



NEW OFFICERS—New officers elected to the Oregon State Horticultural Society for 1960 are (front row, left to right) James S. Smart, Salem, second vice-president; Stephen G. Nye, Medford, first vice-president; William Hazeltine, Parkdale, president; and W. E. Vollmer, Hood River, third vice-president. Other officers are (back row, left to right) C. C. Rawlings, OSC extension

Oregon Fruit Story Told By OSC Horticulturist

The following is a condensation of a talk given by Quentin B. Zielski, OSC horticulturist, at last week's Oregon State Horticultural Society meeting. The talk is a survey of opinions gathered from his interviewing a number of growers, packers, selling agencies and professional people.

First commercial orchard in the Rogue River valley was planted by J. H. Stewart in 1884. OSC horticulturist Quentin B. Zielski told the Oregon State Horticultural Society.

Presenting his brief summary of the early history of the apple and pear industry in Oregon, Zielski said the Stewart orchard is now called the Voorhes orchard. However, before that time a few scattered fruit and nut trees were planted in the early 1850's and a few pears were planted in the Rogue valley in 1854.

Following Stewart's planting, a number of new plantings were made of both apples and pears. Early apple orchards were New Town, Black Twigs, Ben Davis, Grimes Golden, Jonathan, Maiden Blush, Canada Red and Lady apples. Zielski related. Until 1920 apple and pear production were equal. Early pear varieties were Bartlett, Clairgeau, Winter Nelis, Howell, Anjou, Keiffer and a few Seckel. First Comice in Medford was planted by D. R. Hill in 1897 and by 1900 several larger commercial orchards of this variety had been established. Oldest living Oregon Comice is 65 years old.

Bosc and Comice pears were planted in the Rogue River valley about 1900. Clint Stewart paid \$1,000 per acre for 10 acres of young Comice and Bosc, according to early records. "Everybody thought he was crazy at first, but his first shipment of Comice to the East brought \$11.50 per box and Bosc nearly as much. That was the start of the Comice and Bosc boom," according to an early grower.

Medford speculators started a great promotional boom in the valley in the early 1900's, the horticulturist related. Speculators were planting orchards of from 1,800 to 3,000 acres, selling stock in the East to remittance men. Trees stuck in ground.

According to an early account, "We found one block supposed to comprise 1,800 acres, which had apple trees stuck in the ground. They had been good nursery grown trees, but to make planting easier they had cut the roots off so the trees could be pushed into the dirt easier."

Such speculation plantings were made on stump land. Trees were often planted on wet, shallow soils. In Oregon and Washington 600,000 acres of apples were planted in this way during the 1900 to 1914 boom, the horticulturist said.

Henderson Lewelling pioneered the Willamette valley apple and pear industry when he crossed the plains in 1847 with his famous traveling nursery of 700 fruit trees, the horticulturist narrated. He sold the first box of apples in Portland for one dollar. At that time in San Francisco, the same box would bring \$100.

W. K. Smith of Salem, paid \$15 per bushel for apples in 1856. After entering the business, his first crop sold at \$5 per apple to a Salem sawmill owner, Zielski said.

First apple plantings in Hood River valley were made about 1877 with the first commercial orchards going in about 1890, Zielski noted.

A planting boom occurred between 1902 to 1909. The

lamette valley extended from 1900 to 1912. In 1912, the bottom dropped out of the market and people stopped planting in both Hood River and the Willamette valley.

This was the era of great land booms of 6,000 acres in the Dufur area, plantings of large acreages of apples in Sutherlin area and pears in Grants Pass. Main apple varieties being planted then were

- FRUIT STORY SUMMARY**
1. Establishment of Lewelling's pioneer nursery near Milwaukie, Ore. (1847).
 2. Completion of the railroad systems to the Northwest about 1870.
 3. Discovery of gold in California, Oregon and Alaska which brought in population and created a market.
 4. Development of iced refrigerator cars (1900).
 5. Introduction of Delicious apple about 1900 and the Golden Delicious about 1920.
 6. Use of oiled wrapper to prevent scald (1922 to 1930).
 7. Advent of new spray materials to replace lime-sulfur for scab control (1935 to 1940).
 8. Advent of DDT for control of Codling moth. (1940 to 1945).
 9. Introduction of the Red Bartlett pear and the new superior red strains of Red Delicious (1948 to 1959).
 10. Introduction of the bulak bin system of handling fruit (1954 to 1959).
 11. Current development of controlled atmosphere storage.

