

### Grass Valley

By Mrs. A. F. Balzer

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Balzer were both in a hospital in The Dalles the first of the week with a severe case of food poisoning caused, it is thought, from eating of salad dressing. The illness of Mrs. Balzer accounts for the absence of Grass Valley items this week.

#### CARD OF THANKS

I want to give my sincere thanks to the friends and neighbors who sent me cards and flowers while I was in the hospital recently.

Mrs. J. K. Series

### County Ramblin's

County Agricultural Agent

Do you have a plentiful supply of meadow or field mice working in your wheat field or lawn, as many of Sherman county people do? If so, the county agent's office has a supply of bait, now on hand, that you can purchase to rid your property of this pest. Recommendations of the Sherman County Rural Planning conference last spring were many and varied. One hundred seventy-five Sherman county farmers participated in forming some immediate and long time goals for Sherman county. Six committee reports were developed. Recommendations of the committee reports were:

**WEED CONTROL COMMITTEE**—(1) To coordinate the weed control program the county court should appoint a Sherman County Weed Control Council to work in conjunction with the weed control committee. Purposes of the council are: (a) Develop an intensive weed program to reduce present perennial infestations and inroads of new infestations with consideration for efficiency and proper use of present and future tax dollars. (b) Direct program of the county weed supervisor. (c) Inventory periodically the weeds present and their infestation and take action to meet these problems. (d) Advise the county court and work with them in guiding the county program relative to weeds. (e) Work closely with the county agent in use of new chemicals, recommendations and educational program on weed control. (2) The county should use hormone-type sprays as many times as necessary during the year to control annual weeds along roads. Soil sterilants should also be tried to determine their effectiveness in the weed program. (3) A county weed supervisor should be employed for a period of at least six months during the year; the remainder of the year he could work as a member of the road crew. (4) The county should eradicate all perennial noxious weeds on county roadways and work with cities, state highway department and public utilities for eradication on their properties. (5) The committee set as a goal the eradication of White Top, Russian Knapweed, Canadian thistle and Dalmatian toadflax on all properties in Sherman county by 1963. (6) A roadside grass seeding program should be done where possible by farmers or state and county road crews. Ditch shoulders can be shaped and seeded to grass that will reduce future weed control cost and spread of perennial weeds. (7) Attention is called to new chemicals available to farmers for general weed control and reduction of fire hazard. (8) Rye should be considered a weed and treated as such. Farmers with rye in their fields should cover their bulk trucks with canvas to reduce spreading along roadways. (9) The effectiveness of chemical methods for control of rye needs to be further demonstrated. (10) Use of clean seed free from annual and perennial weeds is recommended. (11) Known

**FOOD... through the ages**

THROUGHOUT HISTORY HARDY RACES HAVE FAVORED SOUP.

THE RUGGED NORSEMEN ATE SIX MEALS DAILY AND WITH ALL SIX, SOUP WASHING OUT THE MEAT WITH PERFORATED SPOONS.

“HINN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD” MEDIEVAL TROUBADOURS SANG OF FOOD AS WELL AS LOVE, THUS POPULARIZING AND PRESERVING FAVORITE RECIPES.

EARLY EUROPEAN CONVENTS SERVED DELICIOUS AND NOURISHING DRIED PEA SOUP TO ALL APPLICANTS—THE ORIGIN OF OUR SOUP KITCHEN.

TODAY'S GREEN PEA SOUP AND OTHER NATIONAL FAVORITES: CHICKEN-NOODLE, TOMATO-VEGETABLE, ONION, AND BEEF-VEGETABLE COME AS NUTRITIOUS SOUP MIXES, QUICK, THRIFTY, DELICIOUS.

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sources of weed seed spreading are: movement of livestock, hay, feed and equipment; wildlife feeding on mature plants; flower and garden seed packages; planting of perennial noxious weeds in yards and cemeteries; wind and water erosion. (12) Farmers should be alert to perennial weed infestation (goatweed, Mediterranean sage and Halogeton) on range land and its spread to crop land. (13) Since morning glory is the county's most serious weed problem effort should be made to control it by use of hormone-type sprays and soil sterilants. (14) The following educational program is recommended: Field days or tours, farm meetings, well-marked demonstration plots, newspaper articles, circular letters on weeds, weed mounts, and identification. (15) The committee should be continued to work with other interested county groups in the control or eradication of perennial weeds. (16) Recommend the experiment station conduct additional research on methods of controlling cheatgrass in wheat fields.

**LAND USE AND CROP PRODUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**—(1) It is recommended that the Oregon agricultural experiment station be requested to employ a full-time soil scientist at the Sherman branch station to increase studies on nitrogen-moisture relationships and ridding and tillage practices which will benefit wheat production. It is further recommended that a committee be formed to implement this recommendation with the cooperation of other interested counties. (2) Facilities for soil testing would result in more efficient use of fertilizers. It is recommended that a committee continue to study the feasibility of establishing a laboratory in this area. (3) Seed treatment with suitable chemicals to prevent the build-up of new smut races should be continued. At the present, HCB offers the best opportunities to control both seed and soil-borne spores. (4) Nitrogen fertilizer appears to increase the expression of a disease known as "Columbia Basin Foot-rot." The organism causing this disease is not known, nor has a control been developed. Research workers are urged to give attention to this and other diseases as they appear. (6) Rain-making and hail prevention have been carried on by Sherman county farmers since 1950. Re-

sults are uncertain since evaluation methods were subject to criticism. Current research in California is the best possibility of determining the value of rainmaking and developing new methods of evaluation.

