

Wheat League Names Jepsen Conservation Man of the Year

Named Conservation Man of the Year for 1970 was Bob Jepsen at the spring meeting of the Morrow County wheat growers League Tuesday evening in the Lexington Grange Hall.

A man of many interests and talents, this young man applies

great fervor to his ranching as well as anything else he sets out to do.

He feels that sound conservation practices are a must in order to save his soil. He first installed several short diversion ditches in vital places two or

three years before the Christmas flood of 1964.

Long Range Plan

Working with County Agent Harold Kerr and District Conservationist, Dale Boner, a long-range plan has been developed for his ranch on Keck Creek.

To prevent erosion he has grassed waterways, developed diversion ditches, made grass seedings, leaves a stubble mulch when possible by using a chisel plow, does contour farming and strip farming.

When asked what else is considered when choosing Conservation Man of the Year, the committee said "how he sprays his weeds, treats his wife and his community activities."

Bob Jepsen comes through in flying colors on all counts.

When approaching the spacious farm house, over on the right can be seen a line through the growing wheat that would indicate years previously, there had been a roadway. When questioned, Bob said there had been a road there in the early days that led over to a spring. When viewed later, the spring is still running quite a sizeable stream of water. Bob said he had tried to plant trees around the area but then comes a water spout and everything is washed away. An area of washed rock shows the truth of his statement. When a roadway is farmed the soil is changed. It is packed down so that it doesn't hold water as well and the grain is light green.

The part of the ranch over on the breaks of Rhea Creek is subjected to summer cloud bursts more than the other areas of the ranch. This spring Bob is in the process of building an additional diversion ditch on this slope 3000 feet long, and a siltation dam on one of the more critical parts of the slope.

In working on the siltation dam he was using his own equipment to pack in the soil. In its moist condition it packs the best. There's lots of moisture in the soil. The ranch has Condon, Ritzville and Walla Walla soils.

By saving his soil, he expects to maintain present production and in the long run increase the yield which makes for more stubble which in turn gives better water holding capacity.

Even though working and manipulating machinery around the diversion ditches in a field takes more time and is difficult, Bob says he likes the feeling of accomplishment he has when he finishes each section. It seems to make the job less formidable to do three smaller sections than one BIG section.

The 1969 yield for the farm was 35.99 bushels per acre.

Fights Weeds

For 18 years since farming the ranch, he has fought weeds. To get rid of rye which was prevalent when he took over, he first used a sterilant, used the swather, hired a dozen kids to pull rye, one year had an all-woman crew pulling rye until today his son Bill can pull the rye in a couple of evenings after school. He says this rainy spring has been a good year for cheat grass.

A continuing project is to get a good stand of grass on the diversion ditches and the grassed waterways. On these he plants 12 to 16 pounds per acre. He has had success with Pubescent, Stream bank wheat grass and Intermediate wheat grass.

He used to farm over areas now grassed waterways. The grassed waterways provide a route for water runoff that holds the soil except in a continual downpour.

He has 535 acres in Nugaines wheat, 327 acres in Spring Flynn barley, 78 acres in double summer fallow. He has 940 acres in summer fallow.

He and his son, Bill, do all the work on the ranch which includes 350 hours of spring plowing. After weeding and down low on the list before seeding is rock picking. He pointed out an area that would have to be done this summer.

When asked which of the farm jobs had the most appeal to him, Bob, without reservation said "seeding". It's the last time around. Seeding is a gamble. You never know when to do it. Then he said he liked harvesting, too. "If you've got a good crop."

Speaking of this year's crop he says "It looks good". We could use about a half inch of rain any time. Then if the weather doesn't get too hot too soon, we should average about 50 bushels this year." Rainfall averages 11" on his ranch but will vary from 7" to 16" on various years.

Well Equipped Shop

Bob has a well equipped shop where he does all of his own mechanical work. This shop figures also in some of his hobbies.

In the early 50's he erected a TV tower up on the hill from the ranch house. He is able to

get TV from Portland and Spokane.

He has an extensive short wave set in his office on the 2nd floor of their ranch home. His most recent "mercy" contact was following the earthquake in the Philippines. He relayed a message to a woman in La Grande from her daughter. Told her to disregard the stories on the earthquake, that she was ok.

He is a serious type mountain climber and is a member

Family Man

of the Mazamas.

Bob is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jepsen of Ione. He is a graduate of Ione High School and attended Pacific University and EOC in business administration. He met his wife, the former Suzanne Lieuallen on the ski slopes at Spout Springs. They have two children, Sue a senior and Bill a freshman at Heppner High School.

The family has hosted a County Agent from Jordan and IFYE students in their home.

