

New Agriculture Director Has Common Sense Approach

Salem - The new director designate of the state department of agriculture, Frank McKennon, 69, brings to his position more than 23 years experience within the department and a reputation for his "common sense approach" to agricultural problems.

Named to the post by Governor-elect Mark Hatfield, the former chief of the division of plant industry succeeds Robert Steward who resigned effective Jan. 12.

McKennon held the interim appointment as acting director between the resignation of James F. Short and the succession of Steward.

A widely known authority in his field, he was recognized by Hatfield as "well respected by those who have worked with the department and his appointment as director is a fitting capstone to his distinguished career."

The second chief in the history of the plant industry division, McKennon succeeded Charles A. Cole, since retired, and has headed the division since May 1, 1935. The state department of agriculture itself was formed on July 1, 1931 from 17 separate state boards, commissions and committees serving farmers, industry and consumers.

Eased Trade
Throughout the industry, McKennon is recognized for his "common sense approach" to many of the problems affecting agriculture and his contributions toward clearing channels of interstate trade by removing many unnecessary restraints resulting from questionable quarantines in the horticultural field. His approach that many quarantines were initiated more for retaliatory reasons than biological soundness eventually received increasing acceptance.

Though first to give credit to his cohorts and such organizations as the Western Plant Board, the drop in quarantines from 27 when McKennon first took office to five at the present time, is indicative of his effectiveness in expounding the thinking that "quarantines should exist solely for the protection of a state against pests and diseases of economic importance and should not be projected for economic purposes alone."

The high regard for McKennon's ability and knowledge is also reflected in some

of the assignments he drew during his reign as chief of the division of plant industry: He served for several terms as chairman of the Western Plant board and as representative of that board to the National Plant board; was president of the National Plant board for two terms, and past president of the National Association of Marketing Officials.

Represented U.S.
In 1951, McKennon was selected to represent the United States at the International Plant Protection conference in Rome, Italy, together with E. R. Sasser, then in charge of the division of foreign plant quarantines of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's bureau of entomology and plant quaran-

Insect Resistance To Chemicals Seen Growing

Corvallis - A five-year research grant has been received by Oregon State college from the U.S. Public Health Service for basic studies on insect resistance to insecticides and what can be done to overcome this insect "defense mechanism."

The first-year grant is for \$7,462. Project leaders are insect toxicologists Leon C. Terriere and Theodore Roubal.

Insect resistance to insecticide is a threat to modern agriculture and world health, Terriere points out, and scientists do not yet know enough about the basic physiology of insects to meet the problem. Even after 10 years of use, scientists do not know how DDT kills insects, he noted. It is generally believed that resistant insects survive by converting the toxic materials into harmless ones after they enter the insect body.

In Oregon, orchard mites are now resistant to organic phosphate insecticides such as parathion, malathion, and TEPP in the major fruit-producing areas. Lygus bugs are beginning to show resistance to DDT in some alfalfa seed areas, and onion maggots show signs of resistance to other pesticides. On a worldwide scale, eradication of malaria depends upon winning the race between resistance to chemicals by malaria mosquitoes and their control by modern chemicals, Terriere said.

One of the difficulties involved in studying insect metabolism is their small size. **Use Radioactive Materials**
In the OSC study, Terriere and Roubal are using radioactive materials and special micro-chemical techniques to probe the inner insect workings and find out how the insects take the complex toxic chemicals and convert them into non-toxic materials.

They are feeding houseflies radioactive naphthalene (mothballs) in a gelatin pudding. Then with the special equipment, they are tracing the radioactive material through the fly. In work to date, they have found that the flies convert the naphthalene into at least seven different materials.

The OSC workers hope that when they learn how the mothballs are metabolized within the insect, they will have an insight into the phenomenon of resistance since several of the modern insecticides are related chemically to naphthalene.

When the insects' biochemical "defense mechanisms" are known, it may be possible to design new and lasting effective insecticides, they believe.

MERCANTILE MAN DIES
Upper Montclair, N. J. -UPI- Frank G. Henry, 99, retired manager of the New York Mercantile Exchange, died Wednesday after a long illness.

CLINICIAN DIES
Pelham Manor, N.Y. -UPI- Dr. Elise Strang L'Esperance, 80, who founded several cancer prevention clinics at the Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, died Wednesday.

Of 1,200 million U.S. acres classified as "land in farms," only one-third is actually cropland.

