

# AROUND THE FARM

By Don Coin Walrod



With a high percentage of Columbia county's farm lands located along the Columbia River, the extent of flood damage continues to be the current high point of interest. Although many individuals have experienced damage certainly Columbia county fared better than many of the Willamette Valley counties.

At the writing of this column there has not been adequate time to fully assess the extent of damage. Inundation has been the biggest threat with the greatest damage probably occurring from flooding of Columbia Diking District Number One, the Columbia county portion of Sauvie Island.

As soon as damage can be fully appraised, and programs determined, residents of flooded areas will be advised of emergency aid programs being offered to speed recovery. While no details are available at the present time, we have learned that emergency loans will be available through Farmers Home Administration.

For those folks who have suffered damage to property from flooding, Oregon State University has prepared a series of fact sheets providing information on how to care for various kinds of equipment and household goods that have been damaged by inundation. These may be obtained at the extension office.

"Grow or perish" is the handwriting on the wall for dairy cooperatives, is the belief of Frank Groves, University of Wisconsin economist. Although the words are new, we've heard the thought expressed many times in recent months. Probably the idea should not be restricted to just dairy marketing cooperatives, either.

One reason for starting cooperatives was to provide farmers with the means of balancing the power of large buyers. Failure to keep pace with the concentration that is taking place in the markets has meant that cooperatives are not providing as much countervailing power as was originally intended.

"Many feel," says Groves, "that one of the reasons co-ops have failed to keep pace is that their merger policies have not been as aggressive as those of their competitors. Many cooperatives today realize that they must grow in order to survive."

"A fairly constant growth rate is necessary just to hold their relative market position, and in order to increase their share of the market, they must grow at a faster rate than their competitors. Consequently, there is renewed interest in merger as a means of achieving more rapid growth."

"Broadly speaking, the hoped-for results from any merger can be classified in two different areas: the first is an increase in bargaining power and the second, improved efficiency. These are tied together and it is often necessary to accomplish one before you can realize the other."

Red clover is a good reliable seed crop for Western Oregon farmers and one that deserves greater consideration by Columbia county farmers. Ready markets are available for high quality seed of Kenland and Penn-scott varieties.

One of the common methods of establishing red clover, whether for seed or forage, is to broadcast the seed in fall-seeded grains, preferably winter barley or wheat. Good stands of red clover are usually obtained by broadcasting the seed in late January or early February. Ideal seeding conditions are a few inches of snow or some surface frost. The melting snow or thawing frost helps cover the seeds. Seedlings made at this time become well established during the spring months.

Another common practice for establishment is to drill the red clover into the winter grain fields, usually in March. Seedlings with winter grains are generally not as good as seedlings on so-called summer fallow land in late April or May. However, the costs of establishing red clover by the latter method is usually higher because no crop, other than possibly limited pasture, is harvested during the seeding year.

One of the problems with the production of red clover for seed is the need to remove the first cutting, as seed is produced on the second crop. Since this first cutting should come off early, preferably close to May first, silage is the best means of utilizing the forage produced by the

red clover crop. Red clover does not lend itself well to making hay, especially at an early date when weather conditions are not favorable.

In May, 1963, the Federal Communications Commission formally abolished CONELRAD. Although this 'news' is more than a year old, we have been getting some questions about CONELRAD, which indicate that the word hasn't gotten around.

In the CONELRAD system, all authorized radio stations were to broadcast emergency information on 640 and 1240 kilocycles. Therefore, transmissions on these two frequencies would have been coming from transmitters all over the country at the same time. This would confuse the guidance system of an aircraft which was trying to follow a radio beam to a particular town. Missiles and bombers now use newer and better guidance systems.

CONELRAD also had some serious weaknesses. Many rural areas were so far from a CONELRAD station that people couldn't hear emergency test instructions. These people would have been without instructions during a real emergency. Others, living near two or more stations, couldn't understand either one when they both started broadcasting on the same frequency (640 or 1240 kilocycles).

Under the Emergency Broadcasting System (EBS), stations will stay at normal power on their regular frequencies. You won't have to turn to 640 or 1240. Stations which hold National Defense Emergency Authorizations will stay on the air during emergencies. All others will close down. Therefore, any station you can hear during an emergency will be part of the EBS. Stations will identify themselves by area rather than call letters, so you can just turn the dial until you find a station that is giving information for your area. The EBS stations will cover more of the country than CONELRAD did and stations won't interfere with each other any more than they do now.

EBS stations have built-in fallout protection so they are able to stay on the air 24 hours a day during a nuclear emergency. Most have emergency generators in case their regular power supply fails. Many Oregon stations are a part of the EBS and others are being added as rapidly as possible.

## Tractors Need Careful Check

Tractors and other equipment caught by the recent Northwest flood require numerous checks before they are put to use again, Don Coin Walrod, county extension agent, advises.

