

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The Rogue valley pear harvest is now in full scale operation with pears pouring into the packing houses.

The packing house workers are mostly housewives, teachers and pensioners who use this seasonal work to round out their incomes—or the family budget. Pear industry spokesmen figure they hire about 5,000 packers and pickers each year for approximately two months of work. These part-time incomes will be about \$400 a month or about \$75 a week more or less depending on the job. An average crew of pickers over the season will make about \$1,500 an hour during the season. It's difficult to reach an average monthly income estimate for the pickers since their picking rates vary so greatly.

Money brought into this valley each year through the overall fruit industry operation is \$15 million. A large percentage of this income comes from places out of state—places which receive and retail Medford district pears.

Naturally anything which cuts pear industry production also cuts the incomes of the various people who work in the industry. This is why the public should realize anything which harms the industry affects a valley income which is second only to the lumber industry. Like every other part of agriculture the pear industry is also caught in the cost-price squeeze. In other words, their prices fail to keep up with their costs.

Labor in the last five years has gone up 10 per cent. Costs of spray materials, tractors and farm implements have more than doubled. Pear growers and shippers do not figure into their labor costs what they should charge for management.

Getting back to labor, a note from the Oregon state employment service states the composite farm labor rate per hour in Oregon is the third highest in the nation as of July 1, 1960. This handicaps the pear people decidedly in the eastern markets, areas where labor is cheaper and fruits transportation costs are much lower.

U. S. Department of Agriculture figures show that canning prices paid for pears (mostly Bartletts) were \$63 a ton in 1953 and \$62 a ton in 1959, a dollar less. Yet general packing house help, on an average, is earning 28 per cent more an hour now than they did nine or 10 years ago. In 1951 they earned \$1.22 an hour. In 1960 they earn \$1.56 an hour. Other figures show that the pear grower receives \$1.71 a ton for his pears in 1951 and in 1959 received \$1.72. As recently as 1949 the grower received 93 cents a ton for all pears and 63 cents for Bartletts. Those are the bad years which he has to make up for over the long haul so he can pay interest on bank loans used to buy equipment and other essentials which he needs to keep operating.

One packing house in the valley has figures which show in 1951 it received \$90 a ton for canning pears and \$61.81 in 1959. This further illustrates how pear prices are going down and operating costs are rising.

With all the increased interest in wheat subsidies lately, particularly in party platform conversation, it is interesting to see that the Oregon Wheat Growers' league is continuing its foreign market development for Oregon wheat.

A letter from the League's Pendleton headquarters reminds the reader that Oregon's wheat growers pioneered in developing foreign markets for Oregon wheat.

In 1954 the league started a survey of possible wheat markets in the Orient and followed this up with a successful marketing program for wheat from Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and the U.S. From July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1960 the Pacific Northwest shipped a total of 119,497,000 bushels of wheat to foreign markets. Total U. S. wheat shipments to foreign markets for the same period came to 412,869,000 bushels.

Now the Oregon Wheat Growers' league has joined with other wheat organizations in the Western Wheat Associates of Portland. This is the foreign marketing agency for wheat which is sponsored by wheat growers and wheat commissions of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the Great Plains states. This group is increasing use of wheat and building new markets in Japan, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Thailand, Burma and Indonesia.

When we visited with league representatives three years ago we remember hearing of how they had sent technical advisors to Japan to teach the Japanese how to bake with wheat and market their bakery products. Since that time the wheat market promoters have brought delegations from these Far Eastern countries to the Pacific Northwest. They have been shown that the U. S. can offer a dependable source of supply of quality wheat of more types than any other wheat exporting country at competitive prices. Major competitors for the Far Eastern wheat market are Canada and Australia.

While on tour the foreign delegations have seen wheat processing, storage and shipping facilities in the Portland area and have visited wheat ranches, grain elevators and representatives of the Oregon Wheat Growers league in eastern Oregon.

