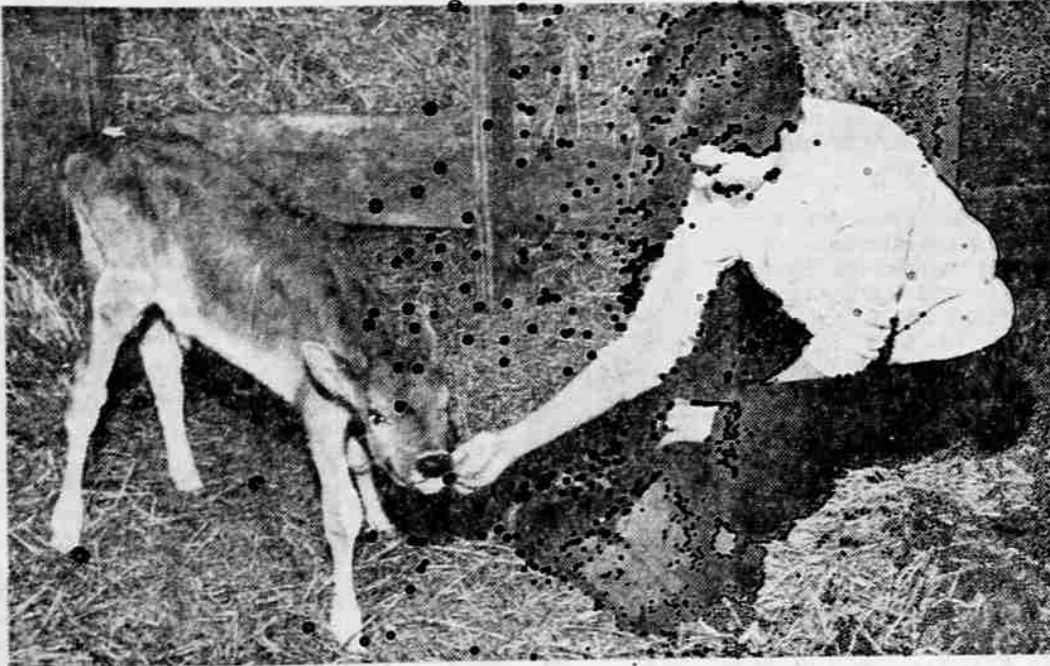


Farm and Garden



YOUNG DAIRYMAID—Madeline Schnack, 19, feeds a two week old calf on the Schnack brothers dairy farm on Campbell rd. near Phoenix. It won't be long before this young calf joins the milking herd of Jerseys on the farm owned and operated by Madeline's father, Martin Schnack, and uncle, Henry Schnack. Madeline is the third generation on the Schnack farm founded by her paternal grandfather, Detlaf Schnack.

All-Jersey Herd Big Feature of Schnack Farm

The Schnack brothers and their dairy farm on Campbell rd. near Phoenix are unusual for two main reasons.

First, Martin D. and Henry Schnack have an all-Jersey herd of 38 milk cows and two dairymen have a variety of what might be called intellectual interests.

Many dairy farmers in Jackson county have a mixture of Holsteins and Jerseys in their herds. The Holsteins produce the quantity of milk needed for maintaining a quota. (The Milk Producers League allocates a quota to each of the farmers in their milk pool. The share of the receipts from the milk pool is based on this quota or share of the pool. When a dairyman over a period of time, falls below the production figure set him he may lose this quota).

Butter, Fat Pays Off

However, the Schnack brothers say that with a surplus of milk now the highest, rich in butter-fat milk produced by their herd pays them better. Butterfat pays off on a flat per hundred weight.

The two dairymen feel their 123 acre farm (40 acres in irrigation) is too small for beef raising. The topography is too hilly for root or row crops. Therefore, they feel they can best take advantage of the marginal land — the hill-sides — by dairying. The Schnack brothers are enthusiastic over southern Oregon being good dairy country. Their father Detlaf Schnack farmed the place before them and was just as enthusiastic although he carried on general farming also.

"We just like Jerseys," the Schnack brothers said in reply to a question as to why they kept a straight Jersey herd. "They're good keepers. We have had plenty of bulls — not the slightest bit of trouble with them."

