

Wooden Pears Used at Fruit Packing School



PACKING INSTRUCTORS—These women instruct local people how to pack pears during 72 hours of classes. Each student receives 36 hours of instruction. From left they are Mrs. Mabel Penland, supervisor; Velma Singler, Bernice Wilson, Margaret



CHECK WORK—Student packer Floyd Driskell, left, pauses temporarily as Supervisor Mrs. Mabel Penland and Chuck King of Southern Oregon Sales, Inc., check his practice box of pears. King is chairman of the packing school committee sponsored by the packing houses in the area, the state department of vocational education and in cooperation with the Medford public schools.

42 Disease Cases Reported Last Week

Of the 42 cases of communicable diseases reported to the Jackson County Health department for the week ending July 18 more than half of them were mumps, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

In Medford, eight cases of mumps were reported. There were 10 in Gold Hill, three in Trail, two each in Shady Cove and Ashland, and one each in Eagle Point and Prospect.

Central Point reported three cases of measles, and Jacksonville and Ashland reported one case each. Medford had five cases of German measles.

Two cases of chicken pox were reported in Ashland, and one in Central Point; one Ashland resident had strep throat; one pneumonia case was reported in Ashland; one Talent resident had whooping cough; two cases of scarlet fever were reported in Central Point; and Ashland reported one case of influenza.

Starting Pay for Engineers Increases

Corvallis — Starting pay for 1958 engineering graduates at Oregon State college was \$470 a month, up \$25 from last year, according to M. R. Haith, engineering placement officer.

During the five-year period of 1954 to 1958, starting pay has increased from \$365 to \$470, or \$105 a month. On a yearly basis, starting pay for bachelor degree holders has jumped from \$4,380 to \$5,640.

Some 150 companies and public agencies came to the campus 259 times this year to interview the 275 graduates. Students averaged 7.2 interviews each compared to 6.6 last year, Haith said.

Of the 275 engineering graduates, 37 per cent were veterans. Average age was 24.3 years. Most of the companies did heaviest recruiting during winter term.

MINER KILLS SELF

Fukuoka, Japan — Matsui Hirota, 43, one of 22 coal miners rescued three weeks ago after being trapped 70 hours by a cave-in, has hanged himself, police reported Saturday. Police said his mind apparently had cracked under the strain of entombment.



STUDENT PACKER—Rene Green, student packer, places a wrapping around a wooden pear. She and about 100 girls and one boy are taking instruction in proper wrapping and packing of pears. The annual school is conducted at Southern Oregon Sales, Inc., near the junction of the South Pacific highway and Stewart ave. Final session will be held this week.

Fire Destroys Green Chain Part of Mill

Corvallis — (UP) — Fire has destroyed the green chain section of the A. E. Albertsen Gang mill a mile west of Philomath, causing damage estimated at more than \$10,000.

Philomath volunteer fire department members and two pumpers managed to save the main section of the \$35,000 structure.

The fire was believed to have started from a spark from a trash burner.

Grants Pass Lady Named to Position

Mrs. Lola Roney, Grants Pass, was recently elected to succeed William L. White, Medford, as president of the Rogue Valley Chapter of the Oregon Association of Public Accountants.

Fred E. Krugger Jr., Medford, was elected vice president of the chapter, and Ethel McIntyre, Medford, was re-elected secretary.

Guest speaker at the dinner meeting was E. G. Sommer of Ashland who is president of the Oregon Association of Public Accountants.

Soviet Proposal Given Thought

Washington — (UP) — The state department said Saturday Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's proposal for a Summit conference of the Middle-East will be given "prompt consideration" when it is officially received.

The department also said the United States was willing to withdraw its troops from Lebanon if the Soviet Union would permit the United Nations to take effective action to maintain the independence of that small Arab nation.

But it pointedly noted that a Soviet veto in the U.N. Security Council spiked a U.S. move to strengthen U.N. forces in Lebanon.

The department also took issue with Khrushchev's contention that the U.S. committed "aggression" in Lebanon and the British likewise in Jordan.

ADVICE ON STEPS

Ames, Iowa — (UPI) Uneven steps and steps that are out of proportion are the leading reasons for falls in the home, according to Norval Wardle, extension safety specialist at Iowa State College. A prime role for safe stairways is to have a clear walkway the full length of each tread, Wardle said. Stairways of more than three steps need handrails.

Course Assures Adequate Supply Of Labor in Area

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

They're packing wooden pears at Southern Oregon Sales, Inc., in Medford.

One hundred women are now learning to pack the simulated pears. Company officials had planned to use cull pears this year but decided if they waited until next year they would be assured of an adequate supply left over from this year's crop. Wooden pears are hard to obtain. They were originally made by a local firm.

This is one of the few schools of its kind in the United States, according to the local pear shippers. The school is 20 years old. It is sponsored by the Fruit Growers League, Medford Pear Shippers and the state department of vocational education in cooperation with Medford Public Schools.

