

Transplanted Midwesterner Bear Creek Orchard Foreman

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Fay Goddard, a working foreman for Bear Creek's headquarters orchards, like so many Oregonians is a transplanted midwesterner.

Like so many former midwesterners, here, he has farmed all his life. A string-bean of a man with an easy white grin in his tan face, Goddard looks like a former Nebraskan should look.

He came to the Rogue valley in 1946 from Colorado looking for work. He was picking pears for Bear Creek when the orchard superintendent asked him how he liked the pear business. Then, how would he like to work for Bear Creek?

big round open ones. Like a lot of veterans in the business he feels these pots are most efficient since the flame burns low and horizontally, down to where the frost is.

When Goddard first came to Bear Creek it had four head of draft horses, no rubber-tired tractors and two caterpillar tractors. It now has 14 rubber-tired tractors and eight orchard crawler tractors. He also ran the first speed sprayer the company had. Then he was bundled up in rain gear with a respirator mask covering his nose and mouth. Now the company tractors have a space helmet type of thing attached to the tractor engine to supply the operator pure air. Tractors have cabs, too.

Although Goddard was raised on dry wheat lands of Nebraska, he is known as an efficient irrigator. He said he had no trouble learning how. He likes ditch irrigation, knows his soil and where his high ground is. Often he picks up the tall water of the three other men irrigating for him and uses that again.

"We're just liable to get pear-picking machinery," the

foreman said, commenting on orchard labor. "Sure, they're steady workers," he said referring to Mexican Nationals. "They can't leave because they are under government contract."

"We don't get the old type of fruit tramp anymore," he commented. "Most of the transients are winos. No, too many of the welfare workers aren't much good. They just don't want to work. And pruners come and go."

"That's the whole problem," his wife added. "People don't want to work."

"Why should they when they can draw welfare," Goddard added.

As a whole, the pear business has been good to the Nebraskan-raised farmer. He has a comfortable home in Medford and his oldest boy is studying for the ministry at Bob Jones university in South Carolina.

The only thing is, he does work long hours, but he doesn't complain.

"I had to go to work for the packing house so I could see him during the summer," his wife smiled. "That way we could eat lunch together."

Farm & Garden

◆ Chit Chat ◆

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The orchard foremen and field superintendents are the top sergeants of the pear industry.

We learned this during our current series of interviews being printed on this page. So far they seem to have a few basic things in common. They have a strong loyalty to their bosses, feel as responsible for the orchards as if they were their own, are good family men, constantly look for better ways of running the orchards, like the pear business and make a fair living at it.

They also point up what may become a critical shortage in 10 or 15 years. Few younger men are being trained to assume their responsibilities. And this also applies to packing house supervisors.

This is a time for pessimistic rubbing of the fruit industry's fortune telling glass ball. A time while they wait for a day or two of warm weather to shower the minute green pears on the ground so they can count their losses before they pack their boxes.

"There is nothing we can do to continue the pear industry in the Rogue valley forever," a packing house owner forecast. He has been watching the pear acreage gradually move north. Perhaps the Rogue basin project will bring in more acreage in the Sams Valley area. This will increase the problem of two few men and too little money spread over scattered orchard chains. And this is a critical trend. It used to take five men to spray 20 acres a day, if they were lucky. Now one man on a spray-rig is expected to cover 80 acres a day.

We have seen orchards which experienced orchard men know have been pruned too heavy and the prunings left in heaps on the ground instead of chopped up and mulched in, new ladders left to rot against trees, and heaters too close to young trees. These are the hazards and results of loose supervision. It also shows up in packing houses with their scatterings of pears around the packers' stations and under the conveyor belts where a few years ago there were hardly any.

A few years ago, too, 65 acres employed seven steady men who did all the pruning and spraying and most of the thinning. Harvest labor was plentiful. The "fruit tramp" a number of years ago walked down the road after the harvest season and never returned. Packing houses and orchards used to rely on these highly skilled but somewhat erratic professional harvest hands.

Now local women, mainly housewives, go to packing school and work season after season to buy that new refrigerator, new stove, or to pay for a vacation. The help is steady and the money is spent in the community.

