

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Last week we printed the ideas of two small pear growers on how to stop the Agricultural Workers Organizing committee before it arrives here from California. We smoked out quite a few opinions and comments from members of the pear industry and some from the general public.

One thing we learned is the old idea of the New England town meeting is dead. It used to be that an idea, no matter how crazy, would be kicked around. Then a better idea would be hammered out under the heat of intense arguments. Here, we had the heat, anyway.

One well-known packing house operator in the county said he thought the article spurred the industry into presenting information which otherwise would not have come out. We would bet that one of the large packing houses will build its own labor dormitory in the near future and daily payment of pickers by at least one prominent packing house will be the practice.

We would like to make it clear that we were not trying to start a fight. We were merely presenting some ideas which we hoped would get people to think about some possible solutions to the farm labor problem. We are glad that the fruit industry answered. The two articles, in Sunday's and Monday's paper, were well presented and clearly gave the fruit industry views on this controversial and not easy to solve problem. The two articles brought out many things and a lot of good information. We tried to present something similar two years ago, but were unable to get the approval of the pear industry to release such information.

We assume there has been considerable other planning behind closed doors which for strategic reasons cannot be revealed. Of course, how effective the present and the planned programs are will be determined when the AWOC arrives. That's one thing which a number of people agree with—that the AWOC drive will start here either next pear season or the one after it.

An article in the Oct. 1 issue of the California Farmer under the headline, "The Coked Pistol," states farming has been left out of the operations of labor laws. Reason for this, the article explains is "It has been recognized that farming—being as it is at the mercy of the seasons and the elements of nature and dealing with highly perishable commodities—is so vulnerable as to be utterly helpless against the coercive powers granted to labor with reference to its dealings with industry."

We asked one packinghouse operator, who seems to be a member of the inner pear industry council, what the industry plans to do when an organizing drive on farm labor starts here. "We will pay the highest rates we can possibly afford to pay and still make a profit," he said.

But, again quoting from the article, "The Coked Pistol," "Contrary to the impression Mr. Smith (Norman Smith, AWOC head) has tried to create in the minds of the public, this fight is not about wages or conditions of work. He represents no one. He is not authorized to bargain for anybody. He is, in effect, coercing farm workers into a union by cutting off their access to the job."

The California Farmer editor wrote in his Oct. 1 article "That farmers of California don't know what to do and have no plans to find out." Unified action is required, he urged. He suggests a "Bill of Rights" for both farmer and employee tailored to their particular needs and conditions. And that is what our two pear growers tried to suggest, whether or not you agree with their statements.

The Nov. 5 issue of the California Farmer, in an editorial, urges collective action of farmers. This must be carried out by people "who think they have the capacity and stature to plan and direct this fight." It was pointed out, The California Farmer editor also points out that such leaders must know they will have the support of the state's farmers. We might add, for this area, civil and governmental agencies, too—or at least their fair impartiality.

Oregon farmers are already doing something about this labor threat. The apple and pear section of the Oregon State Horticultural Society Nov. 17 will feature a talk on harvest labor problems in California by Bruce Sanborne, San Francisco attorney. Vegetable growers at the hort society meeting have a panel on the same topic.

Indications are that the battle will be waged on a statewide basis through the Oregon Farm Bureau. The fruit growers have their own unit here. The OFBF has formed a farm labor committee. Howard Fujii, OFBF commodity chairman, and OFB President Gerald Detering, visited a struck farmer in California and watched the AWOC strike. From their observations, and suggestions received in California, will come some proposals to be presented at the OFBF convention in Eugene Nov. 13-16. Much of the program Monday, Nov. 14, consists of talks and discussions of the farm labor organization threat.

The recently formed ten-farmer steering committee of farm labor committee "will follow the workings of new efforts to organize farm labor in the west, but will also seek to improve farm labor conditions within the state." Dave Lowry, operator of the Associated Fruit company packing house in Phoenix, is on the committee. Fruit growers here will remember Howard Fujii from his talk before the Fruit Growers League last year. He was here to help organize the fruit growers' unit.