**MORNING GLORY TRIALS**  
Morning Glory research trials were established on Don and Bill Maenab and Lamer Sayrs ranches Wednesday, June 4. Dean Swan, OSC weed specialist, established the trials. The experimental trials have been established to gain additional information relative to the use of the benzoc acids as soil sterilants on morning glory. Applications, including last week, will be applied at four different times up until fall seeding. Two benzoc acids, trichloro and polychloro are being used at different rates. The objective is to determine which of the materials is most effective, what time during the summer fallow seasons they should be applied, and whether they should be applied on bare ground or with good foliage growth of morning glory. Additional plots will be established on stubble land after harvest.

**ONE SHOT WEED CONTROL**  
How would you like to apply one chemical in the fall at seeding time for general weed control—broadleaf weeds and annual grasses such as cheatgrass? Experimental weed research work is now being conducted along these lines by OSC research workers. Dean Swan has such trial plots at Pendleton and Moro this year. Simazin and Durox, two chemicals now on the market are under study. Simazin is presently approved and recommended for general weed control. Durox is a sterilant at heavy rates, but is presently recommended for general weed control in alfalfa. Much additional work is needed with these materials, but field application of this nature may not be too many years in the future. Cost may be the initial limiting factor.

**CHEMICAL SUMMER FALLOW**  
Growth control of vegetation by chemicals for summer fallow under study. Perfect results were obtained at the Sherman station in trial plot work using Simazin alone and in combination with either Dalapon or ATA. Present cost of Simazin—\$3.85 a pound at 4 to 6 pounds—does not make applications economical. Present manufacturing cost in Switzerland is 80 cents a pound. U. S.

production and greater use of the material should in time bring the material in reason for consideration for field application.

#### ORGANIC MATTER

Frequently we speak of organic matter and its importance for continued profitable grain production in the Columbia Basin. Soil organic matter is a mixture of plant and animal material in various stages of decomposition. It runs all the way from recently added plant or animal residue in the process of rapid decay to decomposed organic materials—sometimes called "humus". Whenever fresh organic matter is added, the decay process is speeded up.

The primary source of new organic materials for soils is from plant residue. Mature plant residues are usually composed of about 50% carbon and less than one percent nitrogen. All the nitrogen contained in the residue can be utilized by the microorganisms. Only a small amount of the carbon can be used, because the decomposition process releases most of it as carbon dioxide, just as fire releases it.

The carbon-nitrogen ratio of grass and grain straw can be as wide as 150:1. The C-N ratio of legume residue is much narrower—30 parts of carbon to one part nitrogen. Legume residues, because of their higher nitrogen content, build up organic matter in the soil much more rapidly than residue of grasses or grain, but this build-up is usually temporary. Under any type of farming, the organic matter tends to become more or less stabilized at some point. Under the summer-fallow system, that point is low-

er than under continuous cropping.

One of the major management problems of wheat-fallow areas is the maintenance of organic matter level in the soil because soil erosion is more severe the lower the organic matter. By returning only the residue of the wheat crops, we haven't been able to maintain the organic matter level. Experimental results indicate that an optimum application of nitrogen and wheat straw more nearly will maintain organic matter levels in our wheat summer-fallow soils, perhaps due to the greatly enlarged root system and top growth induced by nitrogen.

If we attempt to increase the organic matter level we must consider using materials such as manure, peavines or legumes in a rotation. Manure and peavines are in limited supply. This means a legume rotation is the only feasible practice for most of the wheat producing area.

### H. B. Elder Named John Day Boss

Colonel H. B. Elder, the man who was in charge of The Dalles dam, has been appointed superintendent for the John Day dam and will leave The Dalles project July 3 and go to Walla Walla to prepare for his work on the John Day project.

Planning now indicates that first work will start on the Washington side with the building of cofferdams and this may take more than a year. Then similar structures will be built on the Oregon side and work done inside them preparing the base of the dam.

Peak periods for employment will probably be in 1960 or 1961 when 3500 to 4000 men will be working on the John Day dam. Water in the Columbia is dropping daily and work may begin

as soon as access roads are built and contracts are let for the cofferdams and other work which is expected sometime in July.

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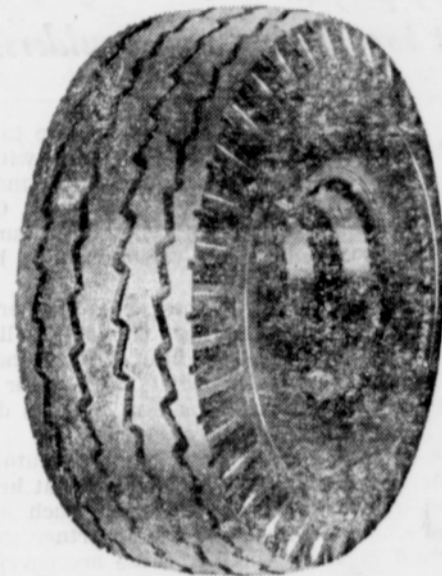
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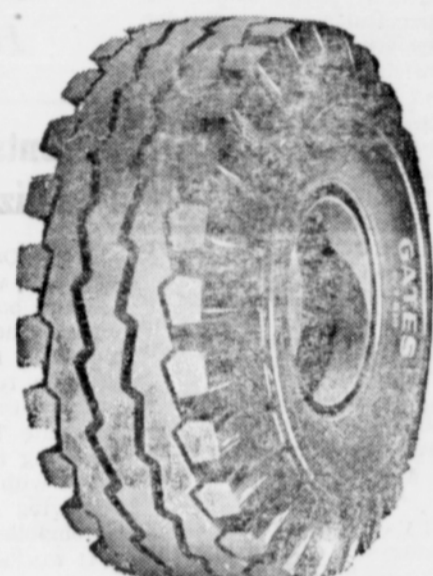
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