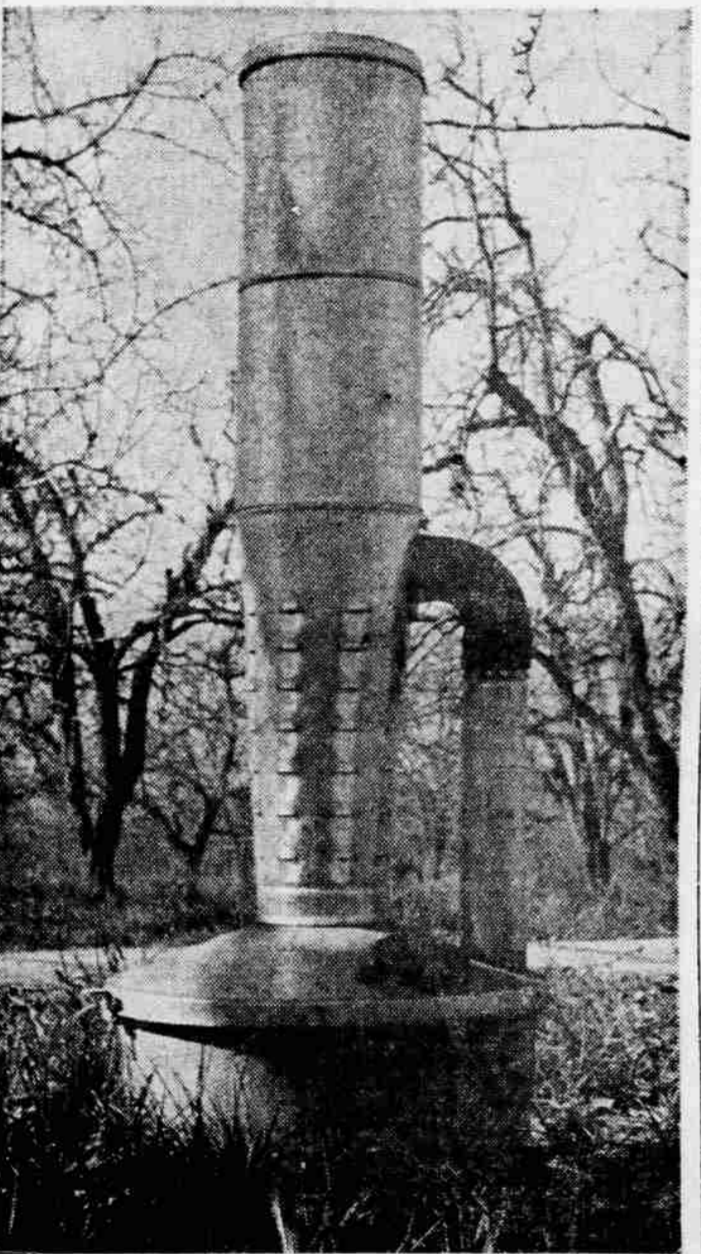


Orchard Heaters Being Converted in Valley



OLD STYLE—This pair of flat topped breadpan heaters were photographed in the Vilas rd. area. A group of pear trees can be shown in the background. This type of heater with the lard pail type are considered heavy smoke producers and are being replaced at the rate of 20 per cent a year in the Rogue valley orchards. These heaters are called breadpans because of their shape.



NEW STYLE—A return stack heater stands tall among a group of pear trees at the southern fringe of Medford. This type is considered one of the less smoke producing heaters. The gases returned to the heater bowl by the short elbow pipe on the side and vaporize the oil. Orchardists and agricultural authorities point out that there is no such thing as a smokeless heater. All heaters produce at least some smoke, they say. Area orchardists estimate they have a \$50,000 investment in heaters ordered, heaters already in the orchards or stockpiled for assembly in the orchards.

Heating Season To Start Soon

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

With the orchard heating season tentatively scheduled to start within a week or so, Jackson county residents are wondering how bad the smoke from the heaters will be this year.

The Jackson County Fruit Growers League has recommended that orchardists replace their smokier types of smudgepots at the rate of 20 per cent a year over a five-year period. Recommended is the return-stack heater, which produces less smoke than the "bread pan" or "lard pail."

