

1955 Rainfall Slightly Above Normal; Temperatures Cooler

A cold dry winter, left over from 1954, a cool dry spring followed by a dry but not especially hot summer added up to average annual 1955 temperatures about two degrees colder than normal in the Rogue valley.

Dryness in the early part of the year was more than compensated for by a wet late fall and early winter, topped off by a record breaking December rainfall that brought total 1955 precipitation to slightly above normal in the valley.

Three Records Broken

Three weather records were broken during 1955 according to the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Medford airport. A record breaking high temperature for September was reached Sept. 4 when mercury climbed to 107 degrees. Two months later a November snowfall of 11.2 inches broke all records for that month. An 8.77 inch rainfall set new records for December.

The average annual temperature for Medford was 52.3 degrees, 1.7 degrees below normal. A low for the year of 19 degrees was reached March 15 and 20.

Above Normal Fall

Rainfall was 1.76 inches above normal, totaling 19.9 inches with 14.81 inches of that amount falling during the last three months of the year. Rain, .01 inch or more, fell on 93 days. Snow fall totaled 16.2 inches for the year. Normal for the Medford area is 7.2 inches.

There were 111 clear days in 1955, 99 days partly cloudy and 106 cloudy. Medford skies, considered from sunrise to sunset, were cloudy 59 per cent of the year. Normal is 57 per cent cloudy. There was heavy fog

on 51 days compared to a normal of 43.

Ashland had an average annual temperature of 50.4 degrees, 2.3 degrees below normal. Rainfall at Ashland totaled 17.73 inches, 2.25 inches below normal. Snowfall totaled 8.9 inches with most of it falling in November.

Ashland High

High temperatures at Ashland was 100 degrees on Sept. 4. Low was 17 degrees on March 5 and again on Dec. 29.

At Grants Pass, an average annual temperature of 53 degrees was only .6 degree below normal. A high of 108 degrees was reached Aug. 8 and a low of 19 degrees was reached on March 20.

Rainfall at Grants Pass totaled 31.44 inches, 1.69 inches above normal. There was 6½ inches of snowfall.

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HAPPY AND HUMBLE—Singer Julius LaRosa, 26, looking happy and properly humble, poses with his bride-to-be, Rosemary (Rory) Meyer, 25, in New York after announcing their engagement. LaRosa rocketed to success when Arthur Godfrey fired him for not having "humility." Miss Meyer is a secretary in the office of singer Perry Como.

Last Year Good One For Most Crops; Some Adversely Affected

Whether the 1955 climate was good or bad for agriculture depends on what crop was being produced, according to W. B. Tucker, chief county agent.

Generally speaking it was a good year for agriculture, Tucker said, with the bad aspects pretty well offset by the good.

Record Pear Crop

In the fruit industry it was a bumper year for small fruits and the weather contributed to development of a record breaking pear crop. Apricots and peaches, however, were largely curtailed by heavy freezes early in the year. No damage to fruit trees from freezing has yet been apparent. Pruning was delayed by mud and rain.

Cattlemen suffered serious damage, first because cold weather caused shortened hay crops and resulted in higher prices for imported hay, and second because freezing weather in November killed range grass necessitating early feeding of livestock.

The dry weather, however, apparently killed a large portion of animal parasites thus reducing disease incident in domestic animals.

Premature Ripening

Dryness caused premature ripening of seed crops, such as dry land alfalfa, but furnished ideal harvesting conditions.

There was a shortage of irrigation water in 1955 but in most areas the amount was satisfactory, Tucker said. Again, cool weather preserved the amount of existing snow pack causing an even run-off through the year.

Heavy rains and floods in the

latter part of 1955 caused a tremendous amount of erosion. Damage was divided between water washing away good top soil and water depositing layers of debris and sand on top of productive land. The full extent of the damage is not yet known, Tucker said.

About 80 miles of streams in the area were out of their banks causing stream bank erosion, destroying fences and filling irrigation ditches with mud, sand and debris.

