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About 500 Attend MCGG Open House

About 500 persons attended the Open House at Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington Monday, according to Everett Brock, manager of the machinery division.

Some 300 persons registered, but children and others who came and went during the day would bring the total to about 500, he said.

Nearly 100 lb. of link sausage were served during the day, and many prizes and treats were given.

The event was staged in cooperation with International Harvester, and Dick Middlecamp, district representative for I-H machinery, and John Harbo, representative for I-H motor trucks, were present to assist.

Harlan McCurdy, Jr., general manager, and Brock both expressed appreciation for the response from the public.

Storms and Strike Worsen Shortage Of Railroad Cars

The severe snow storm which hit the East Coast the first of last week will make even worse the current shortage of box cars, which is the most critical to hit the Western lumber industry in years.

The effect of the East Coast storm was pointed out by James G. Manning, transportation director of Western Wood Products Association, who warned that adequate relief from the box car shortage does not appear to be in sight.

Western Wood Products Association is the largest lumber trade association in the nation. Its members and grading service subscribers last year produced some 40 percent of all the softwood lumber manufactured in the United States.

Manning was in Washington, D. C., last week, discussing the seriousness of the car shortage with car service officials of the American Association of Railroads and the car service division of the Interstate Commerce Commission as well as other representatives of the federal government.

He said that even before the East Coast storm, severe weather conditions through the Midwest raised havoc with normal railroad operating schedules there, and that the severe rain and mud situation in Southern California made it practically impossible for many railroads to maintain a normal flow of empty cars from the Southwest.

Strike Idles Cars

Also adding to the picture is the extended strike still under way at Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports. An estimated 25-30,000 cars will continue to be tied up at these ports until the strike is settled.

In California, the approaching date of the annual California inventory tax, March 3 this year, creates a situation where material is being shipped out of the state as much as possible, and normal inbound shipments are being delayed to avoid the March 3 date.

"We have never before had so many adverse factors to create such a critical shortage of box cars," Manning pointed out. "Although regulatory agencies will do as well as they can to relieve the shortage temporarily, the only permanent relief is for the railroads to increase box car construction."

Salem Scene

By Everett E. Cutler

Command Center Ready For Precise Action

Several thousand sheep, deer, cows and other livestock and wild critters are alive and well in Oregon, thanks largely to activation of the Governor's Command Center here during last month's heavy snows.

During times of crisis state resources are mobilized here, turning half the Capitol Building basement into a virtual command post. Through a complex communications now linking all areas of the state, government and military leaders coordinate disaster recovery.

In charge of such operations is Capt. Farley Mogan, director of the State Department of Emergency Services. He is "loaned" to the department from the State Police, where he used to head the highway patrol.

The department functions directly under the Office of the Governor and is half supported by federal funds. Its name was changed two years ago from "Civil Defense" to emphasize readiness for natural disasters.

Capt. Mogan, surrounded by giant wall maps and interrupted frequently by his telephone, explains that the limited natural disaster of three weeks ago called for only "incomplete activation" of the command center. Full activation could come with a more severe emergency.

When an alert is received here, activation begins with military precision. A "fanout" program for chain telephoning proceeds, as described in a standard-operating-procedure manual of about 100 pages.

Top department heads or their deputies are expected to report immediately in person. First executives, then special staff, are called to assemble; some then may be excused if a situation does not involve their department. Each has a pre-determined mission and assessment of capabilities, spelled out in the manual.

Primary staff consists of Maj. Gen. Donald N. Anderson, state adjutant general (who serves as chief of staff), Capt. Mogan (operations officer), staff members of the military department, state police, finance, agriculture, general services, and the state highway engineer, fire marshal, forester, public utilities commissioner, health officer, public welfare administrator, employment commissioner, state engineer, sanitary engineer, Board of Control secretary, aeronautics director, marine board director and, possibly, director of the Oregon Nuclear Emergency Organization.

Considering the problem, potential and real, created by our unusual snowfall, it is obvious that many of these team-mates were deeply involved in settling the state back to normal.

Main problems then were clearing highways, reaching some isolated farms, helping to set up shelter centers, and feeding livestock and wild animals. County Humane Societies helped perform tremendous services. More than 3,300 head of sheep, stranded in snowy fields, were saved in Coos and Curry Counties alone by helicopter-dropped feed.