Within five minutes after a pear grower bawled us out for printing Tuesday's article, a Medford mother called us. Her remarks were both complimentary and uncompromising to members of the pear industry. She thinks the pear industry could do more to encourage teen-agers to pick pears. However, some pear men we talked to pointed out the difficulties in this and added they use as much capable teenage labor as they can before school opens.

Anyway, she said her boy who is now almost 17, has been picking pears all season since he was 12. He has at least \$1,000 of his earnings still in the bank which, she indicated, may be used for his future education. She told of another boy who paid off a large hospital bill by picking pears. Two other teen-age boys she knows, would ride their bikes out to orchards north of town to pick, she said.

This mother also related how she would get up at 4:30 a.m. to cook her son a good breakfast, drive him to the orchard and pick him up at night. She made special foam rubber pads for his shoulders so the pear bucket would ride more comfortably.

"I don't blame the pear growers for getting fed up when the kids fool around in the orchards, tossing pears back and forth," she said. "Good picking foremen make a lot of difference, in whether the kids will really get in and work," she added. (Again, these are not our ideas. We are just repeating opinions.)

This mother suggested that platoons of teen-agers could be organized under teachers or parents. She thought families could be encouraged to pick, also. She didn't claim that such domestic pickers could do a better job than Mexican Nationals. This was not mentioned. She believes that there are many boys big and strong enough at the age of 14 to pick. (Again, this is what she said. It's not our idea.) She feels that kids busy picking do not become juvenile delinquents. She also admitted that growers are taking a risk in employing youngsters. "Insurance companies have 'em so tied up they are afraid to bat an eye," she remarked.

Pear people we have talked to say youngsters do not like ladder work, for some reason. It takes a lot of strength and agility to stand on top of a ladder and pick with two hands, they point out. Kids want the more glamorous jobs of swamper and truck driver. When labor is sorely needed near the end of the season, school opens and cuts off this



AUCTION PEN—This pen was photographed at the feeder sale held at Mid-Way Auction yards here in October. Then, 1,520 head of cattle brought an overall price of \$175,000. A beef breed only sale is scheduled at Mid-Way for next Tuesday, Nov. 15 and an allbreed sale there on Dev. 6.

## State Hort Society Plans 75th Annual Meeting, Nov. 17-18

Corvallis—The Oregon State Horticultural Society—senior farm commodity organization in the state—will hold its Diamond Jubilee meeting on the Oregon State college campus Nov. 17 and 18.

About 1,000 fruit and vegetable growers from over the state are expected to attend the 75th annual meeting of the society, reports C. O. Rawlings, OSC extension horticulturist who is secretary of the organization. Growers will hear reports on latest trends in production and marketing of their products.

Society president W. J. Hazeltine, Parkdale, said that growers, industry representatives, and OSC scientists will team up to present and discuss topics selected by special committees of growers and industry people. More than 50 program presentations are scheduled during the two days.

Most of the program will be presented during four sectional meetings set up to handle special interests of growers of small fruits, vegetable crops, apples and pears, and stone fruits. Sectional meetings will open the meeting Nov. 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Topics to be discussed during the sectional meetings include bulk handling of fruits and vegetables, control of birds and rodents in fruit and vegetable crops, labor problems, pesticide residues and regulations, mechanical harvesting of crops, new varieties being developed, and current research projects.

General assemblies of the group are scheduled the first afternoon, and the second morning. At the first session, growers will hear a panel discuss sources of credit and methods of financing horticultural enterprises. At the second session, Justus C. Ward, chief of the pesticides regulation branch of the USDA plant pest control division, will discuss the purpose and administration of pesticide controls.

Another highlight of the meeting will be the annual banquet, to be held Nov. 17, the first night. Roy Webster, Hood River, will be master of ceremonies, and the annual Hartman Cup presentation will be made at the banquet. Dr. A. L. Strand, president of OSC, will give the banquet address.

Recent developments in Control of Certain Storage Disorders in Winter Pears, will be related by Elmer Hansen, OSC horticulturist. "Harvest Labor Problems in California," will be discussed by Bruce Sanborne, San Francisco attorney.

