

STATE PEAR CROP VALUE INCREASED

The total value of Oregon's 17 most important field and fruit crops in 1929 is \$33,859,000 compared to \$32,155,000 last year, or an increase of 14.2 per cent, according to the December summary of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. This increase is due chiefly to a large crop of pears, a crop worth over 20 per cent more this year than last although only 90 per cent as large; an increase of over five and a half million dollars in all tame hay valuation and a corresponding increase in wild hay.

Among Oregon's principal fruit crops, pears show a 6 per cent increase in value over last year and the dried prune crop is worth approximately six times what it was a year ago. These increases more than offset the crops the value of which show decline from a year ago. Most important of these are apples where the 1929 valuation of total crop is slightly less than two-thirds of the 1928 valuation.

Preliminary estimates of production of Oregon crops remained as published from month to month during the past season with the single exception of apples. The last estimate of total apple production based upon the November 1st condition figure was 5,229,000 bushels, which was manifestly too high although this figure was a decrease of approximately 15 per cent from the first preliminary estimate of 6,034,000 bushels on July 1st. The December revised figure is 4,000,000.

ROGUE RIVER SCHOOL PRESENTS OPERETTA

ROGUE RIVER, Ore., Dec. 27.—(Special.) The Christmas operetta given Thursday, Dec. 19, by the Rogue River grade school was a success. A crowd attended and everyone enjoyed the play.

Special mention should be made of the clever costumes worn by the players, which were well made and becoming.

Cast of characters: Jane, Jean Scott; Santa Claus, Sydney Baker; Wengalo, Bill Hartman; fairies, Jean Anderson, Mary Smith, Evelyn Jones, Corinne Baker, Amy Plank.

Music between scenes: Rogue River high orchestra; high school glee club; duet, James Martin, Fred Hallbrecht; harmonica band; Junior glee club.

FARE ON PLANE SAME AS PASSENGER TRAIN

CLEVELAND, Dec. 27.—(AP) The first commercial airplane passenger service to compete with railroad service on the actual price of transportation began here today. It is the Universal Air Lines, and the new rates are to be the exact equivalent of railroad tickets plus sleeping car fares.

ROGUE RIVER GRANGE OFFICERS INSTALLED

ROGUE RIVER, Ore., Dec. 27.—(Special.) The officers of Live Oak Grange went to Jacksonville Thursday evening to be installed. Those who were present from Live Oak Grange were Master and Mrs. Oscar Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Waite, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Fuhrman, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. Reed Carter, and Mrs. Jose Love.

WOMAN INJURED WHEN TRUCK CRASHED AUTO

TOLEDO, Ore., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Mrs. A. B. Dwindle of Chitwood, Ore., lies critically injured in the Lincoln county hospital here today as the result of a collision last night between the automobile in which she was riding and a heavily loaded truck. The automobile was turned upside down with its five occupants underneath, Mrs. Dwindle being the only one seriously hurt.

You'd have a time cooking a ten-foot custard

pie

How the custard in that pie would separate because you couldn't control the heat! And roasting coffee in bulk presents similar difficulties. Hills Bros., however, by roasting their coffee a few pounds at a time by their continuous process—Controlled Roasting—produce a matchless, uniform flavor. No bulk-roasting method can insure such goodness.

HILLS BROS COFFEE

Fresh from the original vacuum pack, daily gives you the best.

The Secret of Mohawk Pond

By Natalie Sumner Lincoln

SYNOPSIS: Peggy pierces the secret of Yew Lodge—finding an arrow in the pocket of a coat in the living room which opens a secret door. Her way illumined by an electric torch she plunges into the mysterious passage, only to find a man who watches her from the gallery. Windy steps lead to a room where she finds a woman. She works the lever and hears the lock click open as she sees the grotesque and mottled features of a man nearby. She drops the torch and scrambles for it in the darkness, touching a cold snake. Terror-stricken she recoils as a man lunges past her and is bitten by the reptile. Peggy manages to grasp her way to safety.

Chapter 24 THE SNAKE'S VICTIM

WHEN Peggy awoke she found herself lying on the couch and Julia holding a bottle of smelling salts under her nose. So far as she could see, Obadiah Evans was the only other person in the living room.

"Feeling better," he asked solicitously. "I'm thinking you'd best go upstairs and let Julia put you to bed."

Peggy demurred with a negative shake of her head and swallowed a stimulant Julia handed her.

