

# Farm and Garden

## Pear Tree Decline Study Explained, History Given

Editor's Note: The following article is one of a series of stories on pear decline in the Rogue River valley based on excerpts from a paper prepared by Prof. Henry Hartman, horticulturist at Oregon State college. C. B. Cordy, Jackson county horticultural agent, H. Ronald Cameron, John R. Higdon and Harold J. Jensen, Professor Hartman, who has been heading the decline study here, was scheduled to discuss the decline problem and his latest findings during a meeting of the pear industry here earlier this year. Under doctor's orders since his heart attack, Hartman has not yet been able to come to Medford.

What is the pear tree decline research? What are its objectives? What is the history of decline? What are other aspects of tree sickness?

The pear tree decline research in the Rogue valley is a joint project between the Fruit Growers League of Jackson county and the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. The league has helped finance the project. Individual members provide some labor, supplies and facilities. The Oregon agricultural experiment station pays its workers' salaries except for that of Henry Hartman, former head of the OSC horticulture department, who is heading the project. It also finances incidental expenses and travel. OSC also provides clerical help, laboratory facilities, and greenhouse space for the work at Corvallis.

Southern Oregon branch experiment station also provides some personnel and facilities. The Oregon Extension service is carrying on certain phases of the work also.

The present project got underway Aug. 1, 1958. However, preliminary studies of pear-tree decline were made prior to the 1958-59 fiscal year. Present research is a crash program aimed at saving the present pear tree generation. Researchers hope to find preventive measures for specific troubles which often come to light long before the actual causes are fully revealed.

Decline History Given  
Various forms of pear tree

decline are found in different parts of the world where pears are grown commercially. In the United States the trouble was first seen in the state of Washington. Extensive damage was done to that state's pear orchards particularly the trees on Japanese root stock. Later the same trouble was observed in this area. Although the trouble is found in trees with both French and Japanese root stock it seems more prevalent in the latter type. One case was found in the Willamette valley in 1959. It was found in various parts of California, also, during the past season.

Due to work done so far, it is possible to separate many of the ailing trees from true decline and give specific causes.

Rogue valley pear trees are seriously injured or killed, often, by high water tables or "wet feet." This trouble occurred long before the decline problem was discovered. Japanese root stock is more susceptible to "wet feet." No rootstock is immune to the high water table trouble, however. This problem has increased during the past few years. The wet seasons of 1955-56 and 1957-58 added to the problems. Precipitation increase each year from 1943 to 1958 also aggravated the problem. Fairly recent changes in irrigation practices in the immediate vicinity of the orchards also increased the problem.

Different than one hurt by true decline, a tree injured by water alone usually shows retardation of growth and even "die-back" at the terminals but may send up suckers from the frame work of branches.

Poor Strains Troublesome  
Poor strains of rootstock are another cause of ailing trees in the Rogue valley. So far, five proven cases of this condition have been found. Due to this type of tree trouble trees have not grown normally since being planted. They have been dwarfish or scrubby from the start.

Shallow soils is another ailing tree category. Trees in this type of soil often collapse during periods of extremely high temperatures and low relative humidities.

Injury from smudge or has also given trees symptoms

similar to decline. Trees injured by oil soaking trunks or roots collapse during the latter part of the growing season.

Tired trees is yet another classification of tree trouble. This is indicated by insufficient annual growth, lack of deep green color in leaves and a tendency toward low yields and unsatisfactory fruit size. This trouble is not fully revealed yet by research, the agricultural scientists reported. Low nitrogen levels in the soil is not associated with this problem. It usually occurs in trees with large quantities of nitrogen. Failure to utilize properly the nutritional elements available is a more likely cause.

There are a number of miscellaneous ailments. Trees girdled by rodents also show pear-decline like symptoms. Collar rot is caused by action of soil fungus organisms. Numbers of trees in the valley suffering from this trouble is not known. Old blight cankers in the roots is yet another miscellaneous problem. This problem has decreased in the valley in recent years. However, there was a time when pear trees used to die from root blight even though trunks and large branches did not reveal blight organism presence.

### Plant Services Shown In Film

Salem — A second 20-minute 16mm sound color film, "For Crop and Man," is now available for showing to interested Oregon growers.