Friday Stephen G. Nye, Medford pear shipper, is chairman of the apple and pear section.

Frank C. Lamb, National Canners association, Berkeley, Calif., will talk on "Control of Pesticide Residues on Fruit Crops." "Pesticide Residues and Regulations" will be explained by Justus C. Ward, chief, pesticides regulation branch, USDA, Washington, D. C. L. C. Terriere, OSC chemist, will talk on "Recent Developments in the Study of Resistance." R. D. Eichmann, Stauffer Chemical company, Portland, will talk on "The Benefits of Present Day Agricultural Pesticides."

The luncheon is held each year in connection with the annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural society to recognize growers who qualify for the "5-Ton Club." Clark said. Preliminary reports indicate about 60 Oregon growers will be awarded certificates as members of the select club this year.

The meeting, scheduled to start at noon in the Memorial Union, will also see a special award given the grower who produced the most berries per acre, Clark added.

## Ag People Ask Rails to Approve Lower Schedule

Salem—The state department of agriculture has requested favorable consideration by the railroads of a proposed reduction of 15 per cent in their transcontinental livestock rates, to be accompanied by an increase of 10 per cent in minimum carload weight.

At the same time, Agriculture Director J. F. Short has reiterated his department's opposition to continuation of the reduced westbound rates now in effect on dressed meats from midwest packers without comparable reductions in westbound rates of live animals for slaughter in Oregon and Pacific coast packing plants.

This proposal for reduced livestock freight rates was declined by the Freight Managers' committee of the Transcontinental Freight Bureau in August, but has been reopened for consideration by the TFB executive committee at its meeting Nov. 17 in Chicago.

Market Development Chief Paul T. Rowell pointed out that there is great need for this rate adjustment to permit shipments of midwest hogs to Pacific coast packers at rates fairly competitive with present reduced rates on dressed meats from midwest packers.

Rowell said reduced rates on livestock are needed by Oregon livestock producers on their sales of feeder stock to midwest feedlots, and by Oregon feedlot operators for their needs of feeder livestock from the mountain states when nearby replacements are not available.

He added that this rate adjustment should provide added revenue for the railroads as well as benefiting Oregon and Pacific coast meat packers, feeders and livestock producers, and consumers throughout the West Coast area.

## Honors Due For Strawberry Men

Corvallis—The eighth annual luncheon to honor Oregon strawberry growers who harvested five or more tons of strawberries per acre this year will be held at Oregon State college Nov. 18, reports R. Ralph Clark, OSC extension horticulturist.

The luncheon is held each year in connection with the annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural society to recognize growers who qualify for the "5-Ton Club." Clark said. Preliminary reports indicate about 60 Oregon growers will be awarded certificates as members of the select club this year.

The meeting, scheduled to start at noon in the Memorial Union, will also see a special award given the grower who produced the most berries per acre, Clark added.

Speakers at the luncheon will include James F. Short, director of the state department of agriculture; and F. E. Price, dean of the OSC School of Agriculture.

The Oregon Strawberry council also will hold its annual business meeting during the luncheon. Strawberry growers, and others interested in the Oregon strawberry industry, are welcome to attend the luncheon, Clark said. However, tickets at \$1.50 each should be purchased the first day of the Horticulture society meeting, or obtained in advance from Clark, 148 Cordley Hall, OSC, Corvallis.

## Poultry Rules Now Effective On Slaughtering

Salem—Following a well attended hearing held recently by the state department of agriculture, new regulations have become effective on the construction and sanitation of poultry and rabbit slaughtering establishments.

The new administrative order implements the voluntary poultry inspection law passed by the legislature and the general law surrounding construction and sanitation of all poultry slaughter plants. The new order requires that a building used for slaughter shall contain one or more rooms for rabbit slaughter and two or more rooms for poultry slaughter. Also that no poultry or rabbits can be held in the slaughtering rooms more than 12 hours.

The new order includes, as a result of objections raised at the hearing, some changes from the department's original proposals. For example, one rule which at first stated that utensils used in slaughterhouses could not be carried outside the establishment for another use, was changed to read simply that, "all tools shall be maintained in sanitary condition."

