

# Country Auction Revival Offers Items, Atmosphere



**COFFEING UP**—The ladies, for the most part, did the inside work at the auction, sponsored by the Midland Grange. Here they partake of refreshments themselves. They are (left to right) Mrs. Hip Largent, Mrs. Floyd Hoover, Mrs. Roy Huff and Mrs. Ralph Benoit.



MRS. JOHN MISTLER, Midland Grange officer, offers doughnut to Carrie Jean Hawkins, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Hawkins of Tionesta.



By MALCOLM EPLEY JR.

The Midland Grange Hall—and the grounds around it—saw the revival of an old country-style institution last Sunday. It was a highly successful revival, too.

The Midland Grange sponsored its first in a series of semi-annual country-wide auction sales, and some farmers found they had gold in their farmyards. An estimated crowd of some 300 persons splashed through mud puddles and mire as young auctioneer Jerry Faies offered several hundred items to the highest bidders.

High bidders? There were some pretty low high bids. Some ducks went for 70 cents each. A 1938 Buick coupe sold for \$60.

Yet farmers—and outsiders from throughout the basin—who consigned the books showed receipts were their money out of their offerings. Most all the consigned stuff probably would rust away to nothingness behind the barn or in the tool shed had not the owners decided to get rid of it. Surplus materials which may have been set aside and depreciated still further were sold while there was still money in them.

When the sale was completed the books showed receipts were pushing the \$4000 mark. Not bad for a starter.

The Grange plans to hold a sale similar to this one right after harvest, or perhaps sooner, later in the year.

What wasn't offered Sunday just gum boots (size nine), chains,

chokers, tires and tubes, wheels, fuse boxes, electric fence controllers, washing machines, a refrigerator, ducks, geese, chickens, a combine, side-delivery rakes, tangen discs, a tractor, plows, shovels, axes, sledges, hay-baler, light fixtures, a house trailer, balling wire, chairs, furniture, stoves, and a Ford Pickup that went for \$145.

As the Farm Journal recently said, in an article on this very type of country auction, everyone profits from the sale in one way or another.

Says the Farm Journal: Farmers who sell say their equipment brings more than if sold at a farm sale or if traded in on new equipment. (And how wives do like to get the farmstead cleaned up.)

Farmers who buy find that bargain priced equipment often serves for years.

Implement dealers don't have to take hard-to-move equipment as trade-ins.

Scrap dealers don't need to make an extensive farm-to-farm search. Incidentally, the Farm Journal story reports a nine-year total for auctions like this in Clinton County, Ohio, brought \$227,363.85 for almost 7000 pieces of "useless" farm equipment.

Midland's auction, off to a good start, offers something for townspeople, too. There's always equipment on the block that can be used in gardening. Odds and ends are cheap. And rubbing elbows with people gathered from throughout the Basin does far more good than harm.

## Oregon Agricultural Planning Commission Meet Set Thursday

CORVALLIS (AP) — Probably the biggest and most important agricultural meeting held in Oregon for more than a quarter of a century will get under way at Oregon State College Thursday.

Farmers and businessmen from throughout the state will be on hand for the three-day Oregon Agricultural Planning Conference out of which are expected to come some important decisions affecting the future of the state's farming. Attendance is expected to be more than 1,000.

Nearly 400 prominent leaders of Oregon agriculture have been working on committee assignments for more than a year in preparation for the conference. Their recommendation for future farm policies will be the basis for conference forums and discussions.

The program will kick-off Thursday morning with a general assembly in the OSC Coliseum. Speakers will include F. L. Ballard, associate director of the OSC Extension Service; Dr. A. L. Strand, OSC president; F. E. Price, OSC dean and director of agriculture; Governor Douglas McKay; and Paul V. Maris, retired director of the farm ownership division of the Farmers Home Administration.

Conference delegates will go directly to 12 committee forums Thursday afternoon to begin considering problems in the major agricultural fields. Committees include agricul-

tural regulations, dairy, farm crops, farm forestry, fur farming, horticulture, land economics, livestock, poultry, rural life, soil and water and specialty crops.

Main speaker at Friday's general assembly will be Dr. Tyrus R. Timm, Texas A & M economist.



PERHAPS Paul Snedden (left) is telling Bob Bunyard he'd buy at the Midland country auction if taxes weren't so high. And, perhaps, Bunyard is grinningly agreeing.

## Son Takes On Ceylon Post

COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP) — Dudley Senanayake Wednesday agreed to succeed his father as prime minister of Ceylon.

The 41-year-old son of the late Don Stephen Senanayake, veteran Ceylonese statesman and the British Commonwealth country's first and only prime minister, had refused earlier to take the post left vacant when his father died Saturday of injuries suffered in a fall from a horse.

Wednesday, however, he bowed to the urging of his father's United National Party, the dominant faction.

The younger Senanayake is due to serve until elections are held in about six months.

His topic will be "The Role of the Citizen Farmer and the Land-Grant College in Planning for Agriculture."

Committees will make their final reports to the entire conference group in 30-minute relays beginning Friday afternoon and winding up Saturday morning.

## Bond Law Clarified By Salem on Air Sprayers

Financial responsibility bonds which the state may accept from aerial operators under the 1951 agricultural chemical control act regarding the application of agricultural materials will cover only land owners situated within a legally established protected area.

Furthermore, these bonds will protect only innocent, or third, parties to the spraying operations. They will not protect the landowner who has contracted to have his crops or orchards treated.

This information has just been received from the state department of agriculture at Salem. The department bases its policy with regard to the bonding provisions of this law upon an opinion received this month from the office of Attorney General George Neuner.

This opinion holds that the department may accept for filing as proof of financial responsibility a bond or policy of insurance which indemnifies only landowners situated within a legally established protected area. (The control act

outlines the procedure for establishing such an area.)

The opinion also holds that not the owner of land sprayed but the owner of adjacent lands which might suffer from the negligence of an aircraft operator is the party protected under the liability clause of the agricultural chemical control statute. Under the act, a landowner is defined as a person who owns three or more acres within a proposed protected area.

The financial responsibility section of the act requires all aerial operators to file such proof, which may be either a deposit of money, certified check, liability insurance or surety bond, in the sum of

\$10,000 prior to execution of any contract for aerial spraying. Any action against operators for damage must commence within one year from the date of alleged willful or negligent operation.

Land surface of the earth is estimated at about 52,500,000 square miles, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

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