

Report on Hail Research Sent to National Foundation

A report on the past summer's work on the Rogue valley hail research program has been submitted to the National Science Foundation, Jud Parsons, head of the research program here, said Friday.

Co-sponsors of the research, Oregon State college extension service and the Medford Pear Shippers association, hope the report will interest the foundation in making a grant for a continuing research program.

Directing the program from Oregon State college are Dr. Lyle D. Calvin, statistical service, and Dr. Fred M. Decker, physics department.

Researchers are now preparing for this winter's activity, Dr. Decker said. OSC has obtained new radar equipment to place on Mary's peak near Corvallis, to track storms approaching from the Pacific. It will give them a chance to examine the modifications of the storms as they move across the mountains, Dr. Decker said. The equipment has a range of 250 miles in all directions, Dr. Decker added.

Trailer-Mounted

Using a trailer-mounted radar set here, researchers have learned there is twice as much precipitation on the sheltered side of the mountains as on the windward side where normally precipitations should be heavier. This small set gives a detailed local picture which fills the scope.

Time lapse movies were taken by Parsons of this summer's lightning storms and will be used to study cloud formations. A movie camera attached to the radar scope here records detailed views of precipitation in the cloud system, he said.

Dr. Decker listed assets of the research program in this area as existence of a hail problem, radiosonde station (one of two in state) and community interest. The U.S. Weather Bureau's radiosonde station at the Medford airport sends up balloons with radio units to probe the atmosphere to determine the temperature, pressure, humidity and to

gauge winds aloft, Dr. Decker explained.

Dr. Decker said he was surprised and pleased at the number of people who volunteered to collect hailstones.

Stone Uniformity

"It's important to us to know where the hail didn't hit as well as where it did hit," Dr. Decker said. Hailstones gathered Sept. 10 revealed a surprising uniformity of stones, he said. The stones were generally cauliflower-shaped, which indicates the possibility the hail collided with water drops as it fell and those drops froze to the main stone.

Since the researchers had no stones with which to compare the hailstone collection, they were unable to establish standards of comparison but did set standard methods to examine the structures of the stones. They learned how to preserve them by keeping them in oil and refrigeration.

Toughest Jobs

"Our studies have led us to believe that we are not sure whether you must have lightning to get hail," Dr. Decker said. "One of nature's toughest jobs is producing hail. Hail doesn't occur much of the time in any one place."

The pear industry is interested in the effect of hail on pears and how practical a continuing hail suppression program would be. The forest service, a cooperative agency, observes hail occurrence and lightning during thunderstorms.

The pear shippers association hopes the study can become a continuing program. The past summer's research may provide the answer that a continuing study on hail and the weather related to it would be valuable.

Suppression Program

During the past 10 years a hail suppression program was sponsored by the Medford Pear Shippers association. However, it was discontinued this season.

It was during the summers of 1957 and 1958 that the number of hailstorms hit an all time high. Serious ques-

tions were raised then as to the value of the cloud seeding program. However, lack of adequate data prevented any accurate program evaluation, Parsons said.

Financial loss to the pear industry during the 1958 storms was estimated at \$1,500,000. Prevention of a single hail storm or reduction of its effect could pay the entire cost of a hail suppression program. However, before pear growers and industry will support such a program they must be sure some success can be reached, Parsons noted.

Program's Aims

The program's aims are to determine the geographical distribution of hail occurrence in individual storms and a season of storms, to determine the size of hailstones and frequency of distribution, to determine physical properties of hailstones, to determine pear damage and simulated pear damage from individual storms, to develop equipment and methods to carry out the objectives, and to submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation to conduct and experiment toward evaluating hail suppression methods of cloud seeding.

The hailstone formation process must be understood thoroughly if hail storms are to be suppressed eventually, the OSC men said. Size and hardness data coupled with information on the hail formation process will help reveal the kinds of storms which cause the greatest damage, they noted.

