

## Gross Farm Income in County For 1964 Drops from '63 Total

Gross agricultural income to Columbia county's farmers for 1964 is going to be below the previous year by about six percent, or \$340,000, dropping total returns below the \$5 million mark for the first time in a good many years.

While a few individual commodities increased returns to growers, the majority showed slight decrease. Changes in levels of production and prices in the market place were both factors causing minor shifts in gross income.

Returns from livestock, including meat animals, dairy, poultry, and miscellaneous animals were three percent below 1963. However, cattle and calves were off by eight percent while hogs, lambs, poultry, and miscellaneous livestock either held steady or showed slight increases.

Dairying, the leading agricultural income producer in the county for many years, continues to follow national trends toward fewer but larger herds. Although dairy cow numbers are down in the county, production levels have not climbed upward as they have in most parts of the nation. Returns to dairymen for milk and cream sold totalled \$820,000 compared with \$861,000 last year. Additional returns of \$238,000 from animals sold for meat bring the dairymen's return to slightly over one million dollars. For the purpose of records, this latter item is credited to meat animal production under cattle sales.

Cattle and calves continue to be the major source of income for Columbia county's farmers. While cattle numbers have increased fairly steadily due to a shift from dairy to beef, and because of numerous small operators, low prices during the year combined with other factors to drop returns eight percent below those of a year earlier. Gross receipts from cattle and calves amounted to \$997,000.

Slightly increased hog numbers in the county have served to keep total receipts about constant in spite of relatively low prices. On the other hand better prices for lambs and wool help to keep returns from this source constant in the face of decreasing farm flock numbers.

Most of the miscellaneous animal receipts of the county, amounting to \$515,000, stem from mink operations, although a few unusual enterprises, including bees, are listed in this category. Columbia county is one of the more important mink producing areas of the state.

Livestock production in total brought gross returns of \$2,975,000 to the county, a drop of three percent from the 1963 figure. Livestock and livestock products account for more than 60 percent of the total receipts farmers receive from agricultural pursuits.

Crops returns for the 1964 year were down 11 percent for a total of \$1,923,000 with small fruits leading the list in importance of production. Part of the reason for the sharp decrease in receipts is due to the discontinuation of rose growing activities in the Scappoose area.

Favorable weather conditions boosted strawberry production so that receipts for this commodity totalled \$520,000. This increased production added up to the highest returns growers have experienced in several years although acreages are down considerably and prices have remained stable. The county now stands about sixth in the state in the production of strawberries, none of which are processed here.

Astoria bentgrass, a premium quality turf grass in which the county leads the state, is estimated to bring growers a gross return of about \$153,000, although marketings for the year are not yet complete. About 900 acres of bottom land in the Clatskanie area are devoted to this crop.

Hay of various kinds form the principal crop grown in the county, other than timber, but because most of it is used by growers for livestock feed, the small amounts sold to other stockmen and horse owners returned about \$66,000.

Truck crops, mostly cabbage for processing into sauerkraut and cucumbers for pickles, along with beans bring gross receipts of about \$82,000. While potatoes are grown rather widely over the county, limited amounts sold commercially for tablestock and certified seed return growers a gross figure of \$48,000.

Small grains, once major crops in the county, have netted growers such low profits that these crops are now used primarily in rotations and or erosion prevention rather than as a major cash crop.

Farm woodland returns for the year remained high, probably as a result of continued harvest of blow-

down resulting from the Columbus Day storm of 1962. Gross returns from this source total about \$550,000.

Direct government payments are a very small factor in the economy of Columbia county farmers who ordinarily receive about \$25,000 in Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization cost-sharing payments and wool production incentive payments. Some additional payments, estimated to be less than \$50,000 will be made from emergency appropriations for finishing removal of storm damage debris in woodlands.

## W. Mathews See Films of Camp

MIAMI—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schaub from Portland were Saturday night guests of the Walter Mathews. They enjoyed the Mist Helping Circle program and on Sunday morning the four went to Sunday school and church at Birkenfeld. They attended the pot luck dinner at the church kitchen following the service. Sunday evening the Mathews attended church at Forest Grove where they viewed films of last summer's youth camp on the Lewis river. Their daughter, Marian, who was an active member of the youth group, was shown in the film.

Mrs. Bud Hemeon and Mrs. Al Schlehner were hostesses Thursday at the home of Mrs. Hemeon for the Mist Helping Circle. Seventeen members and guests, Mrs. Clarence Kyser, Mrs. Norman Hansen and Mrs. Fred Busch, were present. Plans for the program Saturday evening were completed. Election of officers was held with Mrs. Robert Mathews, president; Mrs. Charles Hansen, vice-president and Mrs. George Mathews, secretary treasurer being named. Members are reminded that the December meeting will be the third Thursday, December 17, due to the Christmas holidays. Mrs. Charles Ramsey and Mrs. Wayne Kyser will be the hostesses at the Birkenfeld Center. Christmas gift exchange with secret pals revealed will be held.

## Helping Hands Slate Election

TIMBER—Timber Helping Hands club met November 18 at the home of Mrs. Marjorie Wilcox. The usual potluck lunch was served, after which Mrs. Harold Kimber was honored with a stork shower. The next meeting will be held December 15 at the home of the president, Mrs. John Alvino. At this meeting secret pals names will be revealed, new officers elected and names for secret pals drawn for the coming year.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stain went to Portland the past week end to get their infant daughter, Sandra Lea, who has been quite ill at the home of Mr. Stain's mother, Mrs. Erna Goad. Sandra will be under the doctor's care for another five weeks.

Every few days one hears of someone who went to school to or with President L. B. Johnson. A Timber lady, Mrs. Catherine Mitchell, attended the same college, Southwestern Teacher college at San Marcus, Texas, only four years prior to his entering. The Peal House where she boarded for \$17 a month, was located on Wood street about four blocks from the men's quarters, or the garage where he tells about living.