In Japan a school lunch program has been set up which includes serving wheat rolls to an estimated 10 million children. Since prewar days annual per capita consumption of wheat has jumped from 30 to 90 pounds. Rice consumption has dropped from 300 pounds to 264 pounds. Despite bumper rice crops in the past four years wheat consumption has risen 10 per cent in that period. Japan is the United States' best dollar customer for wheat, league officials state.

Now that the Rogue river basin project seems well on the road its interesting to look around and notice that he neighboring state of California is having its water project development problems. According to news accounts from the golden but dry state many people and factions are taking a swing at Governor Brown's water program now. The plan seems to be unpopular with factions of both labor and agriculture.

Labor feels that water from the proposed project should not be delivered to farms of over 160 acres. The current plan provides higher rates for that used on farms of over 160 acres. This "infuriated important farming interests, especially in the central and southern San Joaquin valley."

The California state legislature which supposedly represents the people okayed the proposition and now the people must vote bonds for it. Farmers have been pushing to put the show on the road so have been backing the bond issue proposal in spite of some misgivings they may have, according to accounts.

Now even they are wondering about some of the details. For instance, Sacramento valley ranchers want a big Oroville dam on the Feather river. This and an aqueduct system to take water from the Delta to southern California would be financed by the \$1.75 billion in Proposition I, they thought. Now it looks as if the money would not be enough to do so. And voting time comes closer.

It should be interesting to people in this valley because we are not faced with a huge bond issue for construction of dams in the Rogue basin. The water users will have to pay for the works over a long period. Looking back on past difficulties all the feuds and fustins looks kinda silly when construction of water development projects here don't seem to face half the problems California faces.



TOP HEIFER—So Miss Mill Iron is displayed by Don Bradshaw of Seven Oaks Hereford ranch, Central Point. She took grand champion heifer Hereford awards at both Josephine and Siskiyou county fairs recently. Its owners Bradshaw and John Bohnert plan to exhibit her at the state fair in Salem in the livestock events Sept. 7-10. This prize hunk of beef weighs about 1,250 pounds and was born in February 1959.

Soil District Sets Annual Tour Here

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent
Jackson county farmers and others interested in conservation are invited to accompany the Supervisors of the Sams Valley-Beagle Soil Conservation district on their annual tour of the district next Saturday, according to Elwood Abbott, chairman of the board. The tour is planned to assemble at the junction of Highway 62 and Highway 234, approximately 4 or 5 miles north of Eagle Point. It is scheduled to begin at 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning and be completed by 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Those going should bring a lunch. First stop of the tour will be at the G. H. Jess ranch on Agate rd., where Agate desert land is being prepared for surface irrigated pasture. A novel feature of this irrigation system is the utilization of the sprinkler irrigation pump to supply water to a holding reservoir while the sprinkler irrigation is in operation on other lands. Water from the reservoir will then be used on the newly developed pasture lands. The second stop will be made at 10:30 on the Marcus Dey Evergreen ranch about 10 miles west of Prospect where erosion control dams

500 Lambs Set For County Pool Shipment Here

Approximately 500 lambs will be shipped out some time this week in the Jackson county lamb pool, County Agent Earle Jossy said. Jossy was busy all day today contacting possible shippers. Since the lambs are shipped into San Francisco prices received are based on the San Francisco market quotations. These quotations are about a week behind the Portland market. Based on supply, Oregon lamb prices may remain about the same for much of the year. The 1960 Oregon lamb crop totaled 742,000 head, according to the Oregon crop and livestock reporting service. This is 1 per cent greater than 1951 and 19 per cent above the 10-year (1949-58) average of 625,000 head. Lambs saved per 100 breeding ewes on hand last Jan. 1 averaged 99 head, the same as a year ago, and slightly above the 10-year average of 98, according to the 1960 lamb crop report. Western Oregon may have slightly fewer lambs to ship to the fall markets since the cold, wet weather early last spring was not helpful to lambing, but the adequate moisture kept the lambs in pretty good condition. Death losses on July 1 amounted to about 4.4 head per 100. Slaughter reports show a 14 per cent decline from a year earlier. Average live weight January-May was about the same as a year earlier. The 13 western sheep states including the 11 western states and South Dakota and Texas, produced 4 per cent more lambs in 1960 than in 1959 and 12 per cent more than average. The lamb crop in the 35 native sheep states is 2 per cent smaller than last year but 10 per cent above average. In Texas, where approximately 15 per cent of the nation's lambs are produced, the 1960 crop is 5 per cent above 1959.

