

## SOIL CONSERVATION PAPER PRESENTED AT MEETING BY BILL ROOT, H. S. STUDENT

If Bill Root, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Root of Wasco and The Dalles is typical of the younger generation now attending high school, there need be little fear of the attention these young farmers will give to the problem of soil conservation. Bill presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Northern Wasco Soil Conservation district January 10 considered so authentic and appropriate it is published here in full as given by young Mr. Root.

"When the soil is gone man must go, and the process does not take long." This was said by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908.

It takes about 500 years to build an inch of topsoil. But with carelessness it takes only a few years or even weeks to have this washed or blown away.

In the 1700's when the United States was largely an uncultivated wilderness the average depth of our soil was 9 inches. Today, in the 1900's, only 200 years later, the average soil depth is 6 inches, or a loss of one-third of our topsoil.

Wind and water are the principal causes of erosion; however, soil may also be lost through over-planting or over-use. We notice in forests and grasslands that water does not run bad nor does the soil. But on cropland poorly handled, water will run off rather fast and carry soil with it. Barren ground loses as much as 60 tons of rich top soil per acre per year. The wind and water work upon the topsoil and soon we have gullied, worthless wasteland. By 1939 erosion had ruined 50 million acres of farmland in the United States and threatened another 50 million acres. The annual loss is estimated at four million dollars. Erosion not only washes and blows soil from the careless farmer's land but from his neighbors too. These are some of the principal causes of soil erosion.

Let us enumerate some of the principal ways of preventing this loss:

First, plant farm crops only on fertile and level or gently sloping land.

Second, seed steep slopes for pasture.

Third, use a crop rotation system.

Fourth, carry on practices which tend to hold water in the ground.

Fifth, use strip cropping and contour farming.

Sixth, build diversion ditches and terraces.

Seventh, use a stubble mulch system of farming.

Eighth, use fertilizer to rot straw and build up soil humus.

Ninth, on pasture land, practice deferred grazing.

Today in the United States there are many men who are getting advice from the county extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture experiment stations or the Soil Conservation service. But still there are many more who do not know how to begin a conservation project on their own land. There are still a few, too, who are not conservation minded, but only a very few.

Most farm owners realize the urgent need for soil conservation and are doing their utmost to stop the wind and water erosion on their own farms. A large percentage of farm owners are experimenting with various methods of conservation but since no two farms are alike, it is hard for them to decide which method to use to the best advantage. I believe that in the next few years, we will see a lot more conservation work done when the results from these individual experiments and the experiments of all the government agencies have proven practical.

In closing I want to refer you to a quotation by Dr. C. Lowdermilk, assistant chief of the Soil Conservation service. Dr. Lowdermilk made a trip through Palestine in 1939. He believed that if Moses should have seen the "Promised Land" as it is today he would have written the Eleventh Commandment which would read somewhat as follows: "Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil desolation and protect thy hills from over-grazing by thy herds that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and waste gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the Earth."

### 4-H CLUB NEWS

The annual 4-H Leaders Conference sponsored by the Extension Service and the Oregon 4-H Leaders' association, will be held at Pendleton January 30 through February 1, according to county agent, T. W. Thompson.

All county 4-H leaders are encouraged to attend this meeting. Parents and 4-H club supporters are welcome to share in the three-day program.

L. J. Allen, State 4-H Club Leader, will preside over the meeting with other members of the 4-H Club Department of the Oregon State College Extension Service participating in the session.

C. A. Root, Pacific Power and Light company of Portland, will discuss the new 4-H electricity project.

The meeting will deal with project work in home economics and agriculture, also general features of the 4-H Club program for boys and girls.

Sherman county leaders, parents and supporters of club work should contact T. W. Thompson, county extension agent, regarding attendance and room reservations.

## Conqueror of Dreaded Wheat Rust



The first successful transfer of the rust resistant qualities of feed wheat to the bread wheats was accomplished by Prof. E. S. McFadden, agronomist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The development of his Hope wheat halted wheat rust which threatened much of the crop in the nation's bread basket, the Middle West. Prof. McFadden appears in the new motion picture, "Waves of Green," which is to be shown here soon as part of the "We Salute American Agriculture" program.

## 50TH WEDDING FOR PIKES, FORMERLY OF GRASS VALLEY

By Mrs. A. F. Baker

GRASS VALLEY—Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Pike, former Grass Valley residents observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 23, at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Louis May, of Hermiston.

