

Weather Control Efforts Discussed At Legislative Committee Hearing

The Rogue valley's \$11,000,000-per-year pear industry stacked up its hail prevention efforts against the dry-land farmers' objections to any form of weather control at a hearing here Saturday.

The all-day session at the Jackson county courthouse was called by the legislative interim committee on weather control, with State Sen. Ben Day, Gold Hill, presiding. Dry explained the committee is empowered only to collect facts and information, and no conclusions were reached during the meeting.

The morning session was devoted to arguments and presentations by those engaged in weather control attempts. Some 80 or 90 interested persons jammed the small hearing room.

Stephen G. Nye, representing the fruit men, pointed out that 13,000 acres of land are devoted to fruit, out of 30,000 farm lands in the valley. The industry brings an income of \$11,000,000 yearly he said, on produce 98 per cent of which is shipped out of the valley.

Hail prevention attempts are both necessary and have proven beneficial, Nye said. Hail damage of considerable extent has been noted in each of 26 previous years except the past three, he states, when cloud-seeding to prevent hail has been tried.

In 1948, he said, some 300,000 or more boxes of fruit, representing a conservatively estimated loss of \$1,200,000, were destroyed. About half of the pears grown here are susceptible to hail damage, he added.

Shelby Tuttle, speaking for the Rogue River Valley Traffic association, an association of producers, packers, marketers and allied industries, said his group initiated the attempts at hail prevention.

Most of the morning was taken up by presentations by Medford's weather control pilots, Harvey M. Brandau and Eugene Koozer.

Koozer gave a background of their operations, which started in May, 1949. He told of the generally encouraging results, and emphasized that their efforts were for hail prevention only.

Koozer said there has been a general misunderstanding of their work, and with a series of charts described just how their efforts were directed, at cumulus clouds only. Only a tiny minority of summer clouds here are candidates for seeding, he said, and about 99 per cent of the cumulus clouds are either sucked into higher dry air and dissipate, or are "blown over" by winds, thus dispelling their danger as hail clouds.

He gave a review of 1951 hail operations, which during the six-month hail season lasted a total of 10 hours and 5 minutes. He also pointed out that 1951 was a very dry year in the entire area from Portland to Red Bluff, where there was 75 per cent, or less, of normal rainfall.

Brandau explained that the average life of a cumulus cloud is 20 minutes, and only about 1 in 20 "live" long enough to become dangerous as sources of hail. "It is neither required nor necessary to seed every cloud," he said.

In 1949 they flew a total of 37 hours and 20 minutes for seeding purposes, he said, and in 1950 the time was 38 hours and 15 minutes. Only a small proportion of that time was actually devoted to seeding, said the flyer.

Pilots Show Charts
The pilots showed charts on which dates of precipitation and flights were shown side by side. There was no apparent correlation between the two. Brandau said that they flew more in moist, rainy periods than in dry spells.

In response to questions, the

fliers said their method was to "aid nature" by introducing small amount of temporary crystals into the clouds to encourage the formation of snow. Done at the right time this will prevent hail by forming crystals of water, rather than droplets, which could turn to hail, they said, and the top of the cloud mushrooms out. This does not prevent rain, it was declared.

While they did not reveal the seeding agent they use, they said it has an effective life of not more than five minutes, and has no detrimental effect. It is "the same process nature uses," they said.

Favor Control Or Ban
In the afternoon the opponents to weather control were heard. Ed Hanley, a Medford attorney representing the Moisture Conservation League, Inc., a non-profit group of farmers, stockmen and lumbermen, introduced that faction's speakers. He pointed out that they favor legislation either controlling or banning weather control attempts.

Statements made by members of this group included eye-witness accounts of clouds disappearing after a plane had flown by. They said they don't know where or when the hail-prevention flights were made, and that their only evidence was observation.

Hanley said that uncontrolled weather flights would lead to confusion and conflict, and should be regulated.

He told of rumors of installations in the valley, rumors which were substantiated later by his associate, Attorney Bruce Manley, who showed pictures which, he said, they think are of ground units designed to increase rainfall. He said they were located at Pinehurst and Trail, and that one was mounted on a truck.

Generally speaking, Hanley said, the group asks thorough

study, laws controlling weather work with bonds and flight plans required, and other regulations to protect those who have an interest in the results.

Spring Showers Missed
George E. Dunn, a rancher of the Ashland area, said that he had spent all his life in the area, and that during the last three years he hasn't seen the spring showers that usually fall.

He said he has watched thunderclouds build up, but that no rain has come from them. He sincerely believes that weather control operations caused this condition, he said, and, "We should let the rain fall as the good Lord intended it," rather than control it for the benefit of a few.

James Miller, Medford, who operates stock ranches in the

Ashland and Applegate districts, said he feels weather control could only lead to feuding by those with varied interests. "We need rain in September for our stock," he said, but our neighbors who raise seed don't want it then because it would damage their harvests.

Weather Control Blamed
"I blame weather control for the lack of precipitation in the past three years," he said, "In the past I've taken my chances on rain, and I'm willing to do so again."