GARDEN NOTES

By DON BERRY
County Agent
The growers are picking Bartlett and Anjou pears. When should apples and pears be picked? This question confronts many home growers each year. Proper picking time is especially important when the fruit is to be stored. The commercial grower can draw upon his experience and pressure tests available to him. The home gardener often doesn't have these resources to answer the question for him. Several indications, rather than any one, should be used to determine proper time to pick apples and pears. Color of fruit, both outside and under the skin, is a good indicator if you're acquainted with the color characteristics of the variety. **Color an Indicator**
Firmness of flesh and seed color can be used as indicators. The flesh should be firm, but not too hard. The seeds should be brown although unripe fruit often has brown seeds, too. Green seeds do indicate unripe fruit, however. Ease of separating the fruit stem from the spur is still another indicator. The stem should remain attached to the fruit and the spur to the tree when apples or pears are picked. Ripe pears will usually detach when "lifted" to a horizontal from their usual verticle hanging position. One of the most reliable indications is to watch the fruit fall. When the first unblemished, worm free, healthy fruit falls from the tree, the apples or pears are usually ripe for picking. On apples the best index is to pick one and eat it. If it is ready, you'll know it.

TOMATO PROBLEMS
Each year we have considerable complaints of rots showing up on the blossom end of the tomato. These black spots which occur opposite the stem end are due to irregular waterings. Tomatoes need regular watering during the dry summer months to grow high quality fruit. Also, the fruit of tomatoes has a high water content and requires considerable moisture to mature properly. Where excessive drought occurs, leaf curling and rolling will also appear. Where the blossom end rot is occurring, anything to help maintain uniform soil moisture conditions will help reduce this problem. Mulches of black polyethylene plastic or organic materials such as sawdust or grass clippings will help, along with the regular even water applications.

New Tractor Line Planned for Firm
Ben Newman, manager of Hubbard Wray farm implement company, 909 South Riverside ave., plans to see the new line of John Deere farm tractors unveiled Aug. 30 in Dallas, Tex. He will be one of more than 6,000 John Deere sales personnel in the United States and Canada to attend the one-day sales meeting. More than 5,000 persons attending the meeting will be airlifted to Dallas on Monday, Aug. 29, it was reported. The airlift will be the largest commercial lift of its type with 16 U. S. and Canadian airlines participating. The meeting will use the 7,000 seat Dallas Memorial auditorium, the Texas State fairgrounds coliseum, the Cotton bowl, and the 15-acre Cotton bowl parking lot which will be converted into a large display of farm machinery. John Deere officials report that the new line represents one of the most thorough redesigns of farm tractors since power farming was started.

County Herds Rated Fair's Best

E. M. Lippert and son (Lippert Home Furniture, Medford) exhibited the grand champion Hereford bull at the Siskiyou county fair in Yreka, Calif., last week. Don Bradshaw and John Bohnert, of Seven Oaks Hereford ranch, Central Point, exhibited the grand champion heifer. Norman Jacobs Hereford ranch, Tulelake, Calif., had the reserve champion bull. Table Top ranch owned by Reter Fruit company of Medford took the reserve champion heifer award. Lippert and Son also brought back the grand champion get of sire award to the ranch in Williams, Ore.

Poor Gold Price Causes Evacuation
Portland—(AP)—The Oregon state census board said here Monday that the lack of a favorable price for gold is causing almost a mass evacuation of some eastern Oregon communities. The board cited the gold-mining community of Granite, 30 miles west of Baker, as the most outstanding example. It said that Granite has dropped from 40 persons in 1950 to only three in 1960.

