



TRIM ROW — This neat row of concrete block houses houses orchard pickers during the fruit harvest season. This orchard settlement also includes washroom and shower facilities. The plain interior makes

Pear Picking Methods Need Basic Change, Study Shows

By MARY ALICE BRUSHA
Central Point Correspondent

Are changes coming in the method of picking pears? This is the question facing every pear grower in the Rogue valley.

Is there a better way to utilize the picking labor? That there is, is indicated by last year's study by the Oregon Agricultural Experiment station at Corvallis from studies made in Medford.

Observations and movies were made of pickers actually at work. The completed report should give every pear grower information from which he can better utilize the labor of the picker, and thus reduce the cost of overhead, perhaps even taxes.

Profound Changes Indicated

But the report indicates much more than this. Profound changes may be coming in the orchard planting pattern. The irrigation methods may need revising. Unless one does this, he may not be able to face competition.

Approximately 700,000 pear trees are grown in the Rogue valley. About 10,000 acres of land is in orchards. More valuable land is involved in packing and storing facilities. To care for these orchards apart from the harvest requires the year-round labor of about 500 full-time men.

During harvest time employees number in the thousands. Many people are employed in transporting, selling and preparing pears for consumption. There are a lot of people who have a stake in the pear industry.

The largest single problem of the pear producer is the harvest. The pear is highly perishable. Improper handling may cause a great loss. Also, the costs of production are

high and profit margins low. The entire crop may be jeopardized without a dependable and qualified supply of labor.

It is these facts which prompted the study and the report released in August.

Is the producer making the most of the human energy involved in harvesting the crop? The study conducted here last year indicates he is not. The time and motion studies show that the picker spends 23.9 per cent of his time picking while on the ground and 44.9 per cent of his time picking from the ladder. He spends 7.9 per cent of his time moving to a new position on the ladder and 7.2 per cent resetting the ladder.

Summing up, about 25 per cent of the on-the-job time available to pickers is used for nonproductive duties in the orchard and various delays.

The study recommends: "Preplanning should be directed at estimating any adjustment mechanical picking implements might impose on orchard layout, cultivation, irrigation and control of tree shape."

At least one local packing house is using a self-propelled picking machine that is controlled by the picker from an elevated platform. Study results indicate that under ideal conditions not more than \$1,000 could be justified for equipment permitted the picker to achieve 50 per cent increase in production.

It was also pointed out that efficiency increases 8½ per cent with use of bins instead of field lugs.

"The estimated 25 per cent allowance time devoted to nonproductive activities could be reduced appreciably with-

out any hardship to the pickers. However, closer field supervision would be necessary to shorten the delays connected with checking production, changing tree sets, moving to new orchards, and waiting for empty boxes or other equipment," the report states.

If mechanization comes, it will mean a tremendous outlay for equipment, local orchardists predict. It will mean 30 per cent fewer men employed. It will mean men who do remain in the industry will be highly skilled machine operators, and will correspondingly draw higher pay.

The study indicates some of the following basic changes need to be made: (1) substitution of bins for boxes, (2) better facilities for checking, (3) more supervision, (4) and better training of pickers.

Further study is needed so all the facts will be available to management as they make their decision.

Potato Growers Receive Praise On Labor Camps

Salem — The governor's inter-agency committee on migratory labor, meeting in Salem last week, voted unanimous commendation to local potato growers who have assumed responsibility for improvement and management of two migratory labor camps at Culver and Redmond.

The group also decided to recommend that a legislative interim committee sponsor legislation whereby the State Board of Health will be empowered to act in labor camp health matters in counties in which there is no health officer or the position is temporarily vacant.

In line with the purpose of the migratory labor committee to correlate and coordinate functions between the member agencies, Chairman J. F. Short suggested a change in approach in its annual report to the governor.

Accepted by the group, this suggestion will mean that the individual agencies will make definite recommendations for changes and betterments in their own areas of migratory responsibility. These will be contained in the annual report, but will be preceded by a summary section prepared by the chairman.