Yellow Newtown, Esopus Spitzenburg, Ortley, Mammoth, Black Twig, Ben Davis, Arkansas Black, Roman Beauty, Gravenstein, Jonathan.

"Hood River experienced its great pear acreage expansion after 1919 when growers found the pears had withstood the 1919 freeze better than expected," Zielski noted.

According to the early horticultural society records gathered then were primarily "fruit shows" and consisted of naming new varieties; Seth Lewelling exhibited two cherry varieties, according to the society's 1887 records. The society named one of them Lewelling and the other Lewelling named "Bing" after his favorite Chinaman, the OSC horticulturist said.

Spray Rigs Hand-Pumped

First spray rigs used in the fruit industry were hand-operated. Two pumped and one drove with one or two spray operators working on the ground. Pressure then ranged about 50 to 100 pounds. Spray nozzles were flat types mounted on one-quarter inch iron pipes about 14 feet long encased in bamboo. Aluminum pipe and spray guns came later.

First power-sprayers in western Oregon came about 1895 and consisted of a single-cylinder upright Fairbanks-Morse gasoline engine geared to a Myers pump. This cut the crew needed from five to three. Early growers estimated 150 pounds of pressure was possible. Spray materials consisted of 2 pounds Paris Green, 2 pounds of London Purple, 4 pounds of lime in 100 gallons of water. "If we sprayed every week, we sometimes got by with part of the crop being worm-free," an early grower remarked.

Much of the early fruit was sent by refrigerated steamships. Even as early as 1900 and possibly earlier, Spitzenburg apples were freighted to Alaska by steamer from Hood River and to California by barges. The first iced railroad cars came into the Pacific Northwest about 1900, Zielski said.

200 Attend Dance Put On By FFA

By DELMAR SMITH
Crater FFA Reporter
Central Point — Approximately 200 high school students and chaperones attended Crater Future Farmers of America chapter's annual barn dance Friday night, Nov. 20.

Highlights of the dance in the agriculture shop were crowning of the chapter sweetheart and the box social.

Connie McDonough was crowned chapter sweetheart by John Caster, chapter president during intermission. Other candidates for queen were Patsy Charley, Patti Strauss, and Sherley M. McCallister.

Box suppers consisting of sandwiches, fruit and desert had been prepared by the girls attending the dance and were auctioned off to the highest bidders. Some boxes sold for as high as \$6. This money and the admission receipts paid for the dance.

Vic Flood provided the dance music. The Shadows, a St. Mary's school vocal group and Southern Oregon College's Tempests, another vocal group, also entertained the crowd.

Dave Foote was dance chairman and was assisted by Gary Dusenberry, decorations committee chairman and Gary Evans, concessions chairman.

Two Vaccines Rated Hazardous

Salem — Use in Oregon of two hazardous livestock vaccines was banned effective Nov. 18 by the state department of agriculture.

The vaccines are virulent hog cholera virus, known as live virus or blood virus vaccine, and live culture erysipelas vaccine. The latter is technically known as erysipelas rhusiopathiae vaccine.

Both vaccines are completely outlawed in Oregon. This covers the purchase, possession, sale, barter, trade, giveaway or any other disposition or holding of one or both.

These vaccines in the live form are potential spreaders of the respective diseases in swine. It is for that reason, says Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser, state veterinarian, that the vaccines have been banned in Oregon.

Order Limits Use

The same department order makes some change in the regulation which permits livestock owners of two areas in Klamath county to purchase and use anthrax spore vaccine. These are the Fort Klamath - Klamath Marsh areas. This use is authorized only under specific conditions and upon permit from the department at Salem.

Hereafter, all permits for use of the anthrax vaccine will expire on March 1 each year and may be renewed at option of the department.

Drug stores and other handling the anthrax vaccine for sale may sell only to cattle owners holding a valid Oregon permit and all sellers must keep a record — including the permit number as well as name and address of the purchaser — for at least two years.

Copies of this regulation are available from the state department of agriculture, division of animal industry, Salem.

Seed Growers To Hear of Tour

Corvallis — A soil scientist who made a month-long, 10,000-mile tour of the Soviet Union last year will be the featured speaker at Oregon Seed Growers league annual meeting, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, at the Oregon State college.

Dr. D. Wynn Thorne, director of Utah State university agricultural experiment station, will talk on "Soils, Crops and People in Russia" at the Tuesday afternoon session.

Dr. Thorne was a member of an American soil and water scientific team which visited important agricultural areas in Russia as part of the cultural and scientific exchange program between the two countries.

Their tour gave a cross-section of most major agricultural areas in Russia. The group visited ministries of agriculture of the different Soviet Republics, experiment stations, research institutes, reclamation projects, and 17 collective and state farms.