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This trip afforded him an opportunity to study the plant protection organizations of Holland, Belgium, France and Italy, countries which export considerable plant material to America.

The new director was chairman of the Western Area Standardization conference and in 1956 was awarded a plaque by Oregon Ground and Air operators and members of Oregon State College faculty, "for services to Oregon Agriculture."

Following two years at Oregon State college, McKennon operated his own farm in Grande Ronde valley of Union County's Imbler area. He also served as land appraiser for the Federal Land Bank of Spokane for two years before working for the state department of agriculture.

A son, Russell McKennon, is active with the Pendleton Grain Growers association, and a daughter, Mrs. Francis Parker, is also a Pendleton resident. Grandson Larry McKennon is currently president of the O.S.C. student body, and another grandson, Keith, is a research scientist with the Dow Chemical Company, Pittsburgh, California.

The McKennons live on a farm near Salem.

Fungus Disease Harms Mints; Talk Planned

Corvallis - A fungus disease threatening West Coast peppermint production will get major attention at the Oregon Essential Oil Growers' annual meeting, Jan. 8 and 9 at Oregon State college.

The disease, verticillium wilt, has infested about 4,000 acres in the Willamette valley - nearly one-third of Oregon's total mint acreage, reports league secretary C. E. Horner, Oregon State college plant pathologist.

Spread of the disease has been rapid during the past five years, especially on lowlands where infested soil and infected plant parts are moved by winter flood waters.

Oregon's key weapon against the disease at present is Central Oregon disease-free planting stock - some 2,000 acres of peppermint where "outside visitors" are not permitted until they remove their shoes to avoid carrying infested soil into the fields.

Research Bolstered
Oregon State college research to combat the disease was bolstered a year ago with funds from buyers and users of peppermint, mainly drug manufacturers, and some 200 Oregon growers. Horner will review OSC research with antibiotics, systemic treatments, and testing of new varieties for disease-resistance.

Market outlook for peppermint in 1959 will be presented by M. D. Thomas, OSC agricultural extension economist. Oregon produced nearly 1,000,000 pounds of peppermint oil last year - more than one-third of the national output.

Production and handling of disease-free planting stock will be discussed by county extension agents Amos Bierly, Madras, and Herman Bierman, Hermiston. Other topics on mint production include "community action" for mint rust control by growers Vernon Woods, Harrisburg; Clifford Plagmann, Albany; and Tony Marthaller, Grants Pass.

Ed Ammon and Dale Eisenman, Jefferson area growers, will report mint fertilizing practices. A review of new chemicals for weed control in mint is slated by W. R. Furkert, OSC agricultural experiment station agronomist.

Banquet speaker will be Dr. Ernest Guenther, New York, technical director for a leading essential oil company, who will show films of recent trips into Africa and the West Indies to study sources of spices and essential oils.

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District Official Speaks at Kiwanis

A. M. Neslin, Ashland, lieutenant-governor of District 15-A, emphasized the Kiwanis International theme, "Building Individual Responsibility," in a talk to Medford Kiwanis club yesterday.

Speaking at the luncheon meeting at Rogue Valley Country Club, he was paying an official visit to the Medford organization.

Joe Patella issued a Medford Lions club challenge to Kiwanians for a March of Dimes wheelbarrow race. New Kiwanians introduced were Dr. Eugene Ray, dentist, and Dr. Henry Boehnke, pediatrician. Darel Glead, field executive for Big Pines Boy Scout district, in another new member.

Hospitals Changing Attitude Toward Alcoholic Patients

Albany, N.Y. - (Science Service)-Alcoholics are finding more community hospital doors open to them.

Hospital officials and the public alike are accepting the fact that alcoholism is a disease, not a "periodic bout with acute intoxication."

A study of New York State hospitals admitting alcoholics may point the way for other hospitals throughout the nation. Paul F. Robinson, assistant director of the New York State Interdepartmental Health Resources Board here, told Science Service. Now there is evidence that tranquilizing drugs are a boon to the general hospital in quieting disturbed alcoholics and making them manageable.

The New York researchers are hopeful that hospitals which have rejected alcoholics on the basis of their being difficult to manage can accept them as patients with the same need for treatment as persons with pneumonia, heart trouble or any other disease.

Another important finding, Robinson said, was the fact that 81 per cent of the hospitals accepting alcoholics took in persons who were sober at the time but were in need of treatment and observation.