Good Year for Some

It was a good year for such vegetable crops as peas, spinach and lettuce, but sweet corn and tomato crops were severely limited by cold and a short growing season.

Bee-keepers in the valley suffered heavy losses due to a long, cold spring and low nectar content in flowers which made it necessary to feed bees. A large number of hives were lost and others were weakened.

Footlighters Will Meet Wednesday

The first of twice-weekly workshop meetings of the Medford Footlighters, a local civic theater group, will be held Wednesday between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Stan Zapell, long active in the group, will head the workshop, assisted by Frank Buchter, Mrs. Edward C. Kelly and others in the group.

Meetings will be held each Wednesday and Thursday evening in St. Mary's school activities room. The building was made available "in response to the need of Footlighters for a comfortable 'in town' facility," according to Mrs. Max Wimmer, president.

The St. Mary's room was donated as a public service while the group's fairgrounds theater is being remodeled. It is equipped with a small stage and "is ideal for our workshop program," Mrs. Wimmer said.

Theme of the workshop is "learn by doing" and all persons wishing to work on acting technique, direction, lighting, make-up, costuming or staging will have an opportunity to experiment on their own, she said.

About 2,500 pounds of Douglas fir seed will raise upwards of 100,000,000 trees under ideal conditions, according to forestry experts.

County Engineer To Leave For Meet In Florida Monday

County Engineer Paul Rynning and Mrs. Rynning will leave by air Monday evening for Miami, Fla., where he will attend the annual convention of the American Road Builders association.

Floyd Robb, Coos county engineer, will accompany them. Both Rynning and Robb are members of the board of directors of the county division of the association, and Rynning is on the convention's resolutions committee. The three will return the following Monday.

Federal Program

The association is composed of all segments of the road building industry, governmental and private, including equipment manufacturers. Rynning said a number of matters will be considered, including action on proposals for a federal road building program.

During his absence, Delbert Clifford will be in charge of the county roads program, Rynning reported, and will continue routine maintenance jobs as well as repairs needed because of recent floods and washouts.

The engineer said there are still a couple of places in the county where families are cut off from the outside, although it is shown that no one is in any danger. These include the Netherlands bridge, in the Shady Cove area, and Emigrant Creek rd., east of Ashland. On Elk creek a bridge was washed out, but loggers have constructed a ford usable by larger vehicles, and the Trail bridge is still out.

Rynning said his original estimate of the amount of damage to county roads, \$250,000, may have been a bit high, but that a great deal of work still remains to be done, and it will take months to complete.

Increased Sawmill Residue Use Needed For Lumber Industry

Corvallis—Increased automation and use of sawmill residues are needed in the lumber industry to hold prices in line with competing materials, according to John Grantham, managing director of the Oregon forest products laboratory at Oregon State college.

Grantham said installation of more automatic equipment in sawmills is necessary to increase man-hour productivity.

Increase Productivity

Automatic dogging, riderless carriages, remote networks for resaw and similar equipment could replace men who have no important decisions to make. This would increase productivity of essential workers, he reported.

He urged increased utilization

of plant residues by expanding uses for slabs, edgings, trims, sawdust and bark. Use of mill residues as chips or fuel avoids disposal cost and may mean the difference between profit and loss for the operation.

By 1957, lumber prices are expected to increase about 80 per cent more than the anticipated increase in competitive products. Predictions of future lumber demand hinge largely on price, Grantham explained. A 1954 report forecasts only a 7 or 8 per cent increase in lumber consumption between now and 1975 despite an anticipated 64 per cent increase in disposable income of individuals and a 64 per cent increase in new housing starts.

Grantham said he doubted the anticipated increase of mill residue value will be sufficient during the next 10 to 20 years to offset cost increases in lumber manufacture.

Increased Lumber Costs

Increased lumber costs will come from such "pressures" as higher stumpage costs and increased logging costs because of smaller volumes per acre, rougher terrain and greater hauling distances.

