Survey Shows Methods Of Reclaiming TL Alkali Soil

TULELAKE — Results in the reclamation of alkali soils in the Tulelake basin have been very encouraging, according to Ken Baghott, Tulelake farm adviser. The work conducted has demonstrated that severe alkali soils can be reclaimed or improved by the use of soil correctives, irrigation, and proper drainage. This program, coupled with growing the most alkali-tolerant crops, has proven most helpful.

The extent of such soils in the Tulelake area is indicated by a recent survey conducted by the University of California Extension Service. This survey showed that some 2,400 acres of irrigated land in the Tulelake basin was affected by a severe alkali condition. The survey also disclosed that an additional 2,600 acres of irrigated land was affected to a somewhat lesser degree by an alkali and high salt condition.

An examination of these areas by extension soils specialists and the farm adviser showed that all soils contained some accumulation of salt, which was no doubt caused by poor drainage, together with a high percentage of sodium saturation in the clay. This was particularly true where "slick spots" existed. All soils proved to be calcareous and had an impervious layer at depths of from 18 to 24 inches, which prevented leaching.

In March 1950, four experimental plots were located in the alkali area to determine the most rapid and economical means of reclaiming the soil. Treatments used consisted of the application of gypsum at the rates of 2, 4, 8 and 16 tons per acre, and sulphur at 500, 1,000 and 2,000 pounds per acre. Water reclamation plots were also included in these experiments. All treatments and checks were leached three times before planting.

Observations disclosed that the water was very slow to get away in the first two irrigations, but moved relatively rapid in the 4, 8, and 16 ton gypsum applications after the third irrigation. Water penetration was slower where the two ton application was made and did not seem to penetrate the check plots or where the sulphur was applied. Finally the water on the sulphur and water reclamation plots evaporated, causing considerable cracking and an even higher accumulation of alkali and salts.

As soon as the plots had dried sufficiently, they were seeded to alfalfa, yellow blossom sweet clover, alta fescue, tall wheat grass and Lemons alkali grass, together with a cover crop.

The first year a spotty stand of all five mentioned plants were obtained on the 4, 8, and 16 ton gypsum plots. A sparse selection of plants appeared on the two ton gypsum plot, and no plants germinated on the sulphur or check plots. The first year the plots were watered nine times.

The second season the plots were all reseeded to Ladak alfalfa. Baghott reports excellent stands were obtained on all gypsum treated plots. A stand apparently could not be secured in the sulphur check plots. Although the growth was slower in the two ton gypsum plot, a good stand was obtained, and during the third year the alfalfa growth on the two gypsum plots were as vigorous as the others.

After three years of leaching on seven different plots the application of sulphur up to 3,000 pounds per acre has shown no appreciable benefit. Gypsum and sulphuric acid seem to be much more economical than sulphur.

Field tests indicate that the areas of the field where a high accumulation of alkali is present, generally called "slick spots" will respond more rapidly to applications of sulphuric acid than to equivalent amounts of sulphur applied in the form of gypsum. These slick spots should be diked and leached several times prior to planting, otherwise suitable forage type cover cannot be obtained.

Seed Import Figures Told

The U.S. Department of Agriculture June 15 release on imports of seeds admitted into the United States under the Federal Seed Act lists 5,039,700 pounds of Alsike clover seed entering this country during the period July 1, 1953, to May 31, 1954.

Alsike seed entering the United States for the same period a year ago totaled 4,094,700 pounds.

Young Amateur Fans Tour State

Two college students, Jack Singleton, Portland and Bob Renfro, Tacoma, Washington, ham radio operators from W7ROM and W7TBL, Portland, arrived in Klamath Falls today and will be on hand for the Oregon State Amateur Radio Convention this weekend.

The two men have been touring Oregon for the past ten days, sleeping in the open and cooking their meals over a campfire. Needless to say their car is also radio equipped.

Singleton attends school at Multnomah College, Portland, and Renfro will enter a college in New York this fall.

SWIMMERS JAM the new Klamath Falls swimming pool as the summer weather warms up. The new pool was officially dedicated last Saturday, June 19.

Board Probes Navy Disaster

QUONSET POINT, R. I. (AP) — It will be possible to pinpoint exactly what caused the explosion of the hydraulic fluid in the aircraft carrier Bennington's catapult system on May 26, Rear Adm. John M. Hoskins, president of a Naval board of inquiry, said here Tuesday.

As the inquiry neared its end, Adm. Hoskins said that all of the evidence at both closed and open sessions has indicated that a failure in the accumulator of the port catapult, which carried 3,500 pounds of air, discharged the atomized hydraulic fluid into the ship's ventilating system.

But all of the technical testimony that has been taken at closed sessions has failed to determine exactly what caused the accumulator to blow and what sparked the explosions which took 103 lives.

Reds Holding Airman Prisoner

LEWISBURG, Pa (AP) — Mrs. H. L. Baumer has received word that her son, an Air Force bomber pilot shot down over North Korea 16 months ago, is alive, although a prisoner of the Reds.

Mrs. Baumer said she received a telegram from the Air Force in Washington last night saying her son, Maj. William H. Baumer, was reported alive and a prisoner of war in the Far East.

Baumer, 32, was reported missing on a bombing mission over North Korea on Jan. 12, 1953.

The major's mother told newsmen, "I am so happy that my son is alive that I hardly know what to do or say. Ever since William was reported shot down on a mission, I have been contacting all sorts of military people to find out what happened to him. Now I finally got the news and it's good news."

