

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Agriculture and rural people can no longer continue to ignore the city stretch, or what the experts call urban expansion.

This has been repeated time and time again, but repetition is considered the essence of the learning process so we are repeating it again. This thought has been demonstrated during recent events in the Rogue valley, too.

The Talent people were blissful among their stretch of wrecking yards, second hand stores and a jumble of unsightly roadside businesses. Then along came the proposal for another wrecking yard and they awoke with a jolt. We noticed these businesses are being cleaned up considerably. Eagle Point residents wished suddenly they had zoning when a wrecking yard threatened to establish on Gregory rd. and again during the current hassle over conversion of the Medco logging railroad to a log truck road.

Although Sams Valley residents recently turned down an interim zoning proposal, we predict they will be next. Many of the current sight-unseen land sales are being made there. People who can ill afford to waste their money, buy land described with bountiful water, lush pastures and easy access roads only to discover they have been sadly misled. Result? They move out leaving their squatter's shack or partly finished house and another ugly landmark for Jackson county. Zoning won't solve the problem, but it might help. A county building code would help, too—a code which has some common sense standards to help people construct solid, neat appearing homes which will return a fair value to them for the money invested in labor and building materials.

Traditionally, Americans have hated regulation, any kind of regulation. This is particularly true of rural people. But such regulation cannot be avoided and can be used effectively to maintain that rural independence. Only, the rural people and the farmers must work together with planning commissions and work out regulations which would be satisfactory to most people.

As one authority has pointed out, so far little information is generally available on what rural units of government can do with problems of urban expansion. Fortunately, Jackson county under the leadership of County Judge Earl Miller, with the planning commissions of our various cities and towns, is fostering a land-use study and a co-ordinated planning program.

Land-use means what areas are best suited for heavy industry, light industry, homes and agriculture. It also reveals what the existing uses of certain areas are and what the overall growth pattern is. To learn how your community or area fits into this pattern, all you have to do is to come to the publicly announced Jackson County Regional Planning Advisory committee meetings held at the courthouse.

Throughout this nation, it is becoming more and more difficult to separate the rural from the city. This means many city problems are becoming country problems. The need for a home rule charter is apparent. The county government must be allowed to solve its own problems as they come up. The county government must be flexible enough and be able to move fast enough to solve the dilemmas created when the cities spread out into the country and metropolitan type services are needed.

Such supplements to city living as water reservoirs, airports, golf courses and regional and industrial parks are found in rural areas. Decisions made by cities do affect the country. And the reverse is true. If rural areas ignore the problems created by metropolitan expansion. If they adopt the policy of having no policy, the results are going to be unsatisfactory to everyone concerned.

But, when the rural people do adopt policies they should not be designed to keep city growth out. This would be like bucking the law of gravity. On the other hand, the city people must understand country problems. The country people must be invited to help solve mutual growth problems. This is one big aim of the regional planning advisory committee.

Since agriculture requires use of large pieces of land, the farmers here should take a vital interest in land-use studies. Farm groups here don't seem to understand or appreciate the advantages to agriculture of controls which guide orderly development, halt premature subdivision and head off speculation in underdeveloped lands and the ruinous effects such speculation has on farming over a wide zone around the urban center. We would like to see Grange meetings, stockmen's meetings, dairymen's meetings and fruitgrowers' meetings devoted to discussions of this urban growth problem.

"Urban expansion gives rise to fiscal problems for the local governments in the surrounding rural and semi-rural areas and to tax problems for the farmer and his neighbors. How can the new and expanded public services that a growing population requires be financed?" one authority pointed out: "State aid doubtless has a role, and perhaps many states have not recognized sufficiently the fiscal responsibility of the state to such communities. Still, the bulk of the load rests on the property tax," an authority on county government pointed out.

The result of unplanned rural expansion is obvious. Property tax problems become acute. Governmental costs rise. Farmland prices are pushed far above the value of the land to farming. This means that the farmer must either sell his land to a speculator or developer or become a speculator himself. Apparently a number of local farmers are doing so.