H. L. Claycomb said "I don't think it's right" for others to control the weather. He pointed out that others—including lumbermen—have a vital interest in rainfall, and suggested that acreage, income and other factors be considered.

Mrs. Earl Scheble, of the Griffin Creek-Dark Hollow area, said that hail falls in relatively small areas, but rain falls generally. To the fliers' claim that they affect hail only, she said it "just isn't true." She said she has watched clouds being broken up, and cited declining crop yields in the past three years to support her contention that all weather control should be banned.

Ranchers Henry Owens, Ashland district, William Duggan, of Sams Valley, Dean Owens, Hugh and Ed Barron and S. S. Bounds spoke along similar lines.

Resolution Passed
Manley said the rain or snow making installations, of which he had pictures, have been in operation probably about two years, but that his group only learned of their existence last week. He said he thinks they throw chemical smoke into the air when conditions are favorable.

David S. Blair, speaking for the Evans Valley Grange, said that organization had passed a resolution opposing the weather experiments. He said that if the fliers can knock the top off clouds, as they claim, he doesn't see why that wouldn't also affect the rainmaking ability of a cloud.

In concluding, Hanley said his group has no objection to prayer as a method of controlling precipitation, but does object to the unregulated use of physical agents.

Crew Saved as Storm Sinks Small Trawler

Norfolk, Va. — (U.P.) — The Coast Guard reported Saturday that the trawler "Halfmoon" has been sunk in a storm off the North Carolina coast near Cape Hatteras. There were no casualties.

Trainees Will Seek Lost Plane Near KF

McChord Air Force Base — (U.P.) — A search for an air force C-47 missing with eight persons aboard since Dec. 26, was resumed Saturday as a training project.

Maj. Leonard H. Burgess, commanding officer of Flight C, Fourth Air Rescue Squadron here, said he was utilizing training flights in the search.

Plane crews in training will fly from here to Klamath Falls, Ore., where the C-47 was last heard, and will then fly search patterns for the dual purpose.

Lower Temperatures Seen for West Coast

Washington — (U.P.) — The weather bureau's long-range forecast calls for lower than average March normals over most of the western half of the nation.

Along the California coast near-normal temperatures are forecast.

In most eastern portions of the nation, temperatures averaging around normal are anticipated, except the coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico and in the Great Lakes region, where they will be somewhat warmer than normal.

The weather bureau said precipitation is expected to exceed normal over most of the country, except for subnormal amounts in the Pacific North-

Psychologists do not agree as to the cause of dreams, though probably the most general explanation is that the dream is the disguised fulfillment of a repressed wish.

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Stop Work Meeting Planned March 10 By Longshoremen

Seattle — (U.P.) — Two-thousand Seattle longshoremen will join in a 24-hour coastwide stop-work meeting March 10 to protest government delays in approving a union pension plan.

Art Olson, secretary of Seattle Local 19, International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's union (Ind.), said the stop-work meeting would begin at midnight March 9 and continue until midnight March 10.

"There will be no work done during that time," Olson said. Washington ports to be affected besides Seattle are Bellingham, Everett, Port Gamble, Port Townsend, Olympia, Aberdeen, Raymond, Longview and Vancouver.

The pension plan was negotiated last June by the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime association. It provides \$100 monthly pensions for men more than 65 years of age who have worked 25 years as longshoremen.

The Wage Stabilization board has approved the plan, subject to certain specifications, but ILWU officials say it would involve too much paper work to comply with the plan.

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Taxes Take Too Much From Grocer's Profits

Raymond, Wash. — (U.P.) — Lapinski's grocery here held a clearance sale Saturday in preparation for the store's closing.

Owner Peter Lapinski explained why in an advertisement in the community's weekly newspaper. He blamed high taxes and said:

"For every day of the year, including Sundays and holidays, my income tax for 1951 averaged \$52."

"With such a tax load I am not able to accumulate any reserve for unforeseen emergencies and there is no incentive to be in business any longer."

Livestock Embargo Set By Quebec Government

Quebec City — (U.P.) — The Quebec government Saturday clamped an embargo on livestock from all other provinces to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease.

The restriction was announced by Premier Maurice Duplessis Friday night. He said he had ordered the agriculture department to ban importation, sale or possession of livestock from outside Quebec by anyone without a special clearance from the department.

Court Records

POLICE COURT
Doris E. Hunsong, failure to stop at red light, \$3.
Eliel E. Coffeen, expired vehicle license, \$5.
Carl J. Plank, failure to yield right of way, \$5.
George J. Ketchum, violation of basic rule, \$10.

DISTRICT COURT
Marlene A. Rosenbalm, no operator's license, \$10.
Clifford N. Fuchs, defective tail lights, costs only.
Delbert R. Jennings, Tiller, drunk on public highway, \$30.
Ernest B. Burg, no operator's license, costs only.

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I 10 lbs..	.90	Johnson
G 25 lbs..	\$1.75	Power Motor
O 50 lbs..	\$3.00	18 in. \$130.50
R 100 lbs.	\$5.00	21 in. \$146.50

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