

Adequate Labor Supply Problem During Valley Pear Harvesting

Securing enough manpower to harvest the Rogue valley's 1953 pear crop may prove difficult.

That report has come out of a preliminary survey of the labor supply made by the State Employment service and the Jackson County Fruit Growers league.

The big 1953 crop, which is expected to be of "excellent" quality because of favorable growing conditions has been estimated at more than 5,000,000 lug or "orchard" boxes.

Situation Difficult

The labor situation has been made difficult this year by the fact that pear picking will be about two weeks later than usual in starting this fall. This means that many college and high school boys will be unable to join the ranks of the pear pickers before resuming their classes.

Also, many migrant workers coming into the valley at this time of year may be reluctant to wait for the season to open. Plans are being made to start fruit picking around August 20 to 24.

The pear industry in this area employs about 2,000 seasonal workers. Most of this number are engaged in the picking operation. The season lasts about six weeks and starts with the ripening of Bartlett pears.

Fruit pickers receive good wages. The experts earn from \$15 to \$20 a day. The average pick per man is about 85 boxes. Local People Needed

The real job is to find enough local people to do this work. Picking pears is not an easy task, and there are some 10,000 acres of pears, plus another 1,000 acres of peaches in the valley to be picked.

In recent years, local residents have formed "pear picking squads" to help harvest the crop on their days off, usually Saturday and Sunday.

As in the past, the State Employment service will maintain an office provided by the fruit industry and staffed by the service to recruit the army of pear pickers as they are needed. The office also is available to other agriculture employers and employees.

Among the facilities provided for the pickers are marked maps which are prepared if the location might otherwise be difficult to find.

Pear picking, in general, is not suitable for women and children, although they may play an important part in other phases of the industry. However, there are some husband and wife teams who do well in the orchards, and husky boys over 16 years of age can do the work.

Crops Perishable

Officials of the State Employment service have a real problem each year finding sufficient agricultural workers to meet the seasonal demands. As one official pointed out, the crops have to be handled when they are ready since the product harvested is perishable.

The local employment office reports that, so far as the Med-

ford area is concerned, there is no surplus of pear pickers in sight. The local preference appears to be for packing house jobs. These places are filled by the largest segment of the available supply of fruit handlers.



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Plywood Fence Has Basketweave Look

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One of the simplest answers is a window screen and fence around the patio or terrace in the back yard. Here is an interesting design with which you can weave a little privacy around you and your family.

It consists of wide horizontal panels of exterior plywood laced through supporting posts in a handsome basket weave effect. The panels are secured to alternating sides of posts with a floating spreader in between to give the fence its unusual appearance.

This is just one of six plans for plywood screens and fences

Footlighters Slate Tryouts for Play

Tryouts for "The Curious Savage," Footlighters civic theater group's next production, will be Monday and Tuesday, August 17 and 18, at 8 p.m. in the little theater at the fairgrounds, according to Miss Charlene Pike, president.

The play, a comedy in three acts by John Patrick, author of "The Hasty Heart," is said to be different from anything yet attempted by the group. The cast calls for six women and five men and offers some unusual opportunities to those interested in acting, according to the president. Every role is described as outstanding with a particular appeal of its own.

The tryouts are open to the public and anyone interested in and phase of theater work is asked to attend. Miss Pike announced that the production will be given in late September.

with which you can dress up your outdoors. All are designed for building with exterior plywood with waterproof glue. Write Douglas Fir Plywood Association, Tacoma, Wash., for the descriptive folder outlining what is available.



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79⁷⁵

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SENATOR ROBERT HOLMES
Speaks at Demo Picnic

Democratic Picnic Begins at Noon

The annual Jackson County Democratic picnic begins at noon today at TouVelle state park.

Speaker will be State Sen. Robert D. Holmes, Gearhart, recently named Oregon education's "Citizen of the Year." His topic will be "The Way to Win" in 1954.

Senator Holmes was the first Democrat elected to the state senate from Clatsop county in the past half century, and has been mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate for governor.

Police Called To Quell Disturbance in Tavern

Medford police were called to quell a disturbance in a Front st. bar at 12:10 a.m. yesterday.

On arrival officers reported they found a man lying on the floor of the bar with another man standing over him. The man on the floor had evidently been "quieted" with a night stick, police said. Witnesses said he had been throwing bottles and glasses about the building. The man was taken to Community hospital for treatment of facial cuts and bruises and a police car then took him home. No complaint was signed.

New Hampshire's Mount Washington is the highest peak east of the Rockies and north of the Mason-Dixon line. Its privately owned cog railroad was the first mountain-climbing railroad in the world.

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