

Recruitment Drive Results Reviewed by Fruit Growers

Editor's note: This is the last installment of a statement from Charles E. Henry, president of the Fruit Growers League, which has taken issue with material appearing in the Mail Tribune's farm page Nov. 7 concerning the problem of obtaining sufficient seasonal workers to help harvest fruit.

A. J. Barcena of Sacramento, who has had long experience in labor recruitment and management, to start recruiting in California; since this state had not been covered by the Oregon state employment service program.

Hand Bills Printed

Barcena worked the Sacramento, Stockton, San Joaquin, Fresno, San Jose, Los Angeles and El Centro areas. Hand bills were printed and posted, radio spot announcements and interviews were run. By Aug. 20, he had 118 men lined up for which the League provided bus tickets to Medford.

Of these 118 men, 21 never reported for work, 33 men had left the area at the end of the first week, of whom 22 had never gone to work, 48 more men had left Medford at the end of the second week, of whom seven had never worked. Six more left during the third week, and of the entire 118, four stayed until the end of harvest.

The cost of the California and Texas recruitment (310 men) salaries of recruiters,

\$2,225.45; expenses, \$1,141.41; transportation, \$6,198.27; meals furnished, \$480.27; total, \$10,045.20.

The average cost per man was \$324. This does not include picking wages.

Quote from Report

Again, quoting from report of manager of the local employment office.

"During the season just past, the states of California and Idaho refused to accept requests of recruitment because of the very high labor demand and short labor supply which existed in both states at that time. Recruitment was undertaken throughout all of the 26 local offices in Oregon and also in the state of Washington.

"Well before the season started, representatives of the Fruit Growers League and the Washington state employment service conducted a recruitment campaign in the Dayton and Walla Walla farm area in Washington in an effort to induce migrant vegetable workers in that area to come to Medford to work in the pear harvest.

"This recruitment effort produced very few workers because most of the people contacted had other commitments in other parts of the country, which promised work of a longer duration.

Total Harvest Force

"It is interesting to note that in spite of this competition for workers among the western states it has never been necessary to bring in Mexican National workers in excess of 15 to 20 per cent of the total harvest force. This number has made up the difference between the number of available domestic workers and the total number of hands required to complete the harvest of the pear crop."

With decreasing production and increasing unit costs, there is a distinct limit beyond which the grower cannot go. The 1959 crop was 70 per cent of the five year average; the 1960 crop is 65 per cent. Pear decline is taking its toll, not only from the grower, but from the community income as well.

One shipping organization reports 2,300 trees pulled this year from 1,000 acres. The former annual payroll of the local pear industry was \$5 million. This year it will be less than \$3½ million.

Unfortunately, the industry has not been able to mechanize its harvest as is rapidly being done in cotton, sugar beets, nuts, peas and beans where growers willingly take a 15 per cent loss from machine harvesting rather than fight the losing battle with inadequate labor.

It is for these reasons that the Fruit Growers League cannot agree with the proposals of the growers quoted by the farm editor; even though their orchards comprise one-third of one per cent of the fruit industry involved.

High School Poll Supports Nixon, Charles Porter

Salem, Ore. — (UPI) — A statewide poll of high school students conducted by the Salem Capital Journal showed Richard M. Nixon continuing his lead over Sen. John F. Kennedy, 8,151 to 7,936.

Initially, Kennedy lead in the poll but in every spot-check since the vice president has remained ahead.

The newspaper said today's figures were 85 to 90 per cent complete.

In the U.S. Senate contest, Democrat Maurice Neuberger leads Republican Elmo Smith 9,118 to 6,490.

Twenty-eight schools in the first district give GOP Congressman Walter Norblad 5,211 to 2,574 for Democrat Marv Owens.

Ullman Favored

Five schools in the second district give Democratic Congressman Al Ullman 941 to 376 for Republican Ronald Phair.

In the fourth district, with eight schools reporting, Democrat Charles Porter had a lead of 3,403-1,979 over Republican Edwin Durno.

The poll does not include the third district congressional race because the Portland school system declined to participate.

For secretary of state, the students gave Republican Howell Appling Jr. 8,509 versus 6,491 for Democrat Monroe Sweetland.

In the state treasurer's race Republican Howard C. Belton held an edge over Democrat Ward Cook, 7,424 to 7,392.

The result of this (all-out recruitment) program is best summarized by quoting from a letter written by the manager of the Medford office of the Oregon state employment service:

"Before the season started, it was evident, from the state of the labor market, that we would have difficulty recruiting sufficient domestic workers to fill the anticipated needs. As early as May (1959) a search was begun for possible sources of harvest help. This resulted on July 29, 1959, in the recruitment program in the state of Texas for 300 domestic workers. Due to the local shortage of help in Texas we were only able to secure 192 men in response to this recruitment.

Hospital Patients Can Vote on Nov. 8

Preliminary arrangements have been completed to insure that any residents of Jackson county who are patients at Rogue Valley Memorial hospital on election day, Nov. 8, may vote by absentee ballot, according to the hospital auxiliary president, Mrs. V. Ward Hammond.