Her sense of exhaustion from her experiences underground was wearing off, but she craved the society of others. The very thought of being alone struck terror to her soul.

Then her thoughts turned to her ghastly experience when she had mistaken the snake for a rope.

"Did you get there in time?" she asked. "Is the snake dead?"

Her question carried to Sheriff Beach and he crossed the room just as the key turned in the front door and Jim stepped inside. All the electric lights the room boasted were turned on and in their full glare Jim approached the couch in a dozen strides. The look in Peggy's eyes arrested the words upon his lips. With ever-whitening face he stared down at her as Beach stopped at his elbow.

"You called out just now, Miss Prescott," began the sheriff, paying no attention to Obadiah's signal to him to remain silent, "to get your gun in the desk drawer. I've done so—he held up her uncle's automatic pistol that all in the little group might see it. "How many guns did you have when you came to Yew Lodge?"

"None," was her low response. "How many did you find here?"

Peggy averted her gaze; it fell for an instant on the front door key in Jim's hand. The latter caught her eyes as she glanced upward.

"How many guns did you find here?" demanded Sheriff Beach for the second time. "Answer, Miss Prescott, and tell the truth."

"One."

In the stillness her whisper reached them all, and Julia, at the head of the couch, capsized into the nearest chair.

"And that one"—Beach took from his pocket the .35 caliber automatic and held both pistols extended toward her—"was which, Miss Prescott? The .35 caliber or the .45 caliber?" An interminable moment passed with silence unbroken, and the sheriff spoke again, with stern emphasis. "Which of these guns did you fire at Edgar Stanton?"

Desperately Peggy strove to collect her wits—if Jim would only look at some one else!

"I fired the .45 caliber," she admitted, her fingers twining in and around the edges of the blanket Julia had tossed over her. She looked at the sheriff. "You picked up the other one that morning."

"And to whom did this other automatic pistol belong?" quickly.

Peggy moistened her dry lips. "That's for you to find out," she said simply and closed her eyes. She had kept faith with Jim—to the last.

Obadiah and Jim looked at each other and then away. A sudden stir in the other part of the room, the tramping of feet and subdued voices growing louder caused the men to turn about and Peggy rose shakily and stared over the back of the intervening chairs at four men carrying an improvised stretcher, on which lay a figure covered with a sheet.

"Oh!" she gasped, horrified, and shaking off Jim's hand, crossed the room. "Did the snake kill him?"

"Yes." It was Dr. Eastman who replied, but Peggy failed to recognize him; her eyes were focused on the dead man as the sheet was pulled down.

"My brother." The words were barely breathed and turning slightly Peggy found Chase at her elbow. He bit his lips to keep them from quivering. "Philander went down the secret passage to look for you."

Peggy reached out an unsteady hand and clutched the person nearest her.

"He saved me," she exclaimed, her eyes big with awe and gratitude. "As Mr. Chase tripped over

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Mrs. M. H. Lindsey of Sheel is named treasurer of the fund being collected from every country in the world having United Presbyterian congregations.

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CHICAGO DIVORCES SHOWING INCREASE

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The divorce rate in Cook county courts for 1929 was revealed today, showing an average of one divorce every 55 minutes for the fiscal year. The numbers of divorces granted in circuit court and superior courts was 6,669, this being 220 more than in the preceding year. The figures were made known by the clerks of the two courts.

The divorcees averaged one to each 193 homes, and affected 5,793 children. A majority of the parties involved, however, were childless. Wives were the petitioners for divorce in three out of four cases. Desertion and cruelty were the principal causes for which women sought the severance of marriage bonds. The majority of men based their suits on charges of infidelity.

The report showed that only approximately 15 per cent of the contestants were native Americans.

ROGUE RIVER WOMEN LEARN CANDY MAKING

ROGUE RIVER, Ore., Dec. 27.—(Special)—The Rogue River Civic Improvement club had a splendid meeting at the home of Mrs. William Eads Friday afternoon. After the business meeting Mrs. Shepherd demonstrated candy making and Mrs. Grimmett gave a reading.

At the close of the meeting Mrs. Eads and Mrs. Trotter served delicious refreshments. Those present were Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Phelps and Junior, Mrs. Wiley, Mrs. Bodkin, Mrs. Dicks, Mrs. McClaren, Mrs. Kusho, Mrs. Snook, Mrs. Lance, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. McIlvain, Mrs. Grimmett, Mrs. Shepherd, Mrs. Birdseye, Mrs. Brown and the hostesses, Mrs. Trotter and Mrs. Eads.

