

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

One way to find out how something will work out is to study a similar project. So, we dug out a pamphlet published by the University of Idaho on irrigation development in Idaho.

This pamphlet discusses the development of farm lands under the Desert Land Act. Reclamation of land is not as new as many people might think. This act was passed in 1877.

Idaho is a good state to study for irrigation development since it is one of the leading states in number of acres to be developed under the Desert Land Act—3 1/3 acres. From 1950 through 1956, 278 people patented more than 45,000 acres coming under this act.

Agricultural experts even checked to see what the people were doing with their reclaimed land. These developments centered around the southern Idaho towns of Hazelton, Howe and Raft River. Hazelton is an excellent agricultural area with most of the land completely developed, according to agricultural experts. Howe is a livestock area with a limited supply of water. In the Raft River area the land ranges from good to poor and the ground water supply is indefinite. However, cost of land and water development was higher at Hazelton than in other areas, it was reported. Average number of acres in each entry or piece brought under irrigation was 263.

Complete development of a unit including a set of new buildings cost an average of \$150 an acre in 1956. Developed land would sell for approximately \$400 an acre, it was estimated. A farmer could net \$17,321 from 270 crop acres, according to prepared farm budgets. A 150-acre unit would return \$8,547 in net income.

Practically all of the successful Howe reclaimed land users were farmers already living in the area. They developed an average of 132 acres of new desert land to add to their own units of 223 acres. This combination of old and new land gave the farmers profitable farms. Chief reasons for the lost cost per acre of land development—\$56.26, were that farmers used their own equipment for land preparation and only a few new buildings were needed. After it was developed the land was worth \$150 an acre.

Net farm income from hay, grain and cattle fattening was estimated at \$8,127 from a 344-acre unit. A 300-acre unit operated independently from an old farm would return \$6,632 net farm income. The independent desert-land unit required more than twice as much new investment as did the old and new units combined.

Land quality at Raft River varied from excellent to poor. The water supply came from an underground basin so was less reliable than at Hazelton. It cost about \$75 an acre to develop a farm unit at Raft River. Fully developed land was priced at \$200 an acre.

Although the Hazelton area had the best land and the most abundant water it cost more since the wells had to go deeper. The wells at Howe were less than a third as deep and the land was more level. However, possible income from Howe land was comparatively low as only hay and grain could be grown. The units were too small or too costly to develop to make profitable independent farms.

Now what does the development of reclaimed land mean to the average citizen, to the merchant and others who make their living off the farmer? The new units became more profitable than the average farm in the older settled area of the state. These new farms meant also that more public services were needed, true, but the new farms also provided new taxable land to carry the burden of the increased costs of such services as new roads and schools.

True, this is reclaimed desert land we are talking about. Much of the area which would be aided by Rogue River basin water development would not be desert land. However, it would bring more water to crops in the area. It might also make possible development of a wider variety of crops under the added irrigation water. Those people opposing or slowing down the Rogue basin development plans should consider that such a project was designed for flood control and to aid the farmer, first, then for recreation. Even the Romans had their bread and circuses. But, they had their bread.

A farmer friend of ours, living in the same area which would be developed if the plans are allowed to go through has given us some interesting figures on the farmer's stake in this project. Leveling land may cost \$50 an acre. By the time it is seeded it will cost \$100 an acre and must lie unproductive for a year while being seeded. During this unproductive period it will cost the farmer another \$25 an acre in taxes, etc. Then, it will cost him another \$450 an acre to put livestock on it, figuring three calves per acre on irrigated pasture.

So, these are just part of the estimated costs a farmer puts into such land. Measure that investment against cost of fishing gear.

Hay markets are holding steady, according to the OSC grain and hay market review. Prices at Portland and Seattle feeding sections were unchanged, but growers reported slightly higher prices. Some hay in the Portland area on July 13 went as high as \$35 a ton. On the same date good quality alfalfa was priced at mostly \$32 to \$33 a ton. Driving through the valley we noticed that farmers are well into their second cutting. The U.S. Weather Bureau station at Medford forecasts hot, dry weather well into the middle of August so the farmers should have plenty of time to get it baled and into the barn.