Japan Hit By Flash Floods

TOKYO (AP) — Heavy rains lashing the Japanese islands for more than 24 hours today touched off flash floods and landslides, derailed trains, flooded ricelands and homes and caused at least 14 deaths by national police count.

The listed dead were seven killed in landslides, six drowned and an engineer killed when his locomotive jumped the tracks.

PICNIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's always a good reason for a picnic here. Newest idea: a picnic for couples married 50 years or longer. The first of these, held yesterday, attracted 84 golden anniversary couples, the oldest 93.

Sign Leads To Long Lost Son

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When he tacked up a "house for sale" sign at his home, Vincent Bisogno, 30, never guessed it would bring a quarter-century search to an end.

A realtor, John Collins, told a friend:

"Funny thing. I saw somebody putting up a sign out in the Rivera district and I noticed that the mailbox had the same name as yours—Bisogno."

The friend was A. Vincent Bisogno, 49, who had been seeking a son he hadn't seen since marital difficulties forced a separation more than 25 years ago.

Father and son are happily reunited today.

Cantor Given Medical Checkup

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—Eddie Cantor was at Mayo Clinic here today for what he said was a routine checkup after signing a reported nine-million-dollar contract for making 39 television films a year.

"A man my age needs a checkup," said Cantor as he arrived last night.

He said he was giving up live TV in favor of the contract, which gives his services exclusively to the Ziv Television Programs Co., Hollywood, for seven years on both television and radio. The radio programs will be taped.

Indians Sue For Land Payment

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — California Indians yesterday opened a legal fight for 93¾ million dollars for 75 million acres of California land. Their attorney said the land was taken from them "in a more cruel and inhuman manner than any other people on the face of the earth."

The 33,000 Indians, under a new law, are suing the federal government for payment for land their ancestors lost to the white man during the gold rush days.

Attorneys for the Indians seek to prove the Indians' ancestors formerly occupied about three fourths of California's area.

Death Claims Top Scientist

NEW YORK (AP — Dr. Karl T. Compton, 66, one of America's top scientists and educators, who in wartime helped develop radar and worked on the atomic bomb, died yesterday.

For 18 years he was president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the nation's foremost scientific institutions.

He had been chairman of MIT since 1948, when he gave up the presidency to organize the nation's scientific talent for the cold war against communism a job he resigned a year later for reasons of health.

During World War II he received the Army's highest civilian award, the Medal of Merit, and was cited as being "personally responsible for hastening the termination of hostilities."

Compton, born in Wooster, Ohio, died at Cornell Medical Center here. He had suffered a heart attack last Wednesday and his wife was called to his bedside.

Besides his widow, the former Margaret Hutchinson, he is survived by three children, Mrs. Carroll M. Boyce, Scarsdale, N. Y.; Mrs. Bissell Alderman, Holyoke, Mass., and Charles, an instructor at Mount Hermon School, Northfield Mass.

One of Compton's last public assignments was as chairman of a commission set up by President Eisenhower last year to study universal military training. He was an ardent supporter of UMT and in 1947 advised its adoption as an urgent necessity for national security.

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State Grange Meeting Held

Thirty-one Klamath County grange members attended the Oregon State Grange Convention held at Albany, June 14 through 18.

Attending from Shasta View were: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Yancey, Betty and Bob Yancey, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lewis, Dorothy and Bob Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Will Neubert, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Caldwell and Mary Lou.

From Midland were: Mr. and Mrs. Verlund Huff, Mr. and Mrs. August Andrieu, Mrs. Leon Andrieu and Raymond Andrieu. From Merrill: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hadley and Mrs. Anna Howard.

From Lost River: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. Pavitt Newnham, Poe Valley; Mr. and Mrs. Rex High, Bly; Mrs. Ruth Hall and from Fort Klamath, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Brown.

Astronomer Finds Planets

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Discovery of almost 900 new asteroids or pip-squeak planets — and rediscovery of some of those that have been "lost" for many years—was reported today by an Indiana University astronomer who said the findings should help reduce a potential traffic hazard of any future travel in spaceships.

Dr. Frank K. Edmondson told a meeting of the American Astronomical Society that the tiny heavenly wanderers — ranging in diameter from two miles to 50 miles — had been spotted during a five-year search.

And he said work is now progressing to compute their orbits, or pathways through space, so as to try to add them to the list of some 1,600 other baby planets whose orbits are well known to astronomy.

Asteroids are believed to be fragments of a planet which exploded ages ago — or perhaps even chunks of planetary material which never got assembled into a full-size planet. The biggest known asteroid is 480 miles in diameter.

Edmondson told a reporter that the new discoveries should help in charting the heavens to assist spaceship navigation." he said. "You'd have to know where they are and how they move in space."

Woman Files Big Damage Suit

DETROIT (AP) — Miss Mary W. Speers, 74, wants more than a million dollars for each of the nearly 16 years she spent in Michigan mental institutions.

Her attorney, Eugene Krasicky, filed suit for $18,500,000 yesterday in Circuit Court. The city of Detroit, Wayne County, the state of Michigan, four doctors and officials of the various institutions were named defendant.

Miss Speers, a dignified, stately woman, was committed as a mental patient in 1936 while held in jail on a bad check charge. She was released in 1952 on orders of Circuit Judge Lila M. Neuenfelt, who ruled her commitment had been illegal.

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