

AROUND THE FARM

By Don Coin Walrod



Concrete fence posts will last 100 years if made from quality concrete and reinforced according to accepted practices was the conclusion reached in an Iowa State University study.

At about the same time a University of California report states that wood that has been heavily treated with a preservative may last as long as 100 years. The durability of most kinds of wood is in direct proportion to the amount of preservative absorbed.

In the light of the two studies, it would seem to us that there might be some justification for the use of concrete posts in an area like Iowa where there is a lack of natural materials and freight is an important factor in bringing them in. At the same time we would wonder if a treated wooden post couldn't be delivered to point of use for less than the cost of a concrete item.

To take up enough preservative to give approximately a life of 100 years, pressure treatment is required. Most pressure treatments are controlled to the point that a definite amount of preservative is retained by each cubic foot of wood. Cold-soak and other home treatments are not likely to give a treatment of such quality, but in most cases they ought to be approaching the 25-year figure. Here again, the amount of preservative retained will determine greatly the length of service of the post or pole. Some may fail early in life while others may go well over the average.

On-the-farm treatments are not difficult, but they may involve some time and labor. For cold-soaking with pentachlorophenol, generally referred to as just 'penta', posts need to be dry and seasoned so that no further checking or cracking occurs. Otherwise new, untreated wood would be exposed to moisture and decay organisms.

Incising the portion of the post to be treated is usually desirable so that case hardening, a phenomena of Douglas fir, is broken. Otherwise soaking time frequently is used to make up for the lack of incising, but this may not be entirely satisfactory.

Salt treating green posts or poles with a mixture of corrosive subli-

mate and common table salt gives an effective treatment that may extend post life up to 25 years. However, since there is no treatment of the top portion of the post, failure of this portion of the post often occurs before the treated portion fails. The salt treatment is more costly and hazardous than the 'penta' treatment, as corrosive sublimate is very poisonous, but it does have the advantage of allowing treatment of green timbers.

With our abundant supplies of suitable materials, more extensive post treating activities could go a long way toward saving landowners dollars in fence construction and repairs. Material for treating with 'penta' runs about 15 cents per post, but this may be more or less, depending upon post size.

Many farmers over the county have followed a practice of post treating. With Ralph Kleger, Clatskanie, this is a continued process with a few posts soaking all the time. Bill and Jack Minkoff, also at Clatskanie, used pressure treated poles for the basis of a new pole-barn. However, for the mangers inside, they cold-soaked sawed timbers to lengthen the life of the structure.

A post treating demonstration at the 1949 Columbia county fair resulted in the placement of treated posts in most all positions of the livestock show ring. Examination of all these treated posts in the show ring by OSU Extension Forester Charlie Ross and your author showed no decay. Posts that had not been treated were in various stages of decay.

A 'post farm' at the fairgrounds entrance further serves as a further demonstration of the effectiveness of treating native woods. This trial was established in 1950. The plot includes pressure-treated Douglas fir, old-growth cedar with any treatment, metal posts, and cold-soak treatments of Douglas fir and alder with varying methods of preparation and times of soaking. None of the posts in the 1959 trial show any signs of failure at the present time. Even the alder posts, which would be expected to fail within a year or so, are still serviceable.

How much thrust does a seedling have? Experiments are underway to obtain this information. The best estimates at the present indicate that an average corn seedling has a thrust of about .016 pounds. Information of this type can be of value to growers planting in areas where drying out or crusting of the surface soil occurs.

Established plants probably exert far greater pressures, since it is not at all uncommon to see them breaking through black-topping if a good herbicide is not applied in adequate quantities before the material is put in place.

Reunion Staged During Return

TIMBER — Mrs. Marjorie Wilcox returned home Thursday from California where she has been for a check up after recent surgery. She came as far as Portland Wednesday. There she met a brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barto of Seal Beach, California, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Barto of Ellensburg, Washington. They had dinner at the Hilton hotel and visited. Mrs. B. Clay, a sister at Wheeler was unable to attend the reunion due to illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Alva Williams attended a birthday party Sunday at the Donald A. Williams home in Portland. The party honored Mrs. Carol Hickman and Don Williams. Bridge gang number 13 moved from Timber to Whiteson recently and Larry Sponsel who has been visited at the parental Vern Sponsel home has secured a job with them. He started work Monday.

Bradley and Dennis Carson of Monrovia, California came Tuesday for a visit with their grandmother, Mrs. Marjorie Wilcox.

A former resident visiting in Timber was Mrs. Zodrow of Concord, California. She was accompanied by Mark Zodrow and Mr. and Mrs. O. V. Weita, also of Concord.

Mr. and Mrs. Linton Brown of Rockaway purchased the property across the road from the church, owned by Mrs. Lee Bronson, and are busy painting and repairing it. Mr. Brown works for the railroad.