Corvallis—Purpose of the walnut control board—its activities and achievements in the three Pacific Coast states—will be explained to Oregon and Washington nut growers Dec. 3 by Ralph Rush, San Mateo, Calif., assistant manager of the board at McMinnville.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

That golden brown, plumply stuffed bird you enjoy eating this Thanksgiving is considerably different and vastly improved from the bird our Pilgrim forefathers feasted on. It represents a series of evolutions or improvements through the ages.

First of all, the turkey is an American bird. We don't know for sure but when Columbus discovered America he probably discovered the turkey, too. The Spaniards were the first Europeans to eat the bird. As the Spanish conquerors rode through Mexico in search of gold and other wealth they found the Aztec Indians with pens of the birds in their pueblo villages. As early as 1498 the Spanish imported the turkeys to Spain. There the birds proved very popular and quickly became used to their new climate and country.



TOM TURKEY
Humph! Turkeys ain't what they used to be!

However, turkeys came to the American colonies in a roundabout way—Early colonists from Europe brought them to New England. This started the turkey industry in the United States.

Six standard varieties are the bronze, white Holland, bourbon red, Narragansett, black and slate. These were all developed from the wild stock or from varieties descended from the wild stock.

Most popular turkey in the United States seems to be the Bronze turkey according to a nation-wide survey made by the Turkey World. This turkey has color markings like the wild turkey in the Mississippi valley and eastern United States. Only thing now which shows the turkey was developed from the Mexican wild stock are the white markings in the tail of the wild southern turkey. However, the New England wild turkey has brown instead of white in the color pattern of the tail. The domesticated Bronze turkey was crossed with the wild New England stock to produce the large bird we eat now.

The Bronze turkeys are noted for their size and resemblance to the beautiful wild stock. In fact these turkeys are so big they wear saddles. However, these saddles look more like leather aprons and protect the females during mating season when the males rip their backs with their sharp claws.

Growers sweat out the poult stage when the very young birds may die from pneumonia from getting their feet wet, or from various diseases such as turkey pox. Because of diseases the industry has been shifted from the east and Midwest where climatic conditions make it easier to control them.

Growers often refer to their brood as "those silly birds" because they even have to be taught to eat and drink by dipping their beaks in skim milk or water. The poult are "full of oats" too, since growers feed them oats after they are four weeks of age. Then, after careful management and shipment to market these birds finally wind up on the various Thanksgiving tables.

Fruit Industry Eyes More Developments

Although the present "old timer" varieties of pears have served the industry well, new varieties seem possible in the future based on mechanization of both harvesting and packing.

However, many society members see no significant change in the future variety picture. True impact of the red-colored Bartlett on the market is not yet fully determined.

Possibly a winter-type pear with yellow skin, very high quality and good handling characteristics may replace the D'Anjou in new plantings. Some growers believe that a brilliant red-colored winter-type pear of high quality may have a good future.

Some industry leaders are thinking of a smooth, golden russet type winter pear, fairly oval in shape with short or flexible stems for machine handling which will not bruise or bluish easily.

More Bulk Handling

In production methods, automation is the key. Present shift from box and lug to bulk bins will continue with improvements. Increased use and improvement of the straddle carrier are foreseeable.

More extensive use of dwarf trees may be the trend in orchard management. Growth can be controlled through stock selection. Dwarfs are readily sprayed and harvested from near the ground.

Earlier young tree production research is requested from other fruit industry people. Standard pear trees, also, may be planted closer together and allowed to grow taller so mechanical booms and weasels may be used for picking. This would increase production per acre by using more of the area above the valuable orchard lands.

Perhaps in 25 years modified types of moving machines may be pruning apple and pear trees. Also, fertilizer manufacturers might adapt a



PRESENTS CUP—Henry Hartman, former head of the OSC department of horticulture (left) presents the annual Hartman cup award to F. C. Reimer, Medford, retired superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station, for outstanding service to Oregon horticulture. The award was made at the 74th annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural Society in Corvallis.

Basic Principles Apply To Rootstocks

Certain basic principles relative to rootstock performance may be accepted for all fruit areas, W. M. Mellen, horticulturist with the Mid-Columbia Branch Experiment Station, told the annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural Society last week.

Research workers have shown rootstocks can influence the scion variety (shoot or bud variety) by winter hardiness, compatibility, tree size and longevity and fruit production and quality.

"Research over the past 40 years at the Mid-Columbia Experiment Station has emphasized winter hardiness and compatibility. This program has expanded to include growth control and fruit quality phases," Mellen said.

