early planting to seed flax is essential to success, says Hyslop. In western Oregon, April 15 is normally considered the latest safe planting time, while in the Blue Mountain region it is sown successfully up to May 1. Two linseed oil companies in Portland ordinarily supply seed for Oregon growers and furnish a market for the product. These are the Archer Daniels Midland company and the Empire Oil and Food Products company.

In order to qualify for the flax allowance, a grower must divert 20 per cent of the amount of land he puts into flax into crops that are not soil depleting, in addition to 15 per cent of his remaining soil depleting base. Among soil building crops which can still be planted in Oregon are red or crimson clover and alfalfa.

An example will indicate how the flax plan works out. Suppose a farmer had 100 acres in soil depleting crops last year, such as small grains, corn, potatoes or other cultivated crops. He may decide to put 20 acres into seed flax for 1936. In order to qualify for assistance under the act, he will have to put four acres into soil conserving or soil building crops, as well as 15 per cent of the remaining 80 acres of his soil depleting base.

In other words, he will need to divert a total of 16 acres to grasses, legumes or other soil conserving or soil building crops. In so doing, he will qualify not only for the 20 cents a bushel payments on his production of flax, but for diversion payments on 12 acres, and soil building payments on what ever amount is put into soil building crops. It is not unlikely that farmers in many sections of Oregon could qualify for benefits of close to \$150 or more where 20 acres are put into seed flax under the plan outlined.

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Declamatory Contest Winners Named at GV

The Declamatory contest was held in the high school Friday evening. All participants did very well considering the short time they had had their pieces and their lack of experience. The winner of the first division was Audine Alsop, who also was the winner last year. In this same division Eileen Lemley won second place and Lucile Forrester won third. In the second division Bill Eaton received first, Marcell Zurlinden second and Frances Wells third. There were only three entrants in the third division, and of these three La Vonne Alsop was awarded first; Robert Eaton second; and Virginia Huhman third. These three winners will participate in the County Declamatory contest at Wasco, Friday, April 24.

Between these different divisions the Rhythm band, composed of the primary grades and under the supervision of Miss Rinehart, made its first public appearance by playing several selections. This is a new activity of the grades and was enjoyed very much by all present at the contest. Singing by the same group was also an interesting feature of the evening.

The Grass Valley Debate Squad you.

lost to Chiliquin in a very close and interesting debate Saturday afternoon at The Dalles. This debate was for the purpose of determining which team was the Champion of Eastern Oregon. This is the first year that Grass Valley has had the privilege of debating in the semi-finals, so they feel that their debate season has been a success.

This week the six weeks examinations are being taken. As these are the next to the last examinations, many students are finding it imperative to study in order to obtain the required number of credits.

The air is full of plans, so common to the last few weeks of school—Seniors trying to keep their flunk day a secret, students making predictions as to next year's student body officers, groups organizing to fight for their favorite locality for a high school picnic—Band day, Senior play, Baccalaureate, Commencement, new dresses, new suits, announcements, diplomas—and then the sudden hush as summer vacation drops as a blanket over school activities.

Wilfred—You wouldn't want a little boy punished on account of something you said, would you?

Minister—Certainly not.

Wilfred—Then if you mention cookies while you are here you had better thank mother for two dozen instead of the dozen I brought.

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