The entire family of four daughters and one son were present for the occasion. They were Mrs. Leona Baker and son, Frank, of Springfield, Ore.; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lister of Pendleton; Mr. and Mrs. Lester Gordon and son, Irwin, of Pilot Rock; Mr. and Mrs. Louis May and children of Hermiston; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pike of Grass Valley.

Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Leighton Fields of Pendleton; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Reynolds and children of Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Fields of Grass Valley; and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Rennecker of Umatilla.

Mrs. Baker, the eldest daughter, decorated the anniversary cake, which was baked by Mrs. May, the youngest daughter.

The Pikes were born in Oregon and have lived in this state all their lives. Mr. Pike was born December 28, 1873 in Linn county, three miles south of Lebanon, and Mrs. Pike on April 14, 1880, at Peoria, 25 miles away.

He attended Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis for three years, and she attended Monmouth Teachers college for two years then taught school for two years in Sherman county.

Mr. Pike spent part of his childhood at Cold Springs, known then as Greasewood precinct, and here recalls incidents of the Bannock Indian war in 1878 when his family with others in the district, loaded their belongings and

drove by night to Fort Waha Walla.

His grandparents were immigrants of 1852, his grandfather dying en route, and his grandmother with her six children settled on a claim in the Willamette valley and managed eventually to send most of her children through Willamette university. Mrs. Pike's parents also came across the plains.

After their marriage in 1900 Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Pike lived at Moro, where he was deputy county clerk. He ran a hardware store and owned a farm. During harvest on the farm Mrs. Pike was accustomed to cook for a crew of 34 men. She took the cook house right along with the men, drawing it with a team of four horses, cooking in transit.

Later they lived in The Dalles where Mr. Pike had a grocery store, and moved in 1915 to Grass Valley, where he was bookkeeper in a general store and served as postmaster for 26 years. For several years they had the telephone office, with Mrs. Pike as manager.

They remained at Grass Valley until 1943, and are now selling their farm at Hermiston to return to Grass Valley, where Mr. Pike will be in business with their son, Frank Pike.

### Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Mac Hall returned Saturday, January 13, from a 10-day trip along the southern Oregon coast, driving down into California.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Melzer returned to their Klondike home from Salem, with their four-week-old baby boy, Daryl.

## BENEFITS OF CLEARING SAGEBRUSH

Clearing sagebrush from eastern Oregon range lands is difficult and costly, but such lands yield immeasurably more forage and pasture if properly seeded and managed afterward, was E. R. Jackman's statement at the annual meeting of the Central Wasco Soil Conservation district held at the Ramsey Park Grounds January 8.

Jackman, who is crop specialist at Oregon State college, said it takes 2,000 pounds of water for every pound of dry matter produced on range land and if sagebrush is present, it will use most of the available moisture, leaving little for grass. This was cited as another reason why deferred grazing does not help much in bringing grass back wherever sage is growing.

Using fire is the cheapest way of getting rid of sagebrush, Jackman said, but this method must be employed with extreme caution and care. Using offset discs, raking, and sweep type implements were mentioned as other means of clearing range land preparatory to seeding.

Three requirements were listed as being necessary for a successful range reseeding program. These included, first, getting rid of all existing weeds or vegetation; second, covering the seed in some manner; and, third, keeping livestock off for at least one year following the seeding and, preferably, for two years.

Good native bunch grass range will yield as much as any grass that can be seeded, Jackman said, but none of our native grasses will stand being eaten down completely year after year. Crested wheatgrass was mentioned as one of the introduced grasses that will stand tougher use than native grasses. Cheat grass was said to be able to do about as well as other grasses some years but is not dependable. Research workers found a difference in cheat grass between high-producing and low-producing years of as much as 200 per cent. A farmer cannot

plan his grazing operations on 400 cattle one year and only two the next, it was pointed out.

Crested wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, and intermediate wheatgrass were mentioned as some of the better grasses for seeding on range lands.

Rex Warren, crop and weed specialist at Oregon State college, recommended using one-third 2-4-D with two thirds tarweed in wheat control of tarweed in wheat.

