

County Agent Traces Development Of Department Started In 1914

PAGE 4-A

HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Sunday, February 26, 1961

By C. A. HENDERSON
County Agent

The Land Grant colleges were established by the United States Government in 1862. This act provided that federal assistance would be provided all states in establishing colleges to teach agriculture and sciences. This act revolutionized education, not only in the United States, but opened the door in many other countries to a much broader concept of education.

In 1887, Congress provided funds for research to be administered by the Land Grant colleges. This was the beginning of the federal state cooperative experiment stations.

Information developed by experiment stations did not reach the farms and farm home as soon as it should have for best results, so on May 8, 1914, the Smith-Lever Act was passed by Congress, creating the Cooperative Extension Service. The purpose of the service was to use research information from all sources and to establish demonstrations on the farms and in the homes in all counties in the nation.

The act provided that counties and states must provide funds for this purpose, before federal funds would become available. It was a truly cooperative program between the county, state and the federal government, starting at the county level.

Klamath County immediately became a member of this three-way partnership; the county court providing funds for the hiring of a county agent hired on March 4, 1914, over two months before the passing of the Smith-Lever

act by Congress. Since state funds were then available, the federal act completed the picture and all funds were administered by the Land Grant college. In Oregon, this was Oregon Agricultural College, now known as Oregon State College, and apparently soon to become Oregon State University.

The first county agent was Max McCall who resigned Sept. 15, 1914. Complete reports of his activities during the six months he served are not available. McCall later became head of forage crops investigations, USDA and in that capacity visited the Klamath County Extension Office about 1935 and gave a more or less verbal report to the local agent at that time. Since this work was new at that time, it was more or less seeing those things that needed to be done, and doing them. He spoke about getting started on squirrel poisoning and jackrabbit control work. Also quite an infestation of grasshoppers occurred at Fort Klamath and the first county poisoning was undertaken. Along with the killing of grasshoppers, a steer was killed which caused quite a ruckus. With the start of the Klamath Irrigation Project in 1906, many problems on the use of water required considerable time.

Harold Glaisyer was appointed and served to Oct. 25, 1918, when he resigned to enter the U.S. Army tank service during World War I. It was during Glaisyer's term of office that extension work, then called county agent work, really got started. In 1915, 4-H Club work got started with 15 clubs organized, with 248 members, rodent and pest control projects were carried out, rye grain

variety trials carried out, war food production programs, crop and labor surveys, and war gardens. These programs continued throughout Glaisyer's term of office along with livestock improvement work.

E. H. Thomas was appointed Jan. 1919, and served until April 30, 1922. During this period, rodent and pest control was a major project. Assistance was given the organization of a County Farm Bureau. Good breeding stock was brought in to improve the beef cattle of the county. The use of sulfur on alfalfa and clovers was demonstrated, resulting in a much greater yield of these crops. Also during this period, funds were provided for the employment of a full time 4-H Club agent. Frank Sexton was the first county 4-H agent. This resulted in a great increase in 4-H enrollment and an improvement in 4-H projects.

In June, 1922, C. A. Henderson was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Thomas' resignation. With the development of the Klamath Irrigation Project into California from 1920-30, county agent work was carried out in Tule Lake by the Klamath County Agent's Office. It was during this period that the grasshopper infestation was most serious in that area. Also, it was at this time that the first Hannchen barley was brought in by the Klamath County agent and grown on the 101 ranch at Tule Lake by W. C. Dalton of Malin. Another trial was established on the U. E. Reeder Ranch at Pine Grove. This barley proved its worth as a malting barley and is still the leading grain of the Klamath area. The estimated crop value of barley in 1947 was over 11 million dollars for Klamath County and Tule Lake.

Potato development started in 1922, after a committee of farmers and Klamath Falls businessmen decided that a cash crop, adapted to this area was badly needed, and decided that potatoes offered the best opportunity. After

FOUR-H OPPORTUNITY

Four-H provides an opportunity for boys and girls of rural, suburban, and urban communities to join together under 4-H ideals and standards in developing skills of the mind and hand. This means applying latest scientific knowledge to farm, home, and community. This is done by acquiring skills in farming, sciences, creative arts, technology, homemaking, and community life; developing wholesome character, personality and citizenship; and cultivating good health for happy living.

a brief study of the situation, a plan was worked out and gotten underway. A Potato Growers Association was organized and the following plan adopted:

