



NEW ASC OFFICERS — Four new county-wide representatives of the Jackson County Agricultural and Stabilization Committee posed Friday for a picture with County Agent Gene Winters. Front: Vernon Gebhard. Rear: (left to right) Richard Offenbacher, Donald Nichols, Albert Straus and Winters.

# Chit Chat

By JCE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The South Talent area is in the throes of a zoning controversy.

This is not news. But, the results of the zoning election tentatively scheduled for late in January will be. All of Jackson County will be watching this area. They will want to see how effective those favoring the zoning will be. Can one area be made the dumping ground for all of the unsightly roadside business operations none of the other areas want? This is the basic question.

If the forces opposing zoning are successful it would indicate that zoning would be doomed for any other county areas. Then will come more of your wrecking yards only loosely regulated by the department of motor vehicles, more bathtubs and toilet stools to guide the tourist to Ashland and scenic Lithia Park and perhaps even a dead farm animal disposal yard. All are possible without the protection of zoning.

The courthouse people who have been through a whole series of zoning squabbles — there is no more accurate name for them — are predicting that the South Talent zoning will be defeated. Why not? The people favoring zoning are not organized enough to put up a consistent and strong fight.

Too many people are saying they just "don't want to get involved." We often wonder if these same people realize they are involved in the human race. For the human race now more than ever is seeking "living room." Zoning, fairly and impartially applied, seeks to provide decent living space for the people — ALL of the people.

Zoning means that factories will be located out of residential areas, fertile land will be kept for farming, businesses will be grouped together in districts which care more easily serve their patrons. It is not new. Every time a farmer repairs his fence he is reinforcing his own zoning. He is separating his steers from his garden patch, from his field corn and his home.

Zoning does not mean a certain piece of land will always be farm land, residential property or commercial property. As an area becomes more densely populated the people of an area may petition for a public hearing on a zoning change, or the planning commission or county court may feel a change is needed. It may be decided that residential land would be better for commercial or industrial enterprises.

Such a change may be indicated by an increasing number of variances sought by property owners in a certain area. For variances have been liberally granted by the Jackson County Planning Commission.

Unfortunately, more people realize the need for zoning after it is too late — after industrial and commercial enterprises crowd into what was once a residential area. Zoning does not eliminate what is already existing. It does, however, prevent any expansion of that business.

The county court cannot, under state law, refuse a wrecking yard license. This is the job of the department of motor vehicles. The county court can only recommend that a license not be granted or renewed. It's not an excuse. It is in the law books. Too often, an inspector may drop into the area and find that the wrecking yard is not violating the state law by having too many wrecks visible from the highway, etc. The operator, somewhat warned of his coming, suddenly cleans up his yard, then later gradually lets it become unsightly again.

This has happened and will continue to happen until an area gets zoning. The people wanting their area protected must organize, participate actively in that organization, ring doorbells and get support for zoning. This is the kind of work which must be done after a long day's work in the woods, after a full day's housework, after 10 headachy hours of office work. Unlike some human endeavors democratic progress requires a lot of energetic, intelligent people at the controls.

Zoning needs a few "nuts" on its side — people who aren't afraid to say what they think and will go all out for what they believe in. They can speak for themselves. They don't need a lawyer to do it for them. Our forebears didn't require a lawyer to speak for them when they zoned themselves into an independent and free nation.

A number of people with large acreages in Medford's West Side area are faced with possible large assessments as nearby residential property owners are seeking formation of a water district. Even interested observers realize the financial hardships which may result as water lines are stretched along large farm acreages and the farmer has to pay for that water line on a front foot basis. These people could have protected themselves by zoning earlier.

Few if any of the people opposed to zoning have attended planning commission meetings or even read the zoning ordinance pertaining to their area. One of the people most strongly opposed to zoning of the South Talent area admitted during the recent hearing that he hadn't read the new interim zoning ordinance. Although he feels the zoning treats him unjustly he "wouldn't stoop" to seeking a variance from the county planning commission as provided in the ordinance.

It's unfortunate that the vocal minority has assumed the proportions of a democratic majority. It is even more unfortunate that this minority has sought to intimidate the people who petitioned for zoning originally, by making threatening phone calls. But as long as the majority of the people of the area remain silent and inactive this sort of thing will continue. Solid and consistent backing of a zoning ordinance is the only thing which will stop this sort of thing.

Ironically enough, county officials may decide that it is a waste of time and effort to conduct controversial public hearings on zoning piecemeal as interim zoning now requires. They may soon decide they might as well go at it whole hog and put a county-wide zoning ordinance on the ballot. This series of squabbles on zoning may force them to do this. And it may come sooner than you think!

