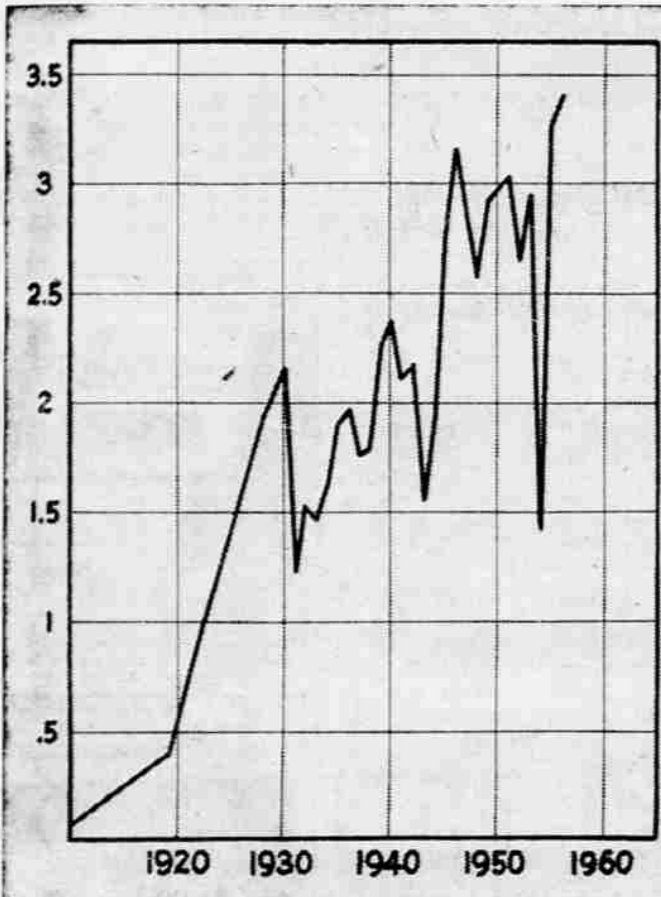


Pear Industry Maintains Agricultural Economy Lead

County Pear Production In Millions of Boxes



Constitutional Change Gets Recommendation

Salem — (U.P.) — A proposed constitutional amendment to increase the term of state representatives from two years to four has received the favorable recommendation of the Senate Elections committee and will be before the Senate for final action this week.

The Senate Judiciary committee gave its approval to legislation to raise from \$20,000 to \$25,000 the ceiling for damages in wrongful death. This would change a House-passed bill to remove the limit altogether.

Most of Nation Can Expect Spring

By UNITED PRESS

The weather took a seasonal turn today with mild, spring-like readings expected most of the nation.

A warming trend that began Sunday continued during the night in the Mississippi valley, the Ohio valley and the lower Great Lakes region.

Clearing skies sent temperatures tumbling in the Northern Lakes area, but weathermen said the mercury will climb today under bright sunshine. The coldest spot in the nation overnight was Mount Washington, N.H., where the temperatures registered 1 above zero at midnight.

A storm center in the Pacific Northwest brought showers from the Pacific coast to the Rockies. The storm brought an inch or more of rain Sunday over coastal sections of northern California.

Forecasters said warming will continue today from the Great Plains states to the Atlantic with mostly fair skies east of the Mississippi river. Mostly cloudy weather was seen for the Plains with scattered showers in the southern and northern sections.

Dam in Ecuador Bursts; Homes Swept Away

Jipijapa, Ecuador — (U.P.) — The new Jipijapa Dam burst Sunday, drowning at least four persons and sweeping away scores of homes in this provincial town. Damage was estimated at \$180,000.

The failure of the dam, completed only a few months ago, was blamed on "defective construction."

(Editor's note: How is agriculture doing in Jackson county? What is its future? How does it stack up as compared to the past? What are the major items of income? (The following is one of a series of six articles, prepared by the Mail Tribune in cooperation with the county agricultural extension office and others, in an attempt to answer these questions).)

In 1890 there were about 2,000 boxes of pears produced in Jackson county. In 1956, there were nearly 3 1/2 million boxes of pears produced here.

During the last half of that 66-year period, local fruit growers (along with nearly everyone else in the nation) felt effects of the economic depression of the 1930's. Then a widespread blight infestation destroyed more than 1,000 acres of pear trees. Next, World War II halted exports to valuable foreign markets, and force of competition from other areas strengthened.

Hail, Frost

In 1948, a severe hail storm resulted in serious crop losses, and on May 1, 1954, came the hardest blow of all—an untimely frost, which claimed over half of the anticipated pear crop in the county.

In spite of these and other "calamities," the pear industry has for many years maintained its position as No. 1 in agricultural importance to the county.

During 1956, estimated gross income from agricultural enterprises in the county was \$28,688,361. Of this total, about \$19,000,000 came from horticultural products, mostly pears. Annually, pears represent about 50 per cent of the county's total agricultural income.

