

## EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING FARMER ENTERTAINS 200 GUESTS AT MORO

It would be hard to imagine how anyone could get a more complete knowledge of wheat growing in eastern Oregon in a shorter period of time than in a few hours spent at the Moro experiment station at the feet of the fount of knowledge, D. E. Stephens, who has lived, slept and eaten wheat growing in this section for the 26 years the station has been in existence.

The more than 200 visitors who toured the station last Saturday as one of the events of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league picnic, actually did not sit at Mr. Stephens' feet. A hundred or more rode in three trucks provided by the soil conservation service, where they sat for more than two hours almost oblivious to the hottest sun of the season as they gave eager ear to the story of the experiment station director, his two assistants and E. R. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops. The others rode in 25 private automobiles that completed the caravan.

Off the record it was learned that Mr. and Mrs. Stephens came to Oregon from the east at the time Mr. Stephens took the station superintendency. Mrs. Stephens didn't care for Oregon, and they planned to return east after a couple of years. What happened to those plans is seen in one of the most complete and effective experiment stations in the entire country developed under the constant guidance of a man whose scientific purpose is reflected in the station's every aspect. "Dave" Stephens is the friend and neighbor of every eastern Oregon wheat grower, and he took real pleasure in "showing off" his farm—the most valuable farm in eastern Oregon, not for its immense crop yields but for its production of statistical information to guide other farmers—for it is at all times evident that Dave Stephens is a real dirt farmer at heart.

The white buildings of the station lie on the hill at the east edge of the city of Moro, a picturesque sight against the green background of trees and crops made especially verdant this season by recent copious showers. (The showers had benefitted the growing crop there much in proportion as they have helped crops in Morrow county, giving prospects of one of the highest production years in the station's history.)

There was significance in everything seen. The trees about the station buildings themselves comprised a nursery on which data are kept to assist in providing farmers with better shade for their homes.

On the rolling hills beyond the buildings lie the acres upon acres of varied appearing plots which give information to their planters and tenders, and through them to the general farming public, of various tillage, rotation and seeding practices for innumerable cereal crops—not only wheat, but rye, oats and barley—besides various grasses, alfalfa, peas, potatoes, and we know not how many more.

Mr. Stephens told of the general work of the station, and his remarks were supplemented by talks on summer fallow practice and wheat varieties by his assistants. Brought out was the direct bearing of moisture and nitrogen content of the soil to crop production, and the striving to produce an early, high-yielding wheat variety that will resist all types of smut. (And, by the way, much progress is being made in this line through years of experimentation by hybridization.) The superintendent himself pointed out one plot where rotation practices using several different combinations of crops has been carried out, and check kept, for 26 years; not a long enough time yet, he said, to give much worthwhile information, but which will provide an invaluable record after being carried on for 25 to a hundred years more.

Probably the nearest to a sensation of anything on the trip was caused by the beautiful stands of crested wheat grass. E. R. Jackman, who pioneered the way in the introduction of this grass into eastern Oregon on a large scale, including several thousand acres in Morrow

county, told the story of this grass. He believed it more profitable for many farmers to turn lower producing lands into crested wheat production than to continue to attempt to raise wheat on them. Crested wheat grass has been proved to be a hardy, highly palatable cover crop which may be grown almost any place in eastern Oregon. While seed the last two years has sold as high as 40 to 50 cents a pound, Mr. Jackman believed that eventually it will find a level of about 10 cents, so that he did not encourage widespread speculation. The grass has proved especially useful in applying the soil conservation program where wheat lands have been turned to soil conserving grasses.

It is impossible in short space to convey all the worthwhile information disseminated on the tour. But that those in attendance were appreciative was evidenced by the many complimentary remarks heard from the long line of men which formed as the tour ended to await each one's turn at the end of the office hose to relieve parched and dusty throats.

### Legion Climb Sets Amazing Safety Mark

One of the reasons for the outstanding success of the Hood River American Legion's annual climb of Mount Hood, which last year drew 125 climbers, is the meticulous care for the comfort and safety of participants which characterizes every movement.

With the date for the seventeenth yearly ascent set for July 13, 1937, the climb has yet to record a serious accident, although more than 2000 persons have taken part.

All climbers are required to wear colored glasses and greasepaint against the continued glare of sunshine on the snowfields; to wear hobnailed, waterproofed boots; to carry an alpenstock; and to be "sound in wind and limb," as the horse-traders say. Anyone old enough to climb who can meet these requirements is eligible to take part.

Aside from these personal properties, many other precautions are observed.

When the party starts climbing in the snow above Tie-In rock, climbers are divided into groups and roped together. Near the top of the mountain, where the snowfield becomes steeper and the ascent through the "chimney" begins, heavy ropes have been firmly anchored so that members of the party can grasp them as they climb.

Rest stops are frequent, particularly after the party ascends into the rarefied air of high altitudes.

It is here, near the mountain-top, that the scenery gradually becomes more grand and other-worldly. The sky assumes a deeper blue, new horizons open up beyond the old until they are finally lost in the hazy distance. Hood River valley itself, up which the climbers drove the day before, is but a bright patch in the broad green may spread out below. The Columbia gorge is a magnificent gash angling through the mountains to the east, north and west.