The film depicts how the division of plant industry, state department of agriculture, serves agriculture and consumers. The film includes fruit and vegetable harvest and processing scenes in western and central Oregon, nursery activity, and plant pest and disease surveys, ragweed control operations. It takes to the skies in plane dusting operations over Umatilla county grain fields and glimpses weather modifiers (rain makers, for example) at work.

The film is a department production. It is available from state department of agriculture, information office, Salem.

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Uncle Dan sez: Me and my old lady was going to church Sunday morning and I had to drive 10 miles an hour for about 2 mile behind a fool woman driver on account of not being able to get around her. I finally passed her just as we had to stop after getting into the highway, giving her a mighty mean look as I went by. She pulled up aside me at the highway, stuck her head out the window and hollered "If you're going to church, get in a better humor!" It shore did make me feel cheep'n a wood nickel.

They wasn't many folks at church on account of a little rain and the preacher started off by saying it was a funny thing to him how 50 drops of rain could keep 100 folks from church. It got him in a bad humor and he worked the congregation over good, especially them that was absent. He finally got on the subject of people being money crazy and allowed as how the pore and humble and ignorant would get to heaven first. I been humble and ignorant all my life but I ain't ever been able to work up any great joy over the blessings of poverty. Just between you and me, that woman hollered a better sermon out the window in about 10 words than our preacher give us in a hour and 10 minutes. I reckon preachers, like everybody else, has their off days.

Well, the tax assessor was out our way sneaking around last week, which is mighty bad in a election year. But I found out a long time ago it gits you no place to argue with a tax assessor. His mind was made up afore he ever looked at your propity, maybe afore he got out of bed that morning. Arguing with them tax fellers is worse than arguing with a woman, which is about like trying to read a newspaper in a high wind.

I give up on the fair sex when we got girl bull fighters and winnup rasslers, and when the tax assessor got to measuring the pitch of my barn roof, I sold my herd and got me a rocking chair. Them cannibals out on that island in the Pacific has got the only fool-proof solution I've ever saw for the tax situation. They eat the tax collector.

My old lady come home this morning from shopping and got out her old trunk and started counting her Great-Grandpa's Confederate money. I was curious but didn't let on I was looking. Wimmen is funny that way and sometimes you get more information if you just keep quiet. But I finally give up and ask her what she was doing with that Confederate money. She said she had just decided that Confederate money was now worth about the same as U. S. money and she wanted to see how much she had.

Ted Kennedy, younger brother of Sen. John Kennedy, dropped into the office Saturday led by the local Kennedy campaign manager Robert Boyer, Medford attorney. He was following up his brother's appearance here some weeks ago. We asked him a number of questions including how his brother's chances stood with the agricultural states. Naturally, he said he expects his brother to do well in the farming areas. He said the only farm counties he suffered defeat in during the Wisconsin primary were those on the Minnesota border—a state in which rival Sen. Hubert Humphrey's strength was greatest.

Incidentally, contrary to some political commentators like Alsop, young Kennedy feels that direct personal appearances won the West Virginia campaign for his brother, not the Lincoln-Douglas style debate which was televised. For instance, while talking to the West Virginia miners he held a can of dried eggs in his hand. The federal government has distributed these and other surplus agricultural products to the out-of-work miners and their families in the area. This is the kind of thing, Kennedy told the miners, he would encourage.

Senator Kennedy feels that Oregon is now the key to his possible Democratic nomination at the national convention in Los Angeles this summer. The senator needs the support of the Rocky Mountain states and he feels that if he wins the nomination in the Oregon primary Friday this area he feels victory in Oregon will help considerably to swing the other farm areas, too.

Conservation of all natural resources is a strong plank in the Kennedy platform, Ted Kennedy told us. He feels an easterner promoting conservation will be considered more sincere by the public than somebody from the west where the issue is almost forced on a candidate. Easterners have been key figures in promoting conservation. He pointed out such people as Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot.

It's just a short hop and skip from conservation to zoning, as we see it. Actually, that is what zoning is all about, it's aimed at portioning land off and designating it for uses to which it seems best suited. We don't say zoning always achieves this aim for there is a lot of good orchard land which is now a part of subdivisions. Farmers feel a strong kinship for their lands so it's only natural for them to oppose any proposed restrictions if they feel it's going to hamper them in their free use of that land.