"You handle a Jersey bull with respect just like you do any bull," Martin said. "He realizes his position as herd sire. Just see to it you don't hurt his pride. Also don't give him a chance to tackle you. Like people, he has a certain routine that can't be disturbed."

"Lots of kids have grown up here," Martin added. "They all learn that they stay out of the bull pen." His brother is a bachelor, but Martin is married and has three children — two girls and a boy. The oldest daughter, Madeline, works in the county

house. The other daughter, Peggy Lou, has just graduated from St. Mary's parochial school.

The two men are looking forward to completion of the Talent irrigation project. They now come under the Talent irrigation district. Their 40 acres now under irrigation may be increased later, they figure then they can handle easily 50-60 cows.

The two brothers take an intense interest in the stock market. Widely read they follow such periodicals of the business and financial world as Fortune, Forbes and the Wall Street Journal.

This interest started with both of them in high school. Their father was interested in the stock market. They gained a little knowledge from table talk. Then, while still in high school, they invested "a few hundred dollars."

"This operation didn't make us much money, but it didn't lose us any, either," Martin said. "We learned by experience."

The two men have also made a thorough study of geology. They feel this is invaluable to them as farmers since they can more readily determine the structure of the soil and its quality.

During the uranium rush, Martin Schnack hopped in a jeep and took off through Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and eastern Oregon. With the two brothers running the farm, one of them could take off a few days to go prospecting. On his return the other could go. They didn't get rich but they had fun.

"Don't make us out like a couple of geniuses out here," Martin Schnack said. "We aren't. We just keep up with the markets. Any farmer who hopes to stay operating has to do that. Any other interest we have are hobbies. We just have fun."

Medford Ships Out 200 Cars of Pears

Salem—Approximately 1390 cars of fresh fruits and vegetables were shipped from Oregon inspection centers in May, according to the monthly report of W. L. Close, marketing specialist, with offices in the Oregon department of agriculture.

Potatoes topped the list, with more than 670 cars inspected at Klamath Falls and 423 cars shipped out of Redmond. Over 200 cars of pears were shipped from the inspection center at Medford.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE G. COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A dust-covered, plain black sedan bounces down a rutty county road and turns through a farm gate. A bespectacled, solidly built gray-haired man eases out from behind the wheel. A farmer hangs up the phone and hurries to the door to greet the visitor.

So another few hours are added to the busy county agent's schedule as Ben Tucker, now retired, answers another urgent inquiry regarding some crop or livestock problem.

The farmer probably is impatient to learn an immediate solution to a perplexing problem. Tucker on the other hand must be ready to give the right, carefully thought out answers. If his advice is mishandled, like as not, poor results, it will be blamed on him. If his advice is carefully followed to the letter, then the farmer is tempted to pull on his galluses, stick out his chest and expand a little on what a good crop he has raised.

An airplane pilot may carefully count up his hours of flight time and awe his listeners with tales of his comparatively glamorous life. A large proportion of the county agent's hours are never counted. They are shrugged off as part of the day's work—one of the many small pieces which fit into and help solve the eternal puzzle of agriculture.

A newspaperman, a writer or an artist may affix his signature in bold letters to his work for all the world to see. Rarely is a county agent given widespread public credit for his work. It's just part of a continuous flow.

A lawyer, real estate man, and even a doctor may make good use of his professional and business acquaintances to launch himself on a political career. A county agent is sternly forbidden by sharply drawn rules to do so.

Like the now almost extinct species of selfless country doctor the county agent works on a 24-hour basis of availability to those he serves. He spends hundreds of hours at meetings but never reaches for any office higher than that of secretary.

As mentioned before, a county agent must remain aloof from politics. However, he knows it is to his advantage to know of the politics in his community and area. He must know who makes the emery wheels of politics go around so he can carefully sidestep "hot issues" and avoid being ground down with political opponents.

These are just a few of the duties, responsibilities and lookouts of the county agent. We tried to find something which would officially list those duties, but without success.

His influence may be indicated by figures in a fairly recent report of extension activities and accomplishments. Such agents in the United States actively assisted 3,377,762 farm families, according to 1955 statistics (homemaking practices, too) a total of 4,085,397 were assisted.

