

Former Fruit Picker Now Raises Fruit

What does a fruit picker do when he starts down? Well, he starts farming on his own if he is like Lester Igo, a resident of the Phoenix area. Les is assisted by his wife, Ruth, and 11-year-old son Tim. The Igos are farming because they like the independent living in the country. In that way they are like a good many small farmers and their families who put a heavier value on the type of living that goes with farming rather than the cash received.

Les is a tall, rawhide thin man whose face has been darkened by picking season sun as he roamed all up and down the coast picking fruit which he now grows on 15 acres. Part of it is located on the Pioneer rd. and the five acre piece on South Columbus ave.

On his home place, the Igos raise four acres of apricots, fire or six acres of pears and about 7 1/2 acres of Talent alfalfa. The five-acre orchard is in pears. About 13 acres of the 40 acre home place is under irrigation-irrigated from a sump Les dug himself.

Regretfully, like many another small farmer, Les is getting out of farming at least as a full-time job. "I decided when I bought this farm 10 years ago that I would never borrow money from last year's operation for next year's. That's what I'm gonna have to do if I keep this place," he remarked rubbing the back of his neck.

Until now the lanky farmer has kept himself thin with various part-time jobs to stretch out his farming dollars. This included work at S.O.S. packing house, a fruit-growers cooperative to which he belongs, pruning and various other odd jobs. However, now that equipment and materials' costs are mounting up, plus wages of what part-time labor he hires, he figures farming has to be a part-time operation now and other work his full-time occupation.

In the Air Force during World War II Les was one of the highly skilled technicians who worked on central fire control on the power turrets of the B-29's, Gen. H. H. Arnold's pet project. He hopes to use this mechanical and highly skilled electrician training (he graduated near the top of his service school class) for a full-time job. We saw a sheath of Air Force records and commendations attesting to his proficiency.

When he quits farming full-time we hope with others of his friends and acquaintances that Les and his family don't leave the community. Les is an active elder in the Phoenix Presbyterian church. Highly religious, but down to earth on such church matters as budget and building maintenance.

His wife, Ruth is one of the hard core of working members of the local P.T.A. "She's just like a powerful tractor," Les remarked fondly. "Just

point 'er at the work and let her go. She gets it done in fine shape. Don't even have to crank her up," he chuckled. Likes to Hunt

Eleven-year-old Tim's life is centered on the farm. His dad cut down a 25-35 caliber Winchester for him. The Igos don't have to go very far to get their deer. Tim has taken his share, too. Last season Les downed a deer a few yards from the road. He had it all skinned out just before the school bus came. Tim is proficient with a .410 gauge shotgun, too. One year he killed five quail with one shot.

When he isn't helping his dad on the farm, Tim is tramping around the woods with his dog, swimming, fishing, or is out in the small house his dad built him of scrap lumber. "He said he wanted a house where he'd be boss, well now he's got one," Les said.

A proud family possession is a .44 Remington six-shot revolver, stamped with the name Miles City, Montana territory. The serial number 663 marks it as an authentic antique.

The Igos used to raise their own chickens, keep some beef and a cow. However, they figure eggs and fryers are much cheaper at the store. Three milk routes converge on their home and Les figures he would lose valuable time milking a cow-time he should spend in the orchard. The family sold the beef animals they had for needed cash.

So, the Igos like so many small farm families are being forced out of a full-time operation because of economic pressure. But, like many such families they would prefer to live on a farm because they like that kind of life.

Frozen Out
Igo isn't complaining, but the family has been hit by a series of misfortunes. This year, for instance, all of his apricots and pears at the high elevation on his home place froze out. It didn't hurt the trees but it did eliminate this year's crop. A veteran farmer of the district said this is the first time in 30 years frost has hit the higher elevations. Few orchardists heat on the rolling uplands since the orchards higher up are usually warmer.

The Igos say they have always done very well with home sales of their Perfection variety apricot which is larger than the usual variety. Just as they were getting ahead last year Les was in the hospital most of the year following a serious operation. Their crops made just enough to pay for the operation and not much more.

When the Igos bought their place it consisted of a small shack-type of house surrounded by a few acres of farmland. Then, in 1950, the Talent project was a long way from approval. Now the Igos can irrigate additional land from that project.

Of course, the Igos had

Turkeys Tricked; Year-Round Sale Prospects Helped

Corvallis - Oregon turkey growers will be able to ship fresh turkeys to market every month of the year if research under way at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station continues to be successful.

At present, most fresh turkeys go to market in the fall, since turkeys normally lay their eggs in early spring and poults hatched from January to May mature just in time for holiday markets.

Turkey growers would like to be able to sell birds all during the year, however, so fresh turkey products would always be available in meat markets. This would require a supply of turkey hatching eggs the year-round, and J. A. Harper, poultry researcher at OSC, thinks he has a scheme that will trick turkey hens into providing this supply.

Light Affects Laying
In past experiments, Harper found that the amount of light a turkey hen sees each day can affect her egg laying habits. By restricting the amount of light the hen sees each day for a period of time, and then lengthening the length of day for the hens, he has been able to start turkeys laying almost any time of the year.

