

Farmers' Prices Stay Unchanged

Washington (AP)—Prices farmers received for crops and livestock remained unchanged in the month ended Sept. 15, the Agriculture Department has reported.

The department's monthly farm price report also showed that the cost of production and living supplies purchased by farmers remained unchanged during the month.

Farmers' returns in mid-September averaged 80 percent of parity. This is the same figure reported for mid-August and compares with 87 percent in mid-September a year ago.

Parity is the price needed to put the value of commodities farmers sell on a par with the cost of things they must buy—theoretically a fair return for their products.

The department said prices for meat animals, grains, oil bearing crops, and potatoes declined during the month. But these losses were offset by higher prices for dairy products, fruit, and eggs.

Thornton Rules On School Issue

Salem—(AP)—Some complicated questions arising out of Oregon school law were cleared up Wednesday by Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton.

Thornton held that when two or more school districts are consolidated and the territory of the "consolidated school district" was enlarged because of this, the tax base of the "consolidated school district" is increased under the Oregon constitution.

The opinion was requested by the State Tax Commission on behalf of Jackson County Assessor Ray J. Schumacher.

Thornton said the Legislature clearly intended that a consolidation did not create a "new taxing unit" but rather merged the smaller district with the larger district.

Taxidermy as Hobby Brings Odd Requests To California Man

Olive, Calif.—(AP)—His funniest request came from a customer who wanted him to mount a skunk and equip it with a perfume atomizer, says Herman R. Wischnack, whose hobby of taxidermy has now become a part-time job.

Wischnack started stuffing animals five years ago with a bluejay that didn't turn out too well. "That bird looked like it had been run over by an automobile," he admits.

Having been toying with the idea of taxidermy for some time, Wischnack then began to read books on the subject and he enrolled in a correspondence course with a school in Nebraska. Since that time, he has preserved hundreds of birds and animals.

The den of his home is filled with ferocious and not so ferocious animals while bearskin rugs cover the floor. His most interesting specimen is a crocodile caught in the Santa Ana river near his home. The most unusual animal in his collection is a coati mundi a snout-nosed little relative of the anteater.

The art of taxidermy is no more intricate nor difficult to master than learning to be a good fisherman or hunter, Wischnack says, and it makes an ideal hobby for either one of these sports' enthusiasts.

Nor is it expensive, Wischnack says. All you need is a large storage freezer, a well-lighted work table, cleaning tubs, sharp knives of assorted sizes, galvanized wire, excelsior, paper mache, potter's clay, needles, strong thread, chemicals, paints, glass eyes,

plastic parts and false teeth. A few precautions should be taken in the field, the taxidermist says. The hunter should remove dirt, wipe off blood stains and plug large shot holes. Bird plumage should be smoothed into position before the bird is wrapped. Outline drawings of the bird or animal body laid on heavy wrapping paper will

Sale of Oregon Farm Products Up

Corvallis—(AP)—The extension agricultural economist of Oregon State College, Mrs. Elvera Horrell, said today cash sales of farm products in Oregon last year topped those of 1957.

Latest estimates now put this year's total cash farm receipts a little ahead of the same months of 1958, she said.

Her report said Oregon farmers took in nearly \$401 million from cash sales of farm products in 1958.

SP Gets Blame for Box Car Shortage

Salem—(AP)—The Governor's Emergency Transportation Committee has blamed actions by Southern Pacific for the current rail car shortage in Oregon.

Chairman R. L. Hogue, Medford lumberman, said the shortage resulted when the SP shut off cars for Oregon at such major junctions as Ogden, Utah, and Portland.

The committee requested SP to notify the PUC whenever restrictions are placed on receiving cars at SP gateways.

"We are receiving cars now," Hogue said, "but we're walking a tight-rope as to future deliveries."

True Albino Hagfish Found

La Jolla, Calif.—(Science Service)—An albino hagfish—believed to be the first record of this "natural freak"—has been found off the coast of southern California.

During a routine collection of hagfish, Dr. David Jensen of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography here reports finding the single albino among some 500 fish. Over the past two years, he says, he has collected about 5,900 hagfish. About 20 of these were piebald with areas of pale pink skin because of reduced pigmentation.

Ordinarily, the hagfish (Eptatretus stoutii) is pinkish to purple gray with the lighter color on its stomach. The albino specimen, described in the journal Science, is white except for a pinkish cast due to the blood flow.

The pulsations of the caudal, or tail, heart are plainly visible under the albino hagfish's translucent skin, Dr. Jensen says. The hagfish is one of the most primitive vertebrate animals.

Portland—(AP)—Police are investigating the explosion of a home-made bomb that blew up on the porch Tuesday night of Israel Hasson of Portland.

An estimated 60 million or more native-born Americans have no legal proof of their birthplace.



STUFFS THEM NOW—Herman R. Wischnack poses with a bear's head from his collection of stuffed animals. Hunting and fishing were sports that took up most of his time until taxidermy claimed his attention. —(UPI Telephoto)

Wind Tunnel To Test Space Vehicles

Buffalo, N.Y.—(AP)—The world's first wind tunnel for long-duration testing of hypersonic missiles and space vehicles under actual atmospheric flight conditions is being designed and built by Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory.

The research center's new test installation, contracted for by the Air Force Research and Development Command, is termed a "wave superheater hypersonic tunnel." It will generate air flows approxi-

imating 10,000 miles an hour and temperatures of 9,000 degrees F.

The tunnel will be capable of 15-second test durations, considerably longer than ever before possible at such extreme temperatures, air speeds and at pressures corresponding to actual flight altitudes. Present aerodynamic test devices producing hypersonic air flows and temperatures can be operated for only a few thousandths of a second.

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