

## Experiments With Hormones and Weed Killers Hold Promise for Orchardists

By C. B. Cordy, County Agent, Horticulturist

It will only be a few days now until the hustle and bustle of pear picking gets under way and the intervening period is filled with a lot of worries for the fruit grower. Anything which happens to the fruit now will result in a permanent loss which can not be made up for by thinning or any other orchard practice. One of these hazards is an actual loss of the fruit either by natural dropping or by wind storm blowing it off.

This is not the worry that it used to be because we now have available certain hormones which will keep the pears from loosening on the trees and even after they loosen it will cause them to grow tight to the spur again. Growers who have not yet applied their hormone spray to Bartlett's should do so right away.

### Hormones Little Understood

There are a large number of plant hormones and their action is as yet very little understood even by the scientists who are working full time with them. The common hormone which we use for sticking pears on the trees at harvest can be used in the spring on these same pear trees for blossom thinning. As their effects at that time are rather unpredictable they are not used commercially as blossom thinners because of the degree of thinning can not be regulated.

While it may cause a thinning on the pear blossoms, if sprayed on tomato blossoms it will cause them to stay on and to produce fruits even though normal pollination is not accomplished. Then we go to the other extreme and take a violent weed killer such as 2,4-D and if used in proper concentrations it is very effective for holding the fruits on than the regular fruit drop hormones.

### Weed Killer Tricky

Dr. Degman, Superintendent of the Southern Oregon Experiment station, has been working with 2,4-D on pears and, while his early experiments have indicated that the material is quite effective, it is very tricky to use and may cause considerable tree injury. In many cases the injury does not show up the same year the material is used but the following spring when the trees leaf out the leaves are very small and twisted.

One big advantage in the use of 2,4-D is that it can be applied a month or two before harvest and it will continue to be effective clear through harvest.

A related weed killer which is also used as a tree hormone is 2,4,5-T. This is the material which is so effective in killing blackberries and other woody plants. When this hormone is sprayed on in very dilute solution it causes an early ripening of fruits with some possible intensification of color.

I would like to make it very clear that the usage of any of these materials except the stand-

## Timely Topics

In spite of many counter attractions, last Sunday's A.A.U.-W. Festival tea drew an attendance of more than 150. A surprising number of men braved the social event and seemed none the worse for their experience.

The inevitable curious pooch that dashes onto every football field made his brief but startling appearance before the footlights and momentarily stole the show from Rosalind, in "As You Like It" on Tuesday evening.

A quartet of bold, bad men of the "roaring 50's" wearing their shooting irons, startled some of the Sunday evening diners at the Plaza when they stalked in after the Jacksonville celebration. The Lane-Lindsay-DeMille exhibition of pioneers in-the-flesh, proved too realistic for a few timid tourists.

Geographical origin is easy to spot at the festival performances. Natives of the west coast arrive fully equipped with blankets while mid-westerners come in naively thin summer garments. Oregon outdoor evenings can only fool strangers.

### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Pioneer Avenue, South.  
Sunday morning service at 11 o'clock.

Subject: "Soul."  
Golden Text: Lamentations 3: 24. The Lord is My portion saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him.

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday evening meeting, which includes testimonies of Christian Science healing, is held at 8 o'clock.

Reading Room open daily from 2 to 5 p.m. except Sundays and holidays.

### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST (Christian Church) Second and B Streets.

Earl F. Downing, Minister  
Bible School, 9:45 a.m.  
Picnic following church service.

Morning Service, 11:00 a.m.  
Sermon: "Let your Light So Shine." Anthem by the choir, Doris Renzema, director.

Christian Endeavor: 7 p.m.  
Evening Service: 8 p.m. The choir will present a sacred concert.