Dunbar Carpenter, Medford fruit grower, was appointed by the county court to represent the fruit industry in the anti-air pollution campaign. He estimates that approximately 88 per cent of the peargrowers with open type heaters have signed a written agreement to convert their pots at the recommended rate, and are doing so.

Of an estimated 50,627 open type heaters formerly used, 10,000 have been converted, replaced by new or used return-stack heaters or ordered for replacement. This would bring the current conversion well within the one-fifth or 20 per cent agreed upon.

Carpenter pointed out that this conversion represents a total investment for the fruit industry of well over \$50,000. **25 to 40 Per Acre**

Growers figure they should have from 25 to 40 hotstack type or less smoke producing heaters on an acre to do an effective job of preventing frost damage to the tender fruit buds. At an average cost of \$7 per pot this would mean \$210 to \$280 an acre conversion cost.

Growers said the open heaters are more effective since they keep the heat down low and spread it out horizontally where it does the most good. Return stacks tend to shoot it upwards past the trees.

A Mail Tribune reporter recently toured orchards on the fringes of Medford and various ones at the north and south ends of the county. Generally, the orchardists are living up to their agreement.

All the orchards inspected at the southern fringes of Medford are converting as rapidly as they can. One grower has replaced 50 per cent of his heaters with the return-stack types, although the agreement calls for only 20 per cent replacement.

Have New Pots
Growers in this area's pear orchards have row on row of shiny new pots with the over-size central stack and the short elbow of pipe which returns the hot gases to the bowl of the heater to vaporize the oil for more complete combustion. They ranged from the road near residences to the center of their orchards. Most of the growers in the fringe areas are concentrating the less smoke-producing heaters in the orchard areas near homes.

From the center to the other side of the orchards we saw the square black shapes of the "bread pan" type. These are old style heaters which resemble the old-fashioned pans in which our grandparents baked bread.

These are the heaters which orchardists say spread out more heat, but also produce more smoke. The flat slide covers can be opened a crack or slid back all the way according to the amount of flame desired.

Easier to Handle
They are easier to handle in the orchards compared to the top heavy return stacks.

Owners of the orchards near the new subdivisions with their brightly painted homes are sensitive to public opinion. They frankly admit their public relations sagged badly after growers were forced to heat for 10 consecutive days last season and as long as 6 hours a stretch with all of the heating equipment they could lay their hands on to save the fruit. At the same time, they point to the high cost of conversion.

"They want us to change our pots to help the community, but what is the community willing to do to help us to make this conversion?" one veteran grower here wanted to know.

Offers Fund Start
One Medford jeweler offered a large sum of money to start a pot conversion fund for the poorer or smaller growers. So far nobody has offered to add to his offer, that we know of.

None of the institutions which lend money to orchardists seems willing to ease their loan rates to help the smaller or marginal producer with his pot conversion.

So this pot conversion program may be another factor in making the large orchards larger and eliminating the smaller ones. The smaller orchardists may even turn more of their land into real estate developments taking it out of orchard production altogether. Considerable orchard acreage has already gone for subdivisions.

No Lower Rates
"It would be impossible for us to lower our interest rates or make our terms any more flexible than they are now," according to a spokesman for an institution which handles many of the orchardists' loans.

"Our annual interest charges now are 7 per cent. How high or low this interest charge goes depends on the availability of money for loans and the individual orchard operation covered."

This loaning institution spokesman suggested integration as a possible solution to financing "poor" growers. The smaller orchardists would combine under the SOS cooperative packing house in Medford, which in turn would turn the financial arrangement over to a farm loan institution.

This would mean contract operations similar to the system fostered by the southern broiler industry.

However, this brought some questions, and critical snorts from one of the more pessimistic and perhaps more realistic, agricultural authorities in the valley.

Wouldn't Join Pool
"A good operator in fair financial condition certainly wouldn't join a pool with a poor, inefficient operator," he stated.

Approximately 12 years ago following a serious and lengthy orchard heating period, residents poured out their complaints about the black smudgepot smoke. It was suggested then that a five year program of pot replacement be set up like the one which the fruit industry is backing, generally, now. Some orchardists started converting then. These are ahead now. Many others let it slide.

