

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Naturally, the big agricultural activity this week is the Jackson county 4-H and FFA fair. We hope people realize all the work that has gone into the fair.

The thing we like the best was the smooth road we drove over entering the fair grounds. We remember only too well bouncing over the chuckholes and ruts as we entered the grounds. This we did several times during the week and wondered how the car springs would stand it.

"Uncle Bill Bigham," veteran 4-H leader, took us on a guided tour of the grounds. The neat new all-purpose building approved by the county court still impresses us after seeing the old corrugated iron buildings which were "made-do" for years. One side is a big open arena with lots of temporary stall room for the beef animals housed there this year. Big iron gates come across both ends and lock at night. Never heard of any cattle rustling at the fair, but such gates at all of the livestock buildings will prevent any "first times."

In the same new buildings are comfortable, modern rest-rooms. An electric air blower turns on as you flick the light switch. Bill likes to sit in the shade and talk with his conies and realized other people do, too, so had large, comfortable wooden benches built and placed on the shady side of the building.

The same building contains an efficiently organized and operated fair office. Here girls keep typewriters busy turning out fair results, answer the insistently ringing telephone and answer the myriads of questions, run errands and distribute materials. Here we encountered County 4-H Agent Glenn Klein passing out paper clips, checking on fair results, posting signs and answering questions. Glenn has an amazing control of details—which would cause most people to tear their hair.

A vital center of fair activity is the nice, modern kitchen and dining room. People can step up to the kitchen's open window and buy a quick snack from the young farmers who run the concession or sit leisurely at the tables and benches in the dining area while they visit with their friends.

Another room in the new building houses chickens and rabbits. There are less than half the number of chickens they had in 4-H last year, probably because eggs aren't bringing good prices so it doesn't pay to have poultry as a 4-H project. And each 4-H project pays for itself. Often youngsters borrow the money from a bank with their parents co-signing the note. They buy their feed and hay not only at fair time, but year around.

A number of stalls were empty in the other barns, but youngsters were expected to bring in many of their best dairy animals, sheep and hogs later Monday night. Wash racks were busy as animals were scrubbed, washed off and combed and brushed. Herdsmanship trophies are awarded to the 4-H clubs in each of the livestock divisions who keep their areas neat and cleanest.

Through all the hub-dub sidles a tanned, spry gent who casually keeps his finger on everything as his twinkling brown eyes peer out behind glasses and under a western Stetson. You never know "Uncle Bill" Bigham is there unless there is a quarrel or problem. Then a few quiet words and a firm helping hand smoothes things out. He'll be up from dawn until midnight every night keeping an eye on things. Sunday night he turned in at 10 o'clock thinking he would catch up on some sleep, just then a large truck full of livestock rolled in and had to be bedded down.

Incidentally, the Jackson county fair board furnishes the first bedding of stock, after that the youngsters pay for their own. The fair board used to buy all hay and feed, too, when the fair was much smaller. Now it would be a pretty expensive proposition.

In the last five years the county fair has more than doubled in number of entries. Look at the 4-H exhibits: 40 pens of poultry and 170 pens of rabbits (more than one in each pen), 200 beef, 170 dairy, 275 sheep and 120 hogs. The FFA section has also increased its exhibits with Port Orford, and South Eugene FFA chapters entered for the first time. This plus the three chapters in Jackson county and the two in Josephine county.

We squatted down beside a 4-H leader who was waiting for some tools to arrive. The farmer and 4-H leader who brought them had gotten up at 4:30 a.m. to get his chores done, then had spent most of the day at the fair. After repairing a gate he was planning to drive the 30 miles to his Applegate farm and set his irrigation, then drive back to the fair. He is probably a typical example of the 4-H leaders.

One such leader suddenly realized that 4-H gas mileage was getting ahead of the family budget and traded in a station wagon for a small, foreign-made station wagon which covers greater distances on less gas. This leader helps with two or three 4-H clubs and has youngsters in a variety of projects from gardening to beef and dairy. She figured up the other day that at the rate her youngsters were going the older ones would be graduating from the program, a younger one would be entering, and she had 10 more years ahead of her in 4-H work with the remaining youngster. She readily admitted she will probably stay in it even after her youngsters have all left the program.