It was originally started by the Traffic association, and followed a number of small private schools for packers in the Medford area.

Aim of School

Aim of the school is to develop a large reservoir of trained packers on whom the various packing houses can depend from season to season. It virtually eliminates the need to employ "transient" labor, which is seldom considered reliable packers as a whole. However, two packing houses in the area still use some, a pear shipper said.

"The homeguards stay with it," declared Mrs. Mabel Penland, school supervisor. "Some of those trained here work as long as 25 years. About two-thirds of them are housewives who don't want to work the year around but want the extra money they can make packing."

"We used to get only a 10 per cent repeat until we stepped up the age requirement. Formerly, it was 16-36 years. Now it is 18-40 years. The industry needs a steady labor supply."

Average Packer

"A good packer will hit her peak in about three years," Mrs. Penland said. "A good average packer will fill 125 boxes during an eight-hour shift. Such a worker will average \$100 a week. Some packers claim they can pack 200 boxes a shift, but they'll have to show me! That might be for a day but not for a week."

Women are preferred in this work. Men are too often careless packers or what the industry calls "cowboys." A good male packer has strength in setting the pears in the boxes. However, a woman is neater and more skillful.

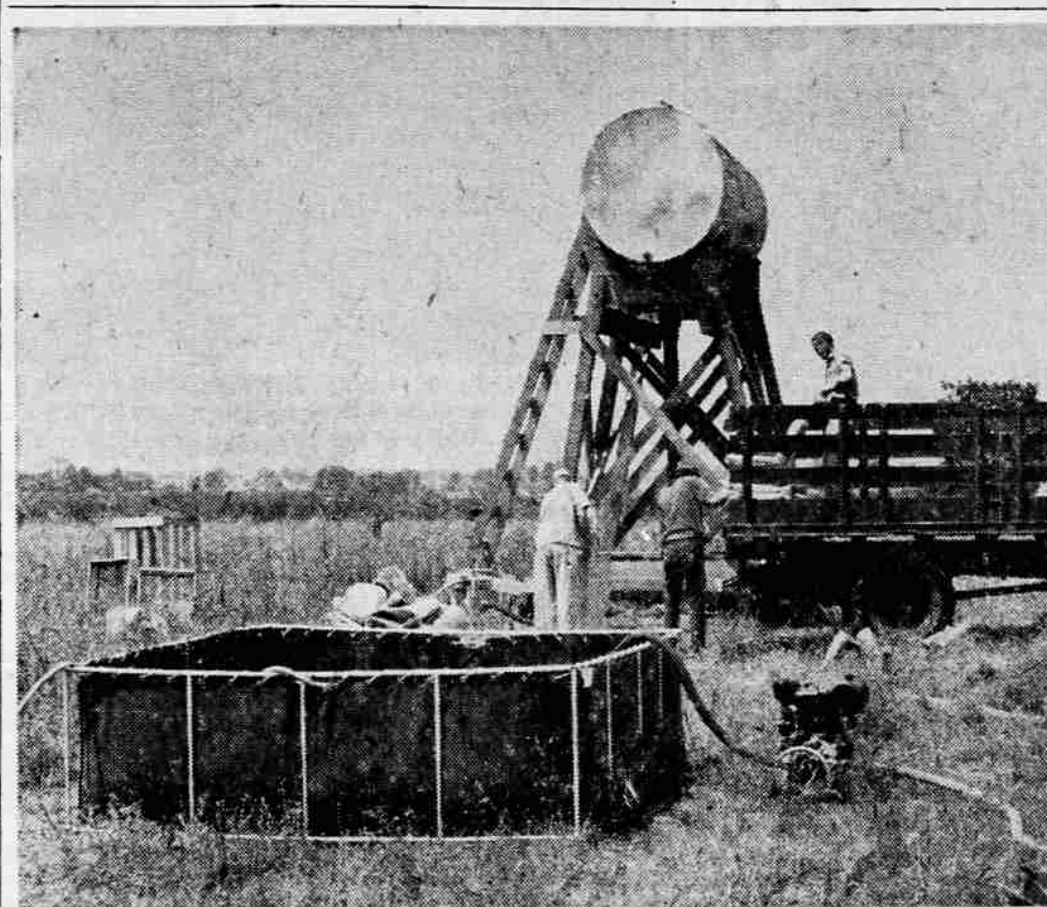
A prospective packer first signs up at one of the local packing houses. Then, she may be required to take an aptitude test at the employment service. Some of the packing houses require it. With the rest it's optional. It does, however, eliminate some people who are too clumsy. This last point is disputed by Mrs. Penland. Some fail this aptitude test and make wonderful packers when trained, she said.

Registration fee for the course is three dollars. Actual cost per student runs from \$11-\$14, Mrs. Penland said. The packing house at which the trainee signed up sponsors the student and pays the difference.