Midweek Service, Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

Stationery Supplies at the News Review

ard fruit drop hormones, is very experimental and should not be attempted by anyone who values either his crop or his trees. Practical usage may grow out of these tests but on the other hand the materials are very dangerous and, because of their plant killing abilities, it may never be practical to use them.



by Roy DeMille

## ASHLAND'S PREHISTORIC GRAVE-YARD OF THE MASTODON

One of the world's largest prehistoric animals was unearthed by Champion T. Payne of Ashland in 1917, while digging a well thirty feet west of the house on his farm. This happened near the city limits at the south-east line within a stone's throw of highway 99.

A good many thousands of years ago these historic mammoths no doubt roamed the mountain slopes and the low lands of this mountain valley where Ashland stands today.

This certain spot is the only place where these mastodon bones have been uncovered in the upper Rogue River valley. The bones were well preserved when found by Mr. Payne. They were of mammoth size, and the tusks were genuine ivory. There were also smaller bones found, of what nature, it never could be found out. People came for miles, out of curiosity, to see the bones which were on display for a period of time at the Provest store in Ashland.

One place the bones were found at a depth of four feet and at another place about ten feet deep. The hole was made 10 x 11 feet square, giving a better chance to work and not break the bones in digging the sticky mud away. It took patience, time and skill to preserve these bones. When they came in contact with the air, a liquid was used to penetrate the bones and preserve them. In the early pioneer days when the stock would venture too far in on this quagmire, they would make no effort to escape from the mud, and the cowpunchers have saved a good many head of stock with a good saddle horse and a lariat rope. These cattle would venture in too far, to lick the mineral salty taste that was in the mud and to eat the green vegetation that grew in the quagmire.

### Mammals Also Craved Salt

The prehistoric animals craved the salt the same way the domestic animals did, but in those days they didn't have the cowpunchers to drop a lariat over their heads and saddle horses to pull them out.

One joint of the back-bone weighed nearly forty pounds; one of the back molar teeth weighed as much as fourteen pounds; one rib bone measured five and a half feet long; a jaw bone nearly four feet long and twenty two inches wide; a trunk twenty-one and a half feet long; tusks were curved in an upright

position exceeding not less than eleven feet in length and nine inches at the base; bottom of the foot, front and back, sixteen to twenty-two inches; from the ground to the top of the shoulders twelve to eighteen feet, all of which showed the enormous size of the animals.

In re-assembling the huge bones they showed that the early mastodon must have looked much like a giraffe with a short neck and heavy body, not unlike an elephant.

Mr. Payne's father came to the valley in 1866 when Champion was but a small boy. His father took up land across Bear creek near Roxy Ann. He lived there with his father until he was a grown man and then married Miss Stella Wells. Later he bought his present ranch. They lived in Ashland for a couple of years while their house was being built, and in 1912 moved to the ranch, which they have made their permanent home.

Mr. Payne raised a family of six children, two boys and four girls, Homer, Clark, Maple, Ann, Margie and Elizabeth.

The children are all married now and Mr. and Mrs. Payne are still enjoying good health. They have now retired from the hard work it took to run the ranch, and are taking time for the happiness of life in their old days. They are among the early pioneers of the community who should be recognized as faithful citizens.

## Registration High For 4-H Fall Fair

The annual 4-H fall fair to be held at the county fair grounds August 21 to 24 will be the biggest in the history of the event, according to Rufus H. Cate, county agent in charge of 4-H work.

Registrations are exceptionally high, pointing to a record participation, Cate said. Over 130 head of dairy stock, 100 head of hogs, 60 head of sheep and 100 head of beef cattle, both market and breeding stock, will be shown.

In addition to the livestock, there will be exhibits of bees, 100 pens of poultry and rabbits, forestry, crops and garden displays, and home economics demonstrations.

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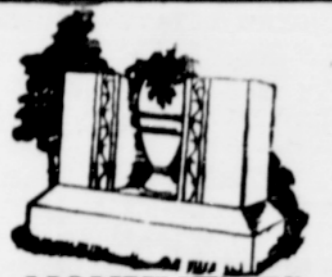
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## Tele-fun

by Warren Goodrich



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