Many of these leaders are barn superintendents who check to see if all animals have enough hay and feed and are bedded down properly. They settle squabbles and there seem to be a few of these since all the youngsters keep pretty busy watching their livestock, others, or watching the various contests. It's amazing to see how well this large number of youngsters get along together with little supervision required.

But there are incidents. One older youngster was caught setting off a large firecracker in the sheep pens. Uncle Bill wasn't smiling this time when he told the youngster, "I think you're big enough to know better than that! If you can't behave you will have to leave." He said it quietly and without anger but years of experience with youngsters made the words hit home.

One problem they never seem to have is the young people smoking in the barns. Parents often have to be warned and one fair board member was observed smoking a pipe absent mindedly in a barn last year.

Then there was the difficulty of a power pole at one barn entrance. It was moved, however, when the fire marshal insisted. In fact, fair officials would like to see a regular patrol of Medford police or sheriff's deputies at the fair grounds. The fair is within the city limits. A fireman patrolling the barns would help prevent any possible fires, too, which could be serious with the tinder dry old barns and the shavings.

Nights at the fair grounds are relatively peaceful. A couple is hired each year to chaperone the 4-H youngsters at the dormitories. A loud fire-gong connected to dorm exits prevent any sneaking out at night. And Uncle Bill sleeps in his usual tool room in one of the barns ready to jump into his pants in case of emergency.

Much the same applies to the FFA, but in this case the chapter advisors act as both leaders and directors of the program and the number of FFA members involved at the fair are considerably less.

In his new book, "Freedom To Farm," Agricultural Secretary Ezra Taft Benson refers to the pioneer spirit of self-help and intense co-operation which the early day American farmer had and still has to a somewhat lesser degree. We feel that the 4-H and FFA programs keep alive and help foster this spirit. As he points out further in his book, many successful people today received their valuable early solid training in agriculture. The 4-H and FFA programs now extend such training to suburban and city youngsters.

Jackson County Farm Tour Set Thursday by Ag Group

Thursday the newly formed Medford Chamber of Commerce agriculture committee and Jackson county extension council will sponsor a farm tour leaving at 8:30 a.m. from the Rogue Valley Country Club.

The tour will cover a modern poultry farm, a dairy farm, a family orchard operation and a large company orchard. A breakfast will be held at the country club at 7:30 a.m. and the tour will leave at 8:30 a.m. for the first stop at a modern poultry farm.

Visitors will get a glimpse of farming in Jackson county. They will meet and talk with a few farmers who operate modern commercial farms.

These families like farming as a way of life. They operate their farms as businesses. Their land, livestock, and equipment account for most of some two billion dollars now invested in Oregon farms.

These families, like their neighbors, have parents to meet, interest and learn to pay, doctor bills, grocery bills, and so on. Sometimes they have real trouble making ends meet. Occasionally they feel unappreciated, misunderstood, poorly rewarded for their efforts.

At the same time, they take great satisfaction in the feeling that they are helping to provide the abundant supply of high-quality milk, fruit, vegetables, and meat products. They hope fellow citizens will support legislation, policies and programs that will help them serve the public well.

Besides the on the farm employment several processing plants in the area are dependent on raw materials produced on local farms. These plants typify an important, but sometimes forgotten, part of the investment and employment opportunities that are dependent on the farm production base. A recent count-down of the yellow pages in the Jackson county telephone directory revealed more than 200 firms in the area engaged in servicing farmers and in processing and distributing farm products.

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ding costs. The pear industry, like 435 out of 489 other farm products, receives no price support subsidy. Instead the local pear growers assess themselves nearly 14 million dollars per year to promote pear sales. This has been largely responsible for the relatively stable pear markets.

However, the continually increasing costs of labor and materials and pear prices which are stable but not increasing, have the growers in a tight cost-price squeeze which is threatening their economic security. Increased yield per acre and integrated handling have helped offset this squeeze in the past but these have been fairly exploited.

The Beebe farm is a joint father-son enterprise and operates under the appropriate trademark of B-B orchards. The Beebe family moved to the Central Point area in 1883 and bought a farm. Both of the present Beebe boys have always farmed here and planned their estate orchard about 1930. The elder Beebe played the slide trombone for many years in the Central Point band. The younger Beebe's wife is also musician and being active in civic music affairs.

