

Experiment in Keeping Quality Pears on Shelf Starts in Plant

Pears may be maintained at a higher peak of quality while in storage if an experiment conducted at Myron Root and company proves successful.

The experiment, called controlled atmosphere storage, is being carried out by Dr. Roland Blake of the Southern Oregon branch experiment station, assisted by Clifford B. Cordy, county horticulturist agent, and packing company officials. It is being financed by the Medford Pear Shippers association.

This is the first such experiment to be carried out on a commercial basis with pears, as far as can be determined, Cordy said. However, Dr.

Elmer Hansen, Oregon State college horticulturist, is conducting such an experiment with pears on a smaller scale. Cordy emphasized the work at the packing plant is experimental and it is impossible at this time to predict results and possible effects on the pear industry.

Air-Tight Tent

The test unit for the year-long experiment started last week consists of an air-tight Mylar film tent, a plastic material spread over a carload of 780 boxes of pears.

The pears chiefly D'Anjou with some winter Nellis, P. Berry and Packham's Triumph. The Mylar tent has been sealed air-tight with a

special machine. A section of stove-pipe inside the tent is ducting to an air-scrubber machine and blower outside the tent.

Aim is to maintain carbon dioxide at a 2 per cent level. Oxygen will eventually be kept at 5 per cent. Removal of the excess carbon dioxide which pears give off in storage and eventual maintenance of the oxygen at the 5 per cent level may keep the fruit at a high peak of quality longer, experimenters hope.

The excess carbon dioxide is removed from the air within the tent by a fan to suck the air through the bottom of the tent and through the scrubber machine which contains a solution of sodium hydroxide resembling pure white lye. The oxygen is maintained at a proper level by admitting small amounts of additional outside air.

Carbon Dioxide Analyzer

A CO₂ (carbon dioxide) analyzer is used to measure the tent air at regular intervals. Another instrument measures the oxygen in the air. Thermocouples have been installed at several spots within the tent for temperature readings.

The air is scrubbed and additional oxygen added when the instruments show a need for it.

Another aim of the experiment is to see if the Mylar material is effective and can be used on a large scale in cold storage.

Less Expensive

Fruit authorities say estimates show it would be less expensive to construct a controlled atmosphere storage room with Mylar than with galvanized iron.

The method of storage has been used largely in the eastern states to prolong the storage life of McIntosh apples. While attending a national convention of county agents in Boston, Mass., Cordy became interested in the new method of storage.

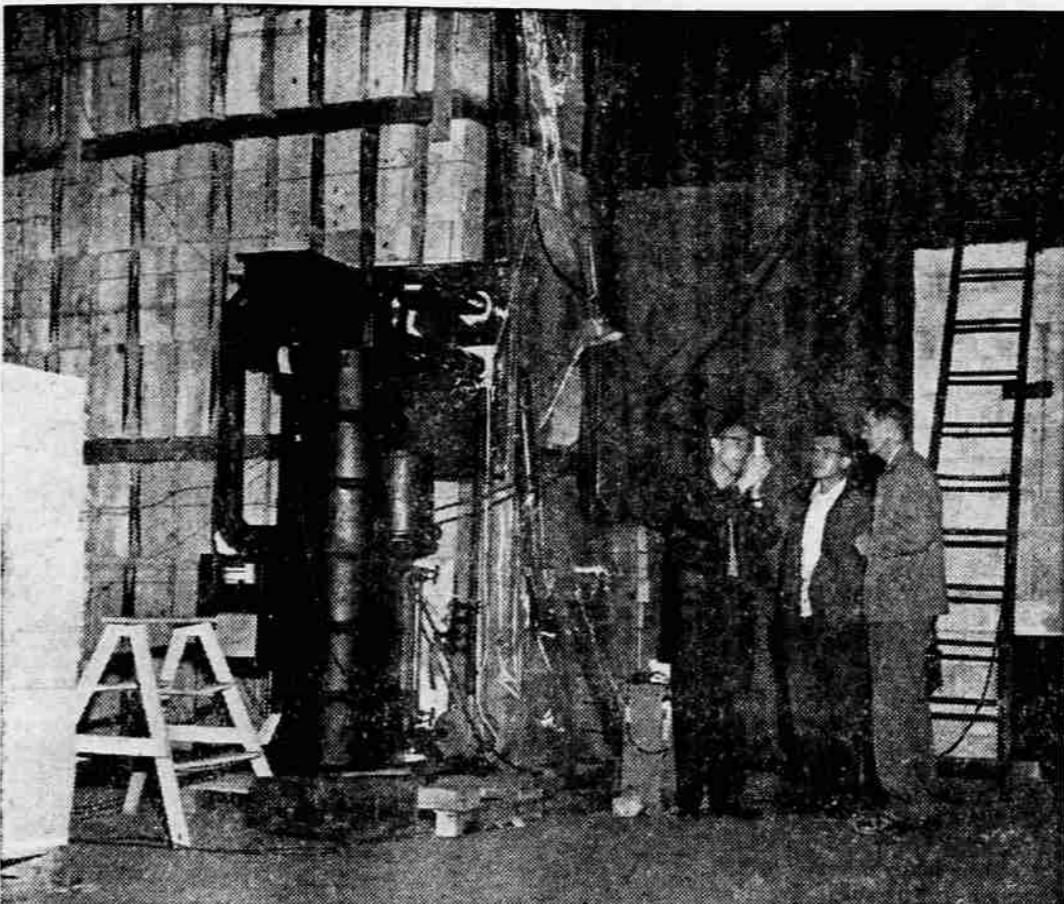
Dr. Hansen, however, has been conducting such an experiment with pears at the college for some time, Cordy said. Other tests are being made in California, for Newtown apples, in British Columbia for McIntosh apples and other varieties of apples at Yakima, Wash.