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Daughter Returns From Visit in California

MIST—Miss Hattie Roberts and niece, Bonnie Dumont of Valejo, California arrived Sunday afternoon to visit Hattie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. U. L. Roberts. Bonnie is a granddaughter of the Roberts. Hattie had been in California for several weeks visiting relatives.

Mrs. Charles Drake and Larry of Las Vegas, Nevada arrived Monday in Portland by bus to visit her folks, the Howard Thompsons of Clatskanie and sister, Mrs. Norman Hansen and family of Mist. Mrs. Drake and Larry and Mrs. Hansen and children enjoyed Friday at Seaside.

Mrs. George Mathews entertained during the week: Mrs. Sam Devine, Mrs. John Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Berg, Mrs. Elmer McCrone, Mrs. Maude Rogers, Mrs. Robert Mathews and Mr. and Mrs. DeeVeere Hershey and Dee.

Mrs. Howard Grimsbo will be in Portland Tuesday with Shorthorn Lassie Queen Rogdaleen Johnson of Monmouth and Lassie Princess Margaret Swanson of Apiary, to film a tape to be shown on Channel 8 later this week. Mrs. Grimsbo and girls represent the Western Oregon and Washington Shorthorn Lassie Auxiliary association. Ivan Jones of Apiary will interview the group.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Bateson, Hillsboro, were dinner guests at the Robert Mathews home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Shalmon Libel were Sunday afternoon guests at the Lawton Waddell home visiting Marlene Kahoe and the Waddells. That evening the Wayne Reynolds were visitors at the Libel home.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mathews joined the Vernonia group at Anderson park Sunday afternoon. They enjoyed meeting old friends and renewing acquaintances. Later they were dinner guests of the Noble Dunlaps at the Spar Tree.

New Timber Residents Employed by Railroad

TIMBER — New residents in Timber are Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Tabor and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stain who were transferred here from Lakeside. They are in the B and B department of the railroad out of Cochrane. Both live in Timber houses on property owned by Miss Gladys Johnson.

Alva Williamson and Carl Nickens of Portland returned home Friday on a weeks vacation trip to Reedsport, Roseburg and Medford. They fished the Rogue and Umpqua rivers and visited old friends.

Mrs. Fred Brehm had a slight accident this week. She hit loose gravel with her car and skidded into an embankment. There was some damage to the car and Mrs. Brehm suffered muscle spasms in her hip from it. She now rides back and forth to work at Forest Grove with her husband who works in the college library there.

Missionary Society Holds Wednesday Meet

BIRKENFELD — The Ladies Missionary Society met at the community center last Wednesday with Mrs. Griffin of North Plains and her daughter-in-law and two children of Hillsboro as guests. Mrs. Griffin showed pictures of her daughter's missionary life. The next regular meeting of the missionary society will be work day at the center.

Miss Mary Ann Nordstrom returned to work in California Sunday.

Erik Berg and Dave Larson were in Tillamook Saturday. They went to the fair and were on the FFA livestock judging team.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Nordstrom and Mary Ann spent a couple days at East Lake on a fishing trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnston left last week for Warm Springs where he will be employed indefinitely.

Class of 1954 Holds Reunion

RIVERVIEW — Those attending the class reunion of 1954 were: Mr. and Mrs. Loren Mills, San Jose, California; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Smith (Alice Steers), Sweet Home; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Higley, Hillsboro; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gwin (Kathy Sauer); Don Shafer, Hillsboro; Miss Marlene Grey and escort; Mr. and Mrs. Marion Grant (Jeanette Dass); Mr. and Mrs. Don Wantland (Jody Webb); Mr. and Mrs. Homer Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Krieger, Mr. and Mrs. Dick May, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lusby, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Norwood and Ken Nanson. The dinner was held at Dessy's Saturday evening and several of the group gathered at the Don Wantland home Sunday afternoon for further visiting.

Mrs. Ruby Normand became the grandmother of another girl who was born August 14, to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Goodman of Prospect. She weighs 8 pounds 9 ounces and is named Pollyanne Elizabeth. She joins two brothers and a sister.

Family Returns From British Columbia Trip

CAPITOL HILL — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grey have just returned from a trip to British Columbia into the rather wild country 200 miles northwest of Prince George. They made the trip with friends from San Diego, California, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rovik. Together they visited mutual friends, the Simpsons, who own a 100-acre ranch bordering a lake in this resort country. Fishing was real profitable and boating one of the favorite pastimes. They talked with some native Indians who still remain there and learned much about living in remote country. It was a thrilling experience as well as being educational.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Meier called on the DeHarts Saturday afternoon, and Sunday called on Mrs. Otto Holmgren on Mist Route, who has sold her home to move to Scappoose to be near her husband who is in a rest home there.

Charles and Velma Harders and children, Carol and Donnie, are spending a few vacation days visiting relatives in Vernonia, enroute from a trip to Lebanon to visit her brother, George Snyder and family.

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