An official communication recently stated that "Ben Tucker, Jackson county extension agent since 1947, will retire June 30." This terse announcement along with details of his service and background, even though concise and accurate, hardly expresses the feelings of those who worked with Ben. It doesn't begin to reveal the appreciation of those who benefited from and took advantage of his patience, wisdom and cheerful outlook.

"I have known Ben for 25 to 30 years and have always known him to be a conscientious, devoted worker. His personal interests and pleasures were always placed secondary to the welfare of the people."

"What more can you say for a man? He was capable. He made a special effort to keep informed on the newest and latest techniques. Furthermore, he was always available to pass that information on."

This brief comment by one of his fellow workers probably best sums up the way people feel about the veteran county agent. To this we merely add, "We hate to see you leave the work you were so long devoted to and we wish you the best of luck in your retirement, Ben."

We hope everybody will attend the picnic in honor of Ben Tucker in TouVelle state park on the Table Rock rd. on Aug. 20, starting at 1 p.m. The affair is sponsored jointly by the Medford Rotary club and the Jackson County Agricultural committee. Rotarians and members of various farm organizations are expected to attend.

Inquiries Received On Milk Audit Law

Salem—Cross-country interest has been shown in Oregon's grade A milk usage audit law, according to field supervisor D. P. Shoup of the state department of agriculture. He reports letters asking for copies of the law and regulations have been received from private organizations and state and federal agencies in South Dakota, Nevada, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Indiana and Kentucky.

Hog Profits High For Short Time, Predictions Say

Corvallis — Hog profits have been too good to last through next year, but long-term prospects for Oregon producers are still promising, Oregon State college agricultural economists believe.

Highest hog prices in four years — and indications that they will continue favorable for the rest of 1958 — are spurring farmers into increasing farrowings in the months ahead, says M. D. Thomas, OSC economist.

The 1958 fall pig crop is expected to be about 13 per cent larger nationally than in 1957, according to a recent USDA report. Oregon's fall crop is estimated even higher — 20 per cent above 1957.

Recent prices of \$25 to \$26 a hundredweight at Portland are the highest since 1954. Thomas says this partly because farmers sold potential breeding stock during the past winter, resulting in a smaller than expected 1958 spring pig crop.

Producers Confident

Present confidence in the price level has producers in an expansion mood. Indications are that national supply of pigs for marketing during 1959 may equal the 100 million pigs in 1951. A danger signal for farmers, Thomas believes, is that the new peak in pork production will come at a time when beef and poultry supplies will be greater than in 1951 and when overseas needs may be less.

The economist also points out that the 1959 numbers are likely to be at least 10 per cent over 1955 national marketings that helped force prices down to \$12 a hundredweight at Portland.

Recently, a pound of hog on Oregon farms would pay for 10 pounds of barley. By the fall of 1959, the same pound may buy no more than

New Freight Rates Set on Graded Hay

A freight rate program has been worked out to save dairy farmers thousands of dollars in graded and certified weighed hay purchases, according to Lester Adams, manager of Oregon Milk Producers.

The new arrangement was worked out after months of negotiations and pleading before Oregon's Public Utilities commission, he explained.

Adams said his organization has succeeded in obtaining a stabilized rate structure which will permit every dairyman in the state to know in advance his exact feed costs and provide high quality hay regardless of the area in which it is purchased.

"Seeking means to cut operating costs we appealed to a disinterested common carrier company to deliver graded hay any place in Oregon at any time in any amounts compatible with each individual dairyman's storage space at a reasonable tariff approved by the P. U. C.," Adams said.

Make Arrangements

"We finally concluded arrangements with Consolidated Freight lines official who agreed to provide us graded hay with certified weight tickets, the hay to be hauled in covered carriers.

"Many more weeks were spent presenting arguments for lower freight rates, now

6 pounds of barley, Thomas states.

While the present hog profit boom appears on the way out, the longer-term outlook is still good for efficient Oregon producers, Thomas says. Pacific Coast states use much more pork than they produce, resulting in the highest hog prices in the country. Also, the Northwest now has a big supply of barley priced fairly competitively with feed grains in other parts of the country.

Producers will be sent hauling schedule as approved by the P. U. C. Adams said from this authorized schedule dairymen will know exact costs of hay regardless of the area from which it is hauled.

Financial arrangements for the purchase of thousands of tons of graded hay in the Redmond and Klamath areas have already been concluded, Adams said.

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