

Oregon Farm Wages Second In Nation

Oregon farm workers receive the second highest farm wage rates in the U.S. topped only by Washington, according to an Oregon State College extension economist.

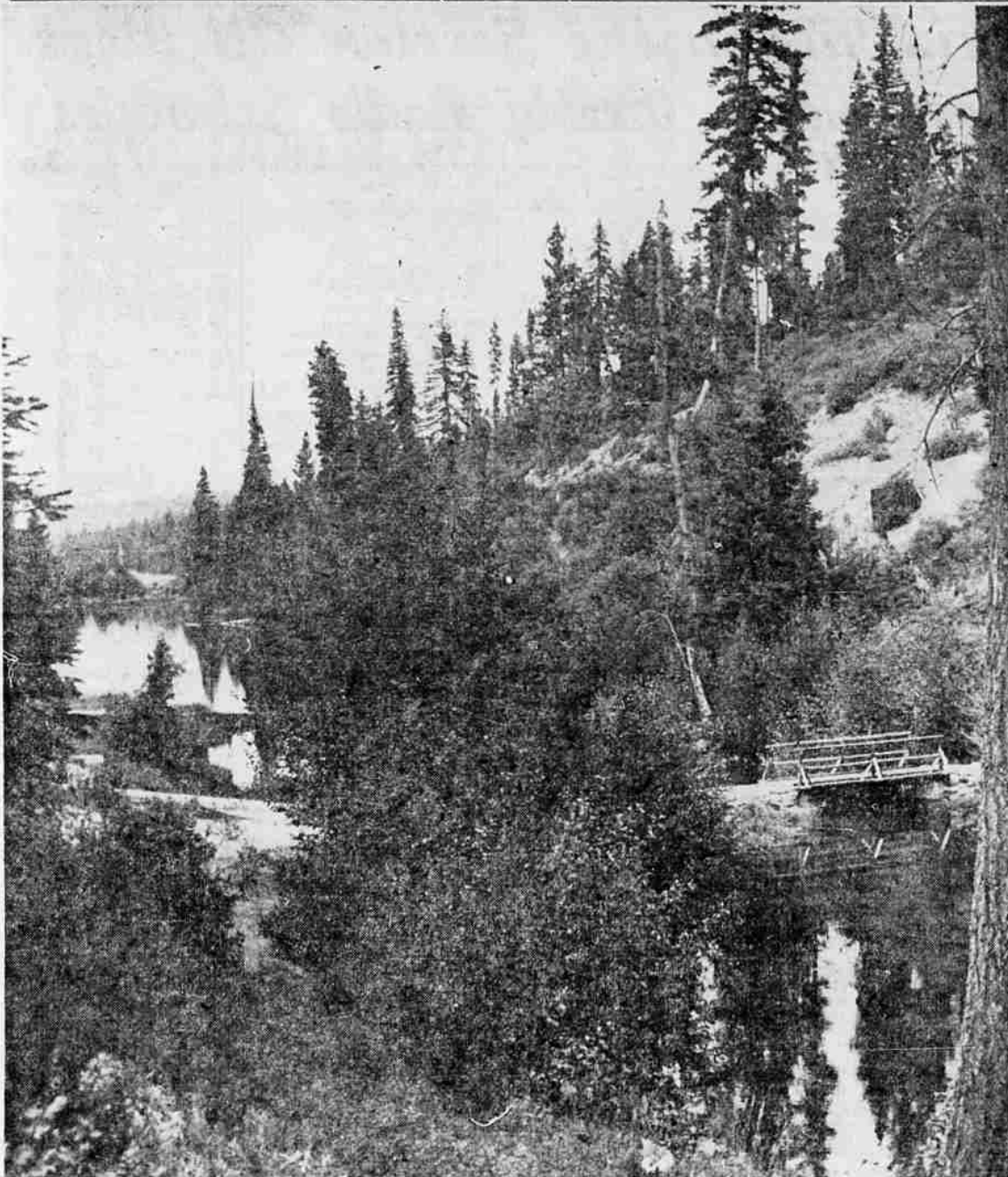
Average hourly wage rate paid farm laborers recently in Oregon was \$1.12 an hour compared with \$1.20 in Washington and \$1.06 in California. Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts followed the three highest Pacific Coast states.

These average wage rate figures compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture include all types of wages whether paid on a monthly, weekly, hourly or daily basis. If a house, garden produce, or board and room are included in the farm wage, it is also totaled in the overall or composite rate.

Oregon kept pace with the average 1 1/2 per cent net increase in wage rates reported during the past year for the entire country and also approached Washington's wage level. While Washington rates remained almost the same, Oregon's increased almost two cents an hour. California wage rates went up about 1.1-3 per cent while the entire Pacific Coast region increased less than one per cent.

While farm wage rates increased for most of the country, they decreased in the Midwest and the southern section — Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee—reports reveal.

Industry's competition for labor may be why East and West have been able to maintain steady wage rates, believes Mrs. Elvera Horrell, OSC economist. Last year's business recession probably reduced the demand for farm workers, fewer people left the farm to go into industry, and some returned to the farm, she noted.



A LOVELY SPOT for a picnic or just a restful hour or two under the murmuring pines is this one at the head of Wood River north of Klamath Falls. The location of Kimball State Park, the site is well equipped with dining and cooking facilities. Those visiting the area should make it a

point to drive on past the park entrance up the old Sun Mountain grade for a few hundred yards where they will be afforded a beautiful and spectacular view of the Wood River Valley, the prettiest valley in the world.

— Photo by Otto Ellis

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