

Experiment Farm Station to Be Presented to State Tuesday

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Member
Tuesday, County Judge Earl Miller will present the new physical plant of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station to the state board of higher education.

This will be part of an open-house, field day at the new Hanley research farm of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station. The board of higher education will have the farm for its use as long as it is used for agricultural research to assist the local economy.

Tuesday's public ceremonies will mark another plateau reached by the experiment station staff. Use of 85 acres of the Hanley ranch near Jacksonville for strengthening the agricultural future of the Rogue River valley, state, and nation seems fitting, for the Hanley ranch, one of the state's Century farms, has played a strong role in the past agricultural history of Jackson county and the valley.

Varieties of Grains

The varieties of grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables which the new experiment station develops or tests will be used by future farmers of the county, state, and nation.



COMBINING GRAIN - This combine crew at the new Hanley experimental farm near Jacksonville is harvesting part of a test plot of wheat. The experiment station is continually testing new varieties of all grains before making recommendations to farmers. A dwarf variety of wheat is also being raised at the experiment station for test purposes. This variety with a shorter, stiffer stalk is being examined to see if it will better resist strong winds among other things.

Twenty-five acres of the 85 is devoted to horticultural research. Already some 3,000 hybrid pears have been plant-

ed and are growing well. Other plantings include a block for stony-pit investigations, and albino cherry resistance studies.

Under way is transfer of the so-called Museum orchard located in the past at the old experiment station site on Highway 99 near Talent. That block will contain 20 named varieties, types and species of pears. This is one of the largest collections of its kind in the United States and is used by pear-breeders throughout the United States and Europe as a source of pear-breeding material.

Collection from China
Much of the collection came from China. Today it is the only source of such breeding material available to breeders in the free world.

Other plantings planned for the immediate future include areas for entomological and pathological studies of problems pertinent to the local horticultural industry. As soon as transfer of the Museum orchard can be completed, the old site on Highway 99 will be released to the county for sale. When that is done, the horticultural research program will be conducted in two areas, the Medford site on Kings highway and at the Hanley research farm.

The agronomic research program at the new Hanley research farm includes work in seven general areas, (1) feed grain improvement, (2) corn for grain and silage, (3) forage improvement, (4) seed crops, (5) weed control, (6) truck crops improvement, and (7) investigations on miscellaneous new crops to determine their possible adaptability to the southern Oregon area.

Develop Physical Plant
Much of the research staff's time for the past year has been used for development of the physical plant and long range planning. However, actual research under way in the fields this year includes fertilization studies on sweet corn and tomatoes, varietal tests on sweet corn, field corn, tomatoes, alfalfa, grasses, feed grains, millet, sorghum, soybeans, and a number of minor crops.

Other work includes chemical weed control on corn and an irrigation versus rate of nitrogen fertilization on field corn. Results of these experiments and tests will be available to growers during the fall and winter through county extension agents and local grower meetings. Several additional studies and tests will be started this fall and next spring.

Walking by the experimental plots, the visitor can see a planting of 20 U.S. varieties of alfalfa and 27 introductions from foreign countries. The latter varieties have been brought from the near-east and middle east countries by teams of agricultural scientists sent by the U.S. department of agriculture.

Used in Area
Talent alfalfa, now extensively used in this area, resulted from just this type of work. It is hoped that even better varieties or strains may be introduced or developed. Some 36 varieties of field corn are under test for grain and silage production for the expanding livestock industry in the southern Oregon area. Harold White, experiment station superintendent, noted that 10 years ago 40 bushels of corn per acre or 10 tons of corn silage per acre was the average in Jackson and Josephine counties.

However, today better adapted varieties, better fertilization knowledge, better irrigation practices and better weed control have given area growers more than double those yields. To remain in the station's testing program any field corn variety must be capable of producing at least 100 bushels of shelled corn per acre and 35 tons of silage per acre.

Varieties of Sweet Corn

The visitor will also see 29 varieties and 12 different fertilizer treatments on sweet corn, and 28 varieties and 12 different fertilizer treatments on tomatoes. Many varieties of wheat, oats and barley, both for fall and spring planting, are being tested to find a higher yielding, more disease resistant and stronger standing strain for use in this area.

For the past 10 days the long wooden, steam-wheeler type blades of the combine chopped through wheat, oats and barley varieties. These varieties are studied for thickness of stand or how thickly they grow once planted, strength of stock and how well they stand up for harvesting. Once harvested the kernels are taken to the laboratory and studied for fullness of kernel and weight.

A bushel of wheat, oats and barley must weigh at least a certain amount. Any weight over that brings the farmer extra money since the heavier kernels are fuller and contain more food materials.

Growing Business
Export of alfalfa seed, Talent and Lahontan varieties, promises to be a steadily growing business in the valley.

Experimentation with pasture grasses, Sudan and sorghum grasses, is important to the dairy and livestock farmers. Sudan grass can be planted in late spring or hay substitute if the future hay crop doesn't look good to the farmer. The latter grass varieties, like field corn, can also serve as silage.

Since the new experiment station is located on a Century farm - a farm which has been in one family for 100 years or more - it seems only appropriate that a man who was raised on a Century farm should be superintendent.

The farm on which White was raised in the Illinois Valley is still in the family after 103 years. The present farm of 91½ acres is occupied by Mrs. Raymond White.

It is located a short distance south of the Caves highway and several miles east of Cave Junction. It is part of Donation Land Claim No. 37 which contained 245.86 acres. The farm was established in 1855 by Samuel Wilson White and his wife, Cynthia McVey White. Harold White is one

of Samuel Wilson White's grandsons.

Alexander White, Harold White's father, traveled to Oregon by ox team from Cold Water, Mich., on March 16, 1852, with his family. In the 1860s he drove stagecoach from Waldo to Jacksonville. An irrigation ditch constructed by Samuel White and Dr. W. H. Watkins, who owned and operated an adjoining donation land claim, is still used. It brings water from Sucker creek to the farms now located within the original donation land claim boundaries.

Prior to Samuel White's death the land claim was divided between his two sons, Alexander White and James Richard White. When Alexander White died, his portion went to his three sons, Ralph A. White, Raymond E. White and Harold H. White.

Last winter, the experiment station superintendent was honored by the American Farm Bureau Federation for 30 years' service to Oregon agriculture. When presenting the award the Oregon Farm Bureau president gave the following review of White's record:

OSC Graduate

White graduated from Oregon State college with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture in 1920 and a master's degree in 1938. He taught vocational agriculture in high

Nissen Named to Coos Bay Office

Wesley E. Nissen of 329 Crater Lake ave., Medford, has been promoted to assistant manager of the Coos Bay branch of the First National Bank of Oregon, it was announced Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nissen and their three children, who have lived in Medford for more than five years, will move to Coos Bay on Aug. 1.

Nissen has been the loan officer of the Medford branch of the bank.

schools at Lebanon, McMinnville and Corvallis.

Later as an OSC staff member he helped train vo-ag teachers. Following that he was an OSC agricultural economist, then was granted a year's leave to assist the USDA bureau of agricultural economics in Columbia Basin joint investigations.

It was in 1947 when White was transferred to the Oregon Agricultural Experiment station and assigned to the Southern Oregon branch at Medford to establish and conduct general agronomic research for the southern Oregon area. In June, 1953, he was assigned the superintendency of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station. The position he still holds.



TALL CORN - John Yungen, agronomist with the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station, stands in the center of a plot of tall field corn at the new Hanley Experiment farm on Hanley rd. near Jacksonville. This particular plot was a test of irrigation methods. These and other plots will be examined by the public during the open-house Tuesday at the new experiment farm.

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