Survives Hardships

C. B. Cordy, county horticulture agent, says the local fruit industry has survived its hardships and forged ahead largely because members of the industry have used a positive approach to problems, profited from mistakes and kept abreast of scientific and mechanical improvements.

For instance, after the depression, pear growers banded together in an attack against blight. Their clean-up campaign brought the disease under control.

According to Cordy, they have met competition by expanding local production and emphasizing high quality. Simultaneously, they have spent staggering sums of money promoting their product. Growers tax themselves eight cents a box and the money goes toward promoting consumer use of pears.

The Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau, considered one of the leading industry promotion and market production agencies in existence, originated right here in Medford about 25 years ago. It has been given much credit for keeping the pear industry "on its feet" during periods of tight economy.

Seek Answers

Jackson county fruit growers lost no time after 1948 in seeking an answer to the "hail problem." In 1949, the Rogue River Valley Traffic association (since renamed the Medford Pear Shippers association) initiated a cloud seeding program. Airplanes scattered chemical solutions through the clouds attempting to dissolve hail before it could reach the pear crop.

In 1954, the association pioneered a different hail suppression program here using ground generators and silver iodide. This program is carried out by the Water Resources Development corporation of Denver, through its local headquarters at the Medford airport.

It is still in experimental stages and results are being closely observed by governmental agencies and other fruit districts. It's too early to determine the relative success of the program, but large annual expenditures made by fruit growers toward its support indicate they believe it has real promise.

Orchard Heating

Orchard heating for prevention of frost damage started here in 1905, and acceptance of this program gradually increased among orchardists. Then, understandably enough, use of orchard heating reached an all-time high after the 1954 frost. There are few orchardists in the valley now who do not carefully listen for frost warnings and keep heating equipment ready to use until well past the acknowledged frost danger period.

Among significant improvements introduced in the last decade by Medford and Hood River fruit packers have

been polyethylene bags for storing pears. These transparent bags are capable of preserving pears for extended lengths of time. Storage ability depends on the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide within the bags. This varies according to storage temperatures and other factors, and can be controlled by punching holes in the bags. Polyethylene bags have aroused a considerable amount of outside interest and research is still under way.

Figures Compared

An interesting phenomenon can be observed by comparing pear production and tree acreage figures of 1931-35 and 1955. In 1931-35, estimated pear production was 1 2/3 million boxes as compared with 3 1/4 million boxes in 1955. Yet, in 1930, estimated total acres of pear trees was 11,620 as compared with 10,000 in 1955.

Cordy cites better care of trees and use of modern methods in accounting for increased production, despite decreased acreage. Adoption of improved pruning techniques, use of new chemicals for disease and insect control, development of effective spray schedules and fertilizer programs are a few of the production methods used.

Varieties, Acreages

Following is a breakdown of varieties and acreages in 1930 as compared with 1955:

Variety	1930	1955
Bartlett & Red Bartlett	3,260	4,200
D'Anjou	2,800	2,800
Bosc	3,000	1,800
Comice	740	800
Winter Nelis	950	50
Howell	280	5
Miscellaneous	210	150
TOTAL	11,620	10,000

Cordy pointed out that the increase in Bartlett, D'Anjou and Comice acreage and decreases in Bosc, Winter Nelis and Howell has largely been due to grafting of the latter three varieties over to the other three. Reasons for grafting included diseases and low prices, which made Bosc, Winter Nelis and Howell less desirable than the other varieties.

Loss of Acreage

A considerable amount of worry has been expressed recently over loss of fruit acreage for residential and industrial purposes as the county expands. Cordy estimates about 100 acres of orchard land have been taken out of production in meeting residential and industrial needs in the last 10 years. It has been predicted that a great deal more orchard land will be similarly used in years to come.

Considering this, as well as age of existing orchards, the pear and apple sub-committee of the Jackson County Agricultural council recently stressed the need for additional plantings in the area. Cordy said there is "good reason" to believe more new plantings will be in evidence in the coming year than has occurred in the last 25 years. He noted 50 per cent of present orchards in the county are 40 years old or older. This means their production levels will soon decline and new plantings will be necessary to stabilize production.

Additional Plantings

The committee also recommended additional plantings be confined to the present four main varieties Bartlett, D'Anjou, Bosc and Comice, with the addition of Red Bartlett. The latter variety was introduced about 10 years ago in Yakima, Wash., and has been especially adaptable to this area, Cordy said. Skin of Red Bartlett has a red tinge, but the fruit is otherwise about the same as regular Bartlett. Requirements for the Red Bartlett variety to develop red color include low humidity, cold nights and hot, bright days.

Cordy said another new variety, Packham's Triumph, also shows promise for this area. Pears of this variety are large, sturdy and can be stored until spring.

Irrigation facilities rank among the greatest needs for the fruit industry here. Cordy says it doesn't matter whether these facilities are provided by federal, state, county or indi-

Nixon Report Said To Neglect Famine

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt says that Vice President Richard M. Nixon neglected to mention "an impending famine in Morocco" in reporting his recent trip to Africa. "I read the vice president's report," the widow of the late President said. "I was surprised to find he did not mention what I feel is a most serious problem in Africa, the impending famine in Morocco."