On Larger Scale

When tests are conducted on a larger scale here next year, spokesmen say they will extend the shelf life and develop a higher quality of fruit at the point of sale. Tests on apples have also been directed toward these points, plus extension of the marketing season for individual varieties.

Next year's tests also will be financed by the Medford Pear Shippers, according to industry spokesmen.

The committee working on the experiment includes Don Root and Bob Root, Martin Luther Sr., Rogue River Orchards, Charles King, Nye and Naumes Packing company, Dr. Roland Blake, Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station and Cordy. Dr. Hansen will assist in evaluating results of the test trials.



CONFERENCE BEFORE EXPERIMENT—Don Root, left, Myron Root and company, holds the instrument measuring the carbon dioxide content of the controlled atmosphere storage tent with Charles King, center, Nye and Naumes, and Clifford B. Cordy, right, county horticulturist agent, looking on. A section of the tent made of air-tight Mylar film and containing equivalent to a carload of pears is shown in the picture. To the left is the drum containing the air-scrubber machine, the connecting stove pipes and blower. The air is sucked through the bottom of the tent and sent through the air-scrubber machine which contains a solution resembling pure lye, then recirculated through the tent. The air-scrubber is used when the CO₂ content of the tent exceeds the 2 per cent level. The experiment is being conducted in the Myron Root and company cold storage room.



CHECKS TEMPERATURE—Don Root of Myron Root and company checks the temperature recording machine hooked up to the controlled atmosphere storage tent in the company's cold storage room. Thermo couples have been packed inside boxes of pears in five different locations inside the tent. The meter also measures the temperature in one location outside the tent. The purpose is to make sure the fruit is kept at nearly the same temperature. If there is a variety of temperatures the fruit at each of the five locations inside the tent will be checked for quality when they are unpacked.

TABLE ROCK Four Mishaps on Bridge

By R. E. NEALON

Table Rock — Frozen fog on the deck of the Bybee bridge caused four accidents in the space of two hours Tuesday morning, sending two persons to the hospital and doing extensive damage to three cars.

The first car which went out of control was one driven by Guita Hake of Sams Valley which skidded, but kept going, following along and hitting some of the guide posts at the south end of the bridge, but finally straightening out and going its way.

The second car which went out of control was one driven by J. S. Richardson which rammed its front end into the bannister, slid along a short distance and whirled around, stopped and whirled around the bridge. Mrs. Richardson, who was a passenger suffered bruises about the knees.

About 30 minutes later, a car driven by Mrs. Earl Bigham accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Agatha Stevens, both of Beagle, approached and before it could be flagged down, hit the danger zone, and began to do a rock and roll on ice, the door flying open and spilling the occupants out and later doing an about face, coming to a stop between the guide post and a sheer drop over the bank. Mrs. Bigham was unconscious for a time, and her mother also was quite badly shaken up. The two were taken to a Medford hospital by C. W. McDonough, Earl Peffley and Albert Straus, who happened along on their way to Medford.

