

AROUND THE FARM BY DON COIN WALROD County Extension Agent

A slightly different approach was made to weed control problems when colonies of goatweed beetles were released in three different areas of Columbia county last week.

Goatweed beetles were introduced into the United States for the purpose of controlling heavy infestations of goatweed, also called St. Johnswort and Klamath weed, in California. The beetles were first imported into California from Australia and New Zealand, but they were introduced there from Europe.

Control of the goatweed can be accomplished with this insect because it is so particular about what it eats that it will starve to death before it will accept another plant as food. This factor was carefully checked before the insects were allowed to be imported. The insect has been in California for a number of years now. It has been about five or six years since colonies were brought into Oregon from California.

More than a year ago, George Nelson talked to us about the possibility of establishing colonies, but it was already too late for that year. Later the County Weed Committee, under the chairmanship of Earl Watson, Delena, discussed this method of controlling goatweed, which is becoming quite prevalent in some areas of the county and along most of the roadsides.

One of the colonies was released on the tree farm area of George Nelson. A second was placed on some property owned by Paul and Linda Douglas, Yankton, and the third was released on some cut-over land near Wilark.

The goatweed beetles are about the same shape as a ladybird beetle but are probably slightly

larger. Their color is completely different, however, as they are a blue-black, a green-gold, or brownish-tan. Each of the colors is metallic and iridescent. They were apparently hungry when released for they immediately started feeding on the leaves of the goatweed.

On compiling some of the results of the soil samples that have been tested in the past year and a half, some interesting comparisons were turned up. All of our soils were acid, of course, but 65 per cent of them had a pH below 5.5. This means that these soils were quite acid, and would need to have lime applied for most crops to get them established and to produce satisfactorily. The pH factor is merely an indication of acidity, but in itself does not give an indication of the amount of lime needed. When the pH is 7 it would mean that the soil is neither acid or alkaline, but neutral. As the number becomes smaller, it indicates a greater acidity.

Only five per cent of our county soils had a lime requirement of less than two tons. Forty-two per cent of the soils tested required two to two and one half tons. The remaining 53 per cent of the soils had a lime requirement of three or more tons per acre.

The phosphorus picture was slightly different in that a quarter of the samples showed low phosphorus levels and a quarter had high levels. Twenty-seven per cent were in the medium range and 23 per cent in the very high range. On that basis phosphorus would not give a response on nearly half of the soils tested.

We have always felt that potassium was not needed in this area as our soils are quite well supplied. Seventy-four per cent of those tested had a high potash level and the remaining 26 per cent were medium. No low samples were reported.

In comparing calcium levels results similar to the pH levels were found. Eighty-one per cent of the soils tested had low or medium levels, indicating that calcium was needed. Lime, of course, supplies calcium as well as correcting acid conditions of the soil.

Parker Family Enters Valley in 1847 to Homestead Near Vernonia

(Note: The sketch following is one of several being prepared by Mrs. Pearl Becker, secretary of the Columbia County Historical Society, of early county pioneers and is presented as part of the observance this year of the centennial of Columbia county.)

Clark L. and Melissa Parker It was in the year 1874 that the Parker family came to live in the upper Nehalem valley. At that time there were five boys and one girl in the family and it was necessary to make their own trail through the dense woods from Forest Grove to what is now known as Vernonia. They followed a stream known as Pebble Creek, crossing it 13 times in all. A few months later, the Van Blaricom, Tucker and Adams families came, followed by others in a short time.

In 1875 a new son was born. This was Albert L. Parker, who has the honor of being the first white child born in the Vernonia area. Most of the settlers' homes were rude log cabins and there were no roads until they made them, which was most difficult since the large fir and cedar trees had to be cleared from the land to make a living place as well as roadways.

The Parker homestead was about one mile east of Vernonia and the land remained in the family, in part, up to the present time. A story of them can not be told without telling a story of the development of the area.

School District No. 12 was originated in 1875 and the following year a school house was built of logs on a corner of the C. L. Parker homestead where school was taught for a three month term each year. Ozias Cherington was the first teacher and the town of Vernonia was named for his daughter, Vernonia.

The first post office was established in 1876, with David F. Baker appointed first postmaster and the office was located in his house. Joe Campbell carried the mail from St. Helens to Vernonia. In 1879 a weekly mail was delivered and the carrier traveled by blazed trails for 20 miles over the hills. It was about this time that the people of Pittsburg built a road through to St. Helens, the county seat.

It was volunteer labor, for the county court said that the road into this section wouldn't be needed for at least 10 years. In 1880 a hard windstorm came and blew down many trees so it was necessary to rebuild the roads. As in other sections, logs were

rolled together and burned to get rid of them so land could be cultivated for farm crops. Clearing land was much more difficult than now, when labor-saving machinery can be used for this purpose. Split cedar was used for siding and for roofs, since it was easier to cut by hand than fir.

Two brothers of the Parker family are alive at this time, with Albert Parker being the only one living in this county. For several years he and his wife have lived near Clatskanie after a long useful life of helping to develop the Vernonia area.

Good News Told By Local Elder

Samuel C. Hanson, first elder of the Vernonia Seventh-Day Adventist church who is retired after 49 years of teaching, again rejoices. He says, "A teacher's reward is to hear of former pupils' advancement, occupying positions of service and responsibility in service for humanity." And now he is again made glad to receive the news that Reuben R. Figuhr, formerly his pupil in Spokane, has just been elected World President and Leader of the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination, at the World Conference in San Francisco, where some 20,000 delegates and visitors from all parts of the world are in attendance. Mr. Figuhr was once a graduate from Laurelwood Academy, Gaston, Oregon, and was present there recently at the school's 50th anniversary celebration, where M. Hanson met him.

