

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS VITAL TO AREA

This is the first of a series of articles discussing a little-known phase of farming and ranching activity in this area, the soil conservation district. — Ed. Note.

By HALE SCARBROUGH

One of the least understood but most vitally important agricultural developments of recent years—and one that doesn't subsist by government handout—is the growth of the soil conservation district by which farmers and ranchers are able to put some purpose and direction to their individual work at improving their land.

Three such districts exist in

Klamath County, one of them pretty far along in development and the other two still young and struggling to get along.

The strongest and of course the oldest, is the Langell Valley soil conservation district which was created in 1941, superimposed on what was then a rather remote and poor section of the county. It has the jump of several years of experience and pioneering on the other two, the Poe Valley district which was set up in 1946 and the Klamath district which was formed in 1949.

The Langell Valley district by recent action increased its size to where it is now bigger in area

than some counties in Oregon and in coming years it will be a focal point for the attention of resource conservationists in the West. It has been selected as Oregon's pilot district for experimentation and proof of what can be done to improve both public and private scientific effort.

What is a soil conservation district? It is a legal entity, just like a municipal corporation, a school district or an irrigation district, with powers similar to those of other municipal corporations except that it doesn't have the authority to levy taxes.

The purpose of a soil conservation district is to try to improve

by whatever means are necessary and feasible the lands within the district; to determine and better the capacity of each acre of land, whether it be for crop raising, pasture, grazing, timber or whatever use.

Soil conservation districts exist in all states, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico governed by local law. The laws and setups differ from state to state.

Here in Oregon the Legislature enacted a soil conservation district law back in 1929. Its provisions are simple:

The law sets up an agency of the state, a Soil Conservation Committee, with the function of general supervision of districts that

might be formed around the state. Formation of a district also is relatively easy. Any 25 or more landowners or owners of 70 per cent of the property within the territory proposed as a district can petition the state Soil Conservation Committee asking that a district be created. A public hearing is held on the subject and then an election, with only property owners within the proposed district eligible to vote. If a majority of them sanction the proposal, a district is created within pre-determined boundaries and it's in business.

Property owners within the district elect three of their number as supervisors and two more are

appointed by the state committee. The balance of power, then, is directly vested in the district itself, not in any outside agency.

As a political subdivision, the newly created soil conservation district can enter into agreements or contracts, own and mortgage property, borrow money, furnish things and do practically all the things that, say, an irrigation district or a school district can do, except that it can't levy a tax.

But in lieu of that authority, the law will allow a district to receive gifts and to request contributions of money or services from those persons who are receiving or are to receive its benefits. In other

words, the district can command pay for its work.

This state committee is composed of five persons, three of them designated by law. They are: (1) the director of the state agricultural experiment station; (2) the vice director of the state extension service; and (3) the state engineer. The other two committee members are farmers appointed by the Governor.

The state doesn't furnish any money. Neither does the federal government, although it does furnish technical assistance through the federal Soil Conservation Service, a branch of the Department of Agriculture.

That service makes soil surveys, range surveys and the like scientific studies that the individual rancher probably wouldn't be trained or qualified to do for himself, to determine the capability of the soil and practices which can raise those capabilities. The service works out basic farm plans which ranchers can use to guide themselves in cultivating the resources of the land.

Any landowner in a soil conservation district may request the Soil Conservation Service for such a study and basic plan for his place. Whether he uses it up to him.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Portland:

"A holdup man was captured in five minutes here Sunday night because he tried to escape by driving his car the wrong way on a one-way street. The robber was pursued by two policemen, who overtook him and forced him to the curb. He got out of the car, handed over \$120 and a loaded automatic, and said: 'Okay, I'm the one you want!'"

I can understand the poor guy's befuddled mood. That's what it does to you when you get caught going the wrong way in one of these one-way street grids.

At least, it's one benefit of the system I'd never thought of. Maybe it will eventually stop the cop-chase-robber type of crime in our one-way-street towns.

I'm intrigued with this dispatch from Midway, Alabama:

"You'll look a long time before finding another hoosegow like the Midway jail. It's on wheels, sits in a Negro woman's front yard and puts its occupants up for public inspection."

The jail, which resembles an animal cage more than it does a lockup, is a discarded convict wagon. Since any passerby can see who's in it, the inmates usually are subject to quite a bit of ridicule from persons on the outside.

"Midway folks find it satisfactory though. VERY FEW OF THEM EVER GET LOCKED UP."

