

# Income From Stone Fruits Estimated \$1 Million Here

(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.)

Stone fruits contribute about \$1 million annually to the agricultural income of Jackson county.

This is about 1/19 of the estimated gross horticultural income, and about 1/28 of the estimated income derived from all agricultural enterprises.

## Much Competition

The story of Jackson county's on-again-off-again peach production could be summed up in one word—competition.

Until the 1980's there were no peaches in the county. Then about 400 acres of early Crawford were planted in the Ashland area. When the trees began bearing fruit, growers found a good California market.

Peach production became a major agricultural enterprise, and harvest and processing provided a strong source of income for residents. But Californians soon began raising their own peaches. They developed late season varieties, which by 1930 had virtually forced Jackson county growers out of the market.

## Plant J. H. Hales

Local growers met the California challenge by planting about 1,500 acres of J. H. Hales. There were ready for market even later than the California-grown varieties, and markets opened there. Another important market opened in Portland.

Yakima peaches then came into the picture and eventually dominated the Portland market. But Jackson county growers fought back with high quality J. H. Hales and Rio Oso Gems. These varieties were welcomed in California and also enjoyed some popularity in Portland. The market picture was good for about 15 years. Then Californians began developing competing varieties and demand for local peaches declined.

## Revised Acreage

Tough competition resulted in reduction of acreage, which now totals only about 1,000. Most of the acreage is concentrated in the Phoenix area, with some in Medford and Ashland. Packing and selling are now being conducted both by individual growers and on an individual grower basis and it appears the "small grower" here is being squeezed out of the peach industry.

Necessity has been emphasized in recent years for small growers to channel their fruit through central packing or selling plants.

The stone fruit subcommittee of the Jackson County Agricultural Council has recommended that a market research service be established and that local growers assume the expense for such a service.

Cordy said, "Peaches grown here are of as high quality as those grown anywhere. But we need a greater volume of production (in the hands of fewer sellers) to command market attention."

The stone fruit subcommittee has recommended that plantings of late varieties for commercial shipping be not less than 10 acres in size.

## More Changes

Production of cherries was also once considered a major agricultural enterprise here, but has undergone drastic changes in the past quarter-century.

Until the late 1930's, there were about 400 acres of cherries in the county. The leading varieties were Bings, Lamberts and Royal Annes. Then, cherry trees became infected with albinism, a virus causing the fruit to shrivel and turn white. The disease eliminated most commercial orchards and in 10 years, acreage dropped to about 200. Now there are only an estimated 90 acres of cherry trees in the county.

Southern Oregon branch experiment station officials have conducted much research in an effort to find albinism-resistant cherries. Tests are now being conducted on several of these varieties. It is hoped that in a few years one or two albinism-resistant varieties will be ready for commercial plantings here.

**Committee Recommendations**  
The stone fruit subcommittee of the Jackson County Agricultural Council is encouraging continuation of these efforts and has recommended that no sweet cherries be planted until a suitable virus-resistant type is developed.

The committee has also concluded that production of sour cherries in this area is not profitable in competition with heavy production in other sections of the nation.

Jackson county once had about 6,000 acres of apples, but apple acreage now totals about 400. Cordy gives two main reasons for this reduction:

- (1) Growers planted varieties which were difficult to raise and were not well accepted by consumers.
- (2) Trees were planted on heavy, wet soil and consequent-

## Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Washington—Sen. William F. Knowland, in calling for further U.N. action on behalf of the freedom of Hungary: "Is the conscience of the world that was so thoroughly aroused in October and November to be complacent and satisfied in April and May?"

New York—New York Postmaster Robert Schaffer, on the extra-heavy load of mail New York postmen had to sort Monday: "I don't think there is any doubt this is the biggest volume since the Christmas rush, when we hit a peak of 20 million in one day."

Galveston, Tex.—Teamster Union boss Dave Beck, on whether his recent appearance before the Senate Rackets committee will result in a contempt of Congress indictment or his ouster: "I've gone through these things for 40 years. It just runs off my back like water off a duck."

Miami—Thirteen-year-old Richard Guillen, on why he hitched a ride in a cramped compartment of a Venezuelan airliner from Caracas to Miami: "I wanted to scare my Mama and Papa."

Richmond—St. Clair Drake, Negro professor at a Chicago college, in a letter to officials of a dinner for "distinguished Virginians" who invited Drake and two other Negroes by mistake: "I always remember that Negroes played a significant part in the making of the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown in Virginia."

## On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Every year in the United States about 15,000 girls of 15 years of age are married. Annually in this country about 250 females of 15 are divorced. Every year here about 340 wives of 15 become widows. So the statistics indicate. However, I have yet to meet a 15-year-old widow or divorcee.

## Depressing Drama

The plays of Eugene O'Neill are enjoying successful revival. I concede that O'Neill was one of our greatest playwrights but his plays are too much on the morbid side for me. He was one of the most morbid of all modern playwrights. In 30 plays by him, there have been depicted 10 murders, six suicides, 19 deaths and six insanities. In "The Iceman Cometh," the playwright displayed some restraint as to morbidity. In that play there is only one murder and one suicide.

## Asides

For over 25 years George Raft has paid his estranged wife 10 per cent of his income. George hasn't seen Mrs. Raft for 20 years. He says he isn't certain he would recognize her if he did. . . . Minnesota means "land of the sky blue water."

"That's what a Minneapolis journalist claims. It doesn't. In Indian language Minnesota means "cloudy weather."

## Sidelights

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) men find beauty of face and figure more appealing in women than intelligence. That is why so many Libra executives have shapely "oomph girl" type secretaries. Or, so say the stargazers. . . . "Like Grant took Richmond" is a frequently voiced expression. How did Grant take Richmond? Do you know the details? Or should your former history teacher blush for your ignorance?