Mill costs will rise because of smaller logs. Pressure for higher prices also will come from increased labor and transportation costs.

Production costs can be reduced by diverting logs to those plants which can obtain the highest values or can most efficiently utilize raw materials, Grantham said.

Greater volume recovery from each acre of forest land through prelogging or re-logging has been accomplished in many instances, but the extent of these practices is too limited, Grantham said.

Mill residues can be used for hardboard and particle-board production, paper, and paperboard. Hardboards and particle-board production is expected to double by 1975, Grantham said.

Sawdust Use

Sawdust is finding increased favor as a mulch for berries, ornamentals, and vegetables such as cabbage and tomatoes. Studies are under way to treat sawdust before its application to overcome temporary nitrogen depletion induced by the sawdust.

The treatment of sawdust would improve its characteristics as a soil conditioner.

Bark, now used for fuel, is a potential as a chemical raw material. Laboratory research has demonstrated that waxes, tannins, and flavanones may be obtained from bark by solvent extraction.

Two-Year-Old Case Goes To Grand Jury

The case of Fred Stewart, 38, Idaho, charged with burglary not in a dwelling, was resubmitted to the county grand jury yesterday. Stewart is charged with burglarizing the Medford Accounting service two years ago.

Members of the jury are Lamar Dodd, Central Point; Iva Cathey, Eagle Point; Virginia M. Bohnert, Central Point; Wilburn E. Gillette, Jacksonville; Melvin P. Scott, Velma F. Ryn and A. J. Lynch, Medford.

Rehabilitation Groups Are Listed For Area Residents

Agencies with information about rehabilitation assistance for individual and private losses from floods were listed yesterday by Charles H. Beal, federal civil defense engineer, Salem.

American Red Cross assists in private and individual losses and persons desiring help locally may call at the Red Cross office, courthouse, phone 2-4405.

The Small Business administration, which has a charge of grants non-secured and 10-year loans at 3 per cent to individuals or small businesses, has been set up in Grants Pass, phone Greenwood 6-7422.

The Federal Housing administration office at 33 North Riverside ave., liberalizes terms and extends time of payments for homes and improvements. Head office is at 827 NE Oregon st., Portland.

The veterans administration, with offices at 35 North Riverside ave., liberalizes terms on homes of veterans affected by the flood. Regional office is in the Lincoln building, Portland.

Loans to farmers for various types of losses are available through the Farmers Home administration, 209 SW Fifth ave., Portland.

The U. S. department of commerce, room 217, Pioneer post office building, Portland, is in charge of priorities for materials to rebuild industries and small businesses.

Beal said federal funds are available only for work essential for preservation of life and property and replacement of damaged civil defense equipment purchased under the federal matching program.

Heart Association Fund Drive Slated

A community-wide Heart Sunday collection will be conducted in Medford Feb. 26 by the American Legion auxiliary, according to an announcement by C. H. Labbe, Portland, assistant vice-president of the U.S. National Bank and 1956 state Heart fund chairman. Mrs. Earl Bigalow is chairman of the local drive.

Funds contributed will be used for a crusade against diseases of the heart and circulation. Mrs. Bigalow said the auxiliary hopes other county organizations will participate in the collection as last year, when Medford ranked second per capita in Oregon contributions.

Although not sponsoring the drive last year, the auxiliary aided in the campaign and Miss Laura York, past state music chairman of the auxiliary and past state president of Business and Professional Women's clubs, served as chairman.

Persons wishing to contribute two hours, between 2 and 4 p.m., Feb. 26, may contact Mrs. Bigalow, 2-6877. Volunteers will give each family they visit an opportunity to support the crusade, she said. The Sunday collection will be the principal means of raising funds for the Heart association.

Rogue River Youth Injured in Accident

Charles Berton Beck, 19, of Rogue River, was hospitalized in Grants Pass Friday afternoon after the car he was driving was wrecked, according to a state police report.