M. Mason Gaffney, associate professor of agricultural economics, University of Missouri, asks a sharp question, "Will urban expansion ever stop?" He has an interesting chapter in the 1958 yearbook of agriculture entitled, "Land."

"The increasing demand for land for urban uses has been met by accelerating expansion of cities into the rural areas," a fellow professor points out. "The outlook is for a faster rate of conversion of agricultural land into nonfarming use, particularly for urban expansion. Many of the metropolitan areas may be expected to double the amount of areas they will occupy within the next two or three decades." Before you scoff at this, remember this man belongs to the same class of people who produce marketing reports and estimates which you farmers follow religiously in planning your farm operations.

Harold M. Mayer, professor, department of geography, University of Chicago, points out in the same book that much of the land the urban or city spread will occupy is cropland used for intensive production of specialty crops and has a higher value per acre than the average value of all agricultural land.

These croplands, being devoted to intensive cultivation of specialized crops, are characterized by small farms, he further points out. Naturally, they would have a much denser population than the average for all agricultural areas. Pears are a specialty crop. So is Talent alfalfa seed. Both are produced in the Rogue River valley.

"While the total loss of cropland may not represent an actual net loss of agricultural production nationally, the loss of specialty crops, involving conversion to nonagricultural use of some of the best land for such crops, could well become significant," the professor points out further. So the farmers of the valley should bless, not curse, the Jackson county planning commission for its attempts to zone valley land for what its studies consider the best use. We admit that the commission's efforts are slow and somewhat awkward and bumbling, but an attempt is being made. It is trying to keep a proper balance between agriculture land use and industrial use.

fool them on  
this shirt deal!  
(see page 8)

6 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.  
Tuesday, May 17, 1960

## Fishermen Propose Self-Help Program

Salem — For the first time in Oregon commodity commission history, producers are petitioning for a direct referendum on proposals to establish a self-help program.

The request comes from commercial fishermen who want to form a seafoods commission of Oregon.

In a petition to the state department of agriculture, fishermen say they represent about two-thirds of the production. When petitioners speak for more than half the production, they may request the department to bypass the usual hearings and proceed to registration of producers for a referendum vote.

The department is checking the seafoods petition to determine if it is in order to waive the hearings.

The seafoods request followed shortly on heels of the department's announcement that the Oregon fryer growers' referendum failed to eliminate their commission assessment. On this, 165 broiler growers voted, with 71 or 43 per cent wanting to wipe out the 17/100th cent per pound levy.

To carry a grower referendum, two-thirds of the voters must favor the proposal. About three-fourths of the state production was represented in the referendum, with the minority who wanted the fryer levy cancelled accounting for 51 per cent of the voting production.

The Danish radio industry employs 30,000 persons in modern factories.

Proper zoning, after all, is like channeling a stream or river. So population growth has to be channeled or zoned. The better the channeling or zoning the faster and more efficient is the growth.

As Gaffney of the University of Missouri points out—"Each addition to the local market helps also to spread the overhead of more specialized and larger operations. Each new taxpayer shares the burden of large public works and improves the city's credit. Each new producer helps diversify the city's economic base and insure its stability. Each new seller tends either to bring in outside money or to reduce leakages of money to outside sellers, and thus he creates new demand for local services."

Uncle Dan's remarks were borrowed from the wife's hometown paper in North Dakota. We felt this rambling commentary was appropriate for this time of year.

## About 400 Persons Attend FFA Dinner

Eagle Point — Elvin Hawkins was named Chapter Star Farmer during last week's Eagle Point Future Farmers of America fifth annual parent and son banquet.

Hawkins was given a permanent trophy and his name will be placed on the Eagle Point Lions club rotating plaque, Glenn Clymer, Eagle Point Lions club president, told the crowd of 400 persons attending the banquet.

Other award winners were Dale Vaughn, farm and home electrification; Victor Halsey, soil and water management; Glenn Burg, farm mechanics. Each was presented an individual permanent plaque by Harry Hanscom, Eagle Point Junior Chamber of Commerce president.