Oregon's legislature recently passed a law permitting farmland to be assessed as farmland as long as it is used for agriculture. A few other states have the same provision. In fact, the USDA in cooperation with the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, is doing research on how such a law works in Maryland. These studies are not complete, but preliminary information indicates serious problems are involved in such a policy.

"The workability of any taxing scheme to preserve agriculture just like any system of planning and zoning, lies in its being conceived and enforced on an areawide basis. This requires that farmers and other rural people involve themselves in an active way in the governmental decisions that affect metropolitan areas," an authority on county government stated.

To help rural areas have a voice in metropolitan area problems, some reorganization of existing governments has been tried in other sections of the country.

These include the urban county plan, city-county consolidation, organization of multi-purpose metropolitan districts and a metropolitan federation. A new proposal calls for setting up suburban development districts having wide powers in areas where development is occurring. Other less formal reorganizations are being tried, also.

"Whatever method is chosen, it seems almost certain that some form of areawide governmental machinery will produce better results for agriculture and for urban people than the present system, in which decision-making powers are scattered and the tax base fragmented. The welfare of the entire community, and especially of its agricultural segments, requires establishment of some system whereby rural areas can participate in these decisions," a national authority on county government concluded.

Farmers Warned About Children Riding Tractors

Salem—Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen has issued a warning on the dangers of children driving or riding on tractors. He asserts spring field work invariably brings to his office increased reports on tractor accidents involving children.

Nilsen cites the bureau of labor's 1960 records of minors accidents to stress farm tractor hazards. The records show one-third of Oregon accidents involving tractors last year resulted in deaths. One-half of the casualties were children. Three accident victims were fourteen and fifteen year old drivers of tractors who are not permitted to operate any power driven farm machinery under child labor laws. Two were killed while one escaped with a fractured pelvis and multiple bruises. The other children were riding with an adult driver.

Follows Trend
The bureau of labor report asserts these statistical findings correspond closely with the severity rate of injuries incurred in tractor accidents over the nation.

Nilsen says he finds it hard to convince people of the hazards to minors in tractor operation because it is a slow-moving vehicle that seems easy to handle. The principal risk is said to lie in the easy overturn of a tractor when it hits a ground obstruction or is driven by inexperienced hands. The commissioner states his investigations disclose the upsets occur on terrain that is hilly or uneven, sometimes in only a slight degree. The tractor topples backwards or sideways, pinning underneath anyone who is on it.

Oregon's child labor laws prohibit minors under 16 years of age from operating all power-driven farm machinery. A permit is required for the employment of any minor in the operation of such equipment.

Most Counties In Bang's Fight

Salem—Oregon cattle owners will be interested in the latest report on the nationwide brucellosis eradication program.

According to information received in Salem by Dr. A. G. Beagle, federal veterinarian in charge, USDA, ARS, 78 per cent of counties in the United States are participating in the program.

If the present rate of participation continues every county in the United States will be enrolled in two years' time. Federal officials point out that all states can be certified by the end of 1966 if the livestock industry so wishes.

While no year is mentioned, the federal report says "it is only a question of time until this country is completely free of brucellosis and undulant fever."

In Oregon, counties are "on schedule" with their Bang's recertification work to hold the modified certified status gained in July, 1959. Oregon counties recertified in recent months are: Baker, Clatsop, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Hood River, Clackamas, Yamhill, Union, Deschutes, Wheeler, Wasco, Grant, Jefferson; also, Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

NO NEWS CONFERENCE

Washington—UPI—President Kennedy will not have a news conference this week. Asked why, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said, "he's just not going to have one."

Report on Farm Supply Co-Ops Issued by OSU

Corvallis—The growing trend toward "bigness" in business is pointed up in a recent Oregon State college economic study of Oregon farm supply cooperatives.

Rate of business growth of large farm supply cooperatives has been nearly three times that of small cooperatives since 1950, reports Gerald E. Korzan, OSU agricultural economist.

Korzan said the larger firms' better net margin position, ability to absorb setbacks, and higher ratio of owned capital to borrowed capital were key factors in

Farmer Net Pay Expected to Hold At 1960 Level

Corvallis—Oregon farmers can expect net income for 1961 to hold to 1960 levels despite present sagging of the general economy, report Oregon State university agricultural economists.