Auxiliary volunteers will offer the service to all registered voters from any precinct in the county.

Through the cooperation of the elections department of the county clerk's office, printed forms have been prepared to comply with Oregon state election laws. These forms require the patient's signature to authorize the auxiliary to procure each individual voter's ballot from the courthouse.

Each application must also be accompanied by a statement from a "licensed practitioner of the healing arts," in this case a medical doctor, certifying that the voter is physically disabled and therefore unable to get to the polls.

In addition to this program by the state employment service, the Fruit Growers League on July 15 engaged



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

By Whatever Name The Nutria is Still A Rat

It doesn't sound like it but the nutria is a rodent. And he can spell near disaster for crops, wild life and even buildings in many parts of America.

The nutria is a much larger rodent than ever lived in the states. It is a huge, odd-shaped, rat-like animal whose home always had been in South America. Down there the animal causes very little trouble as there are the natural checks and balances to keep it within reasonable bounds.

But someone had an idea, suggesting the animal would be valuable to clean out the undesirable weeds and water plants from swamps and lakes. So in some sections of the south a few of the animals were liberated. Then someone else had another not-so-brilliant idea; why not sell pairs of the animals to fur farms?

As it turned out, the market of nutria fur was "pretty safe." But the ball was rolling, and more and more of the animals were sold. Hundreds of pairs were shipped to eager buyers in various parts of the states.

Meanwhile, back in the swamps the liberated nutrias were eating everything in sight and at the same time raising large families. A regular population explosion took place, an explosion that has become almost a menace.

The nutria is a rodent that closely resembles a huge rat; a full-grown adult may weigh as much as 30 pounds and be about the size of a Spaniel

dog. The rodent has a peculiarly shaped head with a sloped forehead and a body that is shaped like a beaver's.

The back feet are webbed; it has a tail like a rat, and teeth capable of chewing up

sizeable timbers. The animal has a voracious appetite and can clean all the vegetation from a pond or lake in a relatively short time.

As the number of nutrias increases, the young forage out to populate other areas. The animal is plentiful around the Gulf coast and as far north as Oregon and Washington, Ohio, Maryland and several other states. Very abundant in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. Some observers claim there are as many as 10 million of the animals loose in the United States.

In some sections where nu-

trias have become plentiful, efforts have been made to use the flesh of the animal as human food under the misleading name of "ragondin."

Whatever name it is sold under, it still looks and tastes like rat.

There is now a problem in nutria management and another shining, but unpleasant

example of what happens when man tries to introduce a new species into an unnatural but favorable environment.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

It is estimated that 8 per cent of the 1,200,000 hunters in the United States are color blind.

Scannell for Dist. Atty. Comm., Margaret Mullen, Sec., Campbell Rd., Medford, Ore.

Elect The EXPERIENCED MAN SCANNELL for DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Scannell for Dist. Atty. Comm., Margaret Mullen, Sec., Campbell Rd., Medford, Ore.

TO THE UNDECIDED VOTER

DURNO SAYS:

- Foreign relations transcend political party. I will help not hinder the next president—whether Nixon or Kennedy.
- We must try to lower taxes and approach a balanced budget.
- The aged must be kept healthy and useful. Present proposals would exclude 5 million needy and make workers help pay medicare of the rich.
- Our natural resources must be fully utilized.
- Full time must be devoted to legislation in the best interests of this district.
- World peace is not a plaything. It is of vital concern to every family in Oregon. I do not believe that ill-advised and premature blessing of Castro's Communistic Cuba by my opponent will do anything but hurt our chances for world peace. We must act with wisdom and strength.



This is a conflict between a man who has common sense and PORTER who said:

"I admire Fidel Castro" (July 7, 1958)

"Since Castro took over in Cuba there has been respect for Civil Liberties..." (Jan. 28, 1959)

"...I am encouraging the organization of... persons who believe strongly in the political and economic benefits of trade with China..." (Congressional Record 2-23-59)

"Castro has brought great benefits to his people in education" (July 23, 1960)

VOTE 123-X
PAUL B. RYNNING
County Commissioner
He's Experienced!

Pd. Pol. Ad by L. C. Taylor, Chmn., P.O. Box 624, Medford

Elect X STATE SENATOR EDWIN R. DURNO AS YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Pd. Adv., Durno for Congress Comm., Howard S. Merriam, Exec. Sec. R. 4, Box 147, Eugene, Oregon.

Republican, Independent or Democrat—Whatever Your Political Affiliation...

VOTE FOR:

- ★ INTEGRITY
- ★ ABILITY
- ★ EXPERIENCED
- ★ LEADERSHIP



115 X JOHN R. DELLENBACK

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

VETERAN — CHURCH ELDER — MASON — ELK — LAWYER

MEDFORD'S JUNIOR FIRST CITIZEN

UMC President — KIWANIS President — YMCA Director — CANCER SOC. President

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Citizens for Good Government Committee, Thomas Teutsch, 521 So. Riverside