



EDEN VALLEY ORCHARD—A section of the Eden Valley Orchard between Medford and Phoenix is shown as it extends over to an adjacent orchard on the hill. The part planted by Col. Gordon Voorhis in the 1900's is still owned by the same family. The orchard also includes part of the first valley orchard planted by J. H. Stewart, former Missouri nurseryman in 1885.

Orchard Superintendent Expert on All Horsepower

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

It takes a lot of know-how to be an efficient orchard foreman or field superintendent and even more to grow up with the orchard business when horse power switched from the four-legged kind to the mechanized.

Lee Hedgpeth, field superintendent at Eden Valley Orchard, is considered generally as one of the best and most experienced in the business. And he has been in the business since he was 15 years old.

"I will be 65 next month. I don't feel that old, either. Wouldn't feel right if I weren't out doing my share of the work," Lee grinned. "Been in the business continuously except for a mechanical course in Portland and short



LEE HEDGPETH
Veteran Orchard
Superintendent

hitches in mechanic's shops. But all of my training and experience has prepared me for orchard work."

Unusual Orchard
The Eden Valley orchard is unusual since it includes part of the first valley orchard planted by J. H. Stewart, former Missouri nurseryman in 1885. It's also unusual because the acreage planted by Col. Gordon Voorhis in the early 1900's is still owned by the same family. This at a time when orchards have been changing hands with increased tempo.

Chances are that it will stay in the family since Lee is grooming Dan Voorhis, the colonel's grandson and nephew to Mrs. Henry Pringle, formerly Marian Voorhis Riegel, to take over the orchard operation.

In the 1920's when Lee first started working in the orchard it consisted of 160 acres. Formerly it covered a section, 640 acres or one square mile. Leaning out of his yellow pick-up truck, Lee pointed to one of the longest straight pieces of orchard land in the valley 42 rows of pear trees stretching for a half-mile. This 65 acres, like the rest of the 160 current acreage includes Comice, D'Anjou, Bartlett and Bosc.

Develops Equipment
When Lee came onto the place all pulling and hauling was done by six teams of mules and horses. There was one tractor. It was the continual puttering with that one tractor, and perhaps the Model T Ford which took him to Diamond Lake for fishing which developed a mechanical aptitude and skill in Lee. He has been at it ever since.

Lee now works with the orchard mechanic in adapting machinery and parts of machinery to orchard work. Tractors have cabs on them to protect the operators from orchard spray dope. A farm trailer has a special arrangement of wheels to make it ride more evenly over orchard ground. Many other pieces of equipment were developed by Lee and later by his top-rated farm mechanic.

In the early days after hand spray rigs, the larger orchards used an underground pipe system for applying spray chemicals. The chemicals were mixed in a central plant then piped through the orchard. Hoses were attached to the pipes to spray the trees. Lee, who had the maintenance and operation job on this system, still feels it was an efficient system.

It didn't dig ruts through the orchard as the spray rigs do now.

The Eden Valley orchard fed its people more directly in the early days. Milk, eggs and butter came directly from the orchard's cows and chickens. It still has four cows which provided milk for both full-time and seasonal help. All of the stock is raised right on the orchard property. There are still a few horses, too. Lee still supervises their care.

An orchard, like anything else, either goes forward or backward, but never stands still. When Colonel Voorhis acquired the original orchard tract it had "gone over the hill," according to many people. Under Lee's supervision it continues to make a profit.

FARM

Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON
Oregon State Farm Forester

Fire can destroy or damage your woodlands in a few hours and eliminate values that have taken years to develop. A little advance planning or work may prevent such a fire or limit the damage to a very small area.

Fuel and air are always present in a woodland area. If enough heat is supplied to ignite the fuel, a fire can be started. Fire prevention is usually aimed at elimination of the source of heat. However, this is not always the method. Sometimes the more flammable fuels can be removed or kept away from the source of heat. In this way, a fire is prevented by removal of the fuel. Heat in sufficient quantity to ignite fuel is sometimes caused by lightning, but is much more frequently the result of man's carelessness with equipment, fires or smoking.

General Approaches
Two general approaches to prevention of forest fires are used. One of these is education of people to make them more fire conscious and the other approach is the closure of hazardous areas to entry and use during periods of high fire danger. The KEEP OREGON GREEN program is one of the more effective educational methods, also the county conservation day tour for the school children reaches a number of homes. Closure of hazardous areas during the fire season and shut down of all woods operations during periods of extreme fire danger prevents fires from starting where control might be difficult.

Following is a list of ways which can reduce the chance of fire, or better control fire in your woodland:

- (1) Do all debris burning during the winter months and not during fire season. When burning must be done during the fire season get a permit from the local fire protection agency, so they will know where the burning is being done and they can check conditions to be sure such burning will be safe.

- (2) Elimination of logging debris by burning is usually a good practice. By burning this material in the fall or winter, the area can be fire-proofed so there is little burnable material remaining in which a fire can start when conditions are more hazardous. Slash burning requires advance preparation to keep the fire from spreading to adjacent lands. In some cases it might be better not to burn at all. In partial-cut areas, excess accumulations should be piled in larger openings for burning.