Mrs. Roosevelt returned to New York Sunday night following a speech before the southwest regional conference of the American Association for the United Nations.

"There is an immediate danger of a famine in Morocco like the one in 1947 when two million persons died," she said. "We have large surpluses of wheat and powdered milk and the United States will be asked to help."

Ten Commandments Would Be Reduced

Washington — (U.P.) — The House budget cutters are in full cry. Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.), a former member of the House Appropriations Committee, reported thus to his constituents: "As one member put it, 'The boys are in such a mood that if someone introduced the Ten Commandments they would cut them down to eight.'"

A colleague commented: "If they did, the Democrats would call on President Eisenhower to name the two to be eliminated."

viewed funds. "We need more irrigation badly and should take immediate steps to get it somehow," he states.

Husband Watches as Bride Dies in Plane

Marathon, Fla. — (U.P.) — A Miami man watched helplessly Sunday night as a light plane crashed and burned, killing his bride of two weeks and the pilot.

Buddy Young and his wife, Lavergne, 27, had arranged for pilot Thurman Riley, 44, of Miami, to "buzz" low over the lodge where the Youngs work as a signal for him to meet them at the airport.

The plane hit a high-voltage cable, slammed to the ground and burned. Mrs. Young and Riley were killed instantly.

Magic Chicken Feed Produces Egg Machines

Milan, Italy — (U.P.) — Italian poultrymen said today they have found a magic chicken feed that will turn normal hens into mass production egg-laying machines.

They said their formula for increased production consists of feeding the chickens a balanced diet of proteins and vitamins and keeping each hen in a one-cubic-foot cage, where she has nothing else to do but lay eggs. The hens get a vacation every two months, they added.

FLAX POISONING

Dickinson, N.D. — (U.P.) — Western North Dakota stockmen have reported cattle losses through flax poisoning. Immature, green flax eaten by the cattle can contain enough prussic acid to kill the animals.

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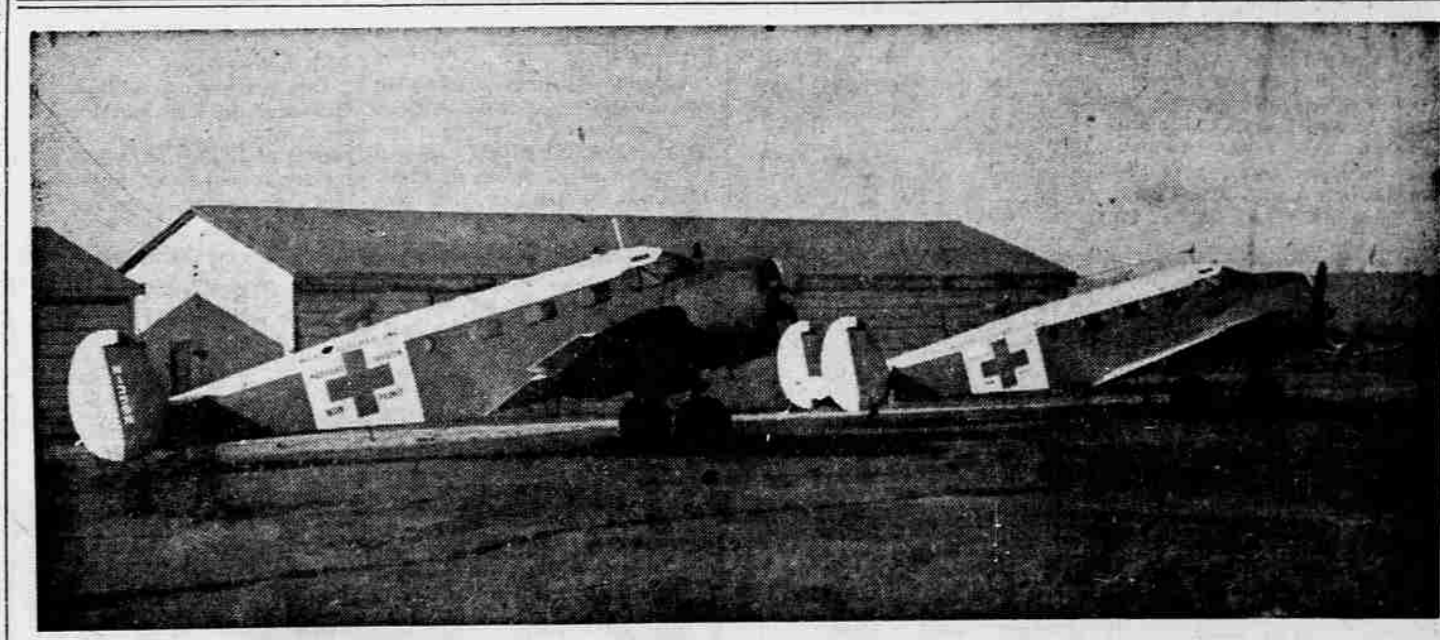
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