If a tractor engine has been completely submerged, no attempt should be made to start the motor or turn it over before it has a complete cleaning inside and out. The most satisfactory equipment for doing the cleaning job is a steam cleaner using a soap solution. If a dealer or repair shop is equipped with such cleaners they should be utilized. In some states, where flooded tractors have been cleaned with a steam cleaner, it is regarded as the best piece of equipment for the job, and it can do the work in one-third of the time required for hand cleaning.

No machinery should stand any longer than necessary after it can be taken out of the water because delay will mean greater rusting and corrosion and will cause cylinders and other parts to stick. A suggested procedure is to clean all parts with kerosene or a solvent or flushing oil and then use a solution of soap and water to remove all silt and grit. The machinery should then be dried thoroughly and coated with a light coat of oil.

All oil lines must be cleaned completely of silt and grit, especially in motors having full pressure lubrication systems. Some folks will want to know whether it is necessary to take the motor entirely apart, and the answer is yes, even when using a steam cleaner. The transmission and differential will need cleaning. And the time to make repairs is while overhauling the engine.

Tractor men may wonder if more trouble is likely to develop that can be blamed on the flood damage. There may be some rusting and fine silt which may cause faster engine wear which could be missed. To reduce danger from this, make the first oil change in about 20 hours, suggests Walrod.

## Employment Is High for 1964

A year-end report from the Oregon department of employment put 1964 at the top of the list for high employment, low unemployment and an expected good employment economy for the new year, Governor Mark Hatfield stated recently at Salem.

The governor said the estimated average total employment for the state in 1964 was 730,600, some 17,800 above the average employed in 1963. An all-time record was set in August with 788,600 employed.

Governor Hatfield said the non-farm wage and salary index, which reached an all-time high of 119.0 in November is a good sign for the employment economy to continue on a high level into 1965, especially if the index rose again in December as it was expected to do.

Insured unemployment rates in October and November were at a 10-year low for that time of the year. Though seasonal unemployment started the unemployment rate on an upward trend toward the end of November, insured unemployment, over 1964 as a whole, was at one of its lowest periods in over a decade. Lowest rate was reached in October at 1.9 percent for the two weeks ending October 5, also the lowest point for the whole year.

Contract construction and wood products, lumbering and logging continued to be the big employers covered under the laws of the Oregon department of employment. Around 39,000 employers in the state are now paying into the unemployment insurance trust fund. A majority of these employers will receive reduced unemployment insurance tax rates beginning January 1, which rates range from 1.2 to 2.7 percent depending upon the employer's experience ratings. This is expected to save employers about \$6 million in U.I. taxes during the coming year compared to the taxes paid during 1964.

An estimated average of 31,200 workers were employed in contract construction during the year. Construction worker earnings averaged \$149.25 per week, the highest weekly wage paid to any industry in the state during 1964.

Lumber and wood products employed an average of some 72,200 people with production workers in the industry earning an average of \$116 per week. Logging and sawmills employed an estimated average of 39,100 persons during the year at an estimated \$116.75 per week.

For the most part during 1964, Oregon's insured and total unemployment rate has been below the national average, though the labor force (766,200 estimated average) has been growing by leaps and bounds during the past several years. The economy has remained quite stable during 1964, based on the low rate of unemployment and high employment and even in lieu of the expanding labor force and threats by the labor strike in November, when some 4,000 papermill workers were off work for nearly two weeks.

The department of employment during the year continued to take on added responsibilities in the field of training and referral to opportunities under both the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 and the Economic Opportunities Act of 1964. Its responsibilities under MDTA in the selection of trainees by November had totaled some 690 persons trained with 414 employed upon completion of training. The continued MDTA program for 1964-65 will refer 2,726 persons for training in 28 training courses about the state. The state department of education is responsible for training the persons selected by the department of employment.

The department's new responsibilities under the EOA of 1964 are especially spelled out in the field of disadvantaged youth.

The governor said Oregon's employment economy is gradually becoming a more stable non-seasonal economy because of the expansion of present year-around industries, new non-seasonal industries being established and the changeover of present seasonal industries to year-around operations.

## Family Gathering Is Held at Snyder Home

TIMBER RT.—Mr. and Mrs. George Snyder and family from Sweet Home spent from Wednesday to Saturday with his mother and brother, Mrs. Carl Snyder and Bert. Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Reynolds and family joined them for New Year's dinner.

Jeanette Todd from Aloha spent Saturday night with Mrs. Carl Wienecke.

Mrs. Carl Snyder returned home Wednesday after spending a week and a half in Portland caring for her sister who had undergone surgery.

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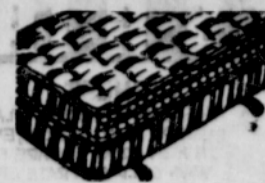
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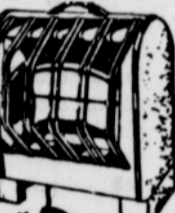
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