

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Sometimes a newspaper clipping serves as a bridge across the years.

As we opened a letter from home this week, a folded newspaper clipping peeped from the envelope. The headlines read, "Ex-teacher, 95, Plans to Attend High School Reunion." Over the headlines was a picture of a bald, bespectacled man with white mustache nestled under his nose. His hand was cupped to his ear as if straining to catch the reporter's questions. The story under the picture was brief; all too brief for one of the most colorful teachers the Pacific Northwest will ever know.

He's not a local man. Not many counties have his kind behind the teacher's desk anymore. He would probably be considered too old fashioned for modern educational trends. But, I did notice that one of the aims of the National Defense Act of 1958 is to develop teachers "who would stimulate interest in science and mathematics."

"Daddy" Colton, as he was known to his pupils did just that. During his explanations of algebra and geometry he related some of the dramatic history behind some of the basic mathematical principles. His mustache twitched as he deftly drew geometric diagrams on the blackboard explaining all the while with his high-pitched voice. For "Old Man Colton" as he was called, perhaps somewhat disrespectfully by a later generation of youngsters, was an institution in the old gray, granite-walled school. There he had taught algebra and geometry to at least two generations and maybe three generations of pupils.

Why "Daddy" Colton? His wife died shortly after bringing Grant H. Colton a second daughter. With little help from anybody he raised the two infants by himself. He never remarried. When they came to the high school in which he taught it was only natural that they call him "Daddy." Their friends and other students took up the name, too. Soon it was a nickname.

As we look at his picture again we smell the old pungent odor of oiled wooden floors, the varnish on the old style desks of wrought iron and carved-up wood. We feel the same dryness in the throat as the test problems are written precisely on the board. For "Daddy's" other name was precision. Few of his pupils could imitate this quality. All of them developed at least an understanding of math. He had more than an understanding of young people. A comparatively small, slight man with sharp, but kindly brown eyes he was not a disciplinarian type. But, for some reason his very understanding and kindness seemed to keep quiet order in his classes.

The venerable teacher was the reincarnation of the "Mr. Chips" of storybook and movie screen. He saw his pupils leave their hometown to fight in two wars—one to "end all wars" and the other "to make the world safe for Democracy." One of his "lads" was encountered in the Philippines by ex-classmates. His American education had raised him to the rank of Japanese Naval lieutenant.

Others of his boys are engineers in giant aircraft factories scattered around the nation, are atomic scientists, judges, lawyers, statesmen and writers, to name just a few occupations.

"Daddy" Colton was old-fashioned because he believed in continuous drill on fundamentals. He learned his geometric theorems by reciting them his way down a country road to the milking barns and back home again. He may have been old-fashioned, too, because he seldom ever measured his teacher's day by the wages and hours scale. He always seemed to have plenty of time to help pupils either in the classroom or up in "his rooms." A visit to his rooms was sometimes a severe test of concentration because on Saturday mornings the football game was always booming out over his radio.

Although some of his pupils may have pooh-poohed his theories, they came back later to invite him to dinners to see their young families.

Stories and jokes about the old mathematician are many. He could always laugh at himself as quickly as at the other fellow. But, what is more, he was a dedicated man—dedicated to teaching the youth of his town. Unfortunately "Daddy" Colton and his kind are relegated to a corner in which stands the grandfather clock, the whip from the old country-doctor's buggy and the set of musty-smelling lawbooks of the country lawyer. These, too, were dedicated people. And dedication is a virtue which is disappearing all too rapidly from the American scene.

While we were getting nostalgic, so was somebody else. A number of people, regardless of practicality to all—camper and logger—want to keep some of the woods in complete wilderness. We were surprised to note that the Associated Press reports opposition to the wilderness preservation plan seem to be "diminishing."

From talks we have with farmers, lumbermen and stockmen we thought the opposition may have quieted down but was strong as ever to the idea. In fact, the Oregon Cattlemen's association went on record strongly opposing such a program as the wilderness bill provides for. Perhaps the old time cattlemen is fading out, too. He apparently doesn't bellow as loud as he used to. Perhaps Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) needs more mail. He reports 95 per cent of his mail is favorable to the bill.

