

# Chit Chat

By JCE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A tax expert not long ago spoke to a group of farmers and explained assessment of property and problems connected with the property tax. Later he said it was a good meeting and felt he had gotten his message across although he was somewhat dubious when invited to speak.

The farmers were pleased with his talk, too. Local farmers have a keen interest in public affairs as this little anecdote illustrates. Some of the strongest leaders in local government are farmers. But, we wish farmers and the rural people would take more interest in local government and its problems.

When President John F. Kennedy died from an assassin's bullets the people realized with a start that this nation's foremost leader was no longer able to lead them. Although we didn't agree with some of his policies or those of people under him he had the strong, youthful confidence and vigorous leadership people had come to lean on. Now another man is taking his place. The transition seems to be a smooth one.

But, in local government, there is no such easy succession of leadership. Its steady progression relies on the people to back it up, to step in and take the leadership when necessary and to serve on local committees to further strengthen that government. Local government more nearly comes close to following Abraham Lincoln's concept of "government of the people."

The president's assassination raises this question: Could you act as mayor if called upon, if something happened to your mayor, to your county judge or commissioner? Chances are slight that this crisis could occur, but in this age of threatened atomic warfare it could happen. Even a plane, train or car crash could wipe out your entire city council or county court.

Your first reaction would be, "What do I know about government?" Probably very little. Our democratic system of government is only as strong as the active interest shown by the people. This is particularly true of local government.

A good working knowledge of government is not acquired easily nor quickly. It requires constant study and observation. You can't learn it in school or by being a profitable businessman. Too often businessmen enter government with the idea of "operating on a businesslike basis," but only find it is like no other business although in a sense it is a business.

Too many members of local government wait until they are either appointed or elected before becoming acquainted with their duties or the function of their unit of government. On the job training is fine in many cases, but who would hire executives of a multi-million dollar corporation and expect him to get his knowledge of the business while he is an executive? Watching some local governments operate is like watching an eight-cylinder motor run on six cylinders. Since newly elected members don't really know what they can and should do. They have to coast along until they become more familiar with their jobs.

The new trend to hire city and county managers is a comparatively easy and efficient way to help solve the problem of too many government officials knowing too little. A more practical approach would be a night-school course for future local government heads. Such a course wouldn't catch everybody who might later serve on a city council or in a county commission or court, but it would attract enough interested people to make it worthwhile.

A graduation certificate from such a school would certainly make a more solid platform than empty promises or personal biography. Such informed elected officials should establish a closer working partnership with a county or city manager. The city council or county court would have a better understanding of what their manager could or could not do.

Some elected government officials spend considerable of their own time voluntarily studying the functions, trends and problems of local government. When coupled to action local governmental progress shows it. But such on-the-job study is too time-consuming and self-sacrificing.

During the 1962 meeting of the Oregon Horticultural Society Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. put it neatly: "That we are in a war . . . and that the role we folks like you and I elect to play in our nation will be a significant factor in the winning or the losing of that war."

"It is a war of invisibles — of attitudes, moral strength, understanding of our economic system, understanding of our system of politics and government, devotion to our time-tested principles and ideals, with power."

George Bernard Shaw, the Irish playwright with the whip-lash wit, put it more pointedly: "Democracy is a device that insures we are governed no better than we deserve."

Local government's problems are pyramiding with population increases. Authorities on government call this "urbanization" — the sprawling out of cities and densely populated areas. Each governmental unit has its own definite boundaries which makes it difficult for it to reach out and meet these problems. As areas demand certain services various government units or districts come into being, often overlapping.

"The problem is complicated in many localities because of the great number of small units of government," writes Clarence J. Hein, a nationally known authority on local government. "Some of them seem more concerned with maintaining their independent status, and therefore their boundaries, than with providing a better area for the activities they undertake. Special groups may play one unit of government off against another."

Another major problem is that a local government does not usually communicate its problems to the people. Problems often imply criticism and local governmental officials don't want anything printed in the local newspapers or broadcast which is "bad news." Hence the people are not aware of these problems until it comes time to solve them through increased taxes and other means requiring public support. Then a hurry up call is made to the news media for support — by then it is almost too late.