Food store sales have held up while many so-called "hard goods" such as automobiles and home appliances suffered a lag in sales, says M. D. Thomas, OSU extension agricultural economist.

The general economic outlook and prospects for Oregon cattle sales and grain, hay, and seed crops are reviewed in the current issue of the Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular.

Free copies of the outlook circular may be obtained from Oregon county extension agents or the OSU Bulletin Clerk, Corvallis.

Grain Prices Lower
Feed grain prices in Oregon will probably range lower in 1961 than in 1960 unless new government programs set higher support prices, reports R. H. Teal, OSU seed and grain marketing specialist.

Prices for Oregon corn in 1961 will probably be about the same as in 1960, he points out in the circular. Northwest wheat prices are expected to follow the 1960 pattern and move about the effective support prices.

Price prospects for other Oregon crops indicate lower hay prices due to prospects for larger carryover stocks for the 1961-62 feeding year; little change in prices for turfgass seed, but slightly lower prices for tall fescue seed.

Market outlook for cattle for the next few years appears more optimistic than expected last fall. Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist, says there are considerably fewer cattle on the nation's farms and ranches than previously estimated. Earlier forecasts for a substantial rise in beef output, which would tend to lower prices, have now been revised to only a modest increase in cattle slaughter, Marks explained.

OSU Bulletin Tells Of Worm Control

Corvallis—Questions farmers often ask about the cause and control of stomach worms in sheep are answered in a new Oregon State university circular.

Dr. S. E. Knapp, assistant veterinary parasitologist, points out that deaths from stomach worms are few, but economic losses may be heavy because infected sheep waste a lot of feed.

Oregon residents may obtain free copies of the circular, "Control of Stomach Worms in Sheep," from their county extension offices or from OSU bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

their faster growth rate.

The OSU study of 27 associations doing business in Oregon included most of the cooperatives in the state that specialize in handling farm supplies. Such cooperatives handle about 20 per cent of all Oregon sales of farm equipment and other operating supplies needed by farmers—a \$175 million annual business in the state.

Details of the study are reported in a circular of information, "A Decade of Performance by Oregon Farm Supply Cooperatives," published by OSU agricultural experiment station.

Free Copies
Oregon residents may obtain free copies of the circular from local county extension agents or the OSU bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

The 13 largest cooperatives in the survey average sales of more than \$1 million in 1959 and showed an annual rate of growth in sales of 6.5 per cent. By contrast, the 14 smaller cooperatives averaged sales of about \$290,000 with rate of sales growth at 2.42 per cent.

Most of the small firms—already at a disadvantage in growth rate—have little or no hope of catching up to the large ones, Korzan pointed out.

Best possibility for the small firm with low growth

ratio is to merge with another supply cooperative, a marketing cooperative, or a noncooperative firm in either supply or marketing activities, he said.

"Traditionally, business firms that are losing ground will try to hold on—hoping for a miracle. The time to merge is when they are still operating with some measure of success," Korzan emphasized.

"The trend toward fewer and bigger supply firms is keyed mainly to the importance of volume in a highly competitive business. Ease of transportation and communications encourages farmers to by-pass small, neighborhood farm supply firms that can't compete piecewise with bigger outlets in the area.

Another advantage listed for large cooperatives is more working capital to extend credit to farmers until crops are sold. Korzan said use of credit by Oregon farmers through their supply cooperatives has tripled during the past 10 years.

Most cooperative managers considered the rapid increase in accounts receivable as their most perplexing problem, it was pointed out in the study. Suggestions for improving cooperative credit programs are listed in the OSU circular of information.

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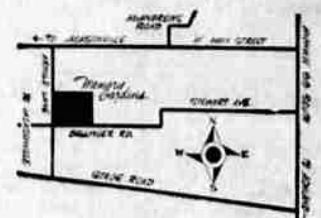
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has been evident for a generation. It is strengthened by the increasing popularity of savings in other forms, such as retirement income programs and group insurance.

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The Crater Lions Club wish to express their thanks to all participants in the 4th Annual Crater Lions Sportsfair, Home and Garden Show. We hope that all those who attended enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you.



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