

Grass Valley

By Mrs. A. F. Balzer

Miss Barbara Alley, daughter of Mrs. Earl Olds and Edgar Alley and Dick Rust, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rust were married in Goldendale Friday January 2. Their attendants were Mrs. Oran Raven of Grass Valley and Les Edwards of Moro. Others attending the wedding were Oran Raven and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ziegler Jr. of The Dalles.

Dinner guests New Years day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Verne Mobley at Kent were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kruger and family of Madras, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Stonewick and Susan Woods of Portland and Darlene Miller of Moro. The occasion was the birthday anniversaries of Mr. Kruger and Ronnie Mobley.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Olds and Robin were business visitors in Portland Friday returning Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Reynolds were dinner guests New Years eve at the Wallace May home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Eakin, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Miller of Moro and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Howell and her mother of Kent spent New Years eve visiting Mr. and Mrs. Don Cox.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Peters Jr. and family of Hood River spent from New Years day till Sunday with his parents the Herman Peters.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace May had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence May and family New Years day.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald von Borstel and family spent Friday visiting the Gene Reynolds family.

Mr. and Mrs. Myrtle Smith and family and Mrs. Leta Eslinger of Moro had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Eakin in The Dalles New Years day.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schadewitz had as New Years eve guests Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Schadewitz. Other dinner guests New Years day were Mr. and Mrs. Durward Heiler and family and Mrs. W. C. Heiler of The Dalles.

Quite a large crowd attended the New Years eve dance held in the Kent Legion hall. Music was furnished by rhythmaires. Supper was served by the Auxiliaries with Mrs. Bob Rolfe, chairman, assisted by Mrs. Frank von Borstel, Mrs. A. von Borstel and Mrs. John Buether.

Those who do not wish to remain in the secret sister club of the Rebekahs please notify Mrs. Earl Olds or Mrs. Frank E. Bayler before January 21.

Mr. and Mrs. William Brinkert and Gary spent New Years day in The Dalles with the Duane Anderson family. Mrs. Brinkert and Gary went back Friday and stayed with the Andersons till Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunlap, Terri and Larry, left New Years day for their home in Los Angeles after spending the holiday here with his mother, Mrs. A. A. Dunlap.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Balzer spent New Years day in Wasco with the Gus Hartmanns.

Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Davidson and family of The Dalles were dinner guests New Years day with the Gene Reynolds.

Ralph Balzer and son, Carcel of Portland were visitors at the A. F. Balzer home last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald von Borstel and family spent New Years day as guests of the Bill Jefferies family at Kent.

Mrs. Bernard Martin and Deanna returned home Saturday from a trip to Los Angeles where they spent several days visiting her sister.

Dinner guests New Years day at the Len Garland home were Mr.

and Mrs. Fred von Borstel of Spray, Phil von Borstel and Mr. and Mrs. Frank von Borstel.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Knott had as dinner guests Saturday January 3 honoring their daughter, Patty, on her 11th birthday Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maxfield and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Maxfield. Mr. and Mrs. Frank von Borstel were late afternoon callers and had cake and coffee with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Dell Olds had as their guests from Wednesday till Friday their son in law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Crews, Donald of Stevenson. Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Van Gilder of Moro had dinner with them New Years day.

A workshop on the making of fabric gloves, under the supervision of Mrs. Ted Trimble, will be held at the Baptist church Wednesday January 14 at 1:30 p. m. Anyone interested may attend.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jenkins left Tuesday after Christmas for their home in Portland after spending the holiday with her daughter, Mrs. Donald von Borstel and family.

Mrs. Bill Pausch and Miss Glena Teeters, teachers in Jefferson high school in Portland left for their homes after spending the holidays with Mr. Pausch.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Knott and family were dinner guests New Years day at the Ben Maxfield home.

Gene Knott with the US navy of Portland left Sunday after spending the holiday weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Knott at Kent.

Mr. and Mrs. George von Borstel and family were dinner guests Sunday at the A. von Borstel home.

Gene Knott was a caller at the A. von Borstel home Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace May were among those attending the golden wedding reception for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sargent at Wasco Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Payne and family returned home Monday, December 29 from a trip to San Francisco where they spent the Christmas holiday with their son in law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Gomez and family.

Mrs. Viril Oltsmann and Joy and Kelley of Goldendale and her son in law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Lawrence of Petersburg, Illinois, were here last Monday visiting at the Jos Hamond, Harold Owens and John Alley homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred von Borstel of Spray arrived here New Years day to visit his parents, the A. von Borstels over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Pentecost of The Dalles were Sunday afternoon visitors at the Ted Trimble home.

County Ramblin's

County Agricultural Agent

Meat Market Margins

Many of you wonder why the price consumers pay for beef is so high in relation to prices you receive for live animals. Why must the housewife pay about a dollar a pound for sirloin steak when the price for live animals is only about one-fourth that amount?