It's a contrasting situation in the orchards, however. The professional picker is rapidly dwindling in numbers or has eliminated Medford as a between seasons stopover for travel expenses. The employment service has to dig harder to come up with pickers before growers turn to the Mexican Nationals to round out the season's work.

But the pear industry needs an infusion of new blood. Fruit men with the capacity to look several years ahead feel the industry should establish scholarships to find qualified people. Perhaps they could work in the fruit industry during the peak season and go to college in the winter and spring quarter or the first half of the summer quarter. They could become trained horticulturists to supply the rapidly dwindling supply of well experienced field men. Or, perhaps local high schools could establish a one or two year post-graduate course to train youngsters in mechanics, the chemistry of growth, the rudiments of typing and book-keeping for supervisory positions.

Two highly respected representatives of the fruit industry recently told a touring group of high school students that above all they should take typing. The wouldn't hire any office personnel who don't know how to type. One of the two men insisted the boys should learn shorthand also.

Two qualities the pear men want in their superintendents and foremen, however, is a willingness to work and insistence that the people under them turn out a high standard of work. "Too many foremen tolerate less than the best from people working for them," a pear shipper pointed out. "Of course, we have to draw a thin hard line between foremen's decisions and those which should be left to the top brass," he added.

This varies with each operator, of course. Some orchard operators let their foremen and superintendents decide when to heat or not to heat, other do not. This could make or lose an orchardist money depending on the quality of foreman he has.

But, it's plain that the orchard business is a business and a science. It is going to require technically trained young people to hold the green line in the foothills and on the valley floor. Even this may not be enough. Perhaps pear acreage will dwindle gradually to comparatively few acres as subdivisions move in. Perhaps a large industry will move in to take what skilled help there is and set a fuse to the "population explosion."

This possibility stresses further the urgent need for overall county planning, economic included. It also points up a sharp need for functioning industrial development and agricultural committees sponsored by the chamber of commerce or the community at large. Above all, it shows a dire need for more workers and fewer government-sponsored planners.

Oregon's Poultrymen Given Recognition

Corvallis - Oregon was one of 12 states receiving special recognition this week (April 24) at the annual convention of the Poultry and Egg National board in Tampa, Fla., reports N. L. Bennion, Oregon State university extension poultry specialist.

Oregon's poultry industry is one of the leaders in its financial support of the national board which is concerned with consumer education, research and promotion of poultry products, Bennion said. This is the fourth consecutive year Oregon has been so honored nationally.

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HORSE HAZARD—The driver of the pickup truck at the far left of the picture was cited by Medford police for disregarding the traffic escort for the Rogue-Saddledites 4-H fair time as youngsters bring their livestock and horses to the fairgrounds south of Medford. The picture was taken as the horse group traveled along the freeway

Fairgrounds Need Told Sportsmen

Ted Christensen, chairman of the Jackson County Horseman's association membership and activities committee, and John Belknap, president of the organization were guest speakers at the April meeting of the Central Point Sportsman's Club, at the club house in Central Point.

"The primary aim of the horseman's organization is to promote all activities of the horse and pony groups throughout Jackson county, with the emphasis on 4-H clubs," Christensen said. "Such groups are made up of our youth, and it is these boys and girls we are so concerned about. They are the future leaders of the community. Their interests, hobbies and problems are ours also, and their major problem at this time is adequate fair grounds. A place to tend, groom and ride their animals.

"The existing fair grounds when they were first built could in a way and did partly serve the community. This project that we are now endeavoring to help make into a reality will afford the required facilities needed by every club in the entire county, not just horse and pony groups. It would be a place for all organizations from the knitting circles, garden clubs, home projects, livestock, bicycles, skates, gun clubs, aquariums and all the many other different hobby groups now being conducted in southern Oregon, including the Southern Oregon Kennel Club," he said.

Population Up

The ever increasing population to this area and the rapidly growing interest of the city dweller as well as the rural neighbors has made necessary more adequate fair grounds, a real problem for concern of all parents."

