



4-H CLUB CONTEST WINNER—Miss Hazel Bradshaw, Bonanza, examines a wrist watch she received as state winner in the parental-cooperation contest sponsored by the farm bureau. Second place winner in Klamath county was Ida Mae Sohrakoff, Keno, center, and third place county winner was Patsy Tofell, Bonanza.

Klamath Among 15 Counties Passing Soud Seed Tests

Farmers in 15 Oregon counties this year grew 3035 acres of potatoes which successfully met all field requirements toward designation as certified seed stock. Elmer Johnson, OSC extension seed certification specialist, has announced. Last year, 3149 acres passed the state seed certification law requirements. Seed lots from the 1949 crop, however, must still pass test plot plantings to be carried out this winter in the OSC greenhouse, or, in the case of the Nettle Gem variety, test plantings at Oceanside, Calif. Seed test plots, Johnson explains, are planted with samples of seed lots which are grown out during the winter to determine the percentage of disease-free seed before spring planting in the north.

Leafroll, normally the worst disease problem, was again the chief reason for rejection when field inspections were carried on this year. However, just 434 acres were rejected out of the total 3472 acres entered for certification. This figure compares favorably with the 1332 acres rejected during 1948.

Better Seed
Reason for the improvement, according to Johnson, was the fact that growers planted better quality seed, took more pains in roguing.

Of 18 varieties entered for certification this year, Nettle Gems rank first in acreage with 1960 acres passed. The White Rose variety stands second with 796; the Burbank variety is third with 191 acres.

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had fewer insect problems with use of better insecticides, and, not to be overlooked, good luck.
Clyde Ward, Baker, with 216 acres of Nettle Gems, was the state's leading certified seed potato grower this year. Ernest Hamback, Tigard, Washington county, had the most varieties—14.
Other counties in which fields passed certification this year are Clackamas, Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah and Umatilla.

Naval Museum Plans Delayed
WASHINGTON, (AP)—The nation will have to wait a while for its naval museum.
Mrs. Truxtun Neale, who owns

Decatur House, one-time residence of Commodore Stephen Decatur, last year leased the coach house to the Naval Historical Foundation for 50 years at \$1 a year. It was to be remodeled and opened early next year as a museum.
But when work got under way it was discovered that the coach house was slightly less safe than the White House. It needed steel columns and beams. The steel strike stalled that, however, and now no one knows when the museum will open.
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Field Mice May Cause Damage To Fruit Trees During Winter

Field mice, which are numerous in parts of the county now, often cause serious injury to fruit trees during the winter months by gnawing the bark off the trees, sometimes completely girdling them.
This usually takes place under a blanket of snow and may result in the death of the tree.
Protective measures which may be undertaken at this time to protect the trees from injury by mice are several and are listed as follows:
Removal of mouse shelter such as dry grass, leaves and twigs, about the base of the tree; treating tree trunks with a repellent material; enclosing trunks with mechanical protectors, and by killing all existing mice either by trapping or by use of poisoned grain.
Abundant cover about the base of the tree is incentive to mouse injury, yet it is sometimes desired to maintain this cover, in which case it would be well to enclose the trunk

in a sleeve made from 1/4-inch mesh, hardware cloth and establish a poison station at the base of the tree by putting out a few teaspoons of poisoned grain where the grain will be sheltered but still accessible to the mice.
For trees which are over two years old a good repellent mixture is one part of creosote oil to two or three parts of coal tar. The trunk is painted to a height of 18 or 20 inches and prevents injury by rabbits as well as the mice.
By far the most practical method is to destroy the mice by use of poisoned grain. Small quantities placed in the burrows and along runways usually suffice for existing mice but unless the grain is sheltered from the weather it will deteriorate and become ineffective on mice which move in at a later date.
Field mice are easily trapped, us-

ing the common snap trap placed in surface runways or at the mouth of burrows and may be used where poison is objectionable. Success depends on plenty of traps which are regularly attended.

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Radioactive Alfalfa Used In Farm Test

MOSCOW, Idaho, (AP)—A university of Idaho chemist is working with a plot of radioactive alfalfa so "hot" he has to handle the plants with rubber gloves.
The alfalfa plot — four-tenths of an acre — is part of an experiment underway at the Aberdeen branch station in Southern Idaho to test the efficiency of fertilizers in different kinds of soil.
A trace of radioactive phosphorus is added to the fertilizers in use. The progress of the radioactive material through the growing plant is checked with a geiger counter — an electronic device that reveals the presence of radioactivity.
Handling of the alfalfa by James V. Jordan, agricultural chemist requires the constant use of protective gloves. Juice from any of the "hot" plants that entered a break in the skin could result in injury.
G. O. Baker, soils technologist at the experiment station, said different phosphate fertilizers have been used in the soils of the intermountain region with varying results. He describes the experiment now underway as an "excellent tool" for measuring the amount of phosphorus in the fertilizer used by the plant.

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