A third basic problem is not enough funds are available for the local government to do a decent job in being all things to all people as indicated above.

These then are the basic problems: how to better organize areas in which public services are performed, how to provide each interested person with a voice in critical decisions, and how to get the money to pay for these increased services.

Some ways of solving these problems are incorporation and annexation, establishing special districts, consolidation of local units, internal reorganization of the local unit, shifting an activity from one local government to another, establishing a regional council or coordinating committee, and government control over real estate.

Originally, incorporation separated people who wanted city-type services from rural residents who did not. Now the fringe areas want the same services yet many of those area residents do not want to annex to a city. When such areas have a water and sewage problems a slum-type district too often results.

An attempt at correcting overlapping of the existence of many special districts in an area has been made through establishing metropolitan districts containing all the functions of the former separate districts. Some authorities say, however, such a multifunctional special district has never been put into successful operation.

The time will come in the Rogue Valley when towns on the fringes of larger cities or towns growing up against each other's boundary areas will be consolidated. When this movement comes there will be the same bitter struggle against it as there was against school district consolidation.

## Garden Tips

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN  
County Extension Agent

One bright spot in our garden during the winter months is the English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) tree. With its bright red berries and dark green leaves, it is the ideal Christmas plant. The cut foliage of the English holly may be used for indoor arrangements and makes an excellent present to friends who live in areas where English holly does not grow.

Remember when you cut the holly for indoor decorations you are also pruning the tree. When trimming, keep in mind that you want to promote the symmetry of the tree. You can increase the bushiness of the tree by removing only the ends of the branches. Be sure that your clippers are sharp and don't leave leafless stubs.

Treat the bough after you finish cutting to keep them fresh longer. You can purchase fruit setting hormones at your garden store for this purpose. Use this hormone at three times the strength recommended for spraying apples. If used at too high a concentration a noticeable deposit may remain on the foliage after drying.

**Dip Boughs**  
Dip the boughs in the solution of water and fruit setting hormone. The holly is not soaked in the solution, but is merely dipped and allowed to drain. After drainage the boughs are ready for arrangement or for shipment.

When shipping holly, line cartons with florist foil or a plastic coated freezer paper. Waxed paper or newspaper may also be used but the holly will not maintain as good a quality in these wraps. For best results the fastest means of shipment should be used. Holly should be freshened at its destination by making fresh cuts and standing the holly in water. Holly does not need to be inspected before shipment anywhere in or out of Oregon.

Cool temperatures to 32 degrees F. will also prolong the life of the cut holly. If the cut holly should become frozen, injury will be minimized by allowing it to thaw out slowly without handling.

Dissatisfaction with the amount of berries produced sometimes occurs among homeowners. The amount and color of berries and the foliage characteristics of the English holly is limited only to the number of seedling variations that develop. Also, English holly is a dioecious plant. This means that male and female flowers are borne on separate trees. The female tree bears the berries and requires pollen from the male tree for berry development. So, for best berry production you should have a male tree near the female or have branches from the male tree grafted on the female tree.

**Decorative Cones**  
Fresh cones collected in the fall have little use for decorations if they are covered with pitch.

This pitch can be easily removed from the cone by heating. First, clean the cones of any foreign materials by the use of a blower. The blower and crevice attachment on your vacuum cleaner is very effective for this cleaning. Put the cones on a foil covered tray and place in a warm oven. A temperature of 200 degrees for 15 minutes should melt the pitch. A longer time may be required in some cases.

The cones may also be placed in boiling water for a minute or more to remove the pitch. This frequently gives the cones a shellac-like finish. After the pitch is removed you may want to apply a clear finish to enhance the cones. Lacquer, shellac, varnish or liquid floor wax may be used for this.