## Housing Study Set For Migrant Labor

CORVALLIS — Some answers to the problem of housing migrant farm workers are expected to come from a survey being completed by Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station.

The project is being financed through a \$12,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Economics Division.

The survey is being conducted to find out how migrant farm workers are housed in Oregon, and what kind of housing attracts and holds good farm workers. It also deals with cost of housing, and whether housing should be built on the farm or provided at central locations by grower associations.

Major purpose of the project is to supply information on loan programs for the federal government. The National Housing Act of 1961 authorized Farmers Home Administration to liberalize procedures for granting low cost loans to improve or construct housing for migrant farm workers.

The OSU study will provide FHA with a basis for program planning, for evaluating loan applications, and for supervising loans made to build farm worker housing. Oregon was picked as the survey state because of the large number of crops grown here, and the wide variation in the types of housing provided for farm workers.

## Imports-Exports Subject of Meet For Nut Growers

CORVALLIS — Panel discussions, reports on current research and a talk on the world's nut supply and import and export trends will be highlights Wednesday of the 49th annual meeting of the Oregon-Washington Nut Growers Society.

The meeting is set for the Yamhill county fairgrounds in McMinnville, reports R. L. Stebbins, Oregon State University extension horticulturist and society secretary. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and Joe N. Varner, Gaston, society president, will open the meeting at 9.

A panel discussion on "Our Trees After the Typhoon" will be moderated by Stebbins. It will center around the situation nut growers found themselves in last fall, steps they took to restore their orchards and results. Panel members also will deal with such questions as pruning and training and how long it will take for trees to fully recover.

### Panel Listed

Panel participants will include Larry Holden, Hillsboro, cooperative fieldman; Eric R. Nette, Salem; Mrs. C. J. Fester, Sherwood; and Ben V. Forbes, Newberg, all growers.

Dr. Q. B. Zielinski, horticulturist with the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station, will report on his recent findings in filbert and walnut pollination. His work is supported by a grant from the Filbert Control Board.

Roland Groder, OSU extension marketing specialist, will review the world's supply of nuts and also touch on import-export trends. The walnut husk fly, an insect pest which appeared in Oregon for the first time this year, will be discussed by Peter Larsen, entomologist with the Oregon State Department of Agriculture.

"Filbert Packages, Gifts and Confections" will be the topic for a panel discussion moderated by Mrs. Velma Seat, OSU extension food marketing specialist.

Haveage losses about 7 per cent of its weight during storage compared to an average weight loss of 24 per cent for direct-cut grass silage.

## Seed Industry Challenges Face Oregon Seed Farmers

CORVALLIS — A discussion of the challenges facing the seed industry will keynote the 23rd annual meeting of the Oregon Seed Growers League this week in Portland.

### Garden Tips

By JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN  
County Extension Agent

Although a freshly cut Christmas tree is preferred over one that has been cut for several weeks, what you do with the tree after you have it home is very important in maintaining its good appearance and safety.

A few simple steps will help maintain the tree's color, reduce needle drop, and make the tree more resistant to burning if accidentally exposed to fire. Some tree species, such as the pines and firs, normally retain their needles longer than the spruce, but all will usually give satisfactory service if treated properly.

### Home Care

When you bring your tree home from the market, place it in a bucket of water outdoors or in a cool place until you are ready to decorate it. The tree will not be injured by snow or rain, but heat will cause it to dry out and may result in early needle drop.

When it is time to bring the tree indoors for decorating make a fresh cut about an inch above the original one. Place the tree in a container of water. Never place the tree near the fireplace or other source of heat.

A tree in a warm room may use a pint or more of water a day. Keep the cut surface completely covered with water at all times. The larger the container the less frequent water will have to be added.

There are many types of tree holders on the market. Select one that will hold the tree firmly and has a water container of generous size.

The United States Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., investigated the benefits of fire retardant chemicals on Christmas Trees. They concluded that keeping the tree standing in water is about the most practical, satisfactory and convenient method of those tried for reducing the fire hazard and preventing the needles from discoloring or falling. Actually,

representatives attending the meeting will hear J. R. Cowan, Oregon State University farm corps department head, outline several important industry challenges, including the necessity of maintaining genetic purity in seed. Cowan points out that keeping seed genetically pure is as important as keeping the seed free from weed seeds and other physical contaminants.

Cowan will discuss the possibility of strengthening seed certification programs — the only way to maintain genetic purity.

Another area of importance to the industry will be discussed by Ray Hile, head of the Oregon Crop Reporting Service, who will explain the methods and problems involved in arriving at crop estimates.