But the best age for the turkey hens to be put on the restricted light period, and how long this period should last, are questions still unanswered. Now, a grant of \$1000 from the National Turkey Federation will help solve these problems.

At the end of the experiment, Harper feels he'll have enough information to make definite recommendations to turkey growers. They should then be able to produce turkey eggs every month of the year, and keep fresh turkey flowing to meat markets over the nation.

GIRL'S WORLD INVADED

Burlington, Vt. -AP- The only male nurse in Vermont says he "wouldn't trade it for the world." Paul Traux said, "The first day was the hardest. There was a lot of twittering among the 36 girls in the class." But Traux didn't fare badly. He's president of the State Student Nurses' Assn.

plenty of warning farming wasn't going to be easy "up on the mountain." In February, 1950, shortly after they moved in their shell of a house was surrounded by snow 16 inches deep. Then Les could barely make it down the steep hill with chains on his truck. Mrs. Igo had to go to the hospital then. He got back, after leaving the boy with relatives, in time to feed the stock and chickens and thaw out every pipe in the house. And 30 days later there was another snow storm and Mrs. Igo had to go back to the hospital.

Jackson County 4-H Livestock Members Top Show

Sandra Brewster of Applegate, Richard Anderson of Eagle Point and Joan Smith of Grants Pass were the top individual 4-H club members at the annual Rogue River Jersey Cattle Club Junior Dairy show held Saturday at Grants Pass, according to Glenn Klein, 4-H club extension agent.

Miss Brewster was selected as the Jersey cattle princess to reign over dairy activities in the Jackson-Josephine county area. Selection was based on beauty, poise and dairy knowledge.

Young Anderson repeated as the champion dairy showman and will receive the rotating cup presented by the Jersey Cattle Club. In winning the trophy he topped over a hundred Junior Showmen from the two counties.

Joan Smith of the Roving Herdsmen club in Grants Pass was the top individual judge and will receive the plaque for that honor.

The Roving Herdsmen 4-H club received the pitch fork presented by Cliff Moore of Eagle Point for the club with the most club members participating in the show.

Jackson County 4-Hers received their share of honors at the show, as noted in the Judging Contest results and Showmanship placings listed below:

Judging Contest - Joan Smith, Grants Pass, 382.4; Candy Gail, Rogue River, 367.4; Mary Ann Cantrall, Ruch, 362.8; Clara Lou Martin, Rogue River, 361.8; Dave Strickland, Rogue River, 360.5; Ronald Thames, Ruch, 360.1.

Kathy Larson, Ruch, 353.8; Susan Head, Applegate, 351.2; Adrienne Brion, Applegate, 348.2; Mary Herriott, Applegate, 343.8.

Showmanship Contest

Champion, Richard Anderson, Eagle Point.

Senior Division "A" - First, Lanny Parsons, Rogue River; second, Joyce Rogers, Grants Pass; third, Tom Case, Grants Pass; fourth, Russell Ogle, Grants Pass; fifth, Marilyn Deckelman, Rogue River; sixth, Dave Strickland, Rogue River; seventh, Sandy Brewster, Applegate; eighth, Mary Herriott, Applegate.

Senior Division "B" - First, Ernest Lathrop, Grants Pass; second, Georgia Hubbard, Eagle Point; third, Kay Stevenson, Eagle Point; fourth, Karen Jossy, Eagle Point; fifth, Ron Greb, Eagle Point; sixth, Diane Barton, Eagle Point; seventh, George Martin, Cave Junction; eighth, Ruby Whitaker, Cave Junction; ninth, Julie Bird, Grants Pass.

Intermediate Division "A" - First, Jerry Sorenson, Grants Pass; second, Diane Brewster, Applegate; third, Karen Foster, Grants Pass; fourth, Dave Strickland, Rogue River; fifth, Rita Parrish, Grants Pass; sixth, Duke Jensen, Applegate; seventh, Rodney Ogle, Grants Pass; eighth, Tim Hofmann, Grants Pass.

Intermediate Division "B"

First, Richard Anderson, Eagle Point; second, Richard Bottinger, Ruch; third, Jerry Moore, Eagle Point; fourth, Bobby Hubbard, Eagle Point; fifth, Kathy Larson, Ruch; sixth, Judy Prother, Grants Pass; seventh, Karen Wangerin, Cave Junction; eighth, Mary Ann Cantrall, Ruch.

Junior Division "A" - First, Susan Head, Grants Pass; second, Barry Brumbach, Grants Pass; third, Clara Lou Martin, Cave Junction; fourth, Adrienne Brion, Applegate; fifth, Debby Howard, Cave Junction; sixth, Marilyn Winningham, Ruch; seventh, Paul Simonsen, Grants Pass; eighth, Joan Smith, Grants Pass.

Junior Division "B" - First, Stephen Strickland, Rogue River; second, Kenneth Crouse, Grants Pass; third, LaQueta Stevenson, Eagle Point; fourth, Dave Calloway, Eagle Point; fifth, Carol Gillette, Grants Pass; sixth, Jerra Morrison, Cave Junction; seventh, Dickie Crouse, Grants Pass; eighth, Kathy Hill, Grants Pass.