The Beebes conduct a purely family farm enterprise, doing all of the work themselves except at peak seasons. In order to do this they have to buy a large amount of equipment, including three tractors. This plus land and buildings has a value of \$75,000. Next year, with young trees coming into production, they will need an air blast sprayer which will cost an additional \$4,000.

They now have one acre in Comice pears, four acres in peaches, four acres in apples and one acre in young Bartlett pears. In a nearby acreage, they have five acres of young peaches, 10 acres of young apples and 10 acres of young pears. As the present fruit acreage comes into production, more trees will be planted until it is all in fruit.

Old style heating equipment has been used but 50 per cent was converted this year and the remainder will be next year, although if new acreage comes into production, some of the old heaters will have to be used another year until the income justifies more new type heaters.

The success of this farm is based on three ingredients essential to most successful family farms: good soil, good management and hard work. A wide variety of peaches and vegetables are produced so they can fill a long marketing season. They are then rigorously graded and sold locally at their own produce stand, to truckers and to local stores. Like other growers, they have found it essential in establishing confidence in their brand, to market products of consistently high quality.

Love of the Rogue River Valley and farm life caused E. J. (Rimner) Korner and his wife Ann to return to Sams Valley to establish the Korner poultry farm.

The Korner's two sons are grown. John is establishing his own poultry ranch near the home place. Donald is overseas in Germany.

Three and a half years ago there was only one building, the dwelling house, on this place. Now there is housing for 7200 laying hens, a brood house, egg handling and storage and miscellaneous storage sheds. The Korners have more than \$50,000 invested in birds, buildings and equipment. They laughingly explain the first egg cost \$16.000 and they still have that egg.

The Korner's keep excellent records and can tell you such things as the year around average percentage of 1.5, counting all chickens on the ranch, is close to 70 per cent. It cost them about 33 cents to produce a dozen eggs and

Rogue valley fruit growers are probably watching the farm labor situation in California now—and if they aren't they should be. An article in one of the boy news papers recently came up with three different points of view on the farm labor situation.

The Departments of Agriculture and Labor reported that the supply of qualified domestic labor for the deciduous fruit and grape crops is the best in years. "Where have you heard this before?"

Employment Director Irving H. Perlman said the supply of domestic labor available for the 1960 valley pear harvest proved virtually adequate.

Farm Bureau Federation officials, however, contended that Mexican nationals are necessary to bring in the state's crops because the number of domestic workers is dwindling.

The bill to extend the program has already been approved in the house, according to the article.

the average price last year was about 10 cents more or 43 cents. The Korner's advertise their eggs, put them in attractive, labeled cartons and sell them to stores, restaurants and hospitals at a small premium because they are high quality.

Poultry farming, which includes production of egg-broilers, turkey eggs, turkeys for meat, ducks and geese is an industry producing well over a million dollars annually in Jackson County. Poultry is a \$25,000,000 industry in Oregon. It is important to the state because it furnishes one quarter the food grains which the state produces in abundance.

The Lester James family has many in the area, came from Southern California and moved on the place in 1945 when the promise of irrigation water was offered to the Sams Valley area. At that time there were few standing buildings and 30 acres of cleared land suitable only for the growing of oat and vetch hay.

The James dairy is perhaps the best example in the county of an agriculture enterprise making the most use of its irrigation water potential. Of the 93 acres on the place, 56 acres are irrigated pasture with 21 acres of alfalfa and grass being headed for hay crop this fall. This seedling is made possible by the addition of a new reservoir. On the James place you will see three reservoirs with a surface area of 24 acres holding 161 acre feet of water for irrigation. All water stored is from winter and early spring runoff. Two of the ponds are stocked with warm water fish.

The dairy is composed mostly of 30 head of Guernsey and Holsteins which supply grade A milk into the local market. The returns from the sale of milk have furnished the livelihood and paid for the improvements such as the recently completed reservoir.

Helping in this family operation is Mrs. James and son Dwight. Dwight is enrolled in the vocational agriculture department of Crater high school and is active in the Future Farmers of America chapter there.

James is a member of the Sams Valley Grange, past member of the local school board and active in the community church activities.