TRAIN TRAVEL
An average railway passenger's journey in the U.S. is about 72 miles, according to current estimates.

Purebred Dairy Owners Invited To County Fair

Eight purebred dairy breeders from the Rogue valley have been invited to attend the judging of dairy cattle during the Tillamook county fair Aug. 24-27, the Tillamook county fair board announced today. Those who have been invited by the fair board are John and Hazel Jaksch, Gold Hill, E. B. Poyer, Ashland, Frank Schutzwohl, Grants Pass, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. McCole, Grants Pass, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Mongold, Eagle Point, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Parsons, Gold Hill, and Gerald A. McDonald, Eagle Point. The Tillamook dairy show is noted for the high quality exhibits of Jersey, Guernsey, and Holstein cattle. Winners at this fair often top state and regional shows, a fair spokesman stated. Judges at this year's show will be George Drumm, San Luis Obispo, Calif., Jersey classes; C. R. Knight, Bakerfield, Calif., Guernsey; and Prof. Floyd Wolberg, Oregon State college, Holstein. The three breeds will be judged at the same time in three different rings, it was reported. The Tillamook county fair will have a night show in front of the grandstand featuring the Broadway musical comedy hit, "Annie Get Your Gun." Parade and afternoon starting Aug. 25. Horses from the Gresham fair race track will compete and appear at the Salem state fair on Sept. 2.

Weed Control Advice Told By Valley Nurseryman

By J. VERNON MARSHALL
For Rogue Valley Nurserymen
August-Garden Weed Control, is an interesting subject. All of us are looking for the magic control which will eliminate all objectionable plants or weeds without damaging good plants. There are a few weeds that can be disposed of through cultivation. Annuals will die in the sun when the plant is cut off below the crown or when the plant is uprooted. Perennial weeds often will die after several years if the foliage is destroyed each time it appears. However, this method is far too slow, especially in this valley of much fertility and plenty of water to spur them on. Let's consider the chemical weed control. The 2,4-D Weed-Be-Gone, an Ortho product is very effective on all broadleaves, will not harm hardy grasses Lawn Groom, also an Ortho product will do three big jobs with one application. Feeds your lawn, kills weeds and controls insects, such as lawn moth and wireworms. Crabgrass is one of the worst pests in garden or lawn. Timing a chemical killer, the right months (and August and July are the right months), can kill it. I have been using Miller's liquid crabgrass killer, here at the nursery for some time, and find it very effective. By applying the chemical during July and August, most of the seeds and seedlings will be destroyed, crabgrass is an annual, therefore, timing to kill seeds and seedlings is very important. The new bark products that may be obtained from some of our lumber companies, provide a good control, since the weeds grow more lush and soft, making it easier to pull all the roots. Also, the bark contains some natural plant food. We must pull some weeds along with our chemical control, the chemicals cannot do the job alone.

Astronaut Shuttle Design Outlined By Boeing Co.

Seattle, Wash. (Science Service)—A bell-shaped design for an astronaut shuttle between space stations and the earth was outlined here Aug. 11 at the annual West Coast meeting of the American Astronautical Society. E. F. Styer of Boeing Airplane company's Aero-Space Division said his investigation of possible vehicles for from one to 50 passengers showed the bell shape was structurally simpler and required less weight per crew member than glide vehicles. Mr. Styer said the bell-shaped vehicle could have small control flaps and would use small rockets for establishing desired re-entry conditions. Parachutes and inflatable impact bags would be used for landing. His studies were made of vehicles re-entering the atmosphere at more than six miles a second, returning from the moon, other planets or distant earth satellites. A "sausage skin" area for repairing ailing spacecrafts was also proposed at the meeting. E. J. Merrick, project engineer in General Electric Company's Missile and Space Vehicle Department at Philadelphia, suggested in a report that repair drydocks in space "could be as simple as a plastic 'sausage skin' drawn over and around the craft and then inflated, or they could be as complex as a geodesic sphere." The drydocks would be inflated with gases fed from a mother ship or other sources. Inside, comfortably suited men could work in a life-sustaining atmosphere. And a Princeton, N.J., engineer told the meeting that tomorrow's space stations and some satellites could be built with balloon-like tubes that inflate in space with a plastic foam that would become hardened in the sun's heat. Carl C. Osgood, manager of design engineering for the Radio Corporation of America's Astro-Electronics Division in Princeton, N.J., said the division is studying such systems for large solar energy collectors and radar antennas 60 feet or more in diameter.