**DEFOLIANT EFFECT** — A row of trees with bare limbs provide sharp contrast with a row of trees still with their leaves on. This picture was taken early this fall after the Medford station crew applied a cotton defoliant. The experiment was worked out by Entomologist Pete Westgard and Horticulturist Porter Lombard, of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station. If some way can be found to obtain a less costly material local orchard trees could be defoliated after harvest and spraying and pruning done earlier.

## Pruning School In Session In Extension Auditorium

The pruning school now being conducted every day in the Jackson County Extension Service auditorium is barely into the second week of the two-week course but employment orders are already in for the 24 men per day who have been attending it.

The school which started last Tuesday is co-sponsored by the Jackson County Fruit Growers' League, the Jackson County Extension Service, the Oregon Employment Service, and the adult education department of the Medford Public Schools.

The course consists of both classroom instruction given by County Horticulturist Agent Clifford B. Cordy and field instruction given by spray fieldman Bruce Cyphers, Charles Henry and Paul Beddoe with County Agent Donald Berry filling in when needed.

The men are given the theory of pruning in the classroom then spend two days in the field on each variety. The session started with pruning techniques required for the four main pear varieties: Bartlett, Bosc, D'Anjou and Comice, in that order. A California pruning bulletin is used as text. A study assignment is given each class period.

**Next Session**  
Wednesday, at 8:30 a.m., the next classroom session, the crew will learn how to prune Comice pear trees and the influences of light, carbon dioxide, hormones, heat, fruit ratio, flower bud formation and alternate bearing.

A written examination will be held the last day. Those who successfully complete the school may get certificates on the last day, Thursday.

"We figure that each man who sticks with this course will develop into a pruner," Cordy said. "It will take time to develop speed. A good pruner should be able to cover 15 trees a day or 25 acres during a winter pruning season of 100 days."

Pruning, a winter-time activity which employs hundreds in the valley, starts about mid-November and extends through March to the bloom period. Monday morning Cordy reviewed past sessions. He explained how crews must concentrate in removing spurs from both Bartlett and D'Anjou trees, for different reasons. For Bartletts, the number of fruit buds must be reduced so there won't be a lot of small sized fruit. D'Anjous are pruned heavily to force a good fruit set so there won't be a light crop.

**Correct Pruning**  
Correct pruning of Bartletts tends to reduce the need for thinning later on which involves further expense to the grower. Growers seldom thin D'Anjous. Old spurs on D'Anjous are removed so they won't bloom too heavily and have weak blooms which will not set.

Bosc trees are pruned to increase the growth of new spurs. Pruners were warned to be careful if the spurs are short of buds.

**Seed Transmission**  
The problems of seed and pollen transmission of virus in rootstocks is now understood, but from 10-15 years are required to produce a cherry tree on virus-free rootstock when begun with a Mazzard seed, the research noted. Rooting of clonal lines, such as F12-1 Mazzard seedling, will speed up the program.

Apple and pear viruses are now being studied and plans are to include them in the program. However, he cautioned, the problems are complex and different viruses are involved. Index procedures for latent viruses are being studied.

One nurseryman credited the virus-free program with not only increasing his tree production, but also with the fact that he is now able to deliver trees to the planter at a lower cost.

## Talk on Morgans Given By Breeder To Area Horsemen

Phil Morrison, representative of the Josephine County Breeder's Association of Grants Pass, was guest speaker at the November meeting of the Jackson County Horseman's Association, recently.

The affair was held in the recreation room of the Tex Nash Ford Tractor and Implement Bldg., 3905 Crater Lake highway.

Approximately 60 persons listened to Morrison tell the complete history of the Morgan horse with movies from the Morgan Horse Club of America. He explained the events stemming back to the beginning of the Morgan breed, by the creator Justin Morgan.

John Belknap, president of the club led a panel discussion on the future hopes and aims of the group. He expressed need for the continued support of all activity groups in southern Oregon. Belknap also reported on the annual dinner of the Ashland Wranglers at Ashland, Nov. 2, and said he was very much impressed with the progress made by the Ashland horse group.

