

## Field Mice Spread Seen In Survey

TULELAKE — Microtus Montanus — A mighty name for a mighty mouse. This little furry field rodent that is able to live and multiply under severest winter conditions, and feeds voraciously on all crops, grown by man, has been found to be in greater numbers in the county than usual. The mouse, larger than a house mouse, has a rougher looking appearance is a native to north-eastern California, and ever since the Tule basin has been opened to farming, it has been a periodic pest. With a life span of probably 16 months and litters averaging from 3 to 8, it is quite at home in the natural cover supplied by ditch banks, roadsides and other rights of way covered with weed growth.

Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner Jess Grisham reports that his office has, with the State Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Rodent Control, just completed a survey of the Siskiyou County portion of the Tule-lake Basin, and that the survey indicates a general light infestation of mice, varying from none present in some areas to small areas with heavy populations. Grisham said that it is his intention to continue periodic surveys so that it may be determined what the trend of fluctuation of the population may be.

This condition can and probably will change Grisham said, with continuing favorable weather, it is reasonable to expect population increases. Conditions unfavorable such as continued wet cold weather would tend to decrease their number and possibly cause a die-off.

Because the mice have been known to harbor tularemia, a disease of field rodents transmissible to man, the commissioner cautions against the handling of the dead rodents. Through the local health office, experts from the State Bureau of Vector Control have been called in to determine the status of disease in the mouse population.

A series of test plots with various baits will be established to determine the time and manner in which poisoned grain baits can be exposed for the best results in controlling the mice. The results of these tests will be made readily available to farmers so that they may receive maximum benefits from their efforts in using poisoned baits.

Farmers should contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office either at Yreka or Tulelake, for information. Poisoned grain baits are available, and an inspector from the office will make field inspections and recommendations at farmers request.

## St. Patrick's Dinner Slated

NEW PINE CREEK — At the Feb. 28 meeting of the Eastside Home Ec Club, members voted to sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 17 as a fund raising project.

The ham dinner will cost \$1.25 for adults, 75 cents for children under 12. Serving will begin at 12:30 p.m., soon after church services are dismissed. Ramona Pochop was named to head the ticket sales and the tri-chairmen committee was appointed. Members are Virginia Hinton, Dorothy Leelmann and Florence Butler.

It was also voted to hold a Grange Hall clean-up day on March 14, with a potluck dinner at 12 noon, to prepare the building for the dinner.

After the meeting, Mrs. Ruth Clark, hostess, served refreshments to the 15 members present.

## Unfair Labor Hearing Slated

PORTLAND (UPI)—A National Labor Relation Board trial examiner is to conduct a hearing in Salem March 27 into charges of unfair labor practices filed by Teamsters' Local 324 against the Western Aluminum Corp., the NLRB said Monday.

The union has charged the firm's Salem plant with refusing to meet with the local since it became collective bargaining representative of employees Jan. 2.



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