

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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ROBERT PENLAND
Editor and Publisher
GRETCHEN PENLAND
Associate Publisher



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Too Much . . . And Too Little

A rising population and improving living standards automatically broaden the market for food and other farm products. Even so, it is believed that the productive capacity of American agriculture will outrun food consumption for many years to come—which means that we will continue to have a surplus problem unless new and different kinds of markets are found and developed. That is why much attention is now being given to the possibilities of increased use of agricultural products by industry.

The 84th Congress established a bipartisan commission to examine the matter. In carrying out its assignment, the commission obtained the assistance of 188 of the country's outstanding leaders in agriculture, industry and science. Its report has now been made—and it is an exceedingly interesting one.

The commission dealt with this: "Can the economy develop profitable industrial markets capable of absorbing enough of the excess farm production to minimize, possibly even to eliminate, the need for costly restrictions, supports, and surplus-disposing operations?" The commission found that "the answer is an emphatic Yes, providing the necessary steps are taken to make possible and encourage such a development."

There are four main needs. The first is a sufficiently sharp sense—now lacking—of the importance, the possibilities, and the urgency of the industrial utilization approach to farm surplus problems. The second is a greatly expanded program of both fundamental and applied re-

search—a program which would not be confined to the laboratory but, in promising instances, would go through the development stages of pilot-plant experiment and trial commercialization. The third is to ensure, through fellowships, scholarships, grants and other means that much more scientific talent is trained for and channeled into this neglected field. The fourth is to provide, when necessary, suitable financial incentives during a temporary trial or development period. The initial step, the commission states, is sound legislative action by Congress.

The commission emphasizes that, by comparison with industry, agriculture research is in the doldrums. Industry is currently investing at least \$3 billion a year—three percent of gross sales—in research, and the result is a constant flood of new and improved products. Agriculture spends not more than \$375 million a year on research—about one percent of gross sales—and most of this goes to improve and increase production, rather than for utilization research. Consequently, the commission says "agriculture has been researched out of a good part of its natural markets" through the increasing use of detergents, synthetic fabrics, leather substitutes and so on.

The commission proposes that a five-member non-partisan Agriculture Research and Industrial Board be created by Congress, or alternatively, that responsibility for the program be placed in the Department of Agriculture, under a director with Assistant Secretary rank. And it makes another important suggestion—that the program be undertaken in a way that will " . . . add as little as possible to the structure of the government."

—Industrial News Review

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

A progress letter on the 1957 Oregon State Fair from the newly appointed fair commission outlines a number of changes in this year's State Fair, making it, as they put it, "Oregon's biggest annual family event." This year's fair slogan is "Oregon Grows on What Oregon Grows." On emphasizing land products, these exhibits will be housed in a building of their own, making more room for expected additional exhibits. With a complete plan of rejuvenation of buildings and facilities, an architectural firm has been hired in working out a master plan for greater utilization of the present fair property with the hopes that in 10 or 15 years there will be an enlarged modern fair to serve Oregon's increasing population. Plans are going ahead in locating and building the new 300 thousand dollar 4-H and FFA building which was authorized by this year's legislature. It sounds like this and future State Fairs will have a "perked up" air about them.

"Only top quality lambs and ewes will be sold at the 17th annual Willamette valley ram sale at the Linn county fair grounds in Albany on Saturday, August 3, starting at 10 a.m.," says Claude Steusloff, Salem, sales manager. All of the 260 head of yearling stud rams range rams and ewes will pass the inspection of a sifting committee headed by Harry Lindgren former livestock specialist at Oregon State college. Assisting Lindgren will be Edward Gath and Eddie Ahrens Turner; Floyd T. Fox, Silverton; R. V. Hogg, Salem; Jack Stump, Monmouth; Frank Brown, Jr., Carlton; and Dr. E. R. Derflinger, assistant state veterinarian. Steusloff says that sale catalogs are still available from O. E. Mikessell, Secretary, Willamette valley ram sale, Albany.

A number of ranchers have inquired at the office to see whether they were selling their calves too cheap after reading our news column which said that calves were being contracted in Morrow county for 28c a pound. While we would like to be able to report this, upon checking, we found that there evidently had been an error in type-setting. While we reported several 20c sales in our column two weeks ago, there has been some latter sales that topped that. We have had a handful of reports on 21c sales on mixed heifers and steers with some higher prices received for straight steers.

The Sherman branch experiment station at Moro reports an average yield of 45 bushels per acre on their Columbia wheat harvested from the tillage experiment fields on the station. Columbia, a new hard red winter wheat, developed at that station outyielded other varieties at the station by several bushels per acre. It is best adapted to the eight to 12 inch rainfall areas and has outyielded Rio and other Turkey varieties. While little Columbia has been grown in Morrow county, it is the recommended variety for those areas producing Turkey varieties. It is

resistant to all known races of common and dwarf smut and shatters much less than Rio.

The 31st annual Oregon ram sale is scheduled to be held at the Pendleton Round-up sales pavilion at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 12. Rambouillet, Lincoln-Rambouillet crossbreds, Hampshires, Corriedales, Columbia and Suffolk rams will be offered by the top breeders in Oregon, Washington and Utah. Morrow county sheep men have depended upon this sale for many years as a source of rams to head their flocks. A limited number of catalogs for this sale are available at this office.