Crop reporting procedures have met with some dissatisfaction among seed growers in the past. Seed League members will review the whole area of seed crop estimates in relation to certain sprays could increase the fire hazard by reducing water intake.

Decorative Christmas Greens All live green boughs and branches used for decorative purposes should be arranged in water if possible. This not only keeps them fresh but reduces the fire hazard.

If greens or trees cannot be placed in water and are used where there is danger of fire, make them flame retardant by coating them with a transparent water glass (sodium silicate) solution.

Fire-Retardant Coating For those who undertake to coat boughs and trees with a fire retardant chemical, the following formulation is suggested. Mix nine parts by volume of water glass (sodium silicate) to part of water. Add one teaspoonful of a mild detergent to each quart of water to act as a wetting agent. This formulation produces a shiny, transparent, colorless coating. Sodium silicate is available at most drug stores.

A heavy coating is necessary to reduce the fire hazard. One coat reduces the tendency for flame spreading, but two coats are more effective. Apply by spraying or dipping. For spraying, add more water to this mixture. If this is done, more applications are needed. Use an insecticide, vacuum cleaner or a paint sprayer.

industry needs, during annual committee meetings. The competitive position of Oregon seed is influenced considerably by seed crops in British Columbia and a Canadian grower, Stanley Weston, will talk about current trends in seed production in his area.

Dr. Virgil Freed, head of the OSU Agricultural Chemistry department, will discuss "Agricultural Chemicals, Good and Bad."

Another important topic is the weather, particularly since so much of Oregon's seed production success depends on warm, dry weather at harvest time. Larry Zimmerman, Weather Bureau representative stationed at Oregon State, will discuss weather in removal of smoke during fall stubble burning.

Other speakers scheduled during the three-day program include Alenby White, Northrup-King Seed Company, Minneapolis, Minn.; Jack Wells, seed and grain marketing specialist, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, D.C.; Grant E. Blanch, OSU agricultural economist; and Congressman Robert Duncan, Medford.

White will talk about the importance to the seed industry of private seed development; Wells, the problems of producing seed for foreign markets; Blanch, the current tax situation; and Congressman Duncan, a member of the House agriculture committee, will review legislative activities.

Programs for the Seed League meeting are being mailed to all Seed League members. Programs are also available from county extension agents, from Rex Warren, OSU extension farm crops specialist, who is also secretary of the Oregon Seed Growers League. The entire proceedings will be available in printed form following the meeting.

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## Jackson County Stockmen To Meet in Central Point

Farms from Maine to California take guests at \$30 to \$45 weekly with meals.

This is "Farm Vacations and Holidays, Inc.," a nation-wide registry of farms or ranches where the city people can bring their families and relax. Business is all conducted on a friendly family to family basis. The would-be vacationers write the farm families giving their backgrounds and interests. The farm family writes back. Then, if they seem compatible arrangements for the holiday or vacation is made.

Farmers during a second or third season have made as high as \$1,000 per spare room. One dairy farm had 14 families visit in one summer. They represented three religious faiths, eight national backgrounds, and a dozen different states. Families help with the chores and become part of the family.

Main Requirements Main requirements are plenty of good, wholesome food, clean, neat quarters and indoor plumbing.

Charles Collins, executive vice-president of California-Oregon Recreation Development Association, will tell of this program and other ways farmers can make money from recreation, when the Jackson County Stockmen's Association meets at 10 a. m., Thursday, Dec. 12 in the Central Point Grange Hall.

Thomas Owens, deputy district attorney, will talk about prosecution of cattle thieves. Beef imports from Australia and New Zealand and their effects upon local markets will be discussed.

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management personnel will be there and will give the

latest information on range developments.

A new state dues schedule will be explained. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association president, first vice-president and secretary will be introduced.

An added inducement will be

## Nitrogen Loss In Soil Noted

CORVALLIS — Researchers in the Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station have advanced a new theory to explain some of the losses of nitrogen from the soil.

It has long been common knowledge that various bacteria cause nitrogen loss in water-logged, poorly-aerated soil. The bacteria change nitrites into a gas which is released into the air.

However, researchers have been puzzled by non-bacterial losses of nitrogen, where the soil is well aerated, and under optimum moisture conditions.

According to Leroy H. Wullstein and Dr. C. M. Gilmour of the OSU department of microbiology, laboratory studies show that transition metals such as iron and copper, under the proper chemical conditions, react with nitrite in the soil to form nitrogen dioxide, which is then lost into the air.

This new mechanism of nitrite loss may hold the answer to some cases where crops have failed to respond to nitrogen fertilization. The disappearance of nitrogen can mean a serious out-of-pocket loss to the farmer who has laid out money for commercial fertilizer.

a few prizes to be awarded during the meeting. The public is invited.

## FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

This area has received ten minutes of sunshine already this week, so the weather will be bad the remainder of this week.

Now that the question of weather has been adequately covered, what else is there to be considered?

Recently, in a coffee room confab many old time (for this generation) home remedies were mentioned. Such aromatic items as mustard, onion or garlic plasters were discussed along with the ailments they would cure.

There were other remedies such as teas of pennyroyal, boneset and sassafras. If these treatments failed to cure the patient, death was the usual end. There were few or no hospitals then as there are now to serve as a detour on the route to the cemetery.

The principal point intended is that sources of income for many country children disappeared when the demand for roots and herbs was dissipated by modern medicine. The children of Americans as a whole suffer greatly from not having some responsibilities or chores somewhat like those children of several years ago who had definite responsibilities in relation to the welfare of the home.

Experiments Some extensive pilot plant experiments have shown that one acre of water one foot deep is capable of producing 20 tons of algae per year. The water is polluted or fertilized by the addition of raw sewerage and is so managed that no ill odors or fermentation occurs. In fact, the production of 20 tons of algae is reported to result in sufficient purification of sewerage effluent so that one million gallons of water that is ordinarily lost to mankind can be re-utilized at least for irrigation or other industrial uses.

The algae that can be produced in this way is very high in the essential proteins that are demanded for higher animals for their best growth and development. In this country the algae will at first be utilized for animal food and man will continue to eat steaks, eggs and butter. The Japanese people are currently utilizing the algae harvest as human food. It is possible to give it any desired flavor.

Fire Blight Fire blight is usually considered to be a disease of pear trees that is controlled from the blossom period until about the first of July of each growing season. This pruning season is perhaps an exception to this rule as there have been numerous reports of running blight infections in certain Bartlett orchards. Each orchardist should take measures to see that the infections are properly removed and that the pruning labor does not spread the infections from tree to tree as they proceed down the tree rows.

Pastures Pastures and grazing are fairly good over the local area. As has been pointed out before in this column, the best grazing is to be had on improved ranges.

There emerges one consoling thought regarding the problem of securing Christmas presents. In the event the doll clothing you buy is too small for the roll, your wife or daughter can use it to advantage in view of the abbreviated styles that are currently in vogue for females.

## Farm & Garden

### Pruning Questions Presented Public

Editor's Note: The following examination was given 25 men who attended the pear pruning school in the extension service auditorium last week. See how many answers you know and compare your results with the answers below. Count five points each for the top group true or false and 10 points each for the bottom multiple choice questions. Seventy points is average.

INDICATE IF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OR FALSE

- Bartlett spurs are removed to reduce fruit set and improve fruit size.
- Anjous are pruned heavily to increase crop.
- Unless properly pruned, Comice produce alternate heavy and light crops.
- Pruning is justified only if it results in increased net income from the orchard.
- Frequent sharpening of shears reduces the labor of pruning.
- All good pruners will prune exactly the same way.
- Trees should be pruned for maximum tonnage regardless of fruit size.
- Pruned trees make less root growth than unpruned ones.
- Removal of spurs reduces the number of fruits in relation to number of leaves.

INDICATE THE STATEMENT WHICH MOST ACCURATELY COMPLETES THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES

- In pruning Bartlett pears
- (a) most old spurs are removed every year.
  - (b) most old spurs are removed if fruit buds are plentiful.
  - (c) spurs should be left in for seven years.
- Limbs should be undercut with a saw
- (a) in all cases.
  - (b) when too large to handle easily.
  - (c) only when very large limbs are removed.
- Fruit buds are commonly produced on one-year old shoots
- (a) on all varieties.
  - (b) on Bosc.
  - (c) on Bartlett.
- To keep a tree from growing too high, it is best to
- (a) remove all new shoots in tree top.
  - (b) leave same new shoots and cut the rest back part way.
  - (c) remove the most vigorous shoots in the tree top and leave some moderately vigorous ones without cutting.
- Cutting back a low vigor, down hanging branch in lower part of tree
- (a) stimulates it into new growth.
  - (b) dwarfs and weakens it.
  - (c) prevents new growth but makes it a fine fruiting branch for several years.

### ANSWERS

1. true; 2. true; 3. true; 4. true; 5. false; 6. false; 7. false; 8. true; 9. true.

Multiple Choice: 1. b; 2. b; 3. c; 4. c; 5. b.

POINTS 85 points, excellent, start work immediately; 80, pretty good but ask the foreman when you don't know; 70, average; 60, you couldn't prune my rose bush; 50, drop that saw and get out of here!

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