Perhaps a new style chain letter should be started with each cattleman of the Rogue Valley writing a letter to the senator and writing another letter a friend expressing his opinion on the wilderness bill and urging that friend to write the senator. Surely two letters would not take too much time to write. This might also apply to the lumberman, who are well organized.

Of course this bill has been milked down a little. Instead of automatic wilderness area designation for approximately 50 million acres in wildlife refuges and forests, the bill has been amended to allow federal agencies to decide on designation of wilderness areas with review by Congress for individual areas.

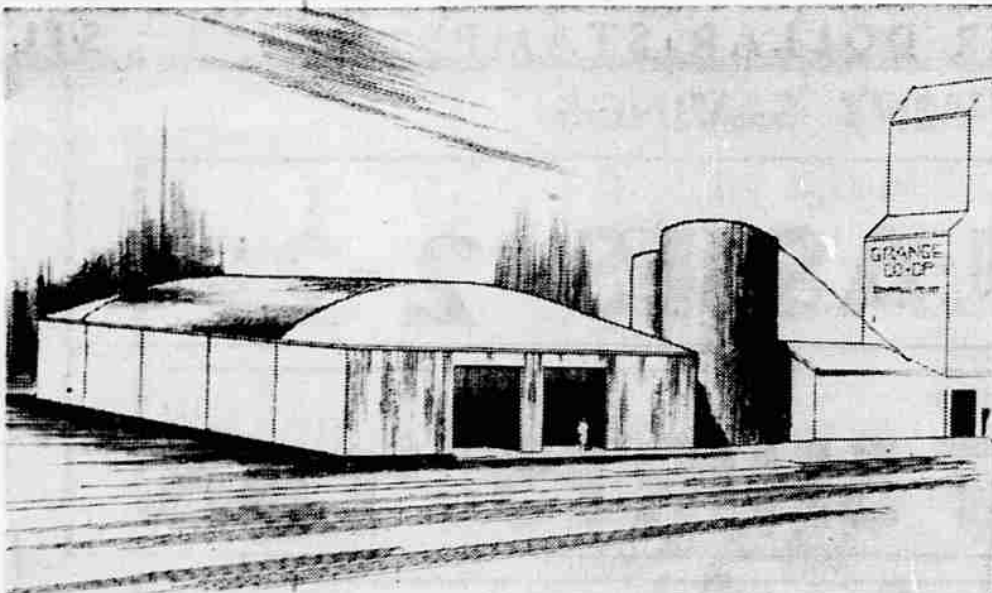
Another provision authorizes livestock grazing to continue where it is already permitted.

The December issue of the National Hog Farmer has an interesting and timely story headlined, "Make Pork Exciting." During the Oregon Cattlemen's association meeting in Portland last month beef promotion was stressed. A well-known and successful advertising man wrote a book once in which he asked advertising men to sell the sizzle in the steak. Maybe that's what the beef growers will have to do.

We have seen demonstration of coffee when the customer was served with a piping hot cup, and of appetite wetting demonstrations of wieners and other commodities. But we have yet to see a demonstration in which the home economist slaps a piece of steak in a frying pan and lets it sizzle in front of the customers or preparation of other savory cuts of beef. We'll bet the smell wafting down from the street from a bakery sells as many loaves of bread, pastries and cakes as any window display or advertisement.

Dave Seibel, assistant advertising manager of Rath Packing company, Waterloo, Ia., told a processing and merchandising workshop of the National Swine Industry conference pointed out. "Retailers are promoting pork, but they have 5,000 other items to worry about, so the responsibility can't rest on their shoulders."

The challenge is to make pork appealing, exciting and vital in all meal plans. Seibel told the audience. The consumer didn't want sliced bread until it was invented. She



GRANGE CO-OP BUILDING - Construction started Nov. 23 of a new warehouse at Central Point for the Grange Cooperative Supply association. The new building estimated at \$22,520 cost will be of tilt-up concrete construction with 7,000 square feet of floor space and an enclosed ramp between the new warehouse and the co-op elevator. It is to be completed by Jan. 22, 1960.

