

Operations Weather

Medford Pear Growers Experiment With Hail

That age-old battle — man versus Mother Nature — has a new twist today. As you know, man can and does produce artificial rain. It's all done from the cockpit of an airplane — not by waving a stick or muttering mysterious incantations. But by a process as simple as feeding chickens. But instead of throwing out grain, the pilot spreads dry ice on rain bearing clouds. Changing cloud temperatures eroded about by the falling dry ice then produces rain. If you can make rain artificially — why not make snow fall? Or prevent hail?

That's what pear growers, ship- pers and others in the Medford dis- trict are attempting to do. They have been at it several months now in the famous Rogue river valley — first hail prevention. Now they will soon be starting snow making experiments — all done artificially. It's not so foolish as it may sound — preventing hail and making snow, especially when you remember that Medford is famous for its pears. The whole idea of hail prevention, the experimenters say, is aimed to make hail fall elsewhere than on tender young pears. Because just

one dent from a hailstone — and what might have become a delicious pear on your breakfast table is just another worthless cull.

**Hail Cost**  
In 1948, hail damage cost Rogue river valley pear growers a half- million dollars. Maybe it was the hail prevention work — maybe it wasn't — but this year there was no hail damage. And the area re- ceives an average of nine hail making thunder storms a year.

Trouble shooters in the Medford hail and snow experiments are two former navy pilots — Harvey Bran- dau and Eugene Kosser. When the hail alarm was sounded this past summer, they took off skyward in two war surplus airplanes.

Their plan was to seed trouble- some, hail making thunder-heads before they reached dangerous, ice- forming heights. In the work at Med- ford, the two pilots do not use dry ice but a substance of their own which they keep mum about. Clouds were seeded to make the hail fall on areas other than agricultural. Or the cumulus type clouds that pro- duce hail were caught at low alti- tudes where seeding produced harm- less rain rather than hail.

Now, during the winter months,

the weather control pilots are going to make snow artificially. But suc- cess or failure of the artificial snow making experiments depends on whether or not the snow can be placed where it will do Rogue river valley fruit growers some good. And that's in a watershed that drains in- to irrigation reservoirs.

Area chosen is a rectangle eight by 10 miles square that lies some 30 miles southwest of Mt. Pitt. There, the two pilots, Bradau and Kosser, hope to build up the snow fall that supplies summer irrigation water from the Rogue river valley. They'll do it of course, by seeding clouds that might otherwise pass on over the area and drop their water-laden snow elsewhere. At any rate those are the plans for opera- tion weather control at Medford. Only time will tell if the experi- ments prove successful.

Wheat Yields Increased by Chemicals

On a commercial fertilizer test on summer fallow fall seeded Galgalos wheat conducted on the Bob Steiner ranch near New Pine creek, am- monium sulphate increased yields. On this rate test plot 90 pounds per acre increased the yield 648 pounds.

Jack Hays, farm advisor, reports

Tulelake Growers Meet

TULELAKE--The Tulelake Grow- ers, in annual session Monday, elected two new members to the board of directors, elected a vice president, proposed and adopted major amendments to by-laws and decided to operate the labor camp at Newell again next year on a full- year lease basis.

that after all costs were deducted the net gain by the use of the ni- trate fertilizer was \$15 per acre.

Other rates of application were used but the 90 pound rate gave the greatest net gain in value in another test on the same ranch on native meadow hay, ammonium sulphate was the only fertilizer that showed results.

The camp has been operated in the past on a quarterly contract.

The meeting was held in the American Legion hall with President Sam Anderson presiding.

Under one amendment the new president who will succeed Ander- son will be elected by the board rather than by assembly. To date the board has not met for that deci- sion.

**Vice President**  
Stan Buckingham, 1947 home- steader, is the new vice-president. Edgar Osborne was re-elected sec- retary. Dan Crawford Sr. and Bert Johnson replace Clark Fenner and Eldon Larson as directors. Holdovers on the board are Wil-

liam Kandra, Ivan Ross, Ed Duckett and Marvin Thomas.

Other amendments effect pay- ment of dues which must be prepaid by March 1 of the year following December 1 and acreage assessments which will be receivable until March 1 of the year following crop season.

**Dues**  
Lapsed memberships may be re- newed under the new amendment when all back dues including mem- bership fees and assessment permits up to a maximum of three years have been paid.

Tiny green plants grow inside some one-celled animals, using up the waste gas produced by the animals. The plant, in turn, produces oxygen and sugar for the animal.

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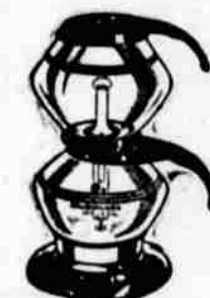
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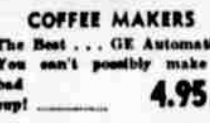
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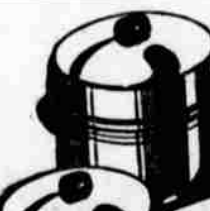
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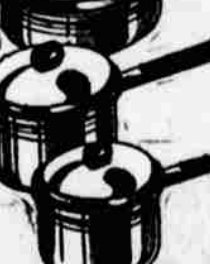
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