1. All potatoes to be treated
2. 12-14 inch in the row plantings
3. Seed selection
4. Establish local sources of certified seed
5. Earlier plantings
6. Closer attention to irrigation practices
7. Rotation with clover after two years with potatoes
8. Establish more uniform grading
9. All No. 1s to be shipped in sacks branded "Klamath"
10. Establish potato show
11. Advocate fertilizer with barnyard manure

12. Commercial growers grow acreage large enough to take entire time—not less than 20 acres

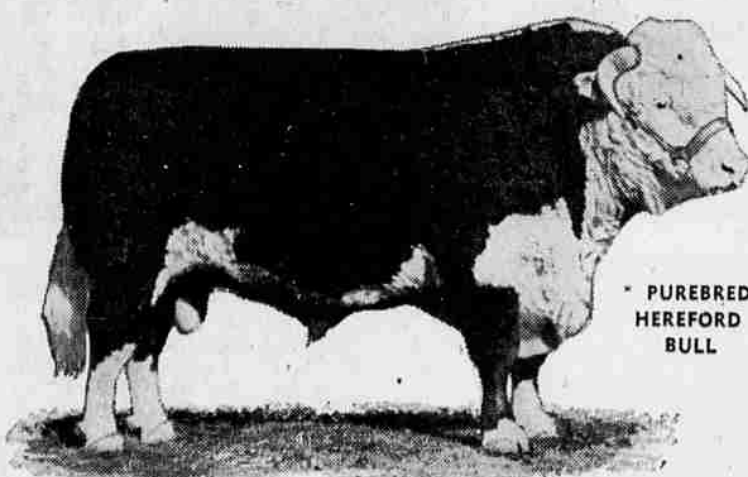
While some of these requirements may now seem antiquated in the light of modern development, this program was really the foundation of our present major potato industry. This industry development was responsible for a major part of our land improvement and made the word "Klamath" synonymous with good potatoes. In addition, potatoes provide about 25 per cent of the total crop and livestock income of the Klamath Basin. Average gross income is around 10 million dollars with a high of over 17 million dollars in 1952.

In 1923, the farm income in the Klamath Basin was mainly from livestock. The crop income

that year was estimated at \$1,200,000 but livestock brought in \$2,800,000. In 1959, the crop income was nearly 29 million dollars and livestock accounted for \$11,700,000.

During this period, the Basin changed from a livestock country to a farming country, notwithstanding the fact that livestock production had increased tremendously each year. With irrigation and land improvement, general farming increased at a more rapid rate. Much of the livestock increase has come about through the use of better breeding stock, better marketing facilities and practices, improved pasture and hay lands. Livestock should always be a major industry of the Klamath Basin.

THE VERY BEST CATTLE



* PUREBRED
HEREFORD
BULL

... Are Raised In Klamath County!

Our markets are constantly expanding because we offer only dependable stock of consistent quality . . . proving time and again that the great Klamath County is THE place where fine cattle thrive. We KNOW the BIG industry in the future of Klamath Falls . . . is CATTLE!

*We Feature Reputation Calves For Fall Delivery
Yamsey Land & Cattle Co.

Call Ted Hyde — Bly ELgin 3-2287

16 Years of Progress Make a Big Difference

Yes, we at Merrill Lumber Co. feel that we have come a long way since 1944 when the picture at the right was taken. And we are proud of the progress we have made. We are even more proud of the part we have played in the progress that has helped bring prosperity to Merrill and the surrounding area!



Merrill Lumber Co. features a complete line of hardware and building materials for every farm and home need. We're sure you'll like the friendly, courteous help you receive here! The picture at the left shows the lumber storage shed when R. L. Dragoo became manager of the firm in 1944.

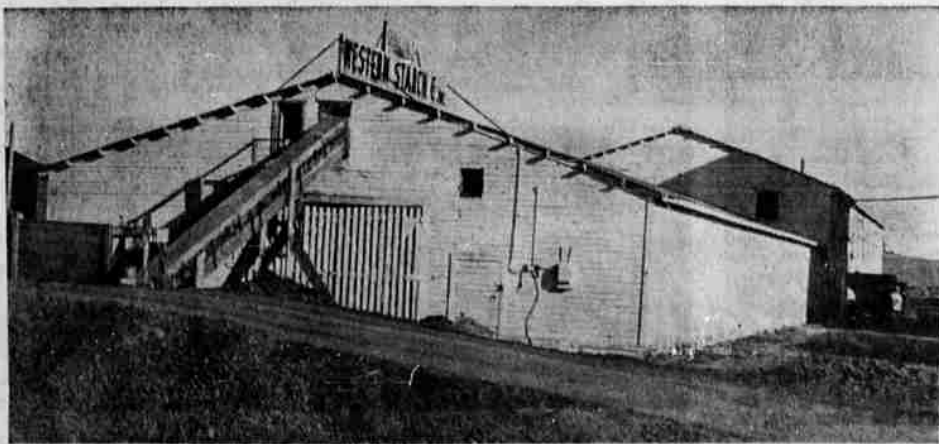


Merrill Lumber Co.