Altogether, the sale of dairy products placed more than \$46 million worth of buying power in Oregon farmers' hands last year. About \$24 million if this was earned by Jackson county dairymen.

In addition, the money derived from processing and distributing Jackson county dairy products went to business firms and their employees in the area who in turn spent much of the money for a wide variety of production and consumer goods and services.

No Pine Moth In Oregon Nurseries

Salem—One hundred forty-five Oregon nurseries have been inspected, some of them more than once, with no European pine shoot moths found, reported the state department of agriculture on Aug. 5.

Because this moth would pose a serious threat to Oregon's commercial pines if it is found, the state forestry department has spearheaded an intensive survey of pine areas.

Nurseries selling ornamental pines, popular in landscape plantings and hosts to the pest, were focal point for the early survey work in Oregon because a heavy infestation in the Seattle-Tacoma area was traced to imported nursery stock.

The department urges anyone in Oregon suspecting the pine shoot moth to send a specimen and damaged pine material to the state forestry department, Salem, which is clearing house for the intensive survey now in progress.

The material should be in a plastic bag in crushproof container, along with name and address of finder, date and where found, and pine species.

Parents: No Fair Helping In This Salem—One Oregon cow in every 1,200 tested in the year ending June 30 showed reaction to the tuberculin test, but only one in every 10,400 showed advanced bovine T.B., according to the state and federal veterinary services. In the 12 months, 104,282 cattle were tested in 6,619 herds.

Summer problem for school children: what was the number of total reactors and what was the number with advanced tuberculous. Figures in first paragraph drop the odd numbers.

GARDENING TIPS First Log Bucking Planned For Fair

By DON BERRY County Agent

Fleas are often a pest to the house and yard during certain seasons of the year. Fleas are not true "sand fleas" but are a different species of insect. The immature stages of fleas are very active and can be a nuisance to the household.

Fleas are small, brownish, wingless insects which feed on warm blooded animals. They bite and suck blood, causing irritation and itching on many animals and humans alike. Some species are carriers of certain diseases, including typhus, plague, and anemia, and plague.

Fleas are not too difficult to prevent and control with the many insecticides available. Controlling fleas on the animal hosts is the first step. Cats can be dosed with malathion or pyrethrum. Other animals can be dosed with DDT, malathion, or malathion-chlor. Many flea powders contain these chemicals. It's important that cats not be dosed with DDT or malathion as they may be lethal to cats.

The second step is to clean up the animal's bed and then spray or dust it with one of the chemicals previously mentioned. If the infestation has spread to the home or lawn they, too, can be treated with these same insecticides.

Especially important in the control of fleas is to treat the areas inhabited by the infested animals. The immature stages of fleas are spent off the animals in these places.

All fleas require warm blooded animals to reproduce. There is not true "sand flea" breeding in the sand without animals upon which to feed. This is a common misconception concerning the habits of fleas.

Insect Problem Insects are a big problem in gardens this year. Vegetables and flowers are both being riddled by several different insect pests.

The western spotted cucumber beetle is one of the biggest problems. Often referred to as an "11 spot" or "12 spot" beetle, or erroneously called a "lady bug," this beetle is light green with black spots. It is about one fourth inch long and just half as wide.

In the vegetable garden, it feeds on a variety of plants including beans, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, squash and corn. Many flowers are susceptible, especially those with prominent blossoms such as roses and dahlias.

On vegetables, malathion can safely be used up to 3 days of harvest. DDT or methoxychlor can be used on most vegetables except leaf crops like lettuce, spinach, and chard, up to 7 days before picking.

Any of these or lindane is safe for use on flowers. Repeated applications are necessary to keep the spotted cucumber beetle under control.

EVERGREENS Cuttings of prostrate evergreens root readily if taken as the wood matures in August. Cuttings made 4 to 5 inches long and treated with a root inducing hormone and placed in a clean washed sand or vermiculite bed will root quite readily. Mist nozzles placed every 3 feet above the cuttings will aid greatly in maintaining the needed humidity and will allow for more light over the propagating bed.