Farm Notes

Washington—UPI—Agriculture Department reports to day that farm marketings for 1959 probably would be about 27 per cent above last year's record high level.

Based on Nov. 1 conditions, the total volume of crop and livestock sales this year will be about 27 per cent above the 1947-49 average, the department said.

This contrasted with earlier predictions that farm income this year would be down 15 per cent from 1958 and that income would be even lower next year.

Washington—UPI—Rep. Page Belcher (R-Okla.) says farmers must develop nationwide support if they want any new federal farm laws.

Belcher told the National Milk Producers Federation's 43rd annual convention recently that farmers now make up no more than 12 per cent of the nation's population.

Washington—UPI—The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a drive to eliminate residues of penicillin and DDT from milk.

The FDA disclosed Thursday that orders to start the campaign went out to the agency's field offices last month. Officials said some milk samples probably already have been tested.

A spokesman said the residues were not considered an immediate public health problem. But he said they are illegal. If FDA inspectors find any interstate shipments of milk with penicillin or insecticide residues, the milk may be seized.

Washington—UPI—The cranberry scare is not expected to put a serious crimp in the future use of insecticides and pesticides, an American Cynamid Company expert says.

Dr. J. T. Thursday, director of research and development, said here Friday that farmers need the new scientific approaches for high production.

Without the fertilizers and pesticides, he added, the farmer would be unable to control insects that could devour the nation's agricultural output.

Washington—UPI—President Eisenhower says he hopes the U.S. exhibit at the World Agricultural Fair in New Delhi, India, will serve the cause of world peace.

never asked for instant coffee and she was satisfied with spray deodorants until roll-ons came along.

Elvera Horrell, OSC extension agricultural economist reports Oregonians ate an average of 6 pounds of turkey during the year and before Thanksgiving. This is nearly double that eaten by each person 10 years ago. The broiler industry should be happy that its extensive promotion is beginning to pay off. Consumption of chicken hit a record high. People are reported to be eating more beef, pork and lamb this year, but less veal.

Turkey output hit a new record, too, so the price should remain low for awhile, anyway. The housewife should find that canned and frozen vegetables carry low price tags since the supply is well above average, according to the OSC report. This should also apply to the greater supply of fresh and processed fruits, especially citrus fruits. She will find also more sweet potatoes, dry beans and peas and edible fats and oils.

The OSC economist reports food is cheap. Retail grocery prices in 46 representative U. S. cities for the current season averaged only 2 per cent below the same months last year. Portland showed practically no change. However, while food prices have been climbing, so have wages. Portland food prices have risen 18 per cent and Oregon factory wages climbed 37 per cent. The OSC economist estimates it now takes the Oregon factory worker about 50 minutes of work time to buy the food that required an hour of labor 10 years ago.

Food should be even more plentiful in the future, the OSC economist forecasts, based on the current farm production trends. Weather during the growing season, however, is the key.



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Grange Co-op Has New Storage

Expansion of the Grange Cooperative Supply association business has resulted in a shortage of storage space and need for a new warehouse now under construction in Central Point, a Co-op spokesman said.

Work started Nov. 23 and contract calls for completion by Jan. 22, 1960. The new building will be of tilt-up concrete construction with 7,000 square feet of floor space with an enclosed ramp between the new warehouse and the Co-op elevator.

The Co-op plans to convert the basement of its elevator to bulk storage of grains and utilize the new warehouse for sack storage of manufactured feeds.

Co-op officials estimate their sales volume has increased 50 per cent over last year. The Roseburg explosion and fire and the fire which destroyed the Morton feed mill in Medford contributed considerably to the Co-op's sales increase, it was explained.

Cut Holly Care Told By Agent

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent

Cut holly keeps longer when treated and properly handled. This is important when sending holly to other parts of the country.