Crater Nets Top Dairy Show Award

Gilbert Harrison, Crater FFA chapter, won the grand championship in dairy showmanship Saturday at the Jackson County 4-H and FFA fair. During this last FFA event Gilbert competed as senior champion against his younger brother George Harrison, also from Crater FFA chapter, who had the junior championship. Gilbert's senior Guernsey cow also won the grand championship in the Guernsey breed class. Placings in the advanced dairy showmanship were: Gilbert Harrison, Crater, first; Willie Debrick, Crater, second; Ron Greb, Eagle Point, third; Dean Sommer, Phoenix, fourth; Todd Caster, Crater, fifth; Benny Sutton, Eagle Point, sixth; David Gregory, Crater, seventh, and Steve Kesler, Phoenix, eighth. Placings in the beginning dairy showmanship class were: George Harrison, Crater, first; Steve Hall, Crater, second; Jerry O'Connor, Crater, third; Larry Vaterlaus, Crater, fourth.

Some Chemicals Said Ineffective

Dr. L. E. Gentner, Southern Oregon Experiment Station, reports parathion and malathion are no longer effective for control of pear psylla. These two chemicals may be added to TEPP, toxaphene, ethion, and diazinon on the fast growing list of chemicals to which psylla have developed a resistance. Dieldrin is still working locally but reported failures have come from Washington and California. The organic phosphate Guthion is still the one bright spot in the organic phosphate picture of psylla control. Experimental plots at the station as well as on growers' orchards show the addition of oils to organic phosphates greatly improves control. Work is being done with oil in combination with malathion and ethion and diazinon in an effort to improve their control sufficiently for growers' use.

Many GI Loans Paid Off in July

Salem—(AP)—Almost as many state GI loans were paid off in July as were issued. H. C. Saalfeld, director of the State Department of Veterans Affairs, said 107 veterans paid off their loans and that the department granted 112 new loans during the month. A total of 8,707 of the 30,570 loans granted have now been paid off since the state program was started in 1945.

Vet's Farm Loan Earns Highest Funds in Years

The Oregon veterans' farm and home loan program earned a net operating revenue during the last fiscal year of \$1,228,281, the highest in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs, H. C. Saalfeld, director, reported today. This brings the department's loan earnings to \$5,488,493 since the program started in 1945. The earnings are after the payment of loan operating costs, principal and interest on loan bonds, property taxes, and operating the department's veterans' services division. They result from the favorable difference between the 4 per cent interest veterans pay on their loans, and the present 2.868 per cent cost on \$150 millions in bonds outstanding. Last year was the highest in net loans granted, with 4,345 veterans borrowing \$44,783,130. Only about \$12 million will be available this year, however, Saalfeld said, because of the shortage of loan funds, unless Measure 13 is approved by the voters in November. That measure would authorize the department to issue another \$135 million in loan bonds, making available sufficient funds for an additional 13,000 loans. Fifteen per cent of Oregon's eligible veterans have now obtained state loans. In the 15 years of the program through June 30, net loans have been made to 30,458 World War II and Korean veterans in the amount of \$221,886,245. Veterans have repaid more than \$107 million, including \$24 million in interest. There are 20,369 loans outstanding in the amount of \$153,149,502. It is planned to release an instrument carrying balloon from a two-stage rocket at an altitude of 60 miles. The balloon will rise to 300 miles and send back information.

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