

Picking Profits the "Y"

Orchardists needed pickers and the Medford YMCA women needed money. So eight of the "Y women" made up a crew and worked part-time last week in the Fleming orchard near Jacksonville, owned by Wilton White. The money they earned for the strenuous work of picking pears and apples will be used to renovate the locker room at the "Y" building.



If the pears are in the very top of the tree, the picker must work from the top of the ladder. If Mrs. G. A. Ernst was frightened of falling, it doesn't show in her smiling face.



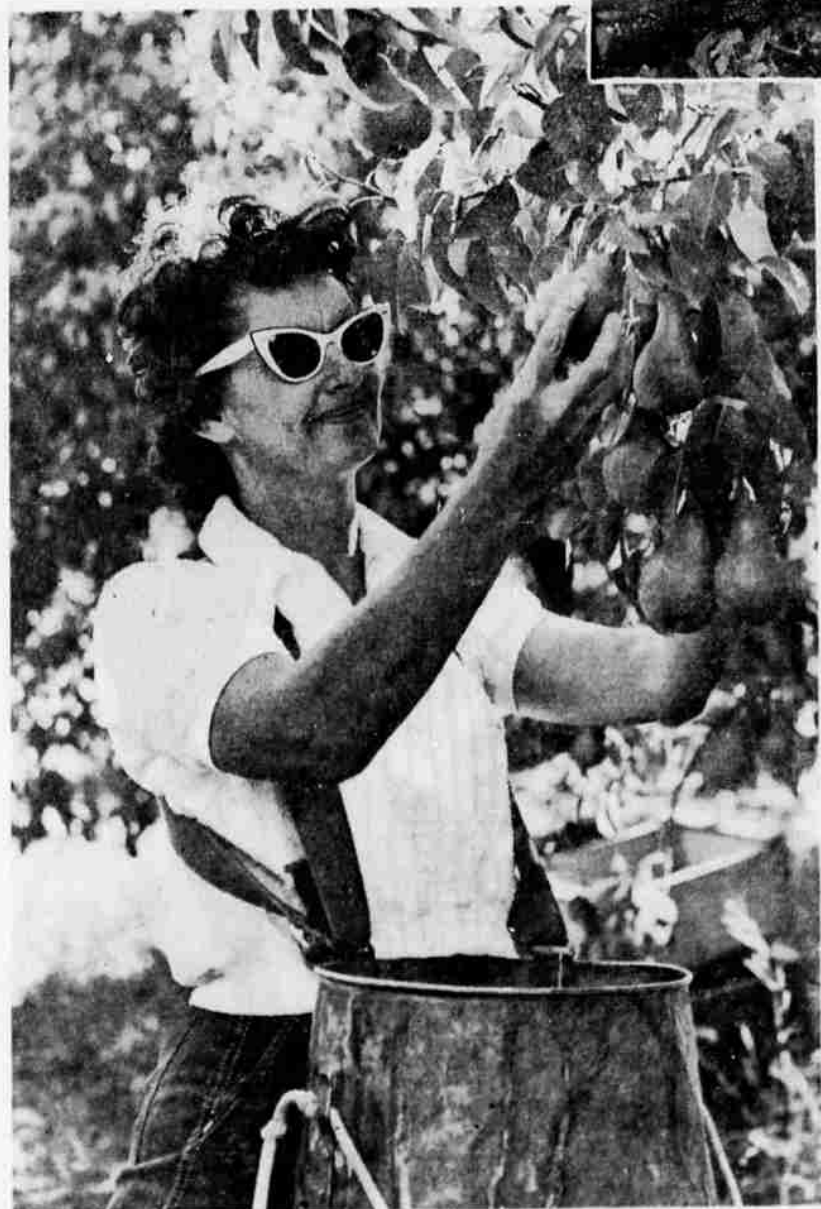
When it came to wrestling the heavy orchard ladders around, the "Y" women were glad they had been taking physical fitness classes. Maxine Smeltz (Mrs. O. H.) wasn't a novice at the job either, for she had picked fruit in other seasons.



Virginia Marks, wife of Win Marks, pauses to scrape the mud from her boots. The recent unseasonal heavy rains turned Rogue valley orchards into a sticky mess underfoot.



Pears, even the comparatively sturdy Bosc variety which were being harvested last week, must be handled with care to guard against stem punctures or bruises. Mrs. Charles Darling (at left) and Mrs. Charles Booth have just emptied their picking buckets. Mrs. Darling was the one who thought up the idea of helping the orchardists while earning money for the locker room project.



Mrs. Lanell Wilkes, director of women's activities at the Medford YMCA, was one of the women in the picking crew. Mrs. B. H. Spoons and Mrs. W. T. McIntyre were also in the picking crew, and Mrs. Howard Bowman was baby sitter.



Every worker was more than ready for a rest and food when lunch time came Wednesday noon. The women prepared breakfast for their husbands and families and saw the children off for school before leaving for the orchard, and were home by late afternoon. Since the locker room project is going to take quite a bit of money, the women are looking around for more work and are offering to pick up bulbs in the gladiolus fields.