BROWN AREAS If brown areas appear in the lawn and are quite regular they probably are caused by a disease. If they are irregular or all over the lawn the trouble is probably a lack of moisture or fertility. Often times in the heavier soils compaction will often occur and the water put on will not penetrate certain areas and they remain dry and hard. Spiking will often help and sand or sandy loam can be applied and washed into openings making for a better water and fertilizer distribution. If you have brown areas, dig down and see if this is your problem.

SPRAY HOLLY August is a good month to spray for the control of "sooty mold" on camellias and holly. The sooty mold condition, more commonly seen during the winter and spring, is caused by scale insects. These pests secrete a honeydew which the sooty mold fungus feeds on.

These scale insects are more susceptible now to spraying than at most other seasons of the year. Either Malathion or Diazinon is recommended for the control of this pest. Two or three applications, applied at weekly intervals, may be necessary. Thorough coverage, including the underside of leaves, is important for good control.

Two different kinds of scale insects are common. The cottony camellia scale is respon-

sible for the cotton-like egg sacs now seen on the underside of camellia and holly leaves. The adult of it, and the soft brown scale, live under a thin or light brown "scale" on the leaves and stems.

WEEB WORM The fall weebworm, often referred to as "weeb weevil," can be controlled, at least to some extent, with sprays applied to the lawn.

None of malathion is recommended when weebworms are to be used. The weeb worm "weeds" should be thoroughly saturated with the spray. foliage in the area of the weeb worm should be well covered with the insecticide.

Turning or cutting out the weeds is still more control when weebworms are present. The cut out weeds should be burned to dispose of the weebworms.

The fall weebworm spins its webs early in the summer and fall seasons. The web caterpillar, a darker colored worm, usually weaves leaves and small branches of trees and shrubs in the spring.

Many trees and shrubs are included in the fall weebworm's diet. The caterpillar, a popular, yellow, black, and brown, maple, English laurel, oak, lilac, and most fruit and nut trees.

MARKET NEWS

Federal-State Market News Service Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, August 9, 1960 CATTLE: Salable 300, including around 120 calves. Around 85 percent of supply stocker and feeder classes. Remainder mainly slaughter cows. Auction moderately active, quality considered, represented classes about steady with last Tuesday. Supply mainly of northern California origin. Slaughter cows: Individual and small lots Utility and Commercial 200-250 lbs. \$14-15.00, higher yielding individuals to around \$18.00. Standard grade absent. Individual Canner and Cutter \$9.50-14.00. Stocker bulls: Individual Utility and Commercial 1310-1650 lbs. \$12.25-19.00. Slaughter calves: Individual Choice 220-420 lbs. \$24.30-25.00, individual Utility 300-450 lbs. \$16.00-20.00. Stocker and feeder steers: Small lots and individual Medium 250-325 lbs. calves \$21.00-23.00, odd head Good 240-260 lbs. \$24.00-25.00. Head shipment Good 520 lbs. yearlings \$23.50, small lots 212-25 head shipment Good 520 lbs. \$20.75-22.00, individual Medium and Good 510-600 lbs. yearlings \$18.40-20.00, individual Common 260-300 lbs. \$14.00-20.00. Stocker and feeder heifers: Individual and small lots Common 260-300 lbs. \$14.00-20.00, individual Utility 300-450 lbs. \$16.00-20.00, 45 head shipment Medium and Good 500 lbs. average \$21.25. Fleishy heifer calves: Common 260-300 lbs. \$14.00-20.00, individual Medium and Good 510-600 lbs. yearlings \$18.40-20.00, individual Common 260-300 lbs. \$14.00-20.00. HOGS: Salable 15. Small supply of feeder pigs inadequate to fully test market. Feeder pigs: Small lots Good and Choice 36-94 lbs. \$19.20-20.20. SHEEP: Salable 119. Supply mainly feeder spring lambs; market about steady. Feeder spring lambs: Small lots Good and Choice 37-96 lbs. woolled \$15.30-16.00, small lots Medium and Good 80-99 lbs. woolled and shorn \$12.00-13.00.

Paul H. Lehigh, Federal-State Market News Service

Radioactive Tracers Used In Pear Storage Program

Corvallis - Radioactive "tracers" that map chemical action inside a pear may help scientists develop better methods for storing Oregon's 10 to 15 million dollar winter pear crop.

Oregon State college researchers are trying to learn how carbon dioxide given off by pears during storage sometimes causes browning of the fruit core.