Officers said Beck, driving south on Highway 99 near the Welcome motel near Savage Rapids dam, passed another car and then lost control of his, which went into a spin, slid off the road and sideways into the cement base of the motel sign. It continued on for some distance, finally striking a tree, the report said.

He was hospitalized for treatment of a cut eye, and possible other head injuries, the officers said. The car was towed away.

Casualty Losses To Be Reported In Taxes

Procedures for reporting casualty losses on income tax returns were explained yesterday by R. C. Granquist, district director of internal revenue, Portland.

Losses are only deductible in the year sustained, and must be reduced by any insurance or other compensation received in that year or which will be received in a subsequent year.

Information regarding problems created by flood disasters is available through the Medford office of internal revenue in the federal building, 33 North Riverside ave., or from the internal revenue service, 830 NE Holladay st., Portland.

Water Runoff May Be Above Average

Runoff during the "water year" in this area should be well above average, according to the Medford weather bureau.

R. D. Church, meteorologist in charge, said the forecast as of Jan. 1 indicates that heavy fall and winter precipitation will provide more than ample supplies of water during the irrigation season. Fall precipitation in southwestern Oregon was 120 per cent of normal. December precipitation averaged about 225 per cent of normal. The figures for south-central Oregon (principally the Klamath basin) were 110 per cent for the fall and 230 per cent for December.

Water-year forecasts for specific points listed by Church included:

Rogue river near Prospect, 1,720,000 acre-feet, or 129 per cent of the 1938-1952 average; Klamath river—Upper Klamath lake net inflow, 1,800,000 acre-feet, or 147 per cent; North Umpqua river below Lake creek, 390,000 acre-feet, or 130 per cent.

Crater Adult Classes Still Have Openings

Central Point—Openings still are available in two evening adult classes sponsored by the Crater High school vocational agricultural department, Leonard Kunzman, instructor has announced.

Kunzman said about 40 have enrolled in the animal sanitation and disease control class, which is a continuation of a course conducted last year. About 10 have enrolled in the farm truck and tractor maintenance repair course, in which residents may bring their vehicles for repairing.

Both courses are held in the agricultural building at Crater High school. The animal disease control class, which started last Wednesday, is held Tuesday nights between 8 and 10 p.m. The vehicle maintenance class will start Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Persons interested in enrolling in either class may contact Kunzman.

Radioactive Ores Reported In Area

Four occurrences of radioactive minerals in Jackson county have been reported to the state department of geology and mineral industries, it was reported last week.

The information is contained in the current issue of The Ore-Bin, publication of the department. None of the locations is in commercial production.

One is located on the Little Applegate river southwest of Jacksonville, and is the discovery of George DeGroote, Portland. Uranium minerals on the location are unknown.

Another, located near Trail, was found by Ervine House, Shady Cove.

The third, located by Vernon Ritchie and Norman Nelson, Medford, is located south of Ashland, and the fourth, located by Carl Love, Milwaukie, Ore., is north of Trail, where two locations were found in the same area.

Potucek Named Head Of Labor Council

George Potucek, 387 O'Gara st., was installed as president of the Medford Central Labor council at the regular meeting recently.

E. Ford was made vice-president; Pauline La Plane, financial secretary; Vernon Marshall, recording secretary; Jess Wagner, sergeant at arms; and Merle Merriman, Alvin York, William Hoxie and John Rorrex, trustees.

The council heard Glenn Jackson and John Crawford outline the program for the Rogue Valley Memorial hospital and went on record as endorsing the project.

Plans are underway for a March of Dimes dance, with Marshall, secretary of the musicians, as chairman.

Oil Company Offers Scholarship At SOC

Standard oil company of California will award two leadership scholarships during the 1956-57 academic year to students at Southern Oregon college, it was announced yesterday. They are part of a nation-wide educational program sponsored by Standard and selection of winners is handled by college scholarship committees.

Linfield college, Pacific university, and University of Portland also have been authorized two scholarships. Winners will be announced next spring.

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