DELAY CHECK HEARING LAKE COUNTY OFFICIAL

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 27.—(AP) C. C. Mahan, county assessor of Lake county, who has been in jail here for several weeks on a charge of issuing a check without sufficient funds, was arraigned in justice court yesterday. Mahan did not enter a plea but asked further time to consult an attorney and the case was continued. The check in question was given to the Marion Hotel and the charge was brought by the representative of a national protective agency of which the hotel is a member.

ROGUE RIVER

ROGUE RIVER, Ore., Dec. 27.—(Special)—Mrs. Fred Decker, who has been ill for the past week, is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grimmett spent Tuesday visiting Mrs. Lind of Lind home on the Caves highway.

The Rogue River 'Girls' basketball team played the Jacksonville girls at Jacksonville Thursday night. The Jacksonville girls won the game.

A program was held Sunday morning at the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Phelps and son, Junior, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Shepherd.

The Taylor Blue Fox farms are still proving a local attraction. Among those who visited there the past week were, Mr. Al Love and four daughters, Bill Moore, Wm. Jones, Mr. Scott, Fred and Dwight Harlan, and E. W. Wilson and family.

Raymond Stevens was a Medford visitor Tuesday evening.

Friends will be glad to know that Mrs. Eliza Goodale is recovering from a recent operation.

Oscar Shepherd has been running the meat market in the Piggy Wiggly store at Grants Pass for Mr. Bill Lonigan.



WET ROADS slow down traffic ... So does WET GASOLINE . TEXACO is dry

1. A wet gas is an atomized mixture of gasoline vapor in which are suspended drops of raw gasoline.
2. These drops of raw gasoline form an uneven mixture which resists the action of the spark.
3. Result: Destructive crankcase dilution, difficult starts—a sluggish motor.

WALLOWA MILK HERDS INCREASE PRODUCTION

ENTERPRISE, Ore.—(AP)—An increased production of 936 pounds of milk and 26 pounds of butterfat per cow over last year is reported by the Wallowa County Dairy Herd Improvement association in its annual report just issued through County Agent N. C. Donaldson.

This increased production, the report says, has resulted in an average increased profit per cow above last year of \$82.93. This year it is \$101.12.

Elimination of "border" cows and better feeding practices were the two reasons given for the profitable increase.

There is no better gasoline for winter driving TEXACO starts instantly!

Wet gasoline is sluggish—backward in starting, slow in the pick-up and wasteful of mileage. There's nothing like the dry gas of Texaco for the pep and stamina you expect of your engine.

For the new and better Texaco starts instantly even on the coldest days and follows through with the quick surge of sustained power that was designed into your engine. Try it. Get the thrill of quick starts—of power at your command.

Wherever you are there's a Texaco pump nearby where you'll find the same high test Texaco that is sold in every State of the 48. Texaco is better because it's dry.

THE TEXAS COMPANY - Texaco Petroleum Products

The NEW and BETTER TEXACO GASOLINE

1. The new and better Texaco vaporizes so readily that it forms a dry gas—an active mixture of gasoline and air.
2. This pure, dry gas responds instantly to the action of the spark.
3. Result: Lightning starts, rapid acceleration, smooth action—power!

A Grim Struggle Gripped the Sierras



LEON MORSE, unscrupulous and powerful financier, was determined to build a railroad through the rocky fastness of the Sierras.

Scott Glenn's vast irrigation project lay in the path of the railroad plans and Glenn, young and fearless, laughed at Morse's threats.

Then suddenly, beautiful Anne Wilmot was thrown into the midst of the bitter strife, and the struggle for a mountain right-of-way was eclipsed by the furious contest waged for honor, honesty and love.

A QUESTION OF HONOR By Ruth Cross

THROUGH a maze of intrigue, hatred and violence, a thrilling romance runs its hazardous course and Anne finds herself the pivotal issue in this combat of wealth and influence pitted against the courage and tenacity of youth.

Read this fast-moving story of adventure in the romantic western mountains.

Starts MONDAY, December 30th in the Mail Tribune

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SPERRY DRIFTED SNOW FLOUR

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SPERRY DRIFTED SNOW FLOUR

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING GETS RESULTS