## Announcements

Should divorces be announced as engagements and marriages are? It has been recently suggested they should be. It is not a new idea. Fifty or more years ago divorce announcements were not unusual. What follows is one that appeared in a Yankton, S.D. newspaper: "Mr. and Mrs. Peter Travis take the pleasure in announcing the divorce of their daughter, Philopena Amella, from Mr. John Jones Robinson, Yankton, S.D., April 10, 1896."

## Get It Right

The great tenor, Enrico Caruso, was the 19th and last child of his parents. So I note it said by a contemporary who should know better. Enrico was the 19th child of his parents but not the last. From the brilliantly written biography of Caruso written by Dorothy Caruso, I quote: "Anna Caruso had 21 children. Eighteen died. The

## Desertion Charged To Soldier Hero

Poitiers, France — (U.P.) — A 31-year-old Brooklyn soldier who disappeared from his American World War II unit and turned up 11 years later as a French Army hero went on trial here today on charges of desertion.

Fvt. Vito Sala faces a possible death sentence on the charge that he deserted the 339th Infantry Regiment of the U. S. 100th Infantry Division in 1945. But the general courts martial will hear an almost incredible tale of an amnesia victim who fought heroically with the French Foreign Legion in Algeria and Indochina. The tale is supported by French credentials and the testimony of psychiatrists.

Sala turned himself in to American authorities at La Rochelle last October. He said he had suffered from loss of memory and asked them to try to trace his past.

U.S. Army records disclosed that Sala was listed as absent without leave from the 100th Division after a battle near Heilbronn, Germany, in April, 1945. Sala said he lost his memory during a shock and partially regained it only during later shocks when he was fighting in Indochina and Algeria.

French officials supplied a bushel of testimonials to back Sala's claim.

In recent years the average amount of cotton produced on an acre of ground has doubled in the United States, according to agricultural records.

Tuesday, April 16, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

## Cool Weather Seen For Coming Month

Washington—(U.P.)—The U. S. Weather Bureau forecasts that the next month will be a bit on the cool side over most of the eastern part of the nation.

The 30-day outlook for mid-April to mid-May is for below normal temperature averages east of the Continental Divide, except along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast.

Precipitation is expected to exceed normal over most areas between the Rocky and Appalachian mountains. Subnormal amounts are indicated in the Northern Plains, upper Great Lakes area and west Texas.

## Imogene Crawley Named Vehicles Comptroller

Salem — (U.P.) — Appointment of Imogene C. Crawley as comptroller for the Department of Motor Vehicles, effective May 1, has been announced by James F. Johnson, director.

## Vehicles Comptroller

Mrs. Crawley will replace J. R. Williams, who resigned. She has been in the number two position in the comptroller's division since mid-July, 1956, shortly after the Department of Motor Vehicles was set up.

## SMUDGE?

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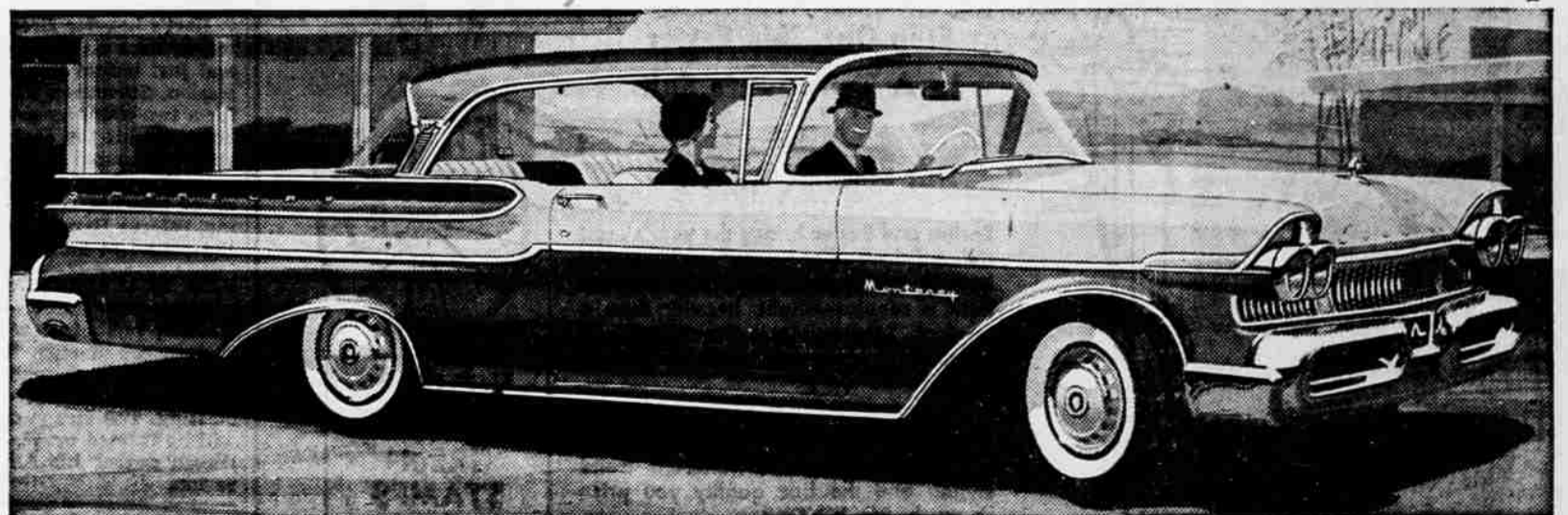
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