Oregon Poultry, Hatchery Group To Meet June 17

Corvallis - Four national poultry leaders will give their views and answer questions at the June 17 annual meeting of the Oregon Poultry and Hatchery association, according to Noel Bennon, extension poultryman at Oregon State college.

The 40th annual meeting of the association will be held in Withycombe hall on the OSC campus, Bennon said. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m., with the first session scheduled to open at 9:30 a.m.

Speakers will include Herman L. Miller, director of the poultry division for U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. He will discuss feed additives, egg quality control, and the poultry stabilization bill now before Congress.

Ray A. Parmenter, president of the American Poultry and Hatchery Federation, Franklin, Mass., will be another out-of-state speaker. He will report new trends in the poultry industry, and tell about changes taking place in New England poultry production. Parmenter and his father developed the Parmenter Red strain of chickens.

To Discuss Production
Dr. A. William Jasper of the American Farm Bureau, Chicago, will discuss production controls and K. K. Heidemann of the Poultry and Egg National Board, Chicago, will be luncheon speaker.

Other program features include a special panel that will report what's new in poultry processing, egg handling, and broiler production. And Dr. E. M. Dickinson, head of the OSC department of veteri-

Livestock Health Hints

(Prepared as a public service by the Oregon Veterinary Medical Assn.)

BLACKLEG DISEASE

In pioneer times, blackleg disease killed more young cattle than probably any other single disease.

Today control of this fatal disease which affects primarily calves and, sometimes, sheep has been made possible by veterinary medical research discovery of a vaccine which is nearly 100 per cent effective.

Blackleg is an infectious bacterial disease. Susceptible cattle are mostly 6 to 18 months old. Occasionally animals recover but most die from 12 to 36 hours after infection. Symptoms of the disease include acute lameness.

nary medicine, will discuss control of respiratory diseases in poultry.

An evening banquet will feature a talk by J. W. Scheel, assistant director of the OSC extension service. He will report how changes in agriculture are affecting the role of field men in the poultry as well as other agricultural industries.

An afternoon tea has been scheduled for ladies attending the annual meeting, and a special ladies program is being prepared by the Cacklebells, ladies auxiliary of the association.

Weather Blamed For Sales Drop

Salem - Along with its damper on other farm activities, the weather is charged with 27 per cent drop in fertilizer sales in the first three months of this year.

Tonnage of fertilizers sold in Oregon the first quarter of this year totaled 44,840; a year earlier, 61,602 tons.

Sales of agricultural minerals suffered an even steeper drop from 29,731 tons in the first quarter of 1959 to 2,817 tons in the same 1960 period—down about 90 per

cent. Unlike blackleg, however, malignant edema affects cattle of all ages (besides other animals such as horses and swine) — and, an even more important difference, it is one of many animal diseases which can be transmitted to man.

As with blackleg, inexpensive vaccinations hold the key to prevention.

(Editor's Note—Questions from readers on subjects of general animal health interest are welcomed. They may be addressed to Farm Editor, Mail Tribune, Medford, Ore.)

CIVIL WAR LINK

Wellesley, Mass. -AP- Mrs. Frances Huston Audin believes that, at 43, she is one of the nation's youngest women now living whose fathers fought for the Union in the Civil War. Mrs. Audin's father, Charles A. Huston, was 72 when she was born. He was killed by an automobile five years later.

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On the other hand, agricultural minerals sold at a higher clip than in January-March 1959: 6,602 vs. 4,939 tons.

These figures were compiled by the state department of agriculture from inspection fee reports made by firms selling these products.

Good weather the second quarter should take up considerable of the drop in fertilizer sales. The department says industry attributes the decline simply to inability to get farm operations fully underway.

Edmund E. Hass
Vice-President

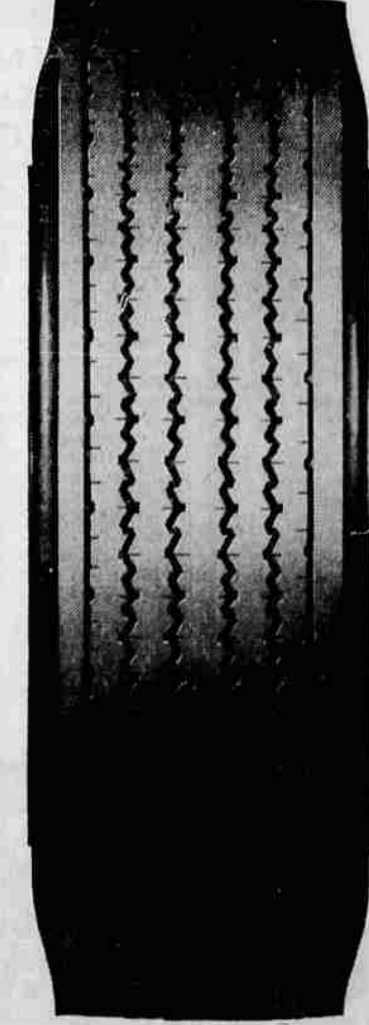
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