Members of a weed panel, including Eldon Emerson, Elwood Adkisson, Earl Meeker, J. Ray Kortege, and Warren, brought out the need for more aggressive weed control efforts in Wasco county with some additional county owned equipment needed for roadwork. Somewhat heavier applications of 2,4-D than have been used in the past were recommended, based on the experience of members of the panel.

Delaney Schanno, Route 3, The Dalles, was elected supervisor for a three-year term, replacing John Hix of Dufur.

Kenneth Zachary has been hired by the city to read water meters and get out the water bills.

# BLUM'S

## FrostKist Ice Cream

2 1/2 Gal.	\$4.00
1 Gal.	1.75
1/2 Gal.	1.00
Quart	.50
Pint	.25

Try Rayve



## ...finance it through FIRST NATIONAL

Finance your new car the low-cost First National way. Just tell your auto dealer you want First National financing...he'll do the rest! Learn more about this easy and convenient way to finance your new automobile...ask your dealer or any branch of the First National Bank.

SHERMAN COUNTY BRANCH  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
OF PORTLAND

"LET'S BUILD OREGON TOGETHER"  
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Thought for today

"The cautious seldom err."

—Confucius

For moderate refreshment...

Light OLYMPIA "It's the Water"

Olympia Brewing Co., Olympia, Wash., U.S.A. \*B

Spencer & Libby

Funeral home

PHONE 1234

800 KELLY AVE

A name closely associated in the public mind with dependability

Beefo's Beefo's

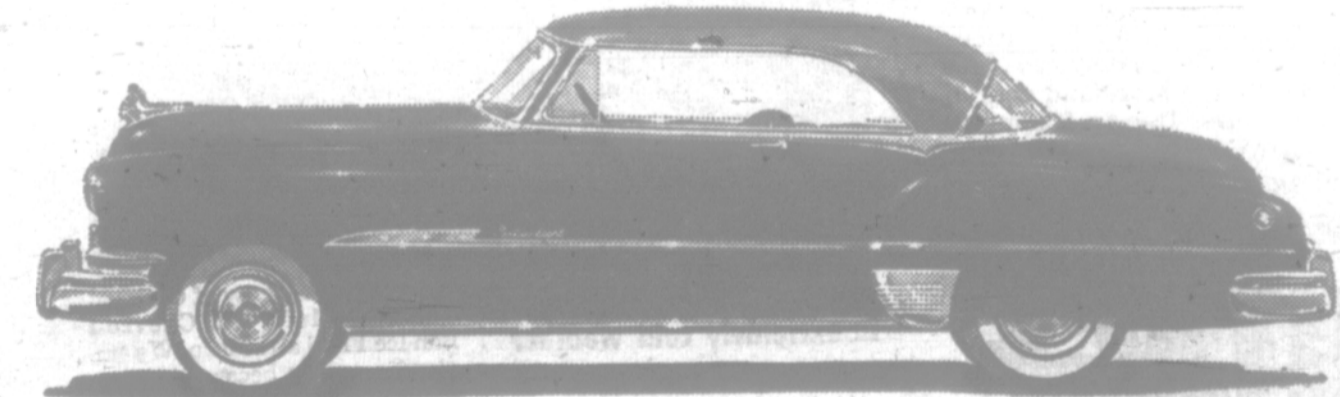
# BEEFO'S

At the CAPITAL CITY, Moro, Oregon

Did you ever notice how many people eat here? And did you ever think why? Maybe its because the food is good

Beefo's Beefo's

New Silver Anniversary Pontiac



New and Beautiful Proof

that Dollar for Dollar you can't beat a Pontiac!

The Car Proves it by its Beauty and Performance!

The Price Proves it by its Downright Value!

ARSTILL-MONROE PONTIAC INC.  
Moro, Oregon

If - - -

If you want to sell something to Sherman county people the best medium is the Sherman County Journal. It gets around. And while it is winter it's a good time to advertise and sell your surplus equipment or livestock to some one who can use it to better advantage. Advertising is a service everyone can use.

If you want to learn of the doings of Sherman Countians, read the Sherman County Journal. In it are stories of the county's work and play, its wheat and stock, its government and the state's government, its people and their activities, its triumphs and defeats.

The Sherman County Journal is the only newspaper in the world that is primarily interested in Sherman county. It is the newspaper of Sherman county. Its editorial policy is for the betterment of Sherman county. It is written of, by and for Sherman Countians.

# Sherman County Journal