Irrigation water is still near the critical stage. So, all farmers are cautioned to use it wisely. Dairymen will be hit where it hurts again this fall—in the pocketbook. Feed costs are bound to go up with earlier than usual fall feeding required due to lack of pasture. That is, this will happen unless we get some good fall rains. However, in farming you have to expect the worst and hope for the best. It is, after all, the biggest gamble in the world.

The Dalles, Ore. reports a large crop of cherries so the gals and guys at the country club should get cheaper maraschino cherries in their cocktails. Salem, Lebanon, Willamette Valley and Hood River areas also had a good crop. Raspberry pickings are increasing and the berries getting a little cheaper to the housewife.

Right about here we had better get in another plug for farm safety week which has been noted this week. The numbers of the various kinds of farm accidents have been figured out from the industrial accident commission's reports on Oregon farm accidents. For the fiscal year of 1957-58 accidents occurring in agriculture totaled 2,547. Of these 1,527 represented "lost time" claims, 924 involved "no absence" from work, 91 were occupational disease claims and five were fatalities.

Farmers work around a lot of equipment which has both sharp and cutting edges. Cuts and lacerations during the 1957-58 fiscal year ran about 33 per cent of the total farm accidents reports. Farm work also requires agility and considerable lifting so it is to be expected that this category would run 25 per cent. Concussion, bruises, contusions ran 21 per cent, fractures 9 per cent, industrial disease 4 per cent, others 8 per cent.

Look around to see if you are working on a safe surface since working surfaces was the agent for 17 per cent of accidents, and leading this category. It only takes a little old horse sense. Look, listen and be generally alert.

## Auction Market Owners Set Two-State Meeting On Act

The Dalles, Ore. — A joint meeting of the livestock auction market owners of Oregon and Washington will be held here Sunday, July 25, it has been announced by the Auction Yard Owners association of Oregon and the Washington Livestock Auction association, respective state business trade associations.

Primary purpose of the meeting, it was stated, is to determine all information in respect to the packers and stockyards act, as amended, and now made applicable to all market transactions in interstate commerce. All auction markets become posted markets and must register and file tariffs as market agencies. Implementation of the federal act in the west coast states has been delayed pending additional funds in the current fiscal year commencing July 1.

C. T. 'Bud' Sanders, Kansas City, Mo., executive secretary of the National Association of Livestock Auction Markets, with which both state groups are affiliated, will explain application of the act to auction market operations and services.

Guides Published  
As a result of a series of

conferences initiated last fall by the national business trade group, a "guide" has been made available to national markets entitled, "Guide to Livestock Auction Market Operations Under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as Amended." This has been reviewed and endorsed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

To insure uniform application of the act throughout both states at the same time, market owners have been requested to cooperate through filling out a form which will provide the administrative agency, the packers and stockyards branch, livestock division, USDA, with necessary information to initiate the posting procedure. That consists of formal notice in the Federal Register that the market is subject to the jurisdiction of the act as a public market. Subsequently, the market registers as a market agency, files its surety bond and tariff or schedule of charges for market services it renders.

The packers and stockyards act is generally described in industry circles as a business fair trade practices act applicable to markets and those engaged in handling or market-

ing livestock moving in interstate commerce.

K. I. Snider, North Portland, Ore., area representative of the Packers and Stockyards Branch, USDA, will be responsible for administration of the act in Washington and Oregon. He will attend the meeting Sunday to fully outline the mechanics of the procedure to be followed in market registrations.

Expected to Attend

Invited to expected to attend the meeting is Donald L. Bowman, chief, packers and stockyards branch, Washington, D. C. He will review the procedure followed in implementation of the act in other states and areas since the first of the year.

Call for the two-state market meeting came from Don Wink, Northwestern Livestock Commission, Hermiston, Ore., and John Eby, Grange Commission & Livestock company, Auburn, Wash., respective presidents of the two state associations. They will jointly preside.

An equal number of 31 state licensed livestock auction markets operate in each state. Each is expected to be represented at the first two-state meeting of those markets.