Dr. Elmer Hansen, OSC agricultural experiment station horticulturist, and Rr. Chih H. Wang, OSC chemist, are conducting the research sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Using radioactive carbon isotopes, the scientists believe they can trace the carbon dioxide pattern of attack on the fruit. Super-sensitive instruments can detect the formation of the radioactive material in the fruit tissue.

So-called brown core in pears has become a problem in recent years with the widespread use of sealed plastic

bags for storing pears through the winter. The sealing slows down respiration or oxidation of the fruit and thus prolongs its life. Big problem is that the carbon dioxide builds up in the bag.

Pear packers have solved the problem, in part, by punching holes in the plastic bags to permit some escape of carbon dioxide. However, this shortens storage life of pears by about one month. Problem Complicated

The problem of drawing the line between slow respiration and trapped carbon dioxide is complicated by the fact that susceptibility of fruit to brown-core varies from season to season, scientists explain.

Pears grown in cool seasons or picked late in the harvest period appear more susceptible to injury. Brown-core also seems directly related to length of time fruit remains in the orchard after picking and the time elapsing between picking and cooling of fruit.

Varying degrees in susceptibility of fruit to carbon dioxide injury do not permit blanket recommendations for field-handling or storing of pears, Hansen states. He advises use of punctured bags for storage until the problems are better understood.

Carbon dioxide injury apparently results from some biochemical change in the fruit. It was found, for example, that natural acids in pears tended to alter and build up when the fruit was stored in high concentrations of carbon dioxide.

The researchers also found that certain specific acids within the total acid content seemed most closely linked with injured fruit tissue. They're hoping the radioactive carbon isotopes will trace the pattern of activity of these fruit acids.

Such information may then provide a springboard of knowledge to combat carbon dioxide injury while still retaining the advantages of sealed containers for longer storage life of pears.

The clatter of motors and the whir of chain saws can be heard at the Siskiyou County Fair on Saturday, August 20 on the Midway at 1 p.m. when the first annual log bucking contest will be underway.

"Bull Bucks" from seven lumber and logging companies have already signified their intention to compete. "Gypo Bucks" said they will again prove that they are tops over the company men. With their chain saws all tuned up and sharpened, bucks from the McCool River Lumber company, International Paper, J. F. Sharp, Ralph Smith Lumber, Fruit Growers Supply, Hjerfager and Carl Johnson Logging will vie for the perpetual trophy the Fair is offering, besides the cash prizes of \$25.00, \$15.00 and \$10.00.

The rules are simple; the trophy has to be defended each year or it is lost by default; only saws regularly used in the actual operations in the woods can be used, and the contestant must represent a logging company operating in Siskiyou County. If you can qualify and think you can beat some of these "blow-hards" already entered, all you have to do is drop in the Fair Office at the Fairgrounds

Friday can be a fine day at the fair. The floriculture exhibit will be judged, and the building open to the public at 1 p.m. Then there is the Yreka Chamber of Commerce Barbecue at the Armory Building at 5:30 p.m. followed by the finals of the cutting horse class; parade of champions; name the building award; and the Homestead rodeo. What more can be offered for fun and entertainment?

Victor Julian and his pets will be one of the headlines in the stage show "Sawdust and Spangles" which will be shown at the Siskiyou County Fair on Saturday afternoon and evening, Aug. 20, and Sunday afternoon Aug. 21. Julian, with his top hat and dancing dogs - they are the ones that wore the beautiful skirts and costumes and danced across the stage on the Ed Sullivan show, the heart-warming pups acclaimed on TV.

Thirty years or so back, Julian started this canine theatrical act which has carried him around the world as a performer. He and his dogs, all trained by him, work together in a rare man-and-beast act. Victor has his own ideas about dogs. For one, he prefers mongrels to purebred dogs for his act. He says high bred dogs are much harder to train. Mutts learn faster because they haven't been inbred. As a result of this idea, some of his dogs are purebred, some halfbreeds and some just a smattering of many.

Another Julian idea is that dogs can see and distinguish color. One part of his act, three dogs wear identical dresses except for color. He takes them off the rack, and the right dog comes forward, regardless of the order in which they are taken off.

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