For those Morrow county farmers who have wondered about the comparison of leaving the straw on the surface or incorporating it into the soil, some 37 year old rotation experiment studies at the University of Wyoming might be of interest. They devised a system for measuring water in filtration and found that straw on the surface took up water at the rate of 3.36 inches per hour. Straw plowed in took up only half or 1.55 inches. While these figures are on the amount of moisture that the soil will take in in one hour, consideration should be given to the fact that while there is little danger of this much moisture falling, only in extreme cases on our summer fallow, that steady rain over a period of time would be much better absorbed by land with straw on the surface without causing erosion.

Oregon is observing farm and home safety week this week, July 21-27. While this week is set aside to stress farm and home safety, safety is an every-day job in everyone's life. Each day we hear of accidents that have happened, many of which could have been avoided had more people been safety-minded.

An important safety hint at this time of year is the careful use of insecticides. Only last week we read of an incident where a child lost its life from insecticide poisoning through carelessness in disposing of the insecticide container. An insecticide can be a powerful ally or a treacherous foe. Few of our crops are immune from insect attack; many of these crops could not be

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette Times, July 28, 1927
Supt. J. M. Burgess of the Heppner schools was in the city over Wednesday, departing today for his summer camp at Elk lake, west of Bend.

Mrs. Ida Dutton, who spent a few days in Heppner, returned to her Portland home Wednesday, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ayers and Mrs. George Fell.

Donald Duvall, wife and little daughter, arrived Monday at the Harry Duvall farm and will make a visit there.

Walter Stuart and wife and their son and daughter arrived from Albany Tuesday afternoon for a short visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Huston.

Harlan Devin, Terrel Benge and Maurice Edmundson arrived home Sunday morning from Vancouver Wash. where they spent six weeks at the Citizens Military Training camp.

H. M. Olden and Claud Huston took out a new Wood Bros. threshing Saturday which they will use in threshing the crops on their farm.

One-Car Accidents Increase in State

Oregon has been experiencing a sharp increase in the number of serious one-car accidents in which the automobile simply "rap off the road", according to the department of motor vehicle's traffic safety division.

Such accidents accounted for 64 traffic fatalities in 1955 but jumped to 99 last year, an increase of 55 percent. Injuries nearly doubled with 754 recorded in 1955 and 1,445 in 1956.

A check of accidents for the first six months of this year showed little improvement in the picture. Official figures revealed that ten of Oregon's 28 fatal accidents during May were of a type in which the car went out of control and left the roadway.

"While it is many times difficult to analyze the full cause of such an accident, too great a speed for the driving conditions obviously is a major cause," James E. Banks, manager of the safety division said.

Banks pointed out that many such accidents occur when the pavement is dry and visibility is excellent. The vacationing or careless driver who, fatigued or carelessly appears to be a frequent victim of such accidents, Banks concluded.

Careless Smokers Cause One-Third Of Forest Fires

Careless smokers start about one-third of Oregon's man-caused forest fires, reports Charles Ross, Oregon State college farm forestry specialist.

In 1955, the latest report year, smokers caused 233 of the 729 man-caused forest fires in Oregon. Ross says smokers are traditionally at the top of the fire-setters list. The holocaust that roared out of the woods to burn up Bandon, Oregon in 1936—killing nine persons—was started by a cigarette.

Smokers are urged to follow

samples taken each month in the federal-state brucellosis control program. Leptospirosis affects principally cattle, swine, horse, dogs, rats, and man. It is caused by a spiral bacteria of which about 40 species are known in the various parts of the world. The disease has been diagnosed in cattle in 40 states and in swine in 10 states in this country. There have been some outbreaks in Morrow county in past years.

three basic rules to prevent forest fires: (1) Use the car ash tray. It is unlawful to throw cigarettes, cigars, pipe heels, and matches from car windows. (2) Watch woods smoking. Never drop lighted material along forest trails or streams. (3) break matches in half. Be sure the match is out before you throw it away.

Neglected or abandoned campfires ranked second in man-caused fires in Oregon forests in 1955, accounting for 124 fires. Next on the list was logging with 81 fires. Burning of debris caused 75 forest fires. Railroads accounted for 2 forest fires. Nineteen forest fires resulted from intentional setting of fires. Of 729 fires that year, 165 were unclassified or listed under miscellaneous causes.

There are, of course, a large number of lightning fires which cannot be prevented, Ross explains. But many of these fires can be anticipated during storm periods so that "lookouts" and fire-fighting crews are usually prepared to combat them.

GILLIAMS HAVE GUEST

Guests sat the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Gilliam are their son and family, Rev. and Mrs. Jackson E. Gilliam, Anne and Margaret of Great Falls, Montana. On Monday Mr. and Mrs. Gilliam and Mrs. Jackson Gilliam and daughters left for the coast where they will vacation while Rev. Gilliam attends a conference in Portland.

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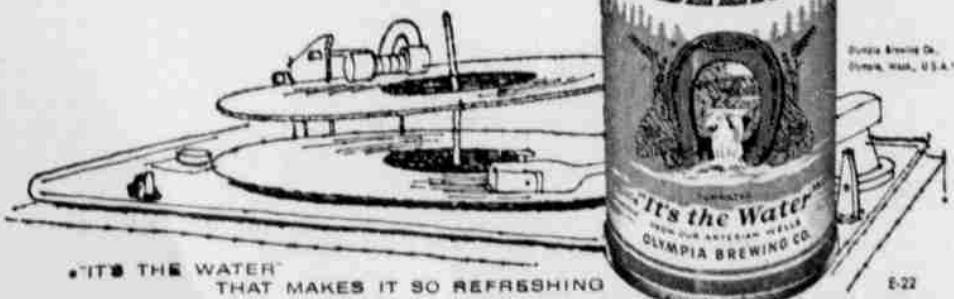
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