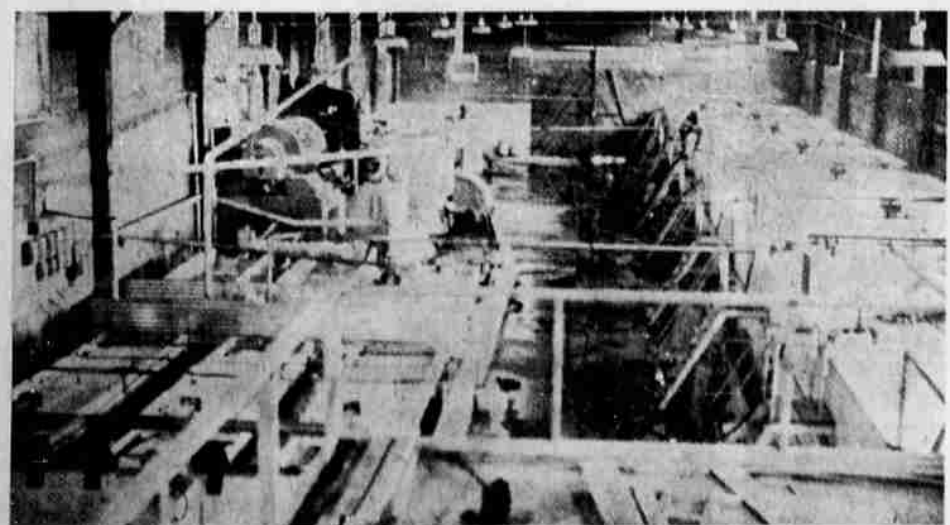
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Dragoo and Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Ongman
Merrill, Oregon Phone 798-5911

New Industry Progresses and Helps Bring Prosperity To The Klamath Basin!

WESTERN STARCH COMPANY INC.



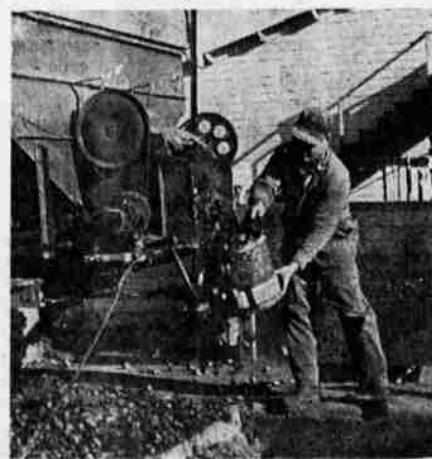
Local growers delivering cull potatoes to the storage shed at Western Starch.



This room, where most of the processing occurs, consists of a grinder where culls are made into a coarse pulp. Three shakers remove some starch before it is sent to the second grinder (upper left). Finer shakers remove the last of the starch and the pulp is conveyed to a roto sieve and on out as cattle feed to be sold.

Not a brand new industry, but a comparatively new one, Western Starch Company is now in its third year of operation in the Klamath Basin. Located at Hatfield, in the heart of the potato growing area, Western Starch fulfills a definite need to the potato growers by processing cull and low grade potatoes into starch for industrial purposes, mainly in the manufacture of paper, and for use in the plywood industry.

Managed by Jim Aslett, the plant employs 7 to 25 people through the season which runs from September through June, and is one of only two similar plants on the Coast, the other being located at Moses Lake, Washington. The Western Starch installation at Hatfield is capable of processing 280 tons of potatoes in a 24 hour period; average is about 90 ton per day. Peak yield of starch on a capacity day is about 600 bags of 100 pounds each. Returns to the potato growers are in the form of premium prices for the cull potatoes.



Here, the plant superintendent gets a sample from an unloading truck.



600 tons of cull potatoes can be stored in bins like the one pictured above.

Paying top prices for Cull Potatoes — Any Time!

WESTERN STARCH CO. INC.

HATFIELD

JIM ASLETT, Mgr.

Phone 667-2610