Christensen continued, "At the last count, the report revealed there are 100,000 horses in the state. At least one-fourth of that number is here in our area. There is no designated place in the whole county for our youngsters to ride their bicycles or horses without the everlasting presence of the careless motorist. Maybe the days of the horse and buggy are over, and the manner in which some of the drivers of automobiles drive, it really makes a fellow wonder just how much longer cars will be in style."

Incident Cited

At this point, Chief Naval Recruiting Officer Ed Hawkins cited the recent incident of April 13. A group of horse riders were being escorted across the freeway, by Medford police. The driver of a

viaduct to attend a play day on the Jackson County fairgrounds. The freeway traffic is expected to be a much worse hazard during the fair time as youngsters bring their livestock and horses to the fairgrounds south of Medford.

pickup truck showed no care for the riders and no danger in his disregard for the riders or the horses. He was stopped and given a citation by the police. Hawkins and other on-lookers witnessed the whole affair.

"The neighboring counties do maintain adequate facilities, and it is to these areas many of our own groups, such as the Southern Oregon Kennel Club, roping activities clubs, are forced to go in order to continue practicing in the winter—these animals need stalls and a place that is covered and enclosed. Comparing our own fair grounds with the others throughout the state, we don't even come in for a good second," said Christensen. "Why do we have to leave our own home grounds? All we are doing is helping build up the prestige and boost the economy of areas that are already further advanced than we are. It is only human nature to cultivate hobbies and outside interests and it is an expensive project for adults as well as children. All we are asking for is adequate facilities. That naturally means the required room. We need a place that is safe, that will afford proper stalls, riding area and a place that will give booths for all kinds of hobbies. Such an area would be an asset to the community, and would bring

Bayliss Joins First National

Warren Bayliss, formerly assistant manager for Myron Root & Co., has joined the Medford branch of U. S. National Bank as agricultural field man, according to E. J. K. ar, bank president.

In his new position, Bayliss will be the bank's agricultural representative for Jackson and Josephine counties.

Bayliss started with Myron Root & Co. in 1950, after working for five years as ranch manager for Mount Crest Ranch at Hill, Calif. He was on the board of directors for the California Herefords Assoc. while he lived at Hill.

A 1937 Medford High school graduate, Bayliss attended the University of Washington before serving with the U. S. Marines from 1941 to 1945. He was with the Marine Air Corps.

Bayliss was a director of the Jackson County Stockmen's Association and is a past president of the "Near Shippers Association. He has served as a member of a Jackson County school board and is currently a director of the Rogue Valley Country club. He is also a Boy Scout Troop committee member.

Bayliss and his wife, Dorothy, reside with their two children at 1809 Oregon Ave., Medford.

About 45 tons of grease are needed to launch a ship.

FARM Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON
Oregon State Farm Forester

This week's article concerns itself with a simplified look at the sustained yield concept of tree farming.

This concept is very complex because trees are a very complex crop. The variables of growing trees, because of being a long range crop, are perhaps more numerous than any other crop.

Your managed forest or tree farm is like a bank account. When money is put into a savings account, it is called capital and the banker pays the owner interest on it. Trees now standing are your forest capital and the wood that grows on them each year is the interest on that capital. By practicing good sustained yield management the interest can be spent without growing poorer, because you still have the capital.

Here is an example of how it works:

Tree Farmer Jones has 1,000 acres of forest land. Each tree in his forest adds a ring of new wood growth each year. This new growth may amount to an interest of 300 board feet per acre. That makes a total of 300,000 board feet of wood added to his forest each year. So Tree Farmer Jones may harvest enough trees to equal 300,000 board feet of wood annually without reducing his forest capital.

The harvest plan of a large lumber or paper company is much more complex than that of Tree Farmer Jones, involving perhaps hundreds of thousands of acres and different species which require different harvest methods. Nevertheless this simple formula is essentially the basis for the calculations which enable a company to supply its mills with logs without damaging or reducing its forest capital.

On Saturday, May 4, there will be an adult forestry tour in Josephine county. One of the tour stops will be on Smith's tree farm. A good example of small ownership forest management. The tour will start from the Josephine county courthouse at 9:30 a.m.