It's the same idea, you see, as the STOCKS which our Pilgrim forbears used as deterrents of certain types of crime. I've never been sure it wasn't a mistake to go away with the stocks, and this Alabama adaptation of the system more or less confirms my cynical notion.

In these modern days, it doesn't matter so much what you do. What really matters is GETTING CAUGHT AT IT. When you get put in the stocks and exhibited in the public square or clapped in an exaggerated monkey cage like the city jail in Midway, Alabama, where everybody in town can come by and kid the life out of you, IT MEANS SOMETHING!

I'm not surprised that relatively few people ever get locked up in Midway. If I lived there, I'D WALK THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH!

Another thought. Do you reckon people who GET CAUGHT AT IT try to keep their names out of the paper in Midway? With a system like theirs, it wouldn't make much difference.

Private memo to myself: Write the Midway editor and see what his experience has been.

This Midway jail idea is so simple in its fundamentals, so FANTASTIC IN ITS POSSIBILITIES of bringing about greater respect for law that I can't seem to leave the story without squeezing it completely dry.

The dispatch goes on:

"No claims have been made about the jail being even remotely escape-proof."

"Not so long ago, eight persons got thrown in it to establish some record in the way of a tenancy record. Seven of them promptly flung out the floor and escaped. The eighth WAS TOO FAT. He got stuck and couldn't get out."

The poor fat man! He's the butt of all the jokes. He keeps outgrow-

(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather

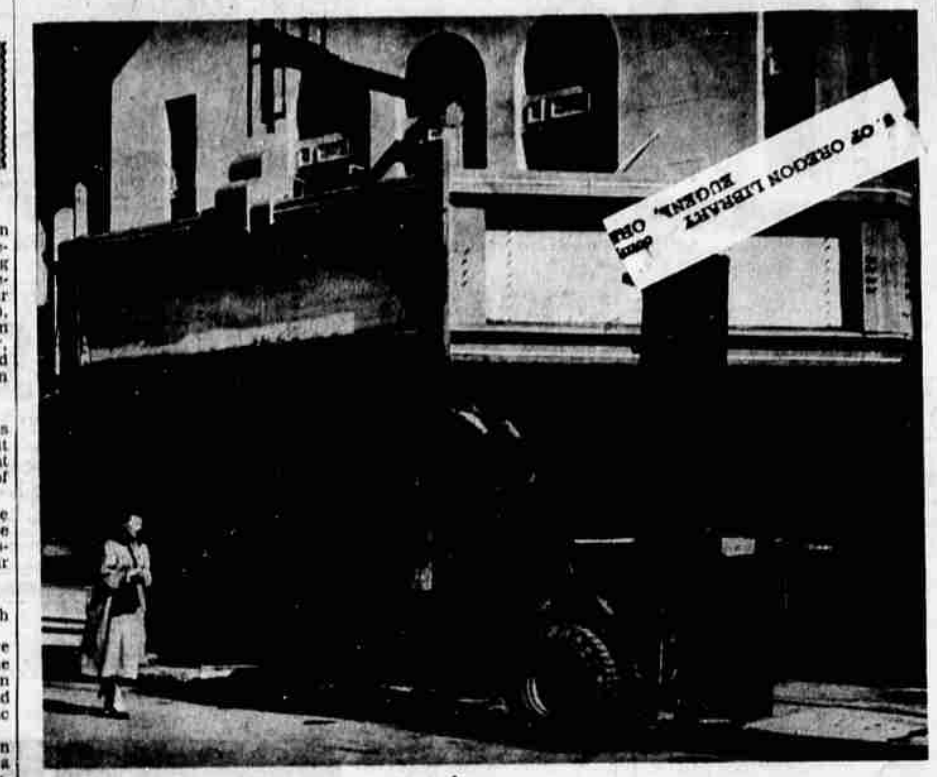
FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity and Northern California: Overcast and occasional rain Monday through Tuesday. High 50, low 37.

High Temp yesterday 47
Low last night 37
Precip March 23 0
Since Oct. 1 14.09
Normal for period 9.05
Same period last year 12.58
(Additional Weather on Page 4.)

9 O'clock Special



SHOOTING THE BREEZE this morning were Gary Chosea (left) of 419 Tory and Larry McNab from the Chelsea Addition.