When activated, the command center looks impressively military. Focal point of action is a large room, set up according to plan with tables forming a hollow square.

Gov. Tom McCall and his immediate staff, when present, sit at a head table on a raised platform. Also up front, below, are the chief of staff, Gen. Anderson, and the operations officer, Capt. Mogan. A veteran of nearly 30 years' work with state agencies, Capt. Mogan receives and assigns all situations to proper personnel.

Forty telephones with unlisted numbers, 100-foot cords and lights instead of bells ("they'd drive us crazy") are used by team workers to contact trouble spots. At the other end of the lines are often the readiness teams maintained in each county, consisting of ranking members of the State Welfare Department, National Guard, Highway Department and State Police.

Each state agency with communications responsibilities has its radios and teletype duplicated in the center. Message logs are maintained, television reports monitored. National Guardsmen run wall-sized situation and operations maps, using color-coded markers to pinpoint trouble and relief spots.

Experience has shown a need to verify rumors or reports from the public in order to eliminate unnecessary action, so Capt. Mogan's own office becomes an intelligence section. Here five de-

Prindle Assists At Log Conclave

Milo Prindle of Heppner is serving on the program committee of the Oregon Logging Conference which opens today (Thursday) in Eugene for a three-day session. Prindle represents the Eastern Oregon Logging Co. at the conference.

This 31st annual session of the conference is expected to be the largest in history with registration expected to exceed 1600.

Governor Tom McCall will be one of the principal speakers with the theme of the convention to be "Confusion in the Wood Pile." Panel discussions will be on "Log Measurement," "Logging Roads," "New Ideas in Logging" and "Legislation and Tax Report."

More than \$7,000,000 of newly developed types of logging machinery is on display, which will be open to the public on Saturday, February 22.

Ralph Horn of Menasha Corp., North Bend, is program chairman and Prindle is a member of his nine-man committee. Clifford Bryden, Roseburg Lumber Co., Roseburg, is president of the conference.

Thank You


We extend our heartiest thanks and appreciation to all good friends and neighbors who came to our Open House event Monday and helped make it such an outstanding success.

More than 300 registered, and in all, probably more than 500 attended throughout the day. It was a great pleasure to have all of you here, and we want to say that you provided a most happy and enjoyable day for us. Many came a long distance to be here. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We look forward to serving you in any way possible with your farm, automotive and machinery needs, and invite all to come in any time that we can be of service.

We also extend a warm welcome for you to return for demonstrations of our fine lines of International-Harvester trucks and farm machinery. We're proud of what we have to offer in this line, and we know that you will be enthusiastic, too, when you try any equipment in this line that you may need.

Thank you again for making our event such a wonderful success, and remember—you're welcome here any time!



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Parents Say Thanks To 'Nice People'

Sgt. and Mrs. Jerry A. Blanckaert of Condon have written a note to The Gazette-Times to express their thanks to "all the nice people in Heppner" for the gifts and kindnesses shown after the birth of their son, Jerry Alan, Jr., who was First Baby of the New Year here.

"We enjoyed the picture in the paper," they wrote. "Our baby's scrapbook will be full of so many nice memories."

Jerry Alan, Jr., was born February 2. He is their first child. Our families in Denver will be thrilled," the note said. The Blanckaerts are originally from Denver but he has been serving at the Condon Air Force Station for the past 29 months.

Robert E. Allstott of Hermiston was a visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carey Hastings on Monday. He reported that another former resident of the Hardman area, Robert I. Burnside, underwent leg amputation at St. Vincent hospital in Portland early last week and will reside there for an indefinite period. During their youth, the three men had attended the Hardman schools, but during recent years Allstott and Burnside, who are brothers-in-law, have made their homes in Hermiston.

Attend Conference

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Sherman, publishers of The Gazette-Times, were in Eugene Thursday until Saturday, attending the 50th annual Oregon Press Conference. Mr. Sherman, a director of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers' association, attended the ONPA board meeting Thursday night. Among those speaking at the conference was Giles French, former owner of The Sherman County Journal, who discussed the role of a columnist in a newspaper in an address at the Friday evening banquet. On the trip back to Heppner, the Shermans visited in Portland with their son, Jim Sherman, and in Forest Grove, with Mrs. Harry Sherman, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sherman, Jr., and family.

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