Some of the smaller orchardists will not be heating this year because they frankly admit they can't afford to convert their pots. A large number of orchards did not have any pots visible.

There are many more shipments of the new return-stack heaters due in the valley before the heating season, we were told. Some of the orchards in the normally warmer and less exposed locations may not have to heat and may be gambling on past experience.

Blanket of Cold Air
Because the valley is usually covered by a blanket of cold air from the ground up during the heating season, wind machines which are effective in southern California are generally inefficient here.

However, the 401 orchard, Holloway orchard and the Old Sky orchard can use the machine effectively over at least part of their acreage.

These machines are placed atop a high steel tower with large airplane type propellers mounted fore and aft powered by electricity or a gas engine. Placed over the right kind of topography these machines can suck the warm air down to an orchard allowing it to flow over the trees.

The Medford pear industry, already noted for its advanced techniques and continuing research in harvesting and handling fruit, is trying every possible gimmick to reduce the smoke and yet more effectively warm the fruit trees.

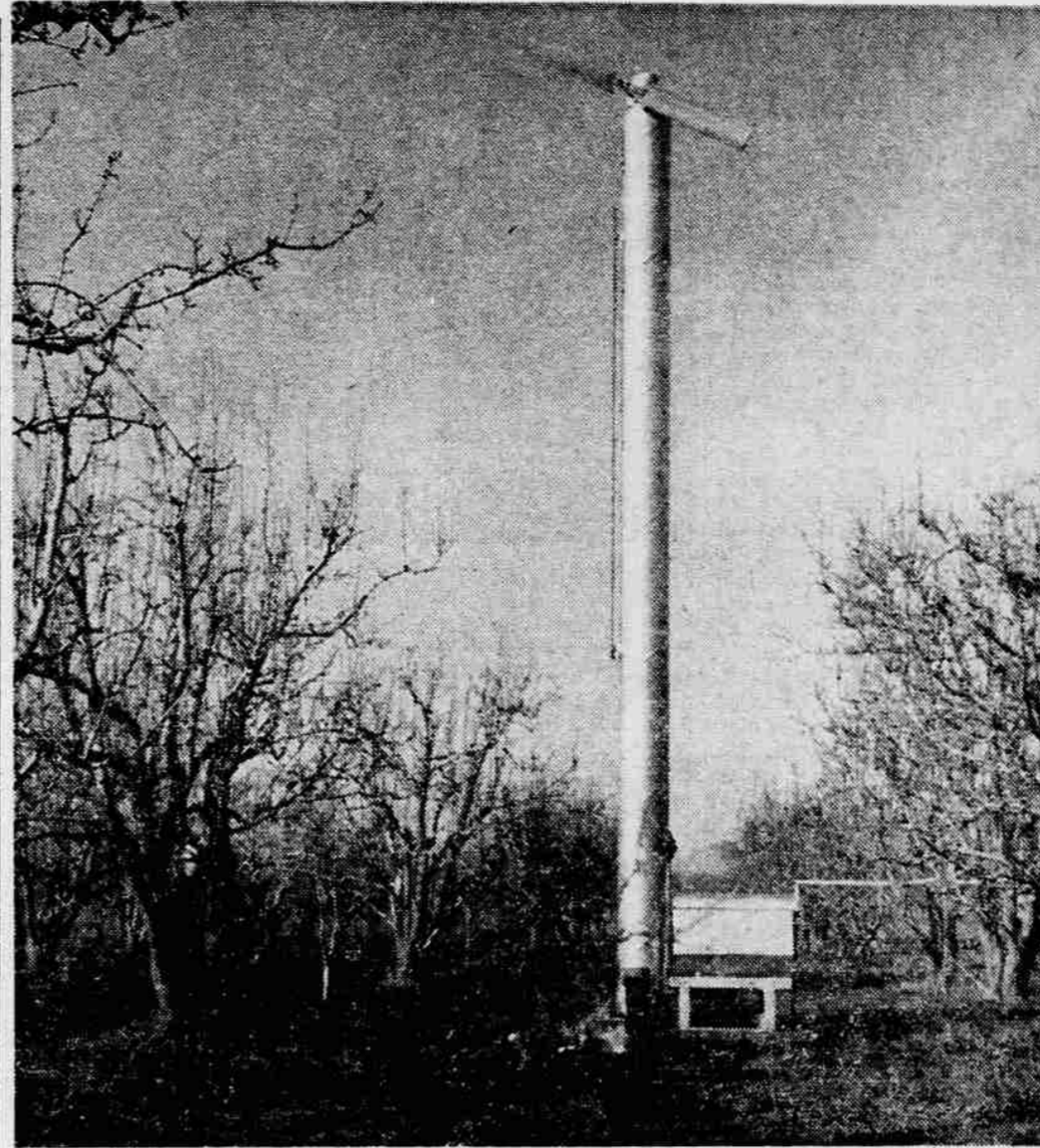
Use of Presto-Logs
One of these newer ideas is use of Presto-logs in open pots. However, compared to the oil burning heaters their burning time is short and the logs tend to break or crumble in wet weather. They are also bulky to handle. These are being used on a limited basis, however.