Ron Greb was presented a

## Lamb Pool Shipment Planned Here Soon

Jackson county farmers with farm flocks of sheep are being polled on how soon they will have enough lambs for a pool shipment, according to Earle Jossy, county extension agent.

Jossy said some lambs should be ready for shipment by May 20, if not then by June 1. It takes 350 lambs for shipment, he said. Approximately 3,000 lambs were shipped last year in the Jackson county pool.

Meanwhile agreements on the new wool pool are coming in. These should be sent in as soon as possible so the pool can be closed by June 1, he said.

The Danish radio industry employs 30,000 persons in modern factories.

Proper zoning, after all, is like channeling a stream or river. So population growth has to be channeled or zoned. The better the channeling or zoning the faster and more efficient is the growth.

Uncle Dan's remarks were borrowed from the wife's hometown paper in North Dakota. We felt this rambling commentary was appropriate for this time of year.

rotating plaque by Bob Bitterling of the Oregon Milk Producers League, Bitterling, as Master of the Eagle Point Grange, also presented Madison Patrick the Grange's rotating plaque for public speaking. The Eagle Point Lions club president also presented Don Pestka the farm safety permanent individual plaque donated by the Lions.

Steven Geren, Dale Vaughn and John Patrick received the FFA Green hand awards.

FFA activity awards were presented to the five boys ranking highest on the activity board by Howard Wilde, 1957-58 chapter vice-president. First place and plaque went to Benny Sutton. Others who also received a gift certificate for FFA jackets were Steven Geren, Ron Greb, Dale Vaughn, Victor Halsey and Warren Pestka, listed according to ranking.

### Honorary Degrees Given

Honorary degrees were presented Bob Longway, Bill Woods and John Patrick. Longway, as field conservationist for the Sams Valley Beagle conservation district, helped the chapter by holding soil and water classes in school and teaching land leveling. Bill Woods, an Eagle Point rancher, made it possible to judge livestock at his ranch and loaned his equipment. John Patrick, the father of the chapter president, loaned his truck for many hours of wood-hauling. He also helped in many other ways.

The banquet guest speaker, Dennis Wood, is state president of the Oregon FFA association, past president of the Molalla student body and an outstanding member of his local church. He was state public speaking winner and western regional winner and will go to Kansas City this fall to participate in the national convention.

Portland — Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D-Ore.) said Monday that Premier Nikita Khrushchev's withdrawal of his invitation to President Eisenhower to visit Russia "betrays his words" in favor of peace.

Salem — Jean Scheel, Corvallis, has been elected chairman of the Oregon Rural Civil Defense Advisory committee.

## Marketing Expert Receives Award

Salem — W. L. Close, of Salem, known throughout fruit and vegetable shipping centers in Oregon, recently received the U.S.D.A. certificate for continuous outstanding service and a \$250 cash award.

The presentation was made at the recent regional shipping point inspection conference at McCall, Idaho.

Close is federal marketing specialist attached to the State Department of Agriculture.



VOTE FOR  
**E. H. "Pickle" TAYLOR**  
Democratic Candidate  
For  
**County Commissioner**

- Lifetime Resident of Jackson County
- Successful Stock Rancher
- Successfully Owned & Operated the Taylor Pickle Factory for Over 20 Years.
- Qualified
- Conscientious for the Job
- Active in Many County Affairs.

Pd. Pol. Adv. Taylor for Commissioner Committee  
E. H. Taylor, Rt. 2, Box 265, Central Point, Oregon.