For treating, the holly should be clean and have mature red berries with good quality foliage. It should be cut when the temperature is above freezing. Handle it carefully to prevent bruising the berries and scratching the foliage.

To treat, dip the holly, just for a moment, in a fruit-holding hormone solution. Drain off the excess moisture. Pack in cardboard boxes lined with wax paper to prevent drying out.

The fruit-holding hormone products are available at garden and farm supply stores as "Appi-Set," "Fruitone," "Niagara-Stick," "S.N.A.," "Steadfast," and "Vitalone." Use at three times the strength recommended for apples.

Holly can be re-dipped after 12 to 14 days, if necessary, to further extend its life. After dipping it should be shipped or stored, if not used soon, at as cool a temperature as possible. A temperature at or slightly above 32 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal.

Other Christmas greenery can be treated to extend its life like holly. The success of this treatment on other plants varies with the different plants, however.

There is a growing interest on the part of farmers in corn silage. One of the reasons says New Holland "Grassland News," is easier corn harvesting with field forage harvesters.

Growers Unanimous On Bins, AGA Engineer Tells Industry

Growers trying them out were unanimous that tote bins are an improved method for handling D'Anjou pears, R. B. Leavens, industrial engineer of the Apple Growers association reported following a recent experiment at the Oak Grove plant.

This resulted in labor savings in both the orchard and the packing house, Leavens said.

"The results generally substantiate that the advantages of tote bins for D'Anjou pears are comparable to the advantages of handling apples in bins as indicated by several seasons of study and experience in other areas," Leavens noted.

Advantages Listed
General advantages and conclusions made by growers and other persons involved in the trial were:

1. Pickers preferred bins.
2. Picker production was increased slightly by using bins.
3. Supervision of picking into bins was easier.
4. Distribution of bins required 30 to 50 per cent less man hours than lugs.
5. Orchard clean-up time was reduced about 20 per cent with bins.
6. The "float" of bins in the orchard was small compared to lugs.
7. Maneuvering in a close-planted orchard was facilitated by bins.
8. Bins could be handled in wet, hilly orchards the same as or better than lugs.
9. Time to cover fruit in bins is 50 per cent less than lugs.
10. Fruit pilferage in the orchard was reduced.
11. Mappower savings in swamping fruit ranged from \$6.70 to \$15.50 per thousand lugs.
12. Equipment investment could be recovered by first year savings for some growers.
13. A front end loader fork attachment is an efficient means of handling tote bins.
14. Use of straddle trailer for delivery to packing house is a convenient method, although not necessarily cheaper than other methods.
15. Handling time at the packing house is reduced nearly 30 per cent.
16. 8.5 per cent more fruit was dumped on the bin dump line than the lug line with automatic dump.
17. No significant difference in bruising and stem punctures was observed. Incidence of stem punctures seemed to be influenced by care in picking.
18. The tilt dump is a satisfactory means of dumping.
19. The bin used performed satisfactorily except for the three bottom slats of the pallet being too weak. The increase in tare weight by as much as 46 per cent during rainy weather was bothersome.

Site Selected
A packing house in D'Anjou area with a layout suitable for bulk handling was selected — the Oak Grove plant. Based on bin dumping bruise studies in the Yakima area, a tilt dump was installed to dump onto a 48 inch variable speed belt leading to the washer, Leavens said explaining the experiment.

Seven growers with varying tonnages joined the experiment. A straddle trailer and jeep were available for hauling to the packing house to reduce the grower investment in fork lifts. Average haul was short so a trailer could supply the packing house by hauling only one high, four bins per load. Four growers used inexpensive three-point lifts on their tractors. Another grower had a rear hi-lift fork attachment already, and another had the use of a rear hi-lift and front end loader. High lifts were

used to load orchard trailers or trucks with a two bin high load.

A study of AGA cold storage indicated that a 47 inch by 47 inch by 28 inch deep bin would be the best size for the operation. Six hundred fir bins equivalent to 22 pear lugs were ordered.