A CHANGE OF SPOTS is in store for the marquee taken down Saturday by workmen above the sidewalk at the Pine Tree theater. The metal structure that has carried names of many motion pictures since it was put in 1922 will go to Bly to be used on a theater there. The building being remodeled for a store and office buildings was put up by Hart Brothers, Sacramento, with Howard Perrin as the architect. It has been used consistently as a theater with the same name. Present owners are T. B. Watters, Dr. Ralph W. Stearns and Charles L. Moore.

Farmers Worried Over Late Spring And Heavy Runoff; Field Planting Delayed But Hopes Held For Good Late Yield

By MALCOLM EPEY JR., Farm Editor

Everyday citizens don't have too much to lose to wet, uncomfortable weather, but farmers do and they're beginning to worry about it.

Spring is several weeks late already (though technically it began last Thursday), and there's so much runoff water and leftovers from heavy winter snows that the farmers can't get into the fields to begin preparing the way for planting.

So far this stream year (which began Oct. 1) a total of 14.09 inches of water has been precipitated in rain and snow. The normal precipitation at this time of year is less than 10 inches.

County Agent C. A. Henderson takes an optimistic view of the situation:

He says late plantings—barring frosts—quite often produce higher yields.

But in other phases of farming and ranching things are a little difficult.

J. D. Vertrees, livestock and poultry specialist in the County Agent's office, reported lambing miserable and uncomfortable and there has been some loss of calves because of weather conditions.

CALVES HURT

He said calves suffered from pneumonia, and some froze to death shortly after being dropped. Lambing percentages, however, are high, Vertrees said. He added, since weather like this is hard on brooding.

Early pasture plantings are being held up, ground preparations are yet to begin and fertilizer applica-

tions have yet to be made, Vertrees noted. In general, farming is just plain behind schedule.

A year ago, he noted, dusting operations were underway at this time on clover root weevil. This year there is still clover under snow.

All bugs and insects, Vertrees said, are dormant at present and aren't causing any damage. He added that clover can pull out of the weather slump awfully fast, and probably will.

Early pasture and grazing areas are behind in spring development, too. Crested wheatgrasses were just coming out of the snow this week-end.

SEED READIED

Henderson said there were a number of farmers preparing seed in the cellars for spud planting, but little work could be done in the fields. He said that by this time usually farmers are ready to plant, and that they have all the outside equipment for expected heavy spring use. Farmers haven't been able to do that yet, either, to any extent.

There's nothing in sight that is damaging," Henderson said. "and the soil moisture will be excellent once we do start planting."

He noted that farmers who were originally planning to plant winter wheat have changed their minds and are thinking in terms of spring wheat planting now, as soon as they can get the soil.

Henderson said the long winter had depleted and erased almost all the old haystacks in the county, and many farmers were now feeding concentrates — an expensive proposition.

Four KF Men On Draft List

Four men from Klamath County, one a native of Ireland not yet naturalized, are scheduled to leave here April 8 for induction into the armed forces April 9 at Portland.

They are George Wilbur Small, 26, of Gold Creek, Mont.; James Lawrence Schulze, 24, Bly; Jeremiah McAuliffe, 24, Baldwin Hotel, Klamath Falls; and David Charles Vincent, 20, 225 E. Main.

McAuliffe, in this country about two years and taking preliminary steps toward naturalization, said he wants to go into military service, the Selective Service office reported. Some weeks ago two un-naturalized Irishmen in Lake County refused to be drafted, citing provisions in a friendship treaty between the United States and Ireland.

Planes Bomb Cows With Hay

ELKO, Nev. (AP)—Big Air Force planes from four states were "bombing" the snowy ranges of Nevada Monday with hay for starving cattle. A new storm temporarily grounded the operation Sunday.

C-54s at Great Falls, Mont.; C-124s at McChord Field, Wash.; and a C-82 at Denver were alerted to augment haylift cargo planes from Hamilton Field, north of San Francisco.

In contrast to Saturday's success in air-dropping 18 tons of baled hay to cattle isolated in remote areas, only one crew got through Sunday's new blizzard. It dumped hay in the Ruby Valley east of Elko.

Eight ranchers in Elko County have called for air-drops of some 7,000 cattle. Some 82 other cattle owners were relying on 25 Army bulldozers from Ogden, Utah, to clear lanes through the snow to 100,000 menaced stock.

Saturday, and Sunday, these bulldozers and a rotary plow cleared approximately 100 miles of roads in the critical Northeastern Nevada area. Another 600 miles remain to be cleared. The ground work was expected to continue all week.