Oriental rootstocks do not perform satisfactorily in the Hood River valley, Mellen pointed out. Growers there are purchasing pear trees grown on such understocks as domestic French which includes seedlings of Bartlett, Winter Nelis, and in some cases, seedlings of the D'Anjou variety. Pyrus communis seedlings (imported from European countries) are available in limited quantities. Research has proven merit of the imported French seedlings as rootstock for commercial varieties. Clones of the Old Home variety are being propagated vegetatively. These stocks are promising where fireblight (such as exists in the Rogue valley) is a serious problem.

Methods for propagating the species P. communis are being investigated by the Oregon Experiment Station. Importance of using propagating materials which are free of known diseases is well-established but should be re-emphasized when discussing clonal rootstocks, Mellen said.

Known satisfactory performing fruit trees must be planted now because of changing economic conditions, the horticulturist said. Experimental data collected in the Hood River valley indicates orchards grown on imported French seedlings have good performance records. Rootstocks of domestic French types (Winter Nelis and Old Home) are promising in young plantings. These rootstocks are still performing satisfactorily in some old orchards under observation.

Many young plantings on Bartlett seedling stocks are vigorous and healthy. However this is not true when winter hardy interstocks are used. Combinations of Bartlett rootstocks with Comice interstocks topworked to commercial varieties grow well in the orchard for five years, then terminal growth ceases followed by a premature reddening of the foliage each season, the horticulturist reported. Whether this condition re-

turns to a problem, the blight resistant variety, Old Home, could be used as a trunk forming interstock by allowing it to develop, the horticulturist added. The following season buds of the desired variety would be inserted in the lateral branches. This is not a common practice but should be considered for a blight susceptible variety as Forelle.

"Orchardists cannot afford to discontinue planting young trees until a stock, which has all the desirable characteristics, is obtained," Mellen said. "Due to different conditions, orchard tree combinations which are satisfactory for one district may be undesirable for another district."

Tips For Building Greenhouse Given

Corvallis—Oregon home gardeners will find tips on constructing and heating small greenhouses in a new bulletin available from county extension offices.

Materials are suggested for either permanent or temporary greenhouses. Diagrams and detailed building information are included in the bulletin, which was prepared by M. G. Huber, OSC extension agricultural engineering specialist, and Stanley E. Wadsworth, OSC professor of floriculture.

Picker Problem Mentioned in New Resolutions

A resolution was approved by the Oregon State Horticultural society during last week's annual meeting to establish a legislative committee "to act on all legislative matters concerning horticultural industry."

The president would be an ex-officio member of the committee, to be appointed by him, according to the resolution.

William Hazeltine, Parkdale, newly elected society president, is empowered to appoint one committee member for one year, one to serve two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years and one for six years.

Reasons given for appointment of the six-man committee were: "Agriculture in general and horticulture in particular has been and is being constantly confronted with restrictive and damaging legislation at all levels of government."

"Without vigorous and timely action by our industry, legislative and executive decrees and directives can and will make it impossible for a healthy horticulture to exist in our state and nation," the resolution stated.

To Promptly Inform

C. O. Rawlings, OSC horticulturist, and newly reelected society secretary is to "promptly inform the commissioner of labor, the Oregon state employment service and the governor of the existing harvest labor shortage," according to a second resolution.

"All necessary action" is to be taken to insure successful harvesting of Oregon's horticultural crops.

"Harvest of Oregon's horticultural crops have been in jeopardy and serious losses have occurred in the past due to the shortage of domestic seasonal labor," the resolution stated.

A memorandum is to be published in the horticultural society's proceedings to Dr. J. P. Kienholz, United States Department of Agriculture plant pathologist, "who served the Oregon tree fruit industry for many years and in a highly capable manner," according to a further resolution.

It was further resolved that a copy of the resolution and of the 1959 proceedings are to be forwarded to his widow expressing the society's "deepest sympathy." Dr. Kienholz died this month.

Milk Sanitarians Course Announced

Salem — Dairymen and others interested will be welcomed at the 8th annual milk sanitarians short course Nov. 30-Dec. 1, announces Kenneth E. Carl of the state department of agriculture. The event will be held in the O.S.C. Food Technology Building at Corvallis under joint sponsorship of the department and the college.

Fifty state and city milk inspectors, plant fieldmen and dairy equipment representatives will attend.

Topics the first day will include farm tank sediment reports; tank and pipeline milk sanitation; Q fever survey; fly control; and cowyard and feed lot construction and sanitation.

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