According to Dr. M. L. Houston, supervisor, state meat inspection, the new rules are basically common sense specifications for health and sanitation in utensils, establishments, personnel and, in animals under the voluntary poultry inspection act.

State voluntary poultry inspection is available to any person who wishes to apply. That person, however, must pay for the service. The new rules set down with respect to voluntary inspection are those which must be followed if any plant wants state inspection—ante-mortem and post-mortem—of poultry and rabbits.

Copies of new rules and regulations are available at the state department of agriculture in Salem.

## Kelso Reports Damage Cases

Salem—Ray Kelso, supervisor of herbicide control for the state department of agriculture, says so far a total of 31 cases of herbicidal injury have been reported to the department.

In four more cases, no action was taken. Involved were 12 airmen custom applicators, seven groundmen and 12 other people who do herbicide spraying.

Of the 12 cases against the air men, two complainants made no legal claims; two could offer no symptoms of damage; four settled; one case is in the hands of the insurance companies; three cases were given to an attorney for collection.

Seven cases were received against ground sprayers. Three are in the hands of insurance agents; two complainants made no claim and two could offer no symptoms of damage.

In the 12 other cases, one complainant was paid; six cases are in the hands of insurance companies; one person made no claim; one farmer caused injury himself; one case showed no symptoms of damage; and two others await investigation.

Of the 19 cases against custom applicators, four people made no claim; four offered no damage symptoms; two settled by agreement; two were paid by check; four went to insurance companies; three cases are in the hands of attorneys. Eight are left for final disposition.

Herbicides are chemicals used to destroy weeds.

## Warehousemen Get Department Letter

Salem—An inspection of public grain warehouses reveals that some warehousemen are shipping to terminal elevators without the written consent of owners of the grain, according to a report from the State Department of Agriculture.

The law says that a warehouseman may accept a deposit of grain for sale, cleaning or shipping if properly authorized in writing by the owner of the grain. Grain deposited with a license warehouseman without written order must be handled and considered grain in storage and subject to provisions as such.

A letter has been set to licensed warehousemen urging full compliance with the law. The letter states that, "In some cases, warehouse owners tell us they have the oral consent of depositors—this is not enough—written consent

## Oregon IFYE Girl Lost; Observes German Variations

By NANCY SHAVER  
Oregon IFYE to Germany

Have you ever been lost in a strange city. What did you do? Have you ever stopped to think what it would be like if this happened in a country where another language is spoken?

While traveling alone across Germany by train, I had such an experience. It was frightening but it proved to me that people everywhere are kind and helpful.

I was to change trains three times. During the third transfer I was to meet and travel on with three other IFYEs. I had only five minutes to find the right train and transfer my luggage. I made the first two changes successfully and as the time neared for my arrival at the third station, I carried my things to the door of the car and waited and waited and finally arrived six minutes late. My next train had gone. I had no idea how to find another to my destination which was not a major station. At this time, I had been in Germany two months. I did know some German, but couldn't think of a word.

A conductor was walking by so I stopped him and showed him my tickets and the schedule I was to follow. He told me the train had gone and tried to explain something I couldn't understand. When he realized this, he hurried me and my luggage to another train. He explained to the next conductor that I didn't understand much German and I had missed my train. I found a place to stand and hoped that I was going the right direction.

Receives Help  
In about 20 minutes, the train stopped. Everyone got off and helped me with my luggage while motioning that I was to get off also. The conductor showed me where I was to wait for the next train. Everyone in the car knew what had happened and where I was going except me. One man managed to explain to

me that he was going my direction and would show me where to change trains. We changed trains several times and when he had reached his station, he asked the whole car to help me. Everyone was eager to help and eager to know why I was in Germany. Not only did they help me find my station, but I was driven from the station to my door step by two of the passengers.

Now I no longer have any fear of becoming lost in Germany or anywhere else. I know that people are always eager to help should I become lost or confused.