Guests included: two 4-H clubs, Medford Rawhide Wranglers, and the Rogue Saddlebreds, and many visitors from Grants Pass, and Yreka, Calif. Belknap asked the members to encourage all 4-H club horse groups to attend the JCHA meetings, as he feels much knowledge and information can be gained from the movies shown each month by one of the members.

The movies are scheduled to cover all breeds of horses, and all types of horsemanship. Mrs. Wallace Hamlin will conduct the December program, and the movies will feature the horse of her choice, the Tennessee Walker.

Anyone interested in the sports of horses, mules and ponies is cordially invited to attend. There is no admission. Refreshments are served following the business session.

## Virus Free Tree Program Rates High in Industry

CORVALLIS — The value of the virus-free program for tree fruits initiated by Oregon State University in 1944 is recognized today by both the nurseryman and the orchardist and is contributing to the success of each, Dr. J. A. Milbrath, OSU plant pathologist, told the Oregon Horticultural Society recently.

The value of virus-free trees soon became apparent to Oregon nurserymen when they found that virus-free stock gives better stands of buds in the nursery row, often resulting in 25-50 per cent more trees. Nurseries also found a higher percentage of trees finished in the top grades.

Orchardists soon realized the value of virus-free stock for orchard plantings and soon asked for trees by specific registration numbers, he continued. Over 500 trees have been registered since the program began.

"Most of the orchards planted in the past 10 years have been with the best stock available for sweet and sour cherries, Italian prunes and in some cases peaches," Milbrath noted.

Although Oregon does not yet have a virus-free certification program, "Oregon nurserymen are producing as good or better trees than any other group of nurserymen anywhere," he told the society.

This has been accomplished with the cooperation of the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, State Department of Agriculture, and the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, he added.

For some strange reason, and in spite of the dire warnings of the rank and file of our state government who, along with the assistance of some citizens and publishers predicted that to defeat the tax measure would result in fiscal chaos and hope to see such sensible economy become a tradition in Oregon.

## Farm & Garden Housewife Demands Many Food Aids

CORVALLIS — Roy Moser, Oregon State University extension food technologist, and panel moderator, noted "the housewife doesn't want to buy just food. She wants and demands maid service too — and this must come out of her food dollars and the processor must provide this service," he told the Oregon Horticultural Society recently.

To meet this demand, the industry is providing convenience foods, such as cake mixes and complete frozen dinners. Many prepared items are already on the store shelf and many more will appear, he added.

C. L. Beardsley, canning department superintendent for the Hood River Apple Growers Association, noted about 54 per cent of the processed Bartletts end up as canned pears; 35 per cent in fruit cocktail; seven per cent as baby food, nectar or concentrate; two per cent as dried pears and six per cent in other uses.

Present markets for processing apples fall into about five categories, he commented. These are: applesauce, 37 per cent; canned and frozen slices, 25 per cent; juice, 22 per cent; dried or dehydrated apples, 11 per cent; and baby food and miscellaneous, five per cent.

Applesauce is the fastest growing canned fruit, he noted, with per capita consumption increasing 140 per cent in the last 16 years. All canned fruits have shown an increase of only 28 per cent, while frozen fruits have shown a phenomenal 200 per cent increase in per capita consumption.

Dried apples are now being sold in more forms than ever. In addition to the standard packaged 23 per cent moisture dried apples, dried ground apples for sauce, low moisture two per cent apples and more recently de-hydro frozen apples have entered the field, Beardsley said.

Rising production means a need to expand the Bartlett pear market, he stressed. He believes the market that can expand most quickly is for canned halves, already the big volume item. The market expansion for pear slices, dices and chunks must keep up with the market for halves and may take some industry level promotion, he added.

**Opportunities**  
Beardsley also believes that the applesauce market can still be expanded. The development of hydro-frozen apples seems "a natural," but may not increase the total quantity of apples used for processing as it may replace canned or frozen apples.

Mrs. Lois Sather, OSU food scientist, pointed to some specific changes in eating habits in the last 10 years which have influenced the present trends in processing.