The meeting will open at 10:00 a.m. (PST), Shamrock restaurant, The Dalles. A noon dinner will be served and the meeting concluded by mid-afternoon.

## Galloway Cattle In Estray Bulletin

Salem—For the first time that anyone remembers, the Galloway breed of cattle has appeared in the listings of the monthly estray bulletin issued by the state department of agriculture.

The current bulletin reports two black Galloway calves missing from an Oregon ranch. Of the 19 cattle listed, 15 showed up missing between May 1 and June 30, according to owner reports to the department's brand inspectors.

## Hay Dealer Bond Now Eliminated

Salem—In line with the legislative repeal of the hay dealer's law, the state department of agriculture has entered an official order repealing its regulation relating to bonds which were required under the act.

A second administrative order effective July 9 amends regulations relating to the registration procedures preliminary to a commodity commission referendum.

### BRILL

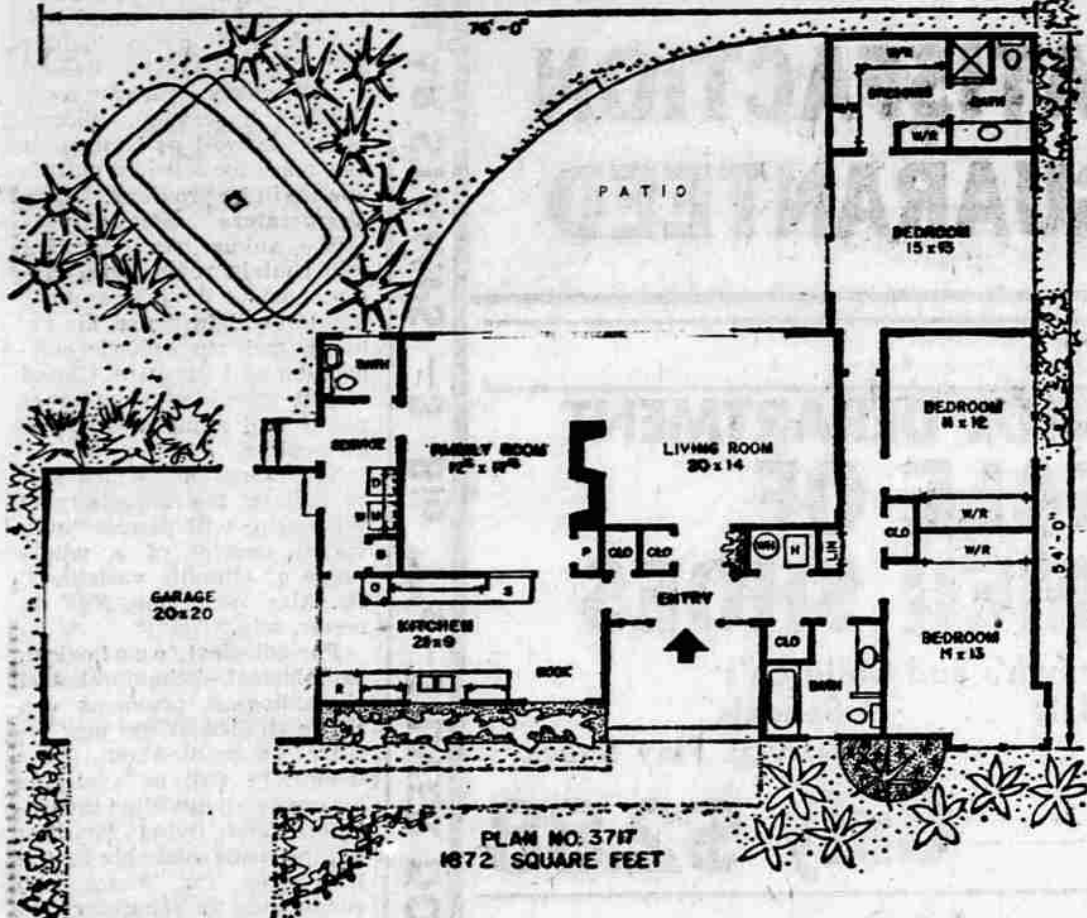
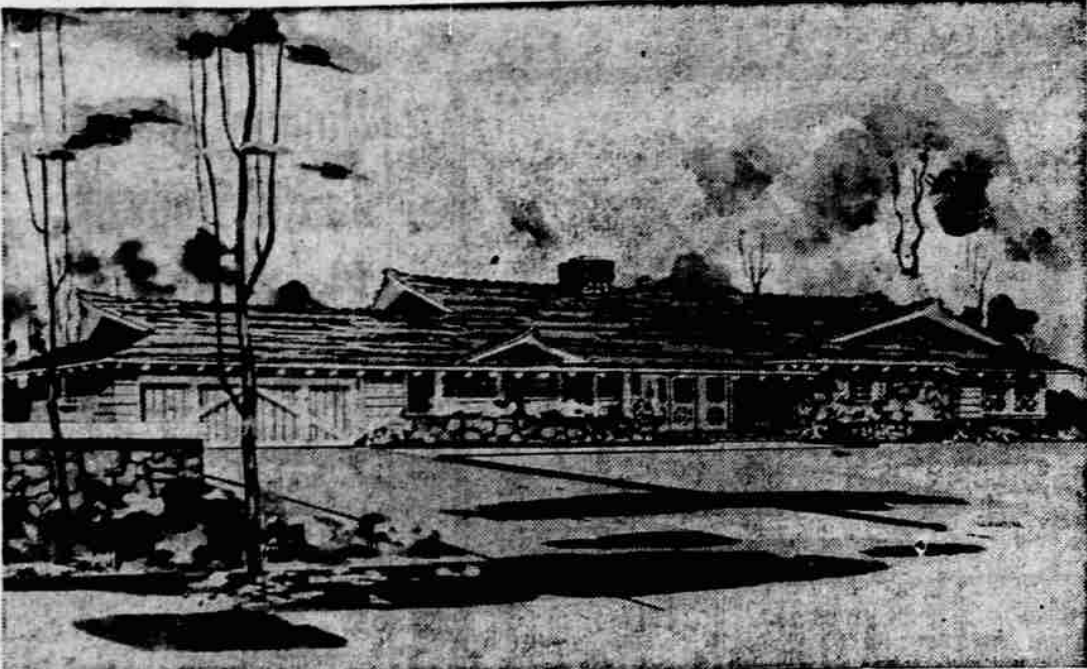
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## This Week's Home of Distinction