"This study could reduce hail insurance rates," a pear shipper pointed out. "A \$5 million insurance policy would be needed to insure the 10,000 acres of pear orchards in the valley. This would mean a premium cost of \$325,000 at present rates."

County Students Enrolled at Linfield

Four students from Jackson county are among the more than 880 enrolled at Linfield college, McMinnville.

Harvey Tonn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tonn, Central Point, and Jim Crawford, son of Mrs. J. H. Crawford, 521 Berrydale ave., are seniors.

Miss Evelyn Niedermeyer, daughter of Mrs. Marian Niedermeyer, route 2, box 466, is a sophomore and Marvin Terry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Terry, 2722 Bullock rd., is a freshman.

This year's enrollment is the largest number of regular students in the history of the 104-year-old liberal arts school.

Quarterly Dividend Announced by Firm

Minneapolis - A regular quarterly dividend of 8 1/2 cents per share, derived from investment income, has been declared by the board of directors of Investors Mutual, Inc., mutual fund affiliate managed by Investors Diversified Services, Inc.

Also declared was a distribution of 22 3/4 cents per share representing realized security profits, the company reported.

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Amendment to City Fence Ordinance Adopted by Council

The Medford city council Thursday night approved an amendment to an ordinance regulating the height and type of fences around residences.

The amendment permits a six-foot solid fence from the front of the main building to the rear property line. Councilmen noted that the amendment stemmed from the trend toward outdoor living and a desire for privacy.

Mayor John Snider, in connection with fences, appointed a committee composed of himself and Councilmen Robert Baccus and Don Hansen, to

investigate a complaint that Robert E. Crovette, 1211 East Main st., may be in violation of the building code because of a fence which he plans to construct.

Request Withdrawn

Scheduled for a public hearing Thursday the request for a change of zone from Class 1A to Class V light industrial for the Farr trailer park on North Pacific highway was withdrawn.

Nobody appeared for or against the change of name of Buckshot rd. to McAndrews rd. as proposed in a city ordinance. The ordinance was passed. Councilman Robert Baccus said he was reluctant to see the road name changed from Buckshot rd., a colorful name. However, he voted approval.

located on 14 spaces on South Front st. between Eighth and Ninth sts.

Hansen objected that the meters on the Main st. location had been there a long time and it would be difficult to see them moved. The location does not serve the "Park 'N Shop" area, but the area proposed for metering does.

The council approved an amendment to the city ordinance on vehicle parking area defining what a parking area is. "Substantially this resolution interprets the vehicle parking area to mean that

area used in parking of vehicles and the area necessary for ingress and egress thereto," City Attorney Joel Reeder explained.

Short of Area

By this definition, the new branch of the Rogue Valley bank on East Jackson st., is short 1,800 feet of parking area. However, the bank manager has assured city officials that the bank can correct this.

The council approved establishing a park and recreation improvement fund to be a depository for monies resulting from sale of surplus property and bequests.

Thousands of tons of jade are believed deposited in various parts of Wyoming and California.

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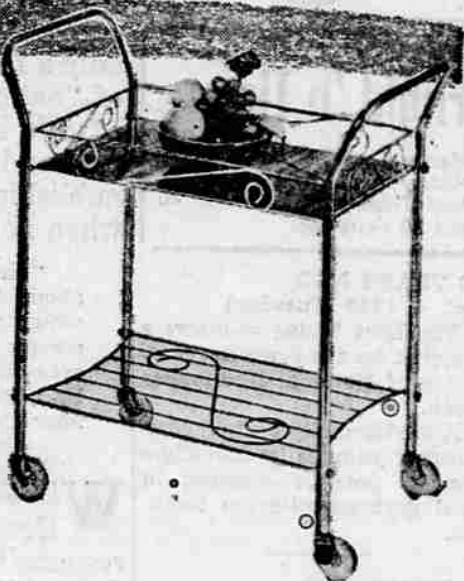
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