Storage convenience is predicted to be the factor which might influence processing trends more than any other one, she noted. This is leading to the development of such items as freeze-dried foods.

Convenience also means the development of new packages and packaging materials. Mrs. Sather said, which are easy to open and make serving easier for the housewife. This may be one of the strongest influences on new processing trends, she stressed.

A second specific is the increased use of low calorie or special diet foods. Mrs. Sather noted. The homemaker today is aware of the need for a well-balanced diet for her family.

The third specific is "snack food," which has grown in popularity as Americans abandon the formal dinner for the buffet or patio dinners.

"Today's homemaker is younger, spends less time in the home, but still wants to prepare with a minimum of time and expense, three delicious, well-balanced meals a day for her family," she stressed.

**To Spend \$100 Million**  
She pointed out that the food processing industry will spend over \$100 million this year on developing new food products to please the homemaker. Only one out of every ten will be finally considered good enough for test marketing and, of these, only one out of five will be successful.

New products and processes under study by utilization research groups of the U. S. Department of Agriculture were described by Clyde L. Rasmussen, Albany, Calif., industrial specialist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

These included dehydrofreezing and dehydrocanning, two processes which combine partial reduction of weight and volume by dehydration combined with conventional freezing and canning steps.

He also discussed the production of fruit and vegetable juice powders by puffing or foaming techniques and also freeze-drying, which he called "a new and exciting process."

In all these processes, he pointed out, it is necessary to preserve the highly favorable fractions of fruit juices and protect the flavorful and delicious high-moisture of dried fruits.

## FARM Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON  
State Farm Forester  
Our nation's small family forests offer a double opportunity: a good chance of growing money on trees and the certainty that the owner is adding something of value to his community.

They range from three acres to five thousand acres and average 59 acres. They make up 265 million acres and are owned by 4.5 million individuals, more than half of whom are farmers. The lands are as different in composition, age, and capability as are their owners. They exist everywhere that forest-type trees grow naturally.

Most farmers own their woodlot as a part of their farm, usually as a back forty or a hilly tract too steep to cultivate. Non-farmers own woodlands for many reasons — for hunting and fishing, other recreation, pride of ownership, speculation, or investment. The possibility of making money is the primary motive of many owners, but few of them have done anything about management; they seem to think that growing timber is different from other enterprises in that nature will take care of it.

**Determination Needed**  
When I am asked for help I always try to determine if landowners are interested in speculation or in management. Most foresters believe that the owner interested in managing both trees and land in our first concern and will be anxious to help him. Forestry is generally a long-term business, and quick profits are rare.

How to start depends a great deal on the resources one has. Most owners have a small amount of mature salable timber; some good, immature timber, which will yield future harvest, a large number of cut trees, which must be removed, and some bare or poorly stocked land in need of planting or seeding. Stocking land with good trees, like developing a fine herd of cattle, cannot be done in a day or a year. Also to be considered are the owner's physical, financial, and managerial capabilities. A man who can do his own work often can earn a good wage in addition to the stumpage value of the trees to be harvested. An owner who is financially secure can forego limited immediate profits and wait for favorable prices.

Quicker profits can be expected by starting with growing stock at or below harvest size and managing it for a few years, rather than buying bare land and planting it.

Over the long term, good timberland and growing stock generally are more profitable than are poor land and poor growing stock.

**Thought For the Week**  
Bruce Welch, biology professor at William and Mary College, writes in the National Parks Magazine that our basic problem is not saving and protecting the land. Rather, he says, "It is stopping the ominous, uncontrolled expansion of our population . . . not a single conservation-oriented article that has been published has faced the fact that the only action which can provide a lasting solution to our land resources problems is one that will provide a means of controlling human population."

## County Pear Trees Show Increase Over 1959 Census

CORVALLIS — The number of fruit trees in Oregon has increased considerably since the 1959 census, according to preliminary results of a tree survey made this year.