By HIAWATHA ESTES  
Most of the features which add up to a well planned home have been incorporated into this design.  
This home will appear much larger than its 1872 square feet size because of the large aluminum sliding glass doors which open onto the partially roofed patio from the family room, living room and master bedroom. These doors not only provide easy access to the patio and rear yard from most of the major rooms of the house, but which is more important, makes indoor-outdoor living a reality and adds a tremendous visual expanse to all of these rooms.  
The extra large kitchen features built-in appliances, a very ample amount of storage cabinets and a big eating area. A partial wall at the range helps to open the kitchen to the family room. A storage closet in the family room has shelves from floor to ceiling which can be used as a pantry, dish and linen closet or just general storage.  
A double fireplace is used as a divider between the family and living rooms. If preferred, the open space between these two rooms could be eliminated with a wall or planter.  
Four large closets open onto the hallway in addition to the linen closet and space containing both the water heater and furnace.  
The rustic ranch exterior incorporates both vertical and horizontal wood siding together with stone veneer and planters. A contemporary exterior could be achieved by adding fascia, eliminating the bay window and the up-turned portions of the roof gables and substituting metal casement windows for the present wood double hung type.  
Complete working drawing of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set and \$5 for each additional set, when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available for a period of four months from this date. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with your satisfaction, a new home plan book, Homes for Living, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P. O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

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## State's Farmers Set New Records In Crop Raising

Corvallis — Oregon farmers are setting some new crop records this year with a record corn crop in prospect and snap bean production already passing all earlier records, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

The largest corn crop ever produced in Oregon is due for harvest this fall, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U. S. department of agriculture. A harvest of more than 4 1/2 million bushels is forecast — a third above last year and close to triple the average harvest of the past 10 years.