The report Mr. Hanson received states that over 9,000 youths were in attendance during the Missions Pageant from over 100 countries. The native delegates and missionaries wore native costumes, and thousands of youths stood indicating they dedicated their lives to the task of carrying the Gospel to all the world.

During the last quadrennium about \$33,000,000.00 of welfare work has been accomplished by the denomination.

Dr. Theodore R. Flaiz, also a former pupil of Mr. Hanson at Walla Walla college, who is World Medical Director of the denomination, reports the S.D.A. operates 20 hospitals and sanitariums in the U.S. besides 25 privately owned institutions.

One of the interesting features of the convention was the "Faith for Today" television broadcast in which Penny Edwards, Hollywood actress, and her husband, Ralph Winters, were shown. Both have accepted the Adventist faith. "Faith for Today" is seen on 115 stations and "The Voice of Prophecy" is heard over 800 radio stations every Sunday, throughout the world, Mr. Hanson also said.

YESTERDAYS

FIVE YEARS AGO From The Eagle, June 16, 1949

Bush furniture has installed a TV antenna atop a 70 foot pole and will make an attempt to receive broadcasts from Seattle.

The O. A. office was damaged by fire Friday afternoon which was thought to have originated from a spark in the attic. It was brought under control by the combined efforts of the O-A fire crew and the Vernonia volunteer fire department.

A city wide organization was formed Sunday at the Baptist church to be known as the Vernonia Community Sing. Marshall Crowell was named as head of the group.

TEN YEARS AGO From The Eagle, June 15, 1944

Federal auto use tax stamps in denomination of \$5.00 went on sale at Post offices in the state on June 10, 1944.

Final steps are being taken for purchase by the R.E.A. of properties owned by Oregon Gas and Electric Co.

Archie Adams donated lumber to the city park for the new dam and building for housing equipment. Walter Kent and Hank King put the dam in Friday afternoon.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO From The Eagle, June 16, 1939

The Junior Band under direction of C. R. Watts represented

Vernonia at the Rose festival last week end and won second place in the Merrykkan parade.

A party arranged by the American Legion Auxiliary honored Grandma Dunlap Friday evening on her 90th birthday.

The Vernonia Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday evening heard Gerald W. Mason, member of the State Parole and Probation Board as guest speaker.

NOW YOU CAN LICK ATHLETE'S FOOT WITH KERATOLYTIC ACTION

T-4-L, a keratolytic fungicide, SLOUGHS OFF the tainted outer skin, exposing buried fungi and kills on contact. Leaves skin like baby's. In just ONE HOUR, if not pleased, your 40c back at any drug store. Today at VERNONIA DRUG.

DANCE

Music by the Swingsters Featuring Bill Tate and His Tenor Sax

June 19

Birkenfeld

Admission: \$2.00 Couple

VERNONIA COUNTRY CLUB Mixed Ball Foursome and Bar-B-Que SUN., JUNE 27 A GOOD TIME WHETHER YOU PLAY GOLF OR NOT. ENTRY FEE \$1.50

THINKING ABOUT HOME IMPROVEMENTS? GRADING AND LANDSCAPING FENCING NEW PORCHES WALKS AND DRIVEWAYS ROOFING AND ROOFING REPAIRS PAINTING AND DECORATING these and other improvements can be financed with one of our HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS and repaid in convenient payments. Vernonia Branch Commercial Bank of Oregon Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

FURNITURE New and Used Vernonia Bargain House 67 3rd St. Up from Bakery

VERNONIA DRUG CO. Telephone 101 Vernonia, Ore. Softer, Safer Change for Baby! Day and Night... All Through the Year only Playtex Dryper Keeps Your Baby neat and sweet... comfortable and protected—as No Ordinary Diapering Does FREE You get a handy traveling case when you buy one pair of Dryper Pants and one box of Dryper Pads. Offer for limited time only! COME IN NOW! Box of 100 Playtex Dryper Pants \$1.29 and \$1.49 Playtex Dryper Panty \$1.49

Testing and Culling of Dairy Herds Profitable Culling low producing dairy cows is more important now than it has been at any other time in the history of dairying, according to County Agent, Don Coin Walrod. Many dairy farms in Oregon follow the practice of milking cows without keeping a record of production for each cow. Many dairymen are feeding and milking three cows, when two better cows could return more net profit. The answer to this problem, says Walrod, is to test for production, cull low producers, and milk only cows that produce above average. More than thirty dairymen of Columbia county are production testing their cows through the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. The Association completed their testing year in May and Supervisor E. A. Tedrow, is compiling records at the present time. Oregon's DHIA average in 1953 was 8294 pounds of milk per cow with 380 pounds of milk fat. Low cows are the ones that build surpluses!

KIDDIES FROM NEHALEM DAIRY Heigh ho! sings the sailor lad. Here's the finest drink I've had— Shiver my timbers!—my mates all think— That here is the very finest drink! NEHALEM DAIRY PRODUCTS CO. Grade A Pasteurized Milk & Cream PHONE 471

THE HOUSEWIFE'S FIRST CHOICE ALWAYS Order today from— SAM'S FOOD STORE Fine Groceries Meats Produce Free Delivery Phone 761

IF YOU LIKE ICE CREAM— "YOU'LL LOVE" Frostee LIPTON FROSTEE DESSERT MIX Made with new LIPTON DESSERT MILK and MILK