# HAYING TIME IS NEAR

## GRANGE CO-OP

Locally Owned

Locally Controlled

and Operated Solely

for the Benefit of Local

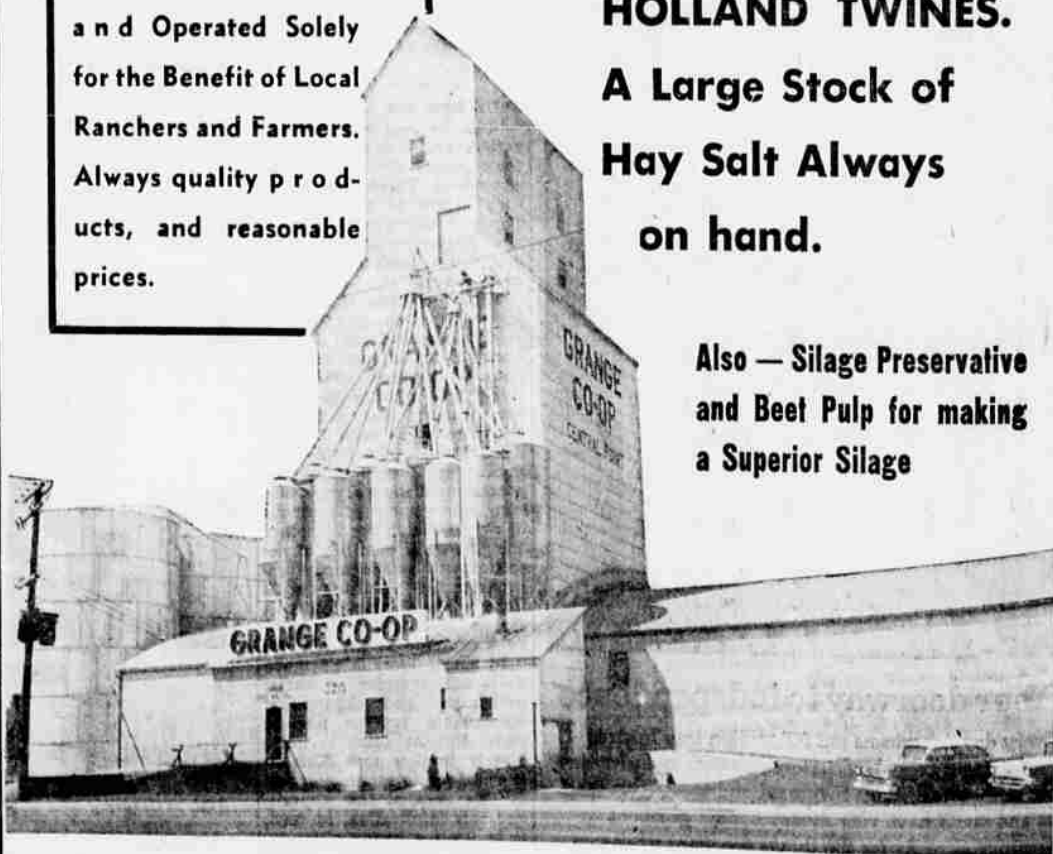
Ranchers and Farmers.

Always quality products, and reasonable

prices.

We Have the Best  
in High Quality  
**HOLLAND TWINES.**  
A Large Stock of  
Hay Salt Always  
on hand.

Also — Silage Preservative  
and Beet Pulp for making  
a Superior Silage



# GRANGE CO-OP SUPPLY ASSOCIATION

HIGHWAY 99 IN CENTRAL POINT  
Phone NO 4-1261 or SP 3-4022

8 AND WATER STS. IN ASHLAND  
Ashland MU 5-4021



## ATTENTION! FRUIT GROWERS

Look over this list of the most complete selection of new insecticides designed for you. Norkem Corporation also offers you experienced field service.

**SEVIN 50-W** gives excellent control of major insects and does not harm fruit. Use SEVIN yourself to get fine finish and more top quality fruit.

The Scab Spray. The Combination of Protection and Eradication has provided superior control of Pear Scab. **CYPREX 65-W**

**GUTHION** The Single Insecticide that controls all major fruit pests all season long!

Controls codling moths, apple maggots, mites, scale, pear psylla, cherry fruit flies. **DIAZINON**

Ability to kill many species plus long residual action add up to Low - Cost mite control. **KELTHANE**

Phytomycin, Agrimycin and Streptomycin for effective, efficient Pear Blight Control. **ANTIBIOTICS**

Safe to use and controls all stages of mites and those types resistant to certain other miticides. **CHLOROBENZILATE**

For effective, easy, economical weed control, Norkem has the greatest selection available. **WEED KILLERS**

another product to be used against pear psylla up to within 50 days of harvest. **DILAN W-25**

For Experienced Field Service Contact

**NORKEM Corporation**

ED SMITH

P.O. Box 1133  
Medford, Ore.

**SP 2-6151**