

Mechanization Increases Difference Between Large, Small U.S. Farmers

By OVID A. MARTIN
Associated Press Farm Reporter
WASHINGTON (AP) — Rapid mechanization of agriculture — spurred by huge war and postwar demands — is pouring fuel on a long smoldering rift between "small" and "big" farmers.

Declining prices of farm products are fanning the feud.

Recent hearings on farm problems held by the Senate Agriculture Committee in major farming areas indicated this division may become a major issue along with farm price supports — in next year's presidential campaign.

Machinery, electrification, better seeds, improved fertilizers and the like are making it possible to grow more and more crops on fewer and fewer acres. Likewise, new feeds open the way to produce more meats, eggs and poultry with less feed and labor.

This increased efficiency is putting a squeeze on the smaller farmers who do not have the finances to take advantage of improved mechanization or enough land to justify their use.

Largely because of mechanization, crop surpluses have been built up. Prices have been depressed. Naturally, the less efficient producers are hit hardest — an they are, in most cases, operators of smaller farms.

This development has given rise to new demands that government farm policies be designed to protect the "family-type" farm.

Government reports show there has been a rather sharp decline in the total number of farmers in the last 20 years. It has been accompanied by an increase in the average size of farms.

This situation is bringing to the forefront demands of some farmers and their leaders that the nation decide whether agriculture is to be regarded as merely a business enterprise or as a social institution to preserve a rural way of life.

Conflicts over these two philosophies dominated many of the Senate Committee hearings.

Typifying the viewpoint that agriculture is solely a business enterprise was the testimony given by President H. E. Slusher of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation at a hearing at Des Moines, Iowa. "Recognition should be given," he said, "to the fact that farming is a business and not just a way of life; that as a business, farms have become larger to make mech-

anization practical; that there is no virtue in making small farm operators any more than in making small business men; that subsistence farmers must be dealt with as a welfare problem and not as a farm problem."

Plain-spoken Daniel E. Boodry has farmed 33 years in Goshen County, Wyo. Agriculture "can take care of itself if left alone," Boodry said he suggested that farmers "holler" about the situation should quit the farm.

On the other hand came the complaint of R. V. Fitzgerald Jr., farmer-spokesman for his neighbors in Aurora County, S. D. "We decry the efforts of those who would foist upon the farmer any farm program which will, through economic necessity, place the farmer into the employ of giant corporation" farmers or into the

cities there to compete in the labor pool as an unskilled worker," he said.

Similarly, A. Lars Nelson, master of the Washington State Grange, said the question that should be uppermost in the minds of all is "Do we want to maintain the American standard of living on every type and size of farm in the nation?"

"I think that we do," he said.

Those who want farming considered solely as a business generally favored the flexible price support program of the Eisenhower administration farm program and a minimum of government regulation.

But those who said they wanted to preserve the small farms advocated price supports at either 90 per cent or 100 per cent of parity for all farm products. Parity is the price goal of farm programs. Only a part of the crops now are supported. None of the livestock and poultry products, or fruits and vegetables are supported.

But most of the farmers would limit price support aid to what they called family-type farms.

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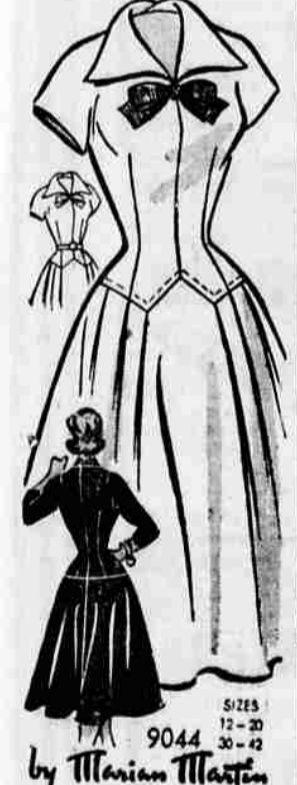
KLAMATH COUNTY MARRIAGE LICENSES
McINTYRE-MILLER—Allen A. McIntyre, 19, Dorris, and Nadine L. Miller, 17, Dorris.

CORRECTION—WARD—CAMPBELL—printed as Harry William Mitchell, correct name, Harry William Ward, 18, Klamath Falls, and Sandra Lee Campbell, 18, Klamath Falls.

KLAMATH COUNTY SUITS
Donald G. McLeod vs. Norma Mae McLeod, suit for divorce. Attorney for plaintiff, Edwin E. Driscoll.
J. C. Brucker vs. Violet Brucker, suit for divorce. Attorney for plaintiff, U.S. Balentine.
Orval S. Donca vs. Thelma J. Donca, suit for divorce. Attorney for plaintiff, J. C. O'Neil.
State Industrial Accident Commission vs. Raymond J. Hobson, et al, suit for collection of compensation premiums, \$118.42 interest and costs. Attorney for Plaintiff, Bob Olson.

JAPANESE STRAGGLER
MANILA (AP)—A Japanese straggler who was captured early this month after 11 years in Luzon jungles hanged himself today, a Philippine army spokesman said. Seaman Noboru Kinoshita, 33, previously had asked Filipino army guards to kill him because he was ashamed to return to Japan in defeat.

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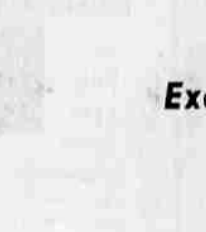
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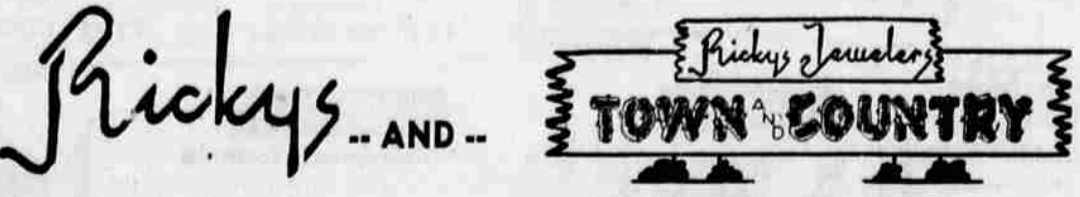
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