From the financial aspect, the alcoholic patient is a good risk. Payments in full or in part were received from 79 per cent of those admitted to general hospitals, Robinson said. Also, almost 92 per cent of the alcoholics admitted to voluntary general hospitals made payments before being discharged.

Low Admission Rate
Results of the study, conducted by the Health Resources Board in cooperation with the Hospital Association of New York State, showed that hospitals in New York City and the "immediate metropolitan areas" had a low admission rate for alcoholics. Hospitals in the Rochester region and neighboring counties, however, had a high admission rate.

Both the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association have issued resolutions urging community general hospitals to accept alcoholics. Details of the New York study, published in the current issue of the New York State Journal of Medicine, support their recommendations.

Dr. I. Jay Brightman, executive director of the Health Resources Board, and Charles M. Royle, of the New York Hospital Association, are co-authors of the report. In addition to Robinson, Bernard Ferber and William T. Robinson also worked on the study.

The club is composed of amateur astronomers in southern Oregon with headquarters at Grants Pass. Activities include observation of the moon, planets and stars at informal meetings.

Club members have ready for assembly three reflector, for assembly three reflector, and a six-inch refractor, and a 2.6 inch refractor for public observing parties. Club members grind mirrors for reflecting telescopes, and are now building three more reflectors.

DISPLAY BURNS' WORKS
London -UPI- A collection of works by Robert Burns has gone on display in Moscow to mark the 200th anniversary of the Scottish poet's birth. Radio Moscow announced Wednesday.

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Medical Survey Supports Complaints Made on Hospitals

New York-Patients have been complaining for years that most hospitals are not fit places in which to be sick - and finally, an official medical survey has confirmed most of their accusations.

The secret study, authorized by the California Medical Association in order to determine why so many doctors were being sued for malpractice, is revealed in the new issue of Look Magazine. The report has been labeled "confidential."

Investigators found that: "At present, our hospitals tend to destroy in the patient any attempt at self-determination and actually cause him to become emotionally, if not physically, sicker than he was when he entered the hospital."

Practices Condemned
The survey team condemned many practices now prevalent in hospitals such as not permitting a mother to remain with her sick child, waking patients to give them a sleeping pill, providing tasteless food, forbidding the patient to know such commonplace details about himself as his temperature, insisting on hospital bedclothing instead of personal clothing and excessive charges for drugs.

Pointing out that hospitals are now run for the benefit of doctors and nurses with the patient's needs coming last, the investigators have recommended a series of hospital reforms.

Reforms Suggested
These include: a re-examination of hospital standards by the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation, establishment of a standard of conduct for physicians in hospitals so that physicians will not be reluctant to call attention to substandard practices of colleagues, establishment of county medical societies of committees on local hospital practice and improved training of physicians and nurses in coping with the emotional responses of patients to hospitalization or threatening medical treatments such as surgery.

Another important finding, Robinson said, was the fact that 81 per cent of the hospitals accepting alcoholics took in persons who were sober at the time but were in need of treatment and observation.

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Gene Tierney Back In Kansas Clinic

Hollywood -UPI- Twentieth Century-Fox Studios announced today that sultry actress Gene Tierney has re-entered the Menninger Clinic in Kansas which she left only last summer after six months of treatment.

A studio spokesman said Miss Tierney's voluntary return to the famed clinic was reported to them by her mother, Mrs. Belle Tierney, by telephone from Greenwich, Conn. He said she would not appear in "Holiday For Lovers," with Clifton Webb, with whom she also costarred in "Laura."

"Miss Tierney has voluntarily re-entered the Menninger Clinic for further treatment," the terse studio announcement said. "Miss Tierney was to have reported here this coming week end from Connecticut where she has been for the last six weeks to two months."

At the clinic, in Topeka, officials declined to comment.

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Driver Cited After Highway Accident

Paul David Williams, 20, of route 4, box 461, Medford, was cited by state police Wednesday afternoon for failing to operate on right side of highway following a two-vehicle accident on Carpenter Hill rd.


According to police, Williams was driving west on the road when he went around a

left curve on the left side of the highway and hit an east-bound vehicle head-on. Operator of the other automobile was Glenna Harolene Haggard, 18, of 312 East Main st., Phoenix, police said.

No injuries were reported, police said, and both vehicles were moderately damaged.

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