Check Machinery
(3) Be careful of power driven machinery of all types. Be sure the equipment is in good working order with all the safety devices available in use. Keep a fire extinguisher and shovel with a power saw in use.

- (4) Construction of fire roads, firelines and water-holes are good ways to limit the spread of fires. These may not prevent a fire but they will confine it and make the suppression much easier.

- (5) Posting a woodland area with "no trespassing" signs may prevent some fires by keeping people out of your woodlands. However, this is difficult to enforce and may antagonize some people causing them to set fires in the area.

- (6) Lightning fires are usually started in snags or rotten trees. Falling or harvesting the snags and defective trees will prevent most lightning strikes from starting fires. If a fire is started, it will be on the ground where control is easier.

Fire laws and regulations have been enacted to prevent forest fires by restricting use or making certain acts illegal. These laws were designed to protect your woodland and all other forests in the state. Every woodland owner and user should comply with the requirements. The cooperation of all owners, users and fire protection agencies is necessary to PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

—FOREST LAND WORTH HAVING IS WORTH PROTECTING.

Business Said Off To Better Start Than Last Year

Washington — (AP) — The White House's chief economic expert said Monday that business is off to a better start this year than it was in 1962. "The start of 1963 is as good as 1962 was bad," Walter F. Heller, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told a conference of the Magazine Publishers Association. Heller said the economy's performance seems to be bearing out administration forecasts for approximately a 3 per cent increase in economic growth during 1963.

Termite Problem Hits Home Owner

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent

Home-owners should be on the look-out for termites this time of year. These appear as ant-like insects which come out of the woodwork and swarm to the windows. While it isn't easy to remain calm when you suspect termites are attacking your house, that is exactly what should be done. It takes considerable time for a termite colony to actually damage your house structurally.

If termites are suspected a few days spent investigating the best course to follow would pay off. Alarmed homeowners are easily subjected to high-pressure sales talks where termites are concerned, and these may end up in extensive and expensive control jobs before the facts are clear.

There have been some reports of unethical practices in termite control in some parts of Oregon. Oregon State University and the U.S. Forest Service entomologist, stationed in Portland, as well as Oregon Forest Products Laboratory have been investigating the best methods of controlling the termite problem. They suggest that the first step for the home-owner is to make sure they are actually plagued with termites. This can be done by sending, or bringing the suspected termite to your county agent's office for identification. Where termites are a problem some situations can be controlled by the home-owner at little cost. Where extensive house repairs are necessary, deal only with reliable local pest control firms.

QUIET TIRES
Akron, Ohio—(AP) — A soft-spoken truck tire that cuts the annoying whine of heavy vehicles on highways has been developed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company. The muted sound of the tire is accomplished by varying the length of tread elements at various points around the tire.

Wheat Substitute For Oats, Rye Okayed For 1964

John H. Welbes, chairman of the Oregon wheat referendum committee, announced Wednesday that on the recommendation of the committee, the secretary of agriculture and Congressman Robert Poage (D-Texas), chairman of the feed-grain sub-committee of the house agricultural committee, agreed that wheat could be substituted for oats and rye history in the 1964 program, according to word received by Bert G. Wilcox, Jackson county extension agent.

Poage announced that the sub-committee acted on amendments to the bill under consideration that would authorize permanent voluntary feed grain programs commencing in 1964.

The amendment of importance to Oregon growers, provides that the producer with oats and rye acreage history on the farm may apply for and have this acreage added to his farm feed grain base. This will make him eligible to take the overall 20 per cent reduction in the feed grain program and to seed wheat, price supported at \$1.30 per bushel, in lieu of feed grains (including oats and rye) on the farm in 1964.

As reported by Welbes, Congressman Poage believes the amendment to be carefully drawn and does not provide for the substitution of corn, barley or grain sorghums in lieu of oats and rye because such a provision might allow too much expansion of the higher-yielding feed grain in the cornbelt and south west sections of the United States.

Poage also asserted that the amendment will make the 1964 wheat program especially adaptable to producers in the Pacific Northwest who are growing wheat, rye and oats in their farming pattern. Welbes stated this amend-

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

The ideas and suggestions presented in this space are intended as food for thought and at best as suggestions as to what might be accomplished by doing some plant or animal growing operation in each individual case in a certain manner.

As everyone knows, advice is easily acquired, but is a relatively non-profitable item in the marketplace. The by-products of free advice may be so expensive that the farmer or rancher can do no more than pay the advisor and so receive no compensation for his efforts in the production of the marketed commodity. In this instance the tax paid advisor as well as the commercial advisor are included.

Lawns should be mowed so that the grass is left relatively long until about mid-April. This permits the grass root systems to recover from a long winter and will result in a lawn that is much easier to maintain for the remainder of this growing season. An application of wood ashes at about one pound per 50 square feet can be made at this time.