The same jeweler who offered funds for pot conversion also suggested that small plastic tents be dropped over

the fruit trees for protection against frost.

"It would be far simpler to drop a large plastic tent over Medford and let us heat the way we always have," an orchardist commented wryly.

The fact remains that some small orchardists may yet burn the tires outlawed by the fruit industry generally. One peach orchard in the Phoenix area was observed to have a large stockpile of rubber tires.



WIND MACHINE—In a few of the valley's orchards where topography is suitable wind machines are used to suck the warm air down to allow it to flow over the fruit trees. Charles E. Henry, production superintendent for Pinnacle Packing company, and Paul Culbertson, Medford area orchardist, stand near a wind machine in the 401 orchards north of Medford. In the foreground is a Lazy Flame heater, another of the hot stack heaters which vaporize the gases causing a more complete vaporizing of the smudge oil and hence less smoke.

4-H Club News

Ruch Electricity Club
A meeting of the Ruch 4-H Electricity club was held at the Travis boys home recently. The meeting was conducted by President Clyde Travis.

Demonstrations were given by Dan Hackett on a flashlight he made; Boyd Travis on a flashlight and two and three way switch, and William Travis on an electric motor he made.

New members are Ray Cook, Bob Cook, Fritz Ramsey and Ronny Thames. William Travis, Reporter

Crater Teen-A-Paige Club
The Crater Teen-A-Paige 4-H club held a meeting at the home of their leader, Mrs. Sidener, and daughter, Carolyn, March 8.

A special guest, Mrs. Weatherford, spoke on pointers in pressing and ironing different types of materials, and parts of clothing. It was interesting, and everyone learned something.

On Monday, March 14, at 10 a.m. the club members are going to meet at the Pinkham home and go to the Medford Yardage Shop to look at different types of materials. Afterwards, they will go to North's Chuck wagon for lunch.

The Teen-A-Paige's 4-H window was done last Saturday by Allison Pinkham, Mrs. Pinkham and Mrs. Sidener, in Lillie's Beauty Shop, Central Point.

On Feb. 20, Judy Daniels, Sharon Tompson, Mona Schroeder and Sue Higinbotham met at the Sidener home to fill pressing hams.

The next meeting will be at Nancy and Elaine McKay's home on April 6.

Two parents, Mrs. Boes and Mrs. Tompson visited the meeting. Refreshments were served by Sharon Trautman. Sue Higinbotham, Reporter

Central Point Cudchewers
The Central Point Cudchewers 4-H club met recently at the home of their leader, Mrs. Anhorn, on Freeman rd. There was a short meeting and then the members made and prepared decorations for the 4-H window display.

The local office of the Oregon State Tax commission will be open at 124 West Fourth st. on Mondays to help taxpayers in filing state income tax returns, according to O. D. Binegar Jr., office manager.

Dates when the office will be open are March 14, 21, 28, April 4 through 8 and April 11 through 15.

Those persons seeking help should bring copies of their 1958 and 1959 federal returns if possible plus full details on any questions, Binegar suggested.

All-Talent Show Set in Ashland

Ashland—Ashland's all-high talent show will be presented Monday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ashland High school gymnasium.

The event will be sponsored by the Ashland Band Boosters with proceeds helping to finance the high school band's trip to the Portland Rose Festival June 11.