Western Germany with a land area nearly the same as that of Oregon is now divided into 10 states. With many wars that have swept across Europe through the centuries, Germany has been divided in many ways and has had several different languages. As recently as just before World War I, Germany was divided into six or seven kingdoms. Each kingdom had a separate ruler but all were united under the Kaiser.

I have now lived with families in five different sections of Western Germany. Each family has been a bit different in attitudes and customs and each has spoken a different dialect which I have not understood. All Germans learn both high German and a local dialect which is a variation of the formal German language. I can give an example of how widely these dialects vary. I believe that nearly everyone at home knows that "auf wiedersehen" means "until we meet again." Only the first two families with whom I lived use this as a everyday farewell. In Bavaria "Gruss Gott" is used when greeting and parting. My host family in the state of Baden-Wurttemberg used the greeting "Gruss Gott" as in Bavaria, but for parting they said "Adie." Here in northern Germany the word "Thesus" is used for both.

Variations in Dress  
Traveling through Germany, I have also noticed variations in the style of dress. Most of the clothing is styled much the same as ours. Usually the material is a bit heavier because of the cooler weather and the lack of central heating in buildings. Skirts are very short here; however, the women do not seem as conscious of styles or color combinations as we do. Only in large cities do you see make-up worn. Jeans are worn only while working in the barn or fields. The dirndl is worn mostly in the Bavarian part of Germany but the variations are endless. There are a summer, winter, work, and more formal dirndls. Each state has a different official dress including dirndl, hat, and often special jewelry.

For men, short leather pants are very popular in summer. In Bavaria there are longer pants (lederhosen) for winter. These come below the knee and are worn with wool stockings. Because one pair lasts for many years, the lederhosen are quite loose and are worn everywhere. It seems to be better when a pair has acquired a bit of a shine and varies in color here and there.

Whatever the style of dress, the German people seem to have one characteristic in common. They are hard working people. I think this can be illustrated by the German word "faul" means rotten, decayed, and lazy. The word "fertig" means both ready and finished. When you are finished (fertig) with one thing you are ready (fertig) for the next.

In spite of varying customs, dialects, and dress, I find the German people very well informed on world events and interested in the United States. I am constantly being asked questions and many that are startlingly abrupt. Every few days someone asks,

"How old are you?" or "How much do you weigh?" or "Why aren't you married?" I am also asked "Who will be the next president of the United States?" They don't often say "Who do you think will be" but "Who will be." When the campaign first began, most people assumed it would be Vice President Nixon because as Vice President his name is well known here. Now whether for Nixon or Kennedy each person has a strong opinion and numerous reasons why before he asks.

I've been told many times that whoever is the next president, he must stand up and deal strongly with Soviet Premier Khrushchev. This is usually said with a laugh and a pantomime of shooting or choking someone. People here look to the United States in so many things from political affairs to clothing styles and popular music.

Visits Boundary  
One day I visited the boundary between East and West Germany with a farm youth group. The guide announced our approach to the Russian occupation zone and was corrected but it is still considered Russian occupied. The day was very dark, foggy and dismal. I'll never forget the feeling I had when the bus rounded a curve and there ahead through the mist we saw a watchtower. It was partially hidden by the trees. The top of the tower was above the tree tops and we could see a man leaning on the railing watching us through the binoculars. For a moment the chattering in the bus stopped. Later, we walked along the boundary fence. It is only a few strands of barbed wire draped up and down between leaning wooden fence posts. On the eastern side is a plowed strip varying in width from twenty to thirty feet. This strip is resmoothed every week or two to detect footprints. I saw one man on the western side trying to spit across the strip. There were many tourists on the western side and no one in sight on the eastern side.

The Russians and Communism are quite generally and quite loudly disliked. Actually, Communism is not thought of as a separate thing. It is the Russian way or the Russian government. The West German people think of what Communism has done to their family, their friends, and their neighbors who live in East Germany.

Our guide pointed to a farm house beside the road. He said that many years ago the farmer had built his home across the road from his fields. The road was then the boundary between two German states. Now the road is the boundary between East and West Germany. He can no longer farm his land.

Most people here still think of the two Germans as one country. Their attitude is that they sincerely desire to have the other half of their country returned to them.

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