Agricultural Statistician Raymond B. Hile reported the preliminary results to growers during the annual meeting of the Oregon Horticultural Society at Oregon State University. According to Hile, first figures show a large increase in the number of non-bearing trees, since the 1959 census.

## Pruning School In Session In Extension Auditorium

The pruning school now being conducted every day in the Jackson County Extension Service auditorium is barely into the second week of the two-week course but employment orders are already in for the 24 men per day who have been attending it.

The school which started last Tuesday is co-sponsored by the Jackson County Fruit Growers' League, the Jackson County Extension Service, the Oregon Employment Service, and the adult education department of the Medford Public Schools.

The course consists of both classroom instruction given by County Horticulturist Agent Clifford B. Cordy and field instruction given by spray fieldman Bruce Cyphers, Charles Henry and Paul Beddoe with County Agent Donald Berry filling in when needed.

The men are given the theory of pruning in the classroom then spend two days in the field on each variety. The session started with pruning techniques required for the four main pear varieties: Bartlett, Bosc, D'Anjou and Comice, in that order. A California pruning bulletin is used as text. A study assignment is given each class period.

**Next Session**  
Wednesday, at 8:30 a.m., the next classroom session, the crew will learn how to prune Comice pear trees and the influences of light, carbon dioxide, hormones, heat, fruit ratio, flower bud formation and alternate bearing.

A written examination will be held the last day. Those who successfully complete the school may get certificates on the last day, Thursday.

"We figure that each man who sticks with this course will develop into a pruner," Cordy said. "It will take time to develop speed. A good pruner should be able to cover 15 trees a day or 25 acres during a winter pruning season of 100 days."

Pruning, a winter-time activity which employs hundreds in the valley, starts about mid-November and extends through March to the bloom period. Monday morning Cordy reviewed past sessions. He explained how crews must concentrate in removing spurs from both Bartlett and D'Anjou trees, for different reasons. For Bartletts, the number of fruit buds must be reduced so there won't be a lot of small sized fruit. D'Anjous are pruned heavily to force a good fruit set so there won't be a light crop.

**Correct Pruning**  
Correct pruning of Bartletts tends to reduce the need for thinning later on which involves further expense to the grower. Growers seldom thin D'Anjous. Old spurs on D'Anjous are removed so they won't bloom too heavily and have weak blooms which will not set.

Bosc trees are pruned to increase the growth of new spurs. Pruners were warned to be careful if the spurs are short of buds.

Apple and pear viruses are now being studied and plans are to include them in the program. However, he cautioned, the problems are complex and different viruses are involved. Index procedures for latent viruses are being studied.

## Brand Discussion Set For Salem

SALEM — Members of the Oregon Livestock Advisory Committee, which serves as an advisory group to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, will meet today at the Agriculture Building, Salem.

The committee will review the Oregon brand inspection law and determine whether it will advise the department to propose that the 1963 legislative session consider making changes in the law.

In its study of the brand inspection law the group will hear a report on receipts and disbursements under the brand program; and have reports on the number of estrays returned; proceeds withheld until evidence of ownership of an animal is established and prosecution completed in the case of thefts of animals.

Also considered during the meeting will be recommendation to the U. S. Department of Agriculture on its proposed grades for feeder cattle and a recommendation to the Oregon Department of Agriculture on which breeds of male livestock should be permitted to run on open range. At present regulations limit the breed to Hereford, Angus and Shorthorn.

## Range Course Set For Dec. 17-19

Stockmen who have not signed up for the extension service range school scheduled for Dec. 17, 18, and 19 must do so this week.

County Agent Earle Jessy said he sent out 250 letters with reply postcards enclosed, but hasn't received any answers yet. He must know soon how many people are interested so he can tell whether enough people will attend the classes to make it worthwhile to bring in a range specialist.

**STOCKMEN FEED PELLETS**  
Your course or unpalatable roughage will make a base for a modern balanced ration that you can feed with little labor and no wastage. The increased meat or milk produced will give you maximum returns on a small cash investment.

**MORTON MILLING CO.**  
500 Ross Lane, Medford