

AROUND THE FARM

BY W. G. NIBLER
County Extension Agent

The third thinning cut of timber from the fairgrounds timber harvest tract at Deer Island is now underway. The first year this tract was cut, 1949, about 10 cords per acre were removed. Last year 9 cords per acre were removed. Those two cuts were made by Mollenhour Brothers of Chapman.

This year the third cut will remove 8 cords per acre and the harvesting is being done by Jerry Kelleher, Deer Island. Kelleher will use horses for logging whereas Mollenhour used power equipment. Many timber men including Mollenhour have expressed interest in seeing this tract logged with horses to get a comparison in figures on logging costs and returns to the operator. The 1949 returns were \$65.11 per acre or \$2.38 per hour for operation time. In 1950 the price of wood had increased and the return was \$73.30 per acre or \$3.00 per hour.

Incidentally, when this harvest is completed this timber harvest tract will be unique in being one of very few tracts of timber in Oregon that have been thinned three times. Thinning work being done by several woodland owners in Columbia county is

now getting to a place where the second cuts are being made.

Results of the 1951 cut from this tract will be compiled and will be available during the Columbia County Fair. Woodlot owners and others are welcome to visit this tract at any time. Those wishing an explanation of the work will get an excellent opportunity during the county fair when forestry experts will explain the work being done.

It will cost you \$5 to feed one rat around the farm for one year. That \$5 will buy enough rat poison to keep your farm baited.

The other day someone asked me when the government was going to do something about the price of meat. I don't propose to have the answer to that question but this person was thinking about the high price of meat when he asked that question.

Meat prices have gone up but they have not kept pace with wage increases. Figures of the U. S. Department of Labor and Commerce show that it took 52 minutes work to buy a pound of meat in 1901, 37 minutes in 1926, and only 32 minutes today.

Geo. Mays, St. Helens, has a pear tree in his backyard but last year the pears were badly deformed by pear scab. This year Mays followed a spray program for control of pear blight and has some very nice fruit developing on his tree. To apply the spray he uses a small barrel sprayer.

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Traffic Deaths Mount in State

Oregon traffic deaths continued to gain last month as May accidents took 38 lives compared to 31 in May a year ago, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry reported a few days ago.

The May death count, which might go still higher if late fatality reports are received, brings the death toll for the year to 142. This is 23 per cent higher than the 116 fatalities recorded at the same time in 1950.

Average death increase in the nation is about 10 per cent, the secretary said.

Traffic and highway officials in most states are becoming increasingly concerned as the month-by-month death gain gives no sign of tapering off. Oregon police agencies and courts, he said, are being requested to help stem the rise by stepping up their activities wherever possible.

State records show that Oregon, after cutting back fatalities to a four-year low in 1949, suffered an 18 per cent increase in 1950 and is taking even higher losses in 1951 to date.

Still facing the state's motorists is the Fourth of July holiday and the peak of the summer travel season. Oregon's worst traffic-killing month on record came in August of last year when 59 persons died, most of them in open highway accidents outside the limits of cities or towns.

Regular Meeting for Townsend Club Held

Townsend club members met last Saturday at the IWA hall for a regular meeting which was conducted by Chairman M. A. Oakes. The club heard a talk, "What Is the Townsend Plan and What Does It Mean to You?" by George Nichols in which he pointed out progress made by other clubs, especially in California.

In addition to the business session and dinner following the meeting, members saw five movie reels of scenery. In addition to members, two visitors from Portland were present.

Two new members were added to the club roster recently.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 21 at which time educational movies will be shown.

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Extra Holiday Road Care Urged

Governor Douglas McKay and Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry have issued a joint statement urging Oregon drivers and out-of-state vacationists to observe the Fourth of July holiday with extra care on streets and highways.

The text of the statement said that early reports for June, coupled with those of the first five months of 1951, have soared the state's highway death toll to 159, a figure well above that of the same period last year.

What drivers must remember, the statement said, is that traffic on the Fourth will be heavy, and chance-taking can lead to an accident. Governor McKay advised that if the highway toll is to be held to a minimum, every

motorist must realize that "there is no substitute for caution when highways are crowded with pleasure-seekers."

State safety men also added a word of warning to the pleas of McKay and Newbry, with announcement that state and city police will be on the look-out for



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

The Cow That Can't "Run Dry"

Sandy Johnson showed me his Jersey cows last week. It was a warm day and they were all under the trees near a watering trough.

And darned if one cow wasn't pumping water into the trough! It's a fact—she'd raise the pump handle with her nose, and use her throat to push it down again.

"That's Mabel," Sandy explained as she moved away. "Sometimes they drink that trough dry, and she's learned how to fill it again. But she doesn't know her own strength—turns the place into a swamp if we don't watch her."

From where I sit, Mabel isn't the only one who sometimes doesn't know where to stop. For instance, people often carry personal opinions too far—like the person who wants everyone to accept his choice of political parties, or ball-players . . . or beverages. I prefer a glass of beer with my meals. I know that a lot of other people prefer milk. But nobody ought to insist on "herding" others around to his way of thinking.

Joe Marsh

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