Wood ashes can now be applied to the feed grain bill would make the combined wheat and feed grain programs much more similar to the original bushel management plan so long advocated by the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Welbes quoted Poage as saying that Wednesday's subcommittee session concluded the consideration of amendments on the bill, and it is expected final subcommittee action will be taken March 27 which will open the door to consideration by the full house agricultural committee.

plied to such plants as roses, lilacs, and flowering quince. Do not apply wood ashes to evergreen plants such as laurels, firs, pines, cypresses or azaleas.

This is a very good time to make some improvement to pastures. Weedy pastures should be sprayed for control of certain brush plants. The same sprays can be utilized to control sour dock and thistles. Many pastures in this area are only 50 per cent efficient due to heavy infestations of such weeds as sour dock and thistle. Where pastures have not been fertilized this year, it will be well to make an application now or in the near future. Consult your spray chemical dealer for materials and advice.

Fertilize strawberry plants now or as soon as possible. If your willow tree has been shedding lots of dead branches and it is a tree that you wish to keep in good health it should be sprayed very soon. A copper spray will control the fungus disease that causes small limbs to die.

For best results the grafting of all fruit trees should be done within the next two weeks.

In Oregon we have two ma-

for universities that are devoted to education. The taxpayer is under constant pressure to provide funds for the operation and improvement of the state institutions. We wonder whether or not in many instances there is not a duplication of facilities at each institution. Perhaps a student exchange program could be accomplished so that within the reasonable distance that is involved between Eugene and Corvallis, students of both colleges could make use of facilities at both institutions. We suspect the colleges themselves will be the larger opponents of this idea.

It pays Oregon's lawyers to serve in the Oregon legislature. How else can the bills be written so the ever increasing lawyers in practice will have to be paid to tell a taxpayer what the law means and later to defend him in court?

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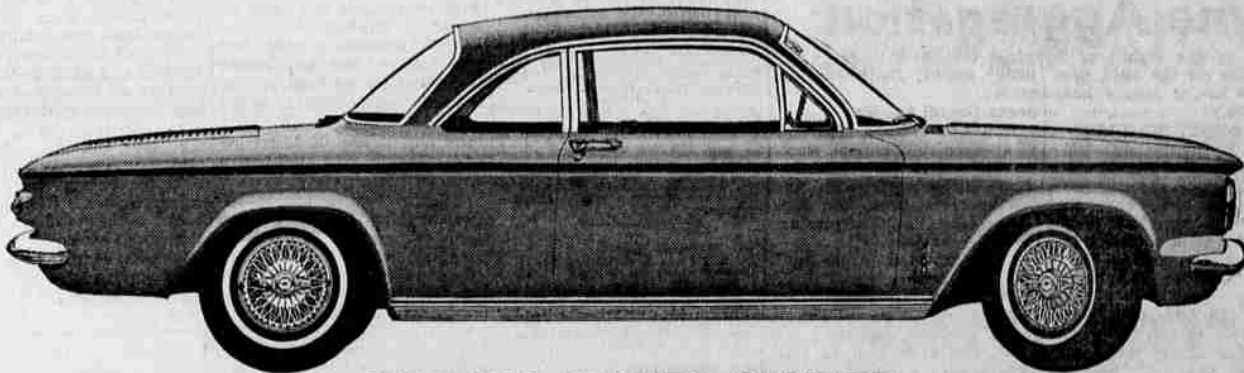
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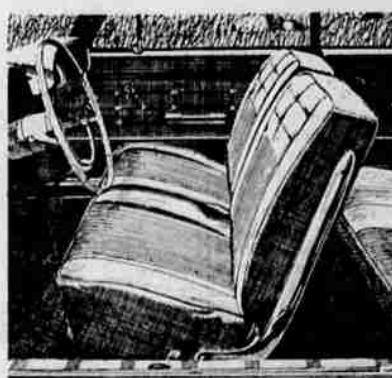
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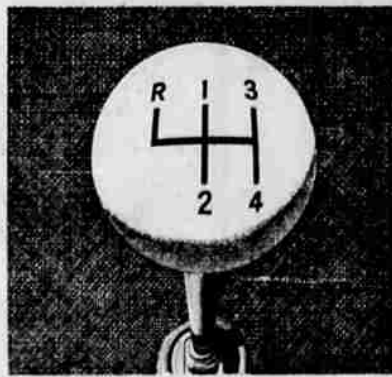
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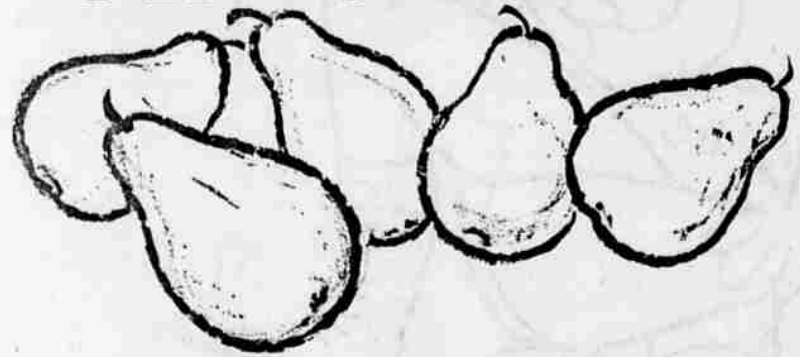
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