Word was received by Paul Rynning, county engineer, and a load of sand was soon spread on the bridge which put an end to the spinning.

The local Sunday School election officers for the year last Sunday, Bert Pierce was elected superintendent, Doris Nealon, assistant superintendent; June Fleischer, secretary; and Inice Pierce, treasurer. The treasurer's records show funds amounting to \$654.81 received from collections during the year, and \$615.41 was paid out for supplies, donations to missionaries, including \$338 to the American Sunday School Union, and \$130 put into the building fund, which now amounts to \$1,436.53.

The Bert Pierce family returned Friday from a trip to their old stamping ground in Arkansas. On their way home they visited relatives in Tulsa, Okla.

Gorden Kershaw has promised us a few dwarf apple trees from his fast growing nursery for a back yard orchard, which we appreciate very much. Ever since we have known Gordon, he has been trying to invent something that would save our poor farmers from some of the back breaking drudgery, and thus it seems will be a big help. Outside of maybe having to set out the trees, the little woman can do the rest. She can prune the small trees from the ground, spray them with the fly sprayer, and pick the apples while standing on the kitchen stool.

Mr. and Mrs. Abe Halfhill, and son, Jerry, have returned from a three weeks vacation, leaving here by car they picked up Clyde Halfhill at George Air Force base, Calif., who went along for the rest of the trip, which took them to Wichita Falls, Tex., where they visited relatives. Going from there, they went to Cleveland, Miss., spending two weeks there with Mrs. Halfhill's family. Later they visited Abe's relatives in Mitchell, S. D., coming back through the Black Hills and getting a view of the beautiful Rushmore carvings and the monument to General Custer.

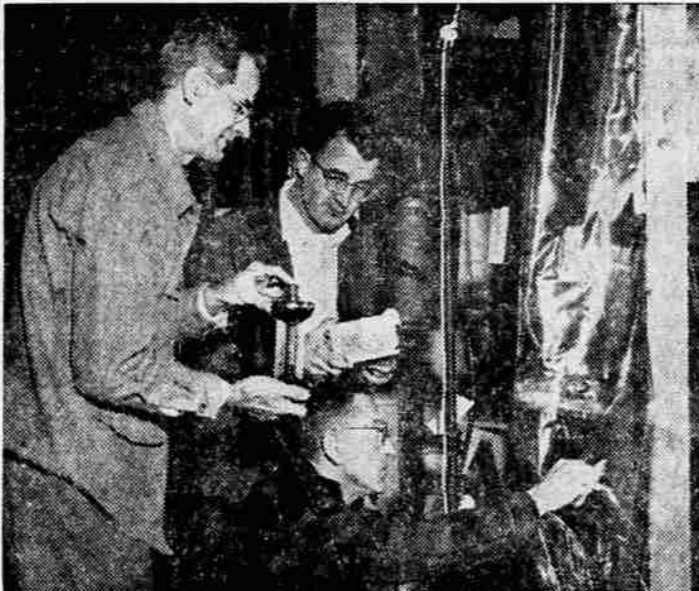
Mrs. Dale Schulz plans to leave Monday by plane for Rucker, Ala., to join her husband who is stationed there.

Eleven ladies from Table Rock attended the Ladies club which met at Loree Anhorn's on Arnold lane Wednesday.

About the usual number of farmers from this section attended the John Deere day at Hubbard Wray company last Tuesday, and besides getting a free lunch get a chance to warm the seats of the new farm implements and dream of being able to purchase one some day. After lunch all present went to the Craterian theater and were entertained with an interesting movie somewhat different from past ones, depicting life on the farm as it should be, with the women folks at home and not working in a packing house or drug store in trying to make the farm pay, and the boys preparing to take over and run the farm as they should.

The farmer in the seat ahead of us remarked that it was a fine show but he thought they were wasting their time as the difference between the price of our products and farm implements is too great to permit any purchase. For instance, he said, it would take 100 tons of hay at the present price if, and when we can sell it, to buy two tons of steel, iron, and a percentage of scrap iron when made into a tractor.