The first tour stop will be on Azalea drive, at E. D. Carter's Tree Farm. The main subject to be discussed at Carter's will be Christmas tree growing. At noon a sack lunch will be eaten at Price's Log Cabin in Sunny Valley. A short motion picture film on Christmas tree culture will be shown.

The afternoon will be spent on Smith's tree farm. Discussion will cover over all forest management, tree farms and several forest management practices applicable to improving growth and quality of trees. For further information concerning the tour, contact the Josephine County's extension office. Jackson and Josephine county residents are all invited.

How does a woodland owner go about practicing forest management? A simpler term "Tree Farming," has come into popular use as more and more people have discovered the close parallel between forest management and farming.

A farmer would soon be out of business if he did not grow crops over and over again. Under a forest management plan, trees are grown as a crop like wheat or corn. A wise farmer would not let cattle graze in his unpruned corn or let fire burn his wheat field. Neither will the wise woodland owner let cattle destructively graze his woods nor permit wildfire to run through his forest.

As a farmer cultivates corn to keep out weeds and thin vegetables so that they will grow faster and larger, so does the forester remove decayed, deformed and diseased trees from the forest and thin the young stands to give the remaining trees more room and sunlight. Young trees will respond quickly to release from competing hardwood vegetation and other conifers.

While it takes only one year to grow and harvest a wheat crop, it takes many years to grow a tree. This does not mean, however, that the owner must wait until all the trees in his forest have matured before he can get some cash income from them. Today's demands for wood often provides markets for the thinnings of young stands as well as for ripe trees. Such items as Christmas trees, fuel wood, posts, piling, car stakes, and crossies may be harvested as thinnings and sold at a good profit. This cutting, if done properly, does not harm the remaining stand but improves it and speeds up its growth.

Must Know Markets

Before a farmer's grain crop ripens, he carefully explores the market so he can get the best price. The timber owner has an advantage here for he can delay the cutting of his trees until the best time. But he, too, should know the markets for all the products his woods can yield.

A farmer often looks to his county agricultural agent for advice in growing farm crops. A Jackson or Josephine county tree grower can realize valuable professional advice by looking to our local industrial forester, private consulting foresters, SCS Forester, and State Farm Forester to show him how to grow tree crops.

The start of the 1963 fire season has been rescinded by Legislative action. A bill was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor, which makes it possible for each state fire district to decide, according to local weather conditions, when the fire season should begin. Now is the chance then, to do that debris burning that you have been thinking about doing. Don't put it off until it is necessary to obtain a permit.

"I told him 'all right, but I didn't know much about the pear business. Somebody would have to teach me,'" Goddard drawled. "He did. Louis Herron was foreman and Bert Lowry, superintendent then."

Supervises 400 Acres

Now Goddard has approximately 400 acres of pear orchard and 25 men under him. He largely directs the entire orchard operation, from pruning, spraying, thinning to irrigating and picking. His directions come from the superintendent.

The jangle of the telephone interrupted the living room interview and Goddard moved quickly as a cat for the phone. This was a thermometer reading report. He knew he was going to have to be out heating at 1 o'clock the next morning unless the cloud cover held. He had just asked him about how many hours he averaged in daily orchard work when the phone rang again with somebody offering their services for heating.

"Some of 'em are pretty good. And some of 'em aren't," Goddard replied to our question on teenage heating crews. "This is the first year we have had any trouble. For some reason this year, you can't rely on them. They say they will show up and don't."

"So, we just use some of our reserves, try to always keep a reserve crew, or we use some of our regular men who have to work during the day," Goddard explained.

"Recently, he had to get up and flag for the crop dusting plane at 6 o'clock in the morning after being up all night heating," Mrs. Goddard, a pleasant, attractive little woman interjected. "He put in 22 hours heating Friday night and Saturday."

"Oh in the winter it isn't too hard work. Get down to eight hours a day then," the foreman remarked.

Bear Creek uses mostly Lazy Flame heaters with the tall stacks and return stack heaters with the thick round joint and attached elbow joint pipe.

When Goddard first came to work for Bear Creek it was using a lot of square pots and

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