The September meeting members also agreed with a report from its subcommittee studying continuation that the life of the interagency group should be extended another four years. If the legislature approves, this would run to Aug. 1, 1967.

State departments represented on the coordinating committee are agriculture, labor, health, education, welfare, employment, motor vehicles and industrial accident.

The next meeting of the interagency committee will be Nov. 14 at state department of agriculture offices in Salem.

Improved Pear Outlook Offsets Washington

Improved pear production prospects in Oregon during August more than offset a decline in Washington's winter pear crop, OSU agricultural economists said.

The Pacific Coast pear crop now is expected to be larger than forecast a month ago. Pear production in Oregon is forecast at 147,500 tons. A crop this size would be up 27,000 tons from 1961. Most of this increase is in winter pears. Bartlett production is up 11,500 tons.



RELOCATED HOUSING — The house was moved into a local orchard before picking season started to provide comfortable quarters for a large family. More local orchardists are buying houses which for one reason or another must be moved off the original property. These provide plain, but comfortable quarters during the picking season. Note the TV antenna and bamboo blinds to keep the sun out.

Balloon Loaf Ruling Told In Detail by Department

Salem — The balloon loaf is deceptive and therefore illegal to bake in Oregon. This is the decision reached by the impartial hearings officer, James T. Brand who is a retired justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, as result of a hearing in August on petition of two bakers, Langendorf and Davidson, asking the state department of agriculture to legalize the loaf.

After the decision, O. K. Beals, assistant director in charge of consumer and trade services, said the department would use every means at its disposal to keep the loaf off the market.

The final order reviews economic factors which prompted wholesale bakers to put the bread on the market in the face of the department's claim that it is deceptive but bases the decision on the issue of deception.

Of the economic facts, the former Supreme Court judge found: "The fact that certain grocers, chain stores and so forth started selling standard loaves of bread as 'loss leaders' is of the essence in this (economic) controversy."

Competition was met not by reducing prices but by making a pound loaf so that it looked like a pound and a half loaf while still selling at the price of a standard one pound loaf.

"In this meeting competition they sold large quantities of balloon bread but their own testimony shows that the reason they succeeded must have been very largely on the basis of deceptive appearance not of nutritive value. The size of the one pound loaf bread led to the common practice of calling it an 'economy loaf' which added to the deception."

On the issue of deception itself, the order which was signed by Brand and approved by Director of Agriculture J. F. Short, says:

"When as was the practice, a one pound loaf marked in large letters 'Economy' and priced at 25 cents, was exposed to the shelves beside the standard one and one-half pound loaf of the same apparent size, it does not require the services of a statistician or detective to conclude that the element of deception was operative in the increase of balloon sales."

Not only was this practice calculated to mislead many buyers, the decision says, but as the Supreme Court pointed out, the lighter loaf simulates the heavier loaf and in some instances the consumer is actually paying a higher price therefor. This was held to be an open door to deception.

The decision recognizes the argument of calorie conscious buyers but draws the conclusion that this conflict with the normal interests of the working man and his growing children "does not militate against the conclusion that there is a more substantial body of consumers who yielded to the specious argument that the balloon bread saves money."

Brand said that the balloon loaf not only is in itself deceptive but that it encourages

and makes possible other practices which contribute to the initial deception.

Of the wholesale bakers themselves who claimed at the hearing that outlawing the balloon loaf would constitute a hardship, Brand wrote: "If that is true, it is unfortunate but it must be remembered that they started baking the balloon bread in the face of the fact that it was prohibited by a rule which the department was authorized by law to promulgate. They took a chance in reliance on their belief that the rule which they had themselves approved would be held by the courts to be invalid. They guessed wrong. If they suffer loss they have themselves to blame."

Brand did suggest in his conclusions that if it were feasible some consideration might be given to permitting baking of the balloon loaf in a shape that does not make it appear like the one and one-half pound loaf. He held that unless and until such suggested regulation is feasible or proper, the present regulation on pan sizes remains in full effect and should be enforced.