Ten trainees are assigned to each of the five instructors under the supervisor. This is considered the largest number which can be carefully supervised.

Starting about the middle of July, 72 hours of instruction are given. Each student gets 36 hours, three hours a day.

Packing pears isn't as easy



SPECIAL EQUIPMENT — This equipment, located at the Medford airport, was put to use this week by the U.S. forest service to mix and store 2,000 gallons of chemical slurry that will be used to "bomb" forest fires in this area. In the foreground is a water reservoir and the pump that forces

Chemical Slurry To Be Used By Forest Service to Check Fires

A chemical slurry, which has the appearance and consistency of hotcake batter, will be used in this area to "bomb" spot forest fires, according to T. S. (Tenny) Moore, fire control officer for the Rogue River National forest.

The mixture, calcium sodium borate, clings to leaves, limbs and grass to render them fire resistant, serving as a fire break to keep fires within certain areas. It will not be used to put out fires, Moore said, but merely serve as a control measure until fire crews can get to the scene. The chemical has been used successfully in California and northern Washington for several years.

Moves In Supply

The forest service last week moved in a supply of the chemical and set up the equipment at the Medford airport for mixing and storage. Here to supervise the installation of the apparatus and the mixing of the first batch of the stuff was A. B. Everts, forest service equipment engineer of Portland.

Medford Air Service has installed special tanks in three airplanes that will release the creamy mass all at once when the pilot flies low over a fire. The system can keep a fire in a remote area from spreading when manpower cannot be spared or when the fire cannot immediately be reached by crews, Moore said.

Mixed With Water

The chemical, which comes packaged in 50-pound bags in the form of a cream-colored powder, is mixed with water in a machine that automatically apportions the two ingredients. From the mixing machine it is pumped into a 2,000 gallon tank on top of a 15-foot tower, where it is stored until needed.

The chemical will be used only on certain type fires, serving as a supplement for forest fire control in this area, Moore said.

Watkins-Malone New Office Here

Opening of the Watkins-Malone realty office at 526 East Main st., was announced Saturday by partners Wallace Watkins and John C. Malone.

The new firm will handle all types of real estate listings and will feature a new type of photograph presentation in sales work, the partners said. This method allows a client to see a full color group of pictures of the listings prior to a visit to the property, it was explained.

A western style cartoon character has been developed to identify the firm and part of the promotion will include a contest to give him a name, the partners said. The "personalized character" will be used in advertising, on signs and displays, according to the partners.

Watkins was formerly with the Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan association and Malone is a well-known valley realtor.

The Onondaga Indians receive 150 bushels of salt annually from New York state under terms of an ancient treaty.

Packard-Bell to Display New Sets

Packard-Bell's complete line of 1959 television, radio, and high fidelity sets will be displayed for the first time in this area to dealers and the press during a July 30-31 show at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Between 20 and 25 dealers will be on hand for the two-day private show. On Aug. 1 and 2 a public showing of the companies' line will be displayed at Leonard Electric company, Medford.

A total of 112 styles and finishes will be offered by Packard-Bell this year in their "Golden Line for '59." One innovation this year will be a five-way combination which includes TV, AM ra-

dio, FM radio, automatic record player, and stereophonic hi-fi sound in console cabinets of various finishes. This year, according to company officials, the manufacturer is offering a complete line of stereophonic hi-fi sets, and each new hi-fi model will play either monaural or stereo discs.

SOIL MEN IN U.S.S.

Moscow — (UP) — A party of U.S. specialists in soil cultivation and improvement began a month's visit in Russia Saturday. The group is led by Charles E. Keefog, deputy head of the Soil Preservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



CHECKS CONSISTENCY — T. S. (Tenny) Moore, (above) fire control officer of the Rogue River National forest, tests the consistency of the chemical fire control slurry as it comes out of the discharge pipe below the storage tank. Special tanks on Medford Air Service planes will be filled by gravity flow from this outlet. This type of chemical fire control has never been used before in this area, according to Moore.

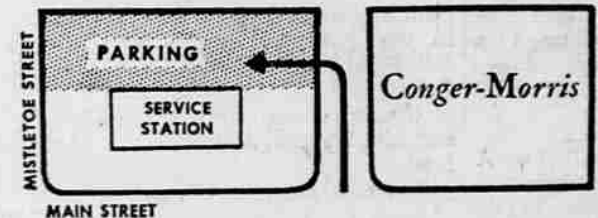


MIX SLURRY

U.S. forest service employees are shown above in the process of mixing the chemical slurry that will be used in controlling certain type of forest fires in this area. The powdered chemical is put in the hopper, where it is mixed automatically with the correct amount of water before it is pumped to a storage

tank. Cutting a bag open, left, is A. B. Everts, forest service equipment engineer, Portland, who is being assisted by Frank McDowell. T. S. (Tenny) Moore, fire control officer for Rogue River National forest is moving bags to the back of the truck while Dick Hart waits his turn to put one in the hopper.

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