It was hoped the aerial operation could be concluded Tuesday. The costly rescue work is being financed by a \$100,000 allotment of President Truman. He declared the sector a disaster area.

The aerial phase was hazardous at times. Cargo planes were forced to worm their way between canyon walls to drop the bales near the starving herds.

Five Rescued In Boat Upset

PORTLAND (AP)—Five Portlanders were rescued from the Willamette River after their boat capsized in the wash of an ocean-going freighter Saturday.

Nearby fishermen in small boats pulled members of the P. J. Torney family to safety. Barbara Chaney, 21, still was missing, however. Torney dove back toward the boat, floating upside down. He broke out a cabin window, and pulled Miss Chaney to safety.

The Torneys were disconsolate over the fact that their dog, who had been with them 14 years, could not be found.

It was 45 minutes later, when the boat was being towed to shore, still upside down, that they thought they heard a scratching noise inside the boat. Another window was broken out, and out came the dog, wet but lively. An air pocket inside the submerged boat apparently had saved the animal.

ROADS CLEAR

Salem (AP)—Pavement was bare on all Oregon highways Monday as warm rains washed all the packed snow off of the mountain passes, the Oregon Highway Commission reported.

Herald and News

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1952 Telephone 8111 No. 2773

Lost Children Die

LAKEWOOD, Wis. (AP)—Two five-year old youngsters perished in the winterbound wilderness of the Nicolet National Forest after becoming lost in a storm, but a third child was found alive Monday, huddled with her dead companions in an abandoned out-house.

Little Mary Ann Church, 5, was found alive at 10 a. m. by two searchers snowshoeing through the heavy new snow, and rushed to Dr. J. F. Dougherty at Recov-

Dr. Dougherty said she recovered consciousness, drank a little milk and greeted her mother, then was sent to Oconto Memorial Hospital where her condition is fair though she remains unconscious.

Sheriff Joseph Foral said that searchers at first thought "a spark of life" was left in the other two children, but they were pronounced dead by Clarence McMahon, assistant coroner of Oconto County.

The dead were Mary Ann's sister Cathy, and their cousin, Steven Kenney, both five.

Sheriff Foral's office said the three were found huddling in an outdoor toilet on the grounds of a closed resort in the winterbound Forest.

The three youngsters were missing since mid-afternoon Saturday, and have been sought by hundreds of snowshoer-borne searchers.

The children, two of them five and the other three, wandered from their home on the forest's edge to watch a porcupine just as a snowstorm started. There has been no trace of them since.

The early spring storm, lashed

Atom Plant Threatened By Blaze

TRAIL, B.C. (AP)—Disaster by fire threatened one of Canada's atomic energy operations for 45 minutes Sunday night.

Firemen quickly brought under control a fire in the transformer room of the hydrogen section of a chemical plant at nearby Warfield. The transformer was destroyed but no one was hurt.

Officials of Consolidated Mining and Smelting company, biggest lead-zinc chemicals producer in the world, said an investigation is pending.

The chemical plant is part of the company's huge operation in this area. Some heavily-guarded plants in the district produce heavy water for atomic energy.

There was no indication whether the plant hit by fire is one of those engaged in the production of heavy water.

If the fire had leaked into the hydrogen action, the resulting blast might have badly crippled Canada's atomic energy program.

The fire in the transformer knocked out telephone and telegraph communication over a wide area. Circuits as far away as Nelson, 50 miles to the northeast, were affected.

At the same time, a tremendous power surge brightened lights throughout Trail city of 15,000 about 400 miles east of Vancouver. Warfield is a mile from the center of the city.

No reason for the power surge could be given.

Finnegan Gets Jail, Fine

ST. LOUIS (AP)—James P. Finnegan, personal friend of President Truman, was sentenced Monday to two years in prison and fined \$10,000 for misconduct as internal revenue collector here.

He was convicted on two misconduct charges by a federal court jury March 15.

Federal Judge Rube M. Hulien imposed sentence after denying a motion for a new trial.

The 51-year-old ex-collector was sentenced to two years on each of two charges, but the terms are to be served concurrently.

His attorneys previously had announced they planned the most in the case in the event their motion for a new trial was denied.

Finnegan was released under \$5,000 bond pending a motion for an appeal.

The heavy-set Finnegan was tense, his face flushed, as he stood before Judge Hulien.

Only a few minutes before the judge had sharply criticized Finnegan as a public official who violated his trust.

WTC Allotment For Work OK

Weyerhaeuser Timber Company's Klamath Falls branch has been awarded \$174,000 more of allotment for expansion work in the second quarter, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Washington this morning.