At the hearing, wholesale bakers pleaded for a ruling that would keep the balloon loaf on the market. Retail bakers generally testified it was deceptive.

Bid Dates Given For Winema Station

Klamath Falls — Plans for development of the Chiloquin ranger station, Winema National Forest, are under way and bids are now being received for construction of an office, four residences, a 10-man barracks, a warehouse and an oil house on the site, according to Supervisor Alex Smith.

The site of the Chiloquin ranger station is located on Highway 97 approximately one mile west of Chiloquin. Bid opening has been set for 2 p.m. Oct. 17 in the office of the regional forester, Portland. Plans and specifications may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, 411 Main Street, Klamath Falls, or from the Regional Forester, 729 N.E. Oregon St., Portland.

In order that prospective bidders may have an opportunity to view the site and discuss the building contract with Forest Service representatives, a pre-bid conference has been arranged. Interested bidders should be at the site at 1 p.m. Oct. 4. Representatives of the Winema forest and the contracting officer from Portland will be present to discuss contract requirements and bidding procedures.

CASE CONTINUED
St. Helens, Ore. — (UPI) — The case of Mrs. Dorothy Shawver, 22, who escaped custody after pleading guilty to a manslaughter charge, was continued at least a week by Circuit Judge J. S. Bohannon Monday.



WELL-PAINTED — This group of houses helps in attracting the better pickers. Both the interior and exterior before picking season was clean and neat. Some of the cabins provided telephones.



NON-ORCHARD HOUSING — This housing is owned by a small businessman. Although the housing is in the general orchard area, it is not in an orchard. These premises appear far less than sanitary. It is not typical of orchard housing in the Rogue valley.

Order Issued Against Yard

Klamath Falls, Ore., livestock market agency, has been ordered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to stop violating the packers and stockyards act.

The order was issued by USDA Judicial Officer Thomas J. Flavin after the firm admitted USDA's jurisdiction, neither admitted nor denied the charges and consented to issuance of the order.

Action arose from a complaint filed earlier by the packers and stockyards division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, charging the firm with numerous violations of the act.

1. Selling consigned livestock to its owners, officers or employees for speculative resale.

2. Aiding trading partnerships which are not registered with USDA to act as dealers at the market.

3. Failing to collect the selling commissions specified in the schedule of rates filed with USDA.

4. Furnishing buying services without being registered and bonded as required by the act.

5. Charging rates other than those specified in the firm's schedule of charges on file with USDA.

6. Issuing accounts of sale to livestock consignors which fail to show the full and correct name of the purchaser of the livestock.

In addition, the firm was ordered to deposit all funds received from commission sale of livestock into a special bank account called a "custodial account for shippers' proceeds," and to keep proper books and records which would correctly show all transactions involved in its business.

Farm & Garden

Marketing Official Gets Promotion

Salem — Promotion of Ben D. Allen to assistant chief of the agricultural development division was announced recently by the state department of agriculture.

Allen has served as marketing specialist with the division since August 1961. Prior to that time the entire work of the division had been carried on by Paul T. Rowell as chief and his secretary.

This phase of the department work was established by the 1955 legislature to assist in the development of new markets and to expand existing markets for farm and food commodities produced or processed in Oregon.

Not until 1961 did the legislature authorize funds for two aides to Rowell to permit more adequate coverage in this work. By Oct. 1, Val Klampe will become market analyst, thus completing the authorized staff of this division.

Before joining the department, Allen was for a number of years engaged in marketing of Oregon seed crops. Like Rowell, Allen will work throughout the department's field of agricultural development.

Peach Production Predicted Smaller

Peach production nationally still looks to be smaller than 1961, according to OSU agricultural economists.

But, Oregon's crop, at 470,000 bushels, would be up 40,000 from last year and 50,000 bushels above average.



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