Talent show acts range from the comical to the classical, starting both musical and acting talents. A major feature of the program will be the "Riffs," an eight-piece musical group consisting of Russ Blair, Judy Berg, Jim Lewis, Bud Lininger, Jeanne Millet, Sharon Pretzman, Denny Reter and Bob Voris.

A dance for those attending will follow the show.

Tickets may be purchased from Ashland band members or their families, students appearing in the talent show, the Palace Cafe, and the Ashland Laundry.

An estimated \$1,800 has been set as the goal necessary to send the band to the Portland Rose Festival, according to Raoul Maddox, band director. The amount is based on costs of last year's trip to the event.

The Band Boosters hope to promote the entry of a float representing Ashland in the festival parade. The entry would entitle the Ashland band to march in the festival's Grand Floral Parade.

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Evening Classes at College Are Listed

Ashland—Evening classes at Southern Oregon college this spring will include courses in ceramics, painting, orchestra, education, psychology, health and physical education. Mrs. Mabel W. Winston, registrar, has announced.

Students and adults wishing to attend the classes must enter a transcript of high school and college records and file an admission blank with the registrar's office. A minimum enrollment fee of \$21, which will cover the cost of two credit hours, is required, plus \$10.50 for each additional credit hour.

Classes will begin the week of March 28, and during that time the registrar's office will be open for registration from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Students may enroll no later than the second meeting of the class.

Ceramics will be instructed by Otto Wilda from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays. Wilda will also have ceramic sculpture, from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays. Richard Doi will teach painting on Tuesday.

Music 196 and 396, orchestra, will be instructed by Dr. Herbert Cecil at 7:30 p.m. Mondays. Dr. Donald Moore will have foundations of education between 7 and 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Psychology of learning will be staffed by Martin Elle, 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays. First aid will be instructed by Dr. Ruth Beber at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, and skating, will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The registrar's office will answer any additional inquiries, Mrs. Winston said.

Rogue Association Members Return

Four members of the Rogue Wonderland association have returned from Salem where they presented requests regarding highway changes to the state highway commission. They were among those appearing at a two-day meeting of the commission.

A resident attending were Richard Eastin, president of the association; Leo Hoag, Paul Doe, and Steve Wilson.

Of particular interest to the association were detour plans in the Cascade Gorge section of Highway 62 while construction is under way and a request for \$70,000 additional annual maintenance for Highway 62. The money, according to Eastin, would be used in addition to the regular maintenance for cut back and shoulder fills and partial repaving.

Dick Knight to Attend Detroit Meeting
Richard Knight, Dick Knight company, Medford, plans to attend a series of factory-dealer council meetings March 16, 17, and 18 in Detroit as a delegate-at-large according to Frank Fisher, Portland Regional manager for the Plymouth-De Soto-Valiant division, Chrysler corporation.

Knight will represent all the states, Fisher explained. This is the first of factory-dealer council meetings since the formation of the Plymouth-De Soto-Valiant division of the Chrysler corporation last summer.

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Red Cross Seeks Funds in County

The Jackson county Red Cross chapter is accepting cash contributions to help alleviate suffering in Agadir, Morocco, local officials said Friday.

An earthquake March 1 leveled much of the city, causing an estimated 4,000 deaths and 5,000 injuries.

The Red Cross said cash contributions designated for earthquake relief will be transmitted to the area office in San Francisco through normal channels for forwarding to Red Cross officials in Morocco and the Moroccan Red Crescent.

The local Red Cross chapter also is conducting its annual fund raising campaign in areas of Jackson county not served by a united fund.

United Medford Crusade and the Ashland-Talent United Fund budget monies to the Red Cross, and fund raising drives will not be conducted where those funds serve an area.

Programs are planned in Jacksonville-West Side; Ruch-Applegate; Central Point, Gold Hill, Rogue River, Eagle Point, Shady Cove, Butte Falls, Prospect and Phoenix, officials said.

A CURE-ALL
Memphis, Tenn. — UPI — City Judge Beverly Boushe dismissed charges of public drunkenness against James Neal, 55, after Neal said he was trying to cure a gallstone attack with a home remedy compounded of beer, epsom salts, vinegar, water, gin and a cup of laundry bluing.

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