Throughout the climb members of the Crag Rats, mountaineers' organization, keep watchful eyes on their charges, on the snow, on the sky, on the peak above. With long experience among rocks and snowfields, they know when high-country travel is safe and when it is not. The Crag Rats have been invited to guide the climb again this year.

Not only in the aspect of safety, but also in all other considerations the same care and preparation is practiced by the Legion's climb committee. Work begins early in May, so that by the time the climb begins every detail has been thoroughly looked after.

Cars usually begin arriving at Tilly Jane Legion camp where the climb starts, before dinner time Saturday night. Tents are pitched and beds made before the program Saturday night. A natural amphitheater surrounded by high rocks and trees, is the setting for the campfire fun and ceremonies which are climaxed by lighting of flares and setting off of fireworks on the mountain, where

carefully-picked men have spent the afternoon in preparation.

This spectacular display, beginning at 10 o'clock, is visible from nearly all points in Hood River valley but cannot be seen from the west side. The flares, forming a huge V on the mountainside, burn for about 30 minutes.

The climb starts at 3 A. M. Sunday, and ends 12 or 13 hours later. Weather and climbing conditions are more apt to be favorable the third week in July than at any other time of year, the committee has found.

While the climb is one of the biggest community enterprises in Hood River valley, outside participants have always been welcome. Registration for the climb does not take place until Saturday evening before the climb, and every year the names of persons from distant cities appear on the roll.

### Knowledge of Kiddies Saves Parental Nerves

A knowledge of children and of the various ways in which they are likely to react at different ages is a valuable "shock absorber" for parents, taking much of the effort and worry out of their daily experience, said Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, chairman of the division of parent education in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, who addressed the Parent Education Leader Training conference at Oregon State college June 24 and 25. More than 150 delegates from parent teacher associations, study clubs and other organizations attended the conference.

"You begin trying to teach your child table manners when he is about two years old," Dr. Arlitt said in illustrating her statement. "You progress fairly well until he is about nine years old, when he begins to lose them. By the time he is 10 they are all gone, and Mother and Father worry about it. Then at about 14 or 15 he falls in love. His table manners immediately improve and he starts correcting yours. If you had realized that this was characteristic behavior a lot of worry might have been saved."

Another significant need for parent education these days is found in the fact that parents must understand what is going on at school if the child is to get the best out of life, Dr. Arlitt pointed out. The things a child learns at school may not carry over at home unless these two phases of his life are coordinated, she said.

Dr. Arlitt also pointed out the need for imparting to children a philosophy of democracy, and training them to be self-reliant, responsible citizens.

The conference was sponsored by the school of home economics and drew many regular summer session students as well as registered delegates. Other speakers included Miss Ava B. Milam, dean of home economics; Howard F. Bigelow of Western States Teachers' college, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Dr. E. W. Warrington, professor of religious education, O. S. C., and Dr. O. R. Chambers, professor of psychology, O. S. C. A number of group discussions were held.

### Kennewick to Honor Heppner Princess

Word comes from Kennewick that "Doc" and Jiggs Simmons, Pueblo, and Blackie Bryant, American Falls, will be on hand to compete in the featured bulldogging events at the Kennewick three-day festival beginning July 3.

Johnnie and Bernice Taylor will do the trick riding and three famous Indians will do trick roping. Bulls from Jump Off Joe have been brought in for the celebration. An unusually large number of bronc riders and calf ropers are on hand to help make the show a success.

Plans to entertain the Heppner princess when she arrives at Kennewick as befits one of her station are announced.

The Fourth of July parade Monday morning will be a featured attraction.

### CROSSIN CRASHES MOUNT.

Despite the fact that every railroad crossing in Oregon is marked, often with several warning devices, serious automobile accidents are increasing there, statistics compiled by the Oregon State Motor association reveal.

### Betty Bergevin is Queen Candidate

Willows grange held its June business meeting in the hall at Cecil Sunday, June 27. Miss Helen Lundell was elected to become a member of the grange and will be initiated July 25th with ten other candidates.

Miss Betty Bergevin of Ione was elected by the grange as their candidate for Morrow county Rodeo queen.

Mrs. Marie Ledbetter, chairman of the Home Economics club, had charge of the lecturer's hour, and presented a very pleasing program of music, songs, readings, skit, talks, etc., in the form of a radio program, with a large number of the grange members taking part.

Willows grangers enjoyed a splendid pot luck dinner and many nice gifts were donated by the members for the kitchen shower.

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### IONE UNIT ELECTS

The American Legion auxiliary, Ione post No. 95, met in their club room Saturday and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Beulah Mankin, president; Alice Zielke, first vice president; Vivian Haguewood, second vice president; Gladys Drake, secretary-treasurer; Vera Rietmann, Mabel Cotter and Elaine Rietmann, executive committee. Beulah Mankin and Vera Rietmann were elected as delegates to the state convention at Albany. Gladys Drake and Alice Zielke are alternates. Meetings are adjourned for the summer. Next meeting will be held the second Saturday in September with hostesses Vivian Haguewood and Margaret Blake.

### BEWARE OF WEEK ENDS

Saturday was the most dangerous day of the week to venture on Oregon's streets or highways, last month's figures garnered by the Oregon State Motor association show. Saturday scored 628 traffic accidents, Sunday 558. Thursday with 282 mishaps, was the safest day of the week.

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