The most important single item, of course, is that it takes about 2.16 lbs. of choice steer on the hoof to equal one pound of beef for the consumer. For the less highly finished animals, the consumer gets even a smaller percentage of the liveweight as beef. Also, it must be realized that the steaks and better roasts account for only a small per cent of carcass. Hamburger and stewing beef even from a corn-fattened steer account for 24% of the beef sold from the carcass. Therefore, the better quality cuts sell considerably above the average price to counter-balance the price of cheaper cuts. The chart below pictures the many retail cuts of beef and their retail prices.

Marketing Costs Included In Retail Price

Although the price of the live animal is the most important single factor in pricing retail meat cuts, variations in prices to the consumer are also explained by changes in costs and processing methods performed in the marketing services. While wholesale and retail prices of beef generally follow the price movement of live animals, the costs of marketing services are not closely related to livestock and meat prices. Let us examine how this farm-to-retail price spread is distributed and which factors constitute the major part of marketing costs.

LABOR is the largest element in the food marketing bill comprising about 50% of the operating expenses of meat packing firms and about two-thirds of the same expenses on the retailing level. Wage costs per pound of meat production in the meat industry increased about 28% since 1929.

TRANSPORTATION, another important element in the marketing of food, accounts for about 8% of the marketing bill. Since 1929 freight rates, have gone up more than 25%. Rail and motor freight rates, plus the additional charges for refrigeration services, are regulated by the ICC and not subject to wide short-run fluctuations.

OTHER FIXED EXPENSES incurred by packing plants and retail outlets are for rent, supplies

and containers, depreciation, taxes, interest, equipment, lights, heat and power, licenses, insurance maintenance, advertising, and other miscellaneous costs. These operating expenses account for about 40% of the marketing bill. Prices of these factors used by marketing agencies perform their services are determined in the non-agricultural segment of our economy.

PROFITS are another part of the marketing margin and represent returns to investors. There are over 3000 meat packing companies. At the retail level there are close to 280,000 establishments handling meat, according to the last census. In general, meat packers' profits in relation to sales are lower than profits in other food processing industries. They also tend to have wider fluctuations.

Marketing Margins Increase In the Long-Run

During the early 1920's the farm to retail margin for meat was around 15c per pound. This 15c covered costs of labor, transportation, profits, and all other fixed expenses. In the latter twenties it increased to around 17c per pound. Margins declined somewhat through the depression years of the 1930's and tended downward through World War II when prices were under the restraints of OPA ceilings. With the removal of price controls in 1946, retail prices of meat, farm values

of livestock, and marketing margins shot up sharply from 1946 to 1948. Although retail prices and the farm value of livestock fluctuated up and down during the post-war period, margins appeared to be more stable from year to year. Nevertheless margins have continued to increase gradually, reaching a new high of 31c per pound in 1958. While the cost of the items included in the marketing margin increases, consumers are receiving more services with their food purchases for which they are able and willing to pay.

An examination of the prices and margins for beef since 1948 shows that meat and live animal prices followed generally parallel trends, moving up and down in response to the changing conditions of supply and demand. Margins did not fluctuate in the same fashion during this period. While the costs of providing marketing services (the costs of labor, supplies, transportation, plant and equipment and return to capital) tend to be more stable over the short-run period, they tend to increase over the long-run.

Generally speaking, the outlook is for a continued increase in marketing margins. Farm-to-retail margins for choice beef in 1957 were about 8% above 1956. In 1958 margins are expected to increase about the same amount. The producers' share of the consumer beef dollar this year is about 63%. Next year it is expected to be about the same. For hogs

though, the producers' share will go down if production increases and prices decline as generally anticipated.

The livestock industry should strive to increase efficiency in marketing. Both the producer and consumer would benefit.

Farm Prices Stay High On Milk

Prices received by Oregon farmers for their products averaged slightly higher last month, in contrast to national farm prices which slipped a cog, reported Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State.

Higher prices received by the state's farmers for their eggs and broilers, milk and milk cows, potatoes, apples, hay, and some grains more than offset lower prices on turkeys, butterfat, meat animals, and some seeds, Mrs. Horrell said. As a result, the combined average price of all farm products in Oregon rose 2 per cent last month to a level 4 per cent above a year ago.

At the same time, national farm prices lost ground, pulled lower by oranges, hogs, cotton, corn, and tobacco, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U. S. department of agriculture. Higher national prices on fresh market vegetables, potatoes, apples, and milk cushioned the decline some, but not enough to prevent the slight sag.

While prices received by farmers over the nation were moving down, prices of things they buy moved up a shade to another new all-time high, Mrs. Horrell also found.

As a result, the parity ratio dropped one point during November and now stands at 81, Mrs. Horrell said. This is the same ratio between prices farmers receive and prices they pay for goods and services as a year earlier, but still 19 points below the level set by Congress as a "fair" exchange rate, she pointed out.

Prices paid by farmers for living items also came in for gains last month, Mrs. Horrell reported. Higher price tags on new cars had a big hand in pushing family living items higher, but clothing, food, and building materials also moved up some. Prices of living items hit a new November high, and are now only a third of one per cent below the all-time peak of last May.

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