The allotment was one of several announced late yesterday by the National Production Administration. The allotments totaled 29 million dollars.

Hugh Campbell, Weyerhaeuser assistant manager here, said today the firm had not yet been officially notified of the allotment. He said the firm had several applications pending before the NPA and that he did not know what particular job the \$174,000 allotment covered.

It is possible the allotment covers a portion of the work on the new hardwood plant Weyerhaeuser has announced will be built here.

Appeal Pleads DP Admittance

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—President Truman asked Congress Monday to open immigration gates to admit 300,000 additional Europeans during the next three years.

Many escaped "victims of Communist tyranny" would be included. This request highlighted a 4,000-word, three-point program drafted at the little White House asking Congress to:

(1) Provide aid for the unfortunate victims of oppression who are escaping from Communist tyranny behind the Iron Curtain.

(2) Continue our participation in the international effort now being made to assist in the migration and resettlement throughout the world of a substantial number of persons from the overpopulated areas of Western Europe.

(3) Authorize additional immigration into this country, on a limited basis, to aid in alleviating the problems created by Communist tyranny and overpopulation in Western Europe.

Dead Buried As Tornado Area Mourns

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The living worked grimly at burying and rebuilding Monday in six tornado-torn, flood-afflicted southern states in which 235 died and 1,100 were hurt.

In small, partly-wrecked churches throughout the region Sunday half-dazed people clustered for funeral services — sometimes for whole families.

The normal sabbath still of small towns was broken often by the raucous chugging of bulldozers laboring at the debris, the rattle of trucks and the clumping of boards being piled.

Survivors of the disastrous week-end picked at what was left of their homes searching for something salvageable, often under the idle gaze of hundreds of sightseers who jammed the stricken areas.

DEATH TOLL

At last count, and it was at best incomplete and often times inaccurate, the death toll stood: Arkansas, 131; Tennessee, 64; Mississippi, 11; Kentucky, 8; Missouri, 16; and Alabama, 5.

Arkansas alone reported 711 injured and 1,425 families, thousands homeless afflicted by the terrible winds.

In basements of churches, schools and stories Salvation Army and Red Cross workers struggled manfully to feed, house and clothe those left desolate.

An accurate estimate of damage was impossible but it was expected to reach into the tens of millions of dollars.

HOSPITALS FULL

In hospitals doctors and nurses, eyes red-rimmed from lack of sleep, worked to near exhaustion to care for the injured. Hospital capacity was strained to the breaking point.

Arkansas' Gov. McMath appealed directly to President Truman for funds to help the state rehabilitate itself.

He also thanked the President for his quick action in ordering federal agencies to make a quick check of the damage in all the stricken areas to ascertain the need.

Near Lexington, Tenn., Sunday they buried a family of six, lifted from their homes and hurled 300 yards to death.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Third Child Survives Snow Storm

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Fund Drives Forum Topic

Tonight's "Build the Basin" forum will be the most interesting yet held in the public service series sponsored by the Herald and News and its radio station, KFLW.

Topic for tonight's forum, which opens at 8 p. m. at a full house, we having too many fund drives and if so, what can we do about it?

The six-member panel selected to tackle this important question is composed of:

Mrs. Herbert Graham, Klamath Falls housewife and church woman; G. Roderick Durham, Salem, executive secretary of the Oregon Chest; Dr. Frank Trotman, mayor of Merrill; Ernest Taylor, treasurer and office manager of the Palmerton Lumber Company; Bob Perkins, Medco-Land Creamery salesman who has taken an active interest in the fund drive problem; and Lynn Roycroft, president of the Klamath County Community Chest.

As usual, a special telephone crew of six persons will be on hand at the Herald and News to handle questions and comments from the listening audience.

Stockman To Tour US Bases

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Stockman (R-Ore.) Monday made a month-long inspection of military installations in the Near and Far East.

Chairman Cannon (D-Mo.) of the House Appropriations Committee told a reporter he had asked Stockman to obtain "special information the committee wants on several spots." He did not elaborate.

Stockman's office said he would visit Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands and the mid-East.

The Oregonian, who has announced he will not seek reelection this fall, was described by Cannon as the "only member of the committee with the time to undertake the trip."



G. RODERICK DURHAM



BOB PERKINS



ERNEST TAYLOR



DR. FRANK TROTMAN



MRS. HERBERT GRAHAM



LYNN ROYCROFT