In picking one grower reported a production increase of 5 to 20 lugs per day when pickers began using bins. Another experienced only a slight increase.

Pickers Like Bins
Almost all pickers interviewed favored the bins. Four pickers left for Yakima when the grower switched back to lugs for several days. Only disadvantage mentioned was in light or scattered orchards when the picker had to walk a greater distance or wait for the bin to be moved. This proved to be a minor problem when bin placement was improved, Leavens noted.

Proper filling of a bin was much easier than with lugs. Estimated savings in time for bin distribution was 30 to 50 per cent compared to lugs. Labor savings in cleaning up the orchard was about 20 per cent, the engineer reported.

"To operate efficiently with lugs it was necessary to have a greater quantity in the orchard than was required actually for the fruit. Bins reduced this 'float'."

It was possible to operate on any slope that a tractor and trailer could climb, the study showed. Some growers even had more confidence in bins for a hillside operation. Bins resulted in a 50 per cent labor saving when it was necessary to cover fruit in the orchard during rainy weather. Reduction in stolen fruit and lugs in the orchard also resulted since the large bin was hard to haul away.

Ninety per cent of the bins were hauled by straddle trailer. This was not necessarily cost saving, but it was more convenient and allowed the grower to spend more time on the orchard.

One grower's cost for loading bins onto bolster was \$4.60 per 1,000 compared to \$11.30 per 1,000 loading lugs. One

grower figured first year savings would pay for his equipment investment, the engineer illustrated.

Methods Outlined
Three methods were used for delivering fruit to packing house: (1) Direct from the orchard by fork lift, (2) Loaded onto orchard wagon by fork lift and delivered to the packing house, (3) Loaded onto bolsters at the edge of the orchard for straddle trailer pick up and delivery.

Jeep and straddle trailer operation required the following average times: (1) Round trip to an orchard 0.9 miles from the packing house including weighing—10 minutes. (2) Average for pickups from tree growers between 1 and 2 miles—14 minutes. This includes delays and allowances. (3) During Newtown harvest when some loads were delivered to a packing house 8 miles away—average time 40 minutes.

Grower's cost for straddle trailer hauling was 44 cents a bin or 2 cents per lug for distances less than 2 miles.

Handling time for bins by using grab arm attachments on lift trucks is at least 30 per cent less than for lugs, the engineer reported. One lift truck was usually able to unload trailers, stockpile and feed packing lines, he added.

The tilt dump also performed satisfactorily, Leavens said. One man pulled the bin manually down the gravity track into the dump, operated the dump, controlled the belt speed, pushed the empty bin aside, weighed the empty bin and had spare time available.

"Average dump per hour was 10.6 bins or 233 lugs compared to 215 lugs per hour on an adjacent line using an automatic barrel dump," Leavens said.

Analysis of D'Anjou in bins and lugs showed no large difference in stem punctures. Number of stem punctures depended on closeness of picker supervision.

Major weakness of the bin construction used was that three 1 inch by 6 inch bottom boards on the pallet were not strong enough to support a two high load on a bolster.

Stockmen Plan Annual Meeting

"Items which affect every farmer and rancher will be discussed at the annual Jackson Stockmen's association meeting on Thursday, Dec. 17 in the Central Point Grange hall," according to Armin Richter, association president.

Committee reports will include branding and theft, marketing and sanitation, legislation, taxation, range problems and other topics which directly affect the stockman, Richter said. Bill Bray, owner and operator of the Midway Auction yard will talk on the fall and December feeder sales.

Richter will speak during the day-long meeting on the many successful activities of the association during the past year. These include membership growth in the local association by 57 to 75 stockmen and over 200 in the state association, recommendations made to the state association concerning the state veterinarian problem and the successful solution, method of developing membership and the root plow experiment this summer.

Officers and directors will be elected, also, Richter said. The Grange will serve the lunch.

Given a choice, livestock prefer baled hay to loose hay as feed. Baling saves nutrient-rich leaves that ordinarily blow away from loose hay, and baled hay is more efficient to feed because there's less waste.

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