When asked how he felt about the family type ranching now enjoyed in Morrow County, he said that to stay in business, the ranches will have to be bigger and run more economically.

When questioned about the 19 year old vote, he hedged because his 18 year old daughter and her friend were on hand to hear his reply so he said, "Some are ready to vote and some are not".

For the last seven years, he has taught in the 6th grade Outdoor School at Bull Prairie. He endeavors to teach them "outdoor manners, pick up the litter, don't pollute the air or water or land".

Community Activities

He has many farm-oriented activities.

Presently Bob is national chairman of the special projects committee of the National Ass'n. of Wheat Growers. Their prime promotion is the Day of Bread. The Germans started this special holiday until it is celebrated equal to Thanksgiving.

He is past president of the Oregon Wheat League and Morrow County Wheat League. He has been a supervisor of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District. He is a member of the Morrow County Extension Advisory Council.

The Jepsens lease the ranch from Noel Dobyns of Florence and Ester Dobyns of Eugene. He has an air-strip on the ranch which was used frequently by Mr. Dobyns who flew in nearly every week. He says he has the best landlords in the state. Undoubtedly they feel they have leased their farm to one of the best also — the 1970 Soil Conservation Man of the Year, Bob Jepsen!

Conservation Practice Statistics

1. Diversion Ditches — 37,965 feet (3600 feet staked out);
2. Diversions seeded to grass — 17.5 acres;
3. Grassed Waterway — 14.8 acres;
4. Cropland seeded to grass — 390 acres;
5. Stripcropping — 98 acres;
6. Crop Residue Management — 940 acres;
7. Minimum Tillage — 940 acres;
8. Contour farming — 620 acres;
9. Conservation Cropping System — 1242 acres.

The Soil Conservation Man of the Year is sponsored each year

by the Oregon Wheat League. Winners are picked by seven Eastern Oregon counties and one for the valley. The winners compete for state Conservation Man of the Year.

A local committee of farmers makes the selection. They reviewed the soil conservation practices of 12 ranchers. The program started in the late 1930's.

IRRIGON NEWS

IRRIGON — Mrs. John Matthews attended a convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, May 5 to 7, in Snohomish, Wash. The theme of the convention was "Gods' work in you".

Miss Mary Kenney of Seattle visited her parents, Rev. and Mrs. John Kenney, on Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bessler and Mrs. Nina McBride of Portland visited at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson, nephews of Mrs. McBride, on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lavern Christiansen and family visited her brother Jerry Dunn in Pasco, on Sunday. They were joined by her mother, Mrs. Bessie Dunn and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Raekes of Richland.

Mrs. Ed Gonty recently enjoyed a trip to Portland with her daughter, Mrs. Terry Blevins of Ukiah. Mr. and Mrs. Blevins are building a new log home up in Ukiah, a handsome spacious one.

'Love for God and Country', Theme of Nazarene Services

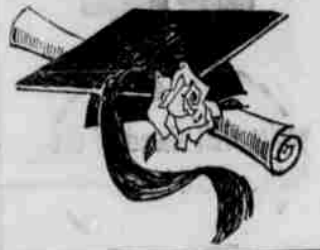
Pastor Floyd Everhart extended a cordial invitation to a special Memorial Day Commemorative Service to be held at the Heppner Church of the Nazarene on May 29 at 7:30 p.m.

All military personnel, members of the VFW, American Legion and other patriotic organizations of the community who are interested in the preservation of the precepts of "Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" are especially urged to attend this inspirational and patriotic service. There will be a variety of special musical numbers and a slide series to help encourage "Love for God and Country", the theme chosen for the service.

4-H Camp Plans Made

Four-H members ages 9 through 12 were mailed applications to attend the annual camp at Cutsforth Park. Dates of the camp this year are June 24-27. Camp is a much anticipated event in the lives of the younger 4-H members. Deadline for returning the application to the county office is June 12, but an earlier return will be appreciated to enable plans to be completed.

Camping serves many purposes in the life of the young member. It is intended to offer opportunities for mental, physical, social and spiritual growth. New sense of responsibility, understanding and leadership are developed by the camping experience.



BOB JEPSEN checks the number of tillers from one of his best looking fields. This one had seven. With plenty of moisture each one will produce a head of wheat.



BOB JEPSEN shows how far he has built up the siltation dam. From his hand to the top of the dam had been added that morning.



A WELL TRIMMED lawn sets the scene for the remodeled comfortable family home enjoyed by the Jepsen family.



BOB, SUE and Bill sit for a bit on the front steps. Mrs. Jepsen, receptionist for Dr. Wolff, was not available for the picture.

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