## Birthday of Mother Observed in Portland

BIRKENFELD — Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Wanstrom and Hank Robinson were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Lone Downs in Portland. The occasion was her mother's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Baker spent the week end with his folks, the Darrell Bakers.

Several from here attended the bazaar and program at Mist Saturday evening and enjoyed it very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watson were recently in Astoria and Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Glick and Candy were Saturday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watson.

Mrs. Lloyd Beach entertained with a birthday dinner last week for her mother, Mrs. Maud Rogers. Also present for the dinner were her three other daughters, Myrtle, Lena and Mary.

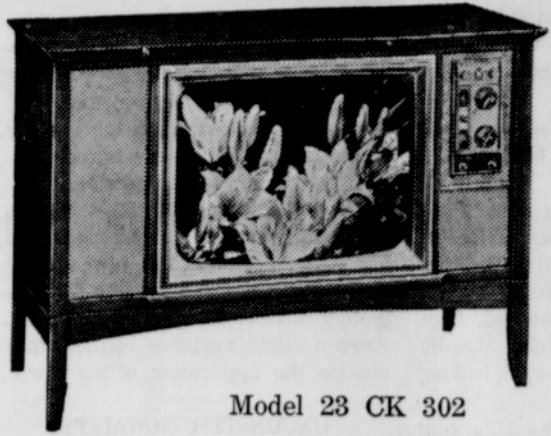
Mr. and Mrs. Art Bellingham were in Portland last Friday evening at the Portland International airport to meet Douglas who had come from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He is on a delay, enroute to Fort Lewis and will spend Thanksgiving at home.

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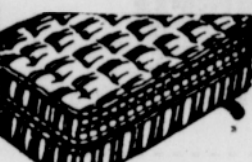
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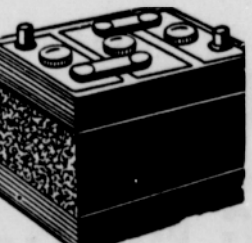


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SIMMONS

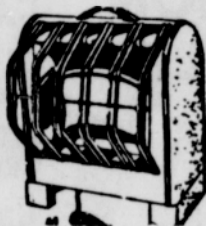
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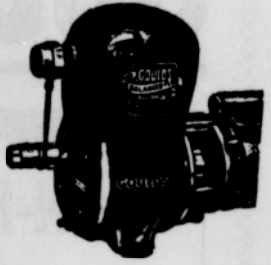
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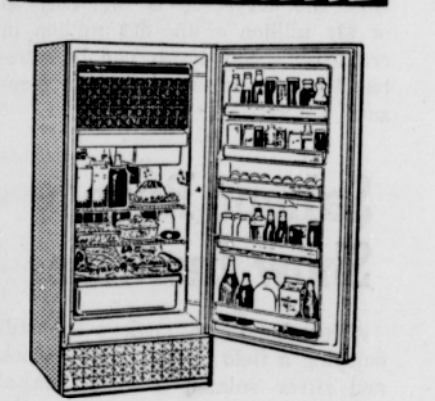
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## Injury Forces Long Vacation

RIVERVIEW—Word has been received regarding Mr. and Mrs. Olin Robbins, former residents of River-view. He was injured in September at the mill where he worked and has undergone surgery on his shoulder. He is not yet able to go back to work. Mrs. Robbins spent several weeks recently in Mississippi due to the illness of her mother.

Jack Gaston returned home from Tuality hospital Saturday after spending seven weeks there due to injuries received in a car accident. He is able to be around on crutches.

Glen Reynolds, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Reynolds, came home Saturday after several days stay at Tuality hospital with a kidney infection.

Vernon Bateman is still convalescing at the home of his mother, Mrs. Nellie Bateman at Forest Grove. He will have to return to the U of O hospital December 1 for a checkup.

Mrs. Mable Mills of Los Angeles is visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Artie Buckner.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Cline visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cline at Vancouver Sunday.

## Accident in Michigan Takes Life of Worker

BIRKENFELD — Word was received by relatives here from Mrs. Flora Lustig of Michigan, that her son Johnnie was killed while at work. No details have been learned.

Ann Ramsey and her roommate at Cascade college, Mary Engle of Molalla spent the week end here with Ann's folks. Saturday evening, the girls were dinner guests at the Shirley Berg home. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey took the girls back to school Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Errand, two sons and a daughter from McMinnville have moved here and are living in the Tom Johnston house. Mr. Errand is E. T. Johnston's farm hand.

## Kruckman Brothers Visit Local Couple

NATAL - PITTSBURG — Fred Kruckman of Camas and brother Harry Kruckman of Latourell Falls visited with Mr. and Mrs. Noble Dunlap Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Dass spent Monday in Portland. They visited with their daughter, Mrs. Don Armstrong at Beaverton, also.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis of Portland were Sunday afternoon visitors of their son Orin and wife.

## Winema HEC Dates Party

BIRKENFELD—Winema HEC will meet at the home of Miss Anna Hanberg Tuesday, December 1, with pot luck at noon. This will be the Christmas meeting at which the 1964 pals will be revealed and the exchange of Christmas gifts will be held.

Mrs. Vick Berg accompanied Mrs. Ruth Steers to Portland last Wednesday.

nesday.

Art Bellingham attended a meeting for school board members Thursday and Friday of last week at the Hilton hotel in Portland. He accompanied J. W. Acaiturri, school superintendent.

Those attending the OSU-U of O football game at Corvallis Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Larson and Susan, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson, Terry and Dave, Lloyd Johnston and Jim Bellingham. Terry, Lloyd and Jim went down Friday evening.

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