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CHECK CARBON DIOXIDE CONTENT—Three of the committee conducting the controlled atmosphere experiment with pears check the carbon dioxide content within the air-tight tent. Clifford B. Cordy, Jackson county horticulturist, left, holds the Fyrite gas analyzer while Don Root, Myron Root and company, pokes a needle into the tent fabric. Charles King of Nye and Naumes Packing company looks on. Eventual aim of the experiment is to maintain the CO₂ content of the tent at 2 per cent and the oxygen content at 5 per cent as part of the attempt to maintain the fruit at a higher peak of quality during storage.

Lenin Colleague Dies Recently

Moscow —Grigory Ivanovich Petrovsky, 81, a colleague of Lenin and Stalin in the October Revolution of 1917, died recently, according to the official Soviet news agency.

Petrovsky was purged in 1938 as chairman of the Ukraine central executive committee and other high posts. However, he escaped exile and worked quietly for some years in the Lenin Museum in Moscow. He did not return to public favor until 1953, when he was decorated for "services to the state." The award was seen as an attempt

Production Cut Asked For Chilean Copper

Santiago, Chile — The government announced early Saturday that it has "advised" the Anaconda and Kennecott Copper companies to cut their Chilean production 10 per cent during 1958.

The production apparently is designed to bolster the price of Chilean copper, which has been slipping on the world market.

The first aerial photo was made from a balloon over Boston in 1860.

to placate much of Russia disturbed by the post-Stalin purges.

79 Cases of Disease Reported Last Week

A total of 79 cases of communicable diseases were reported to the Jackson county department of health last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health physician.

Of the total, 42 of them were influenza, and 10 were mumps. Thirty flu cases were reported in Medford, seven in Ashland and five in Phoenix.

Other cases reported included two infectious hepatitis; four scalp ringworm, two chicken pox, three pink eye, eight measles, one strep throat, two scarlet fever, four pneumonia and one German measles.

Plan Between SOC, Civil Defense Set

Ashland — Major Gen. J. H. Hicks has announced a plan between civil defense and Southern Oregon college officials to utilize college facilities for housing, feeding, sheltering, and hospitalization for 200 beds in case of emergency.

The court house will become headquarters for civil defense during emergency status.

Other matters discussed at the winter term faculty meeting concerned institutional matters such as college accreditation procedures, campus instructional materials and facilities, and the problems brought about by rapid expansion of the college in terms of staff, facilities, and student body.

Hollywood — Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon for Clarence Irwin Johnson, 78, father of actress Laraine Day.

Crises in Foreign Policy Topic of Tuesday Meeting

All persons interested in the informal study of United States foreign policy have been invited to a "town hall" meeting Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. in the new Red Cross building, 60 Hawthorne ave.

Harold Jaffrey, assistant manager of the Camp White domiciliary and chairman of the Jackson county Great Decisions . . . 1958 committee, is in charge.

Charles A. O'Brien, San Francisco, regional director of the Foreign Policy association will discuss "The Crises in American Foreign Policy Today."

O'Brien, a graduate of Harvard law school, is chairman of the west coast committee of the council on student travel, which annually arranges for students to travel abroad. He has been active in the University of California extension programs on world politics and has lectured on world affairs at other west coast universities.

Great Decision . . . 1958 is



CHARLES A. O'BRIEN To Discuss Crises

an eight week nationwide program beginning Feb. 2 which will focus attention and provide facts on eight key issues the U.S. faces in 1958, Jaffrey explained.

The program invites participation of every individual and organization through formation of home discussion groups using Great Decisions fact sheets which will be available at the Medford public

Mrs. Duncan Named To Head Program

Mrs. Robert Duncan, Medford, has been appointed Jackson county chairman of the Arthritis and Rheumatism foundation's annual statewide education and membership program. Mrs. John Brandenburg of Medford was named co-chairman.

The education and membership program was proclaimed by Gov. Robert D. Holmes for the week of Jan. 20-25. The appointments were made by Mrs. Holmes, state membership chairman.

Mrs. Duncan is arranging a series of coffee hours in the Jackson county communities, with local hostesses. They will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at which activities and purposes of the foundation will be explained.

There are 15,000 amateur radio operators in New York state. About 4,000 of them are enrolled in Civil Defense.

library before Feb. 2. Jaffrey stressed that all interested in the Great Decisions . . . 1958 foreign policy study will be welcome at Tuesday night's meeting.

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