



OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

New Barn at Half Cost

What one farmer can do another can do. Charles A. Thomas of Missouri built a 50'x50' barn at a cost of \$1,380.20 when the estimated cost of the building of the same barn by regular methods was \$3,500.00 and he also made a demonstration.

The demonstration was so valuable that a national plan service that distributes farm and home building plans through the country's retail lumber dealers proceeded to put the Thomas barn plan and specifications into circulation.

What is the secret of the cost cut? Simply that this plan is for a barn of POLE FRAME construction.

The words are particularly worth the capitals in this region. Our timber is the best going for pole-type farm buildings, as very old structures reveal in all Western Washington and Oregon counties. On most farms the poles for the job are standing in trees right now.

A modern barn on designs developed through engineering research by the famous Doane Agricultural Service can be framed from your own home-grown poles. Unskilled hands can do the framing. The poles must be treated, of course, to resist decay in the ground.

The Thomas barn holds 90 tons of hay and 100 calves. The Balance Wheel

There is much more of interest to be told about this barn plan from the building standpoint. But its purpose here is to illustrate the practical point of view on study and planning of the farm woodland unit.

The balance wheel of farm forestry has five points of weight in its circle. They are: marketing, uses on the farm, harvesting saleable and home-use material, growing a new tree crop in the "tree

stubs", protecting and improving the trees in growth.

Can't you see how it turns in balance? This column has already shown that the 2x4s, in the bins of the retail lumber dealer are trees worked up to suit market demand. When there are trees on a farm that will make 2x4s this means that they can be harvested for the sawlog market. If the trees are but pole size and are very thick in the stand some should be taken out in the way of "stand improvement by thinning". But there may be no pole market available. What of uses at home for the poles? Can they be made into fence posts? Fuelwood? Or—in pole-frame construction?

The point is that with markets or home uses in sight, then, and then only, harvesting logically begins. Few farmers can afford to start the practices of good farm forestry until they see what may pay for it. Markets and uses do and should come first in the study of farm forestry as in its practice.

Forestry Clearinghouse

A movement for county organization of farm forestry interests has grown rapidly since the war in Washington and Oregon. In many counties the farm forestry committee is an organized force. A county 4-H leader can reply on such a committee. So can the high school teachers of vocational agriculture, the FFA leaders. Keep Washington and Keep Oregon Green county committees are to be counted on in the county forestry picture. There are other local groups in the woods, especially in the soil conservation districts. All are deeply interested in the student who is eager for knowledge of forestry theory and to learn forestry "by doing".

A group that has been neglected by the foresters but which has a rightful claim to a top place in the county forestry clearinghouse is the retail lumber dealer. Throughout the United States the retail lumberman is the No. 1 merchandiser of forest products and also a No. 1 distributor to farmer consumers. In farming areas he knows farm building needs. Because he is a marketing expert and an expert in farm building and the uses of wood, the local building products merchandiser should be consulted first to start the balance wheel of farm forestry turning on the woodland units of your county or neighborhood.

If he does not have Plan FJ-502 for a pole-type barn in stock, for example he can get it for you in jigtime. This plan represents farm forestry in action.

Letter on Taxes Admired...

Some time ago Mr. H. Todd Blake wrote a letter to the Vernonia Eagle taking me to task for some things I said about taxes and taxation. It was a beautifully worded letter and won my admiration and envy. It put me in my place with neatness and dispatch; every point was explained at length, conclusions aptly drawn and there was not one misspelled word as is so often the case with me. I was reluctant to answer it at first as I doubted I could cope with the problem, but a literary effort of that kind merits some kind of recognition especially as we seem to agree on everything but the sales tax. Mr. Blake seems peeved because the people of Oregon refuse to submit to a sales tax. Although they have turned it down many times by a big margin Mr. Blake still seems to think they don't know what is good for them and it makes him unhappy and, somehow, I seem to gather that he blames me for it all; while I admit I voted against the sales tax every time it came up I assure Mr. Blake that, being a good Democrat, I only voted once each time.

I agree with Mr. Blake that taxes are necessary. It is an institution as old as history and no government can function without money. I do not object to paying taxes. What I do not like is the use, or rather misuse, to which so much of our tax money is put. Government waste and inefficiency is responsible for nearly fifty per cent of our tax money, but nevertheless Mr. Blake seems to think we should be filled with gladness and thanksgiving for the privilege of paying taxes. I have never yet heard a taxpayer chanting paeans of joy as he stands at the tax collector's window. Usually it is quite otherwise; it is

the examinations during the three-month period cited. VA staff dentists handled the remainder.

By cost breakdown, private dentists in the Northwest area received \$44,262 for examination fees and \$536,854 for treatments. VA staff dentists performed examinations valued at \$28,486 and treatments valued at \$27,366. A total of 5,431 veterans received examinations and 6,786 were given treatments.

These cost figures covered only World War II veterans living in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Nationwide, during the same period, VA dental program was valued at some \$11,361,000.

Question of the Week

Q. At present I am receiving compensation for 30 per cent disability, if I take a job carrying rural mail three hours a day, will the VA stop my compensation?

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FOR VETS

Get VA Dental Aid

Pacific Northwest veterans with service connected dental disabilities received more than half a million dollars worth of dental care through the veterans administration during the last three months of 1948, the VA reports.

The VA released the dental cost figures in pointing out that nation-wide the dental work backlog has been reduced about 60 per cent from the 1947 peak. At the beginning of 1949, the VA had a backlog of only 192,000 cases, compared with 508,000 at the beginning of 1948. The reduction will continue for the rest of the fiscal year ending June 30, the VA said.

Private dentists cooperating with the VA on a fee basis were credited with handling 84 per cent of treatments and 47 per cent of

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The Old Man on the Hill

There are 23,000,000 physically handicapped persons in the United States, according to the Oregon Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the Easter Seal agency.

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