This means that for the first time since pioneer days, corn production in the state may equal, or even exceed, use of corn in this area, Mrs. Horrell pointed out.  
Oregon's output of snap beans for processing is again passing all earlier records. The state leads all other states in snap bean production, with some 91,500 tons expected here this year.

If Oregon's snap bean production reaches this total, it will top last year's record by 3 per cent, Mrs. Horrell said, and amount to almost half again the average production of the past 10 years.

Other crops in the state with above-last-year and above-average prospects include filberts, peaches, pears, strawberries, grapes, lettuce, green processing peas, dry peas, and hops, Mrs. Horrell said. These predictions were based on conditions in the state on July 1, reported by Oregon growers to the USDA crop reporting board.  
Weather conditions in the state during the rest of the growing season hold the key to final production totals, Mrs. Horrell added.

In 1939, Cleveland, Ohio, conducted the nation's first open-air public school classes. It was part of the war on tuberculosis.

## 'SAFETY MAKES SENSE'

**Farm Safety Week**  
July 19-25

Take time to take care. Haste makes waste. Inspection and correction of farm hazards is an important job of each farmer. It may save a life or prevent an accident.

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## GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY  
County Extension Agent

FILBERTS in home gardens should be sprayed immediately if worms have been a problem. Recommendations for their control are 3 pounds of lead arsenate per 100 gallons of water, or 1 1/2 ounces in three gallons of water. A second spray is generally applied about three weeks after the first spray.

RED RASPBERRIES which turn yellow and die about the time the fruit ripens are usually affected by root rot. This is a common problem in home gardens. Even though raspberry plants affected with root rot disease send up normal appearing canes in the spring they die down as the hot weather occurs. Soil disease organisms, too much moisture, and heavy soils are the most common problems causing root troubles. No chemical control is known, however good cultural practices such as fertilizing, mulching and regular watering will help some.

Most raspberry varieties are susceptible. The Newberg variety, however, is suggested for planting in home gardens since it is the most resistant to this condition.  
WEEDS can be prevented easier than they can be controlled. Andy Duncan, Oregon State College Vegetable specialist, points out that a single wild oat plant can produce 250 seeds, while a single pig weed plant has been known to bear as many as twelve million seeds. A survey of many kinds of biennial and perennial weeds show that the average number of weed seed per plant is twenty thousand. It is easy to see why prevention in this case is better than a cure.  
FERTILIZING home gardens is a good practice where plants turn yellow and fail to grow. Side dressing garden crops or using a booster solution usually improves the growth and color of garden crops. Leafy vegetables especially respond well to nitrogen fertilizers. Commercial fertilizers should not be applied directly against vegetables and should be applied sparingly and watered in well. Excessive applications can be harmful to plants.

BLACK ROT  
Strawberry plants which are dying are generally affected by black root rot. This has been a common disease in the area over many years. No chemical cures have been found, nor do we have any completely resistant varieties. Some strawberry plants, such as Red Rich, appear extremely sensitive to the root rot conditions; while varieties like Siletz and Puget Beauties may have some resistance they are by no means immune to the disease.  
Strawberry plantings where the disease is showing up either by excessive reddening on the leaves or the actual dying of the plants should not be maintained longer than two years. The best method of raising strawberries in the area is to keep new plants

coming on continually, removing them after the first or second harvest season. Under this renewal system of plantings, the Northwest variety does reasonably well as a one crop berry, while Streamliner, Rock Hill and Gem appear to be the best everbearers for this area.

ROSE TROUBLES: There have been more than the usual amount of aphids attacking roses this year along with the common rose diseases such as black spot, mildew and rust. Repeated applications of Malathion, Black Leaf 40, or one of the other good aphicides are necessary for controlling the aphid itself. Washing the plant thoroughly with the garden hose before spraying also aids some in control.

Where diseases have been a problem, a good all-purpose rose dust containing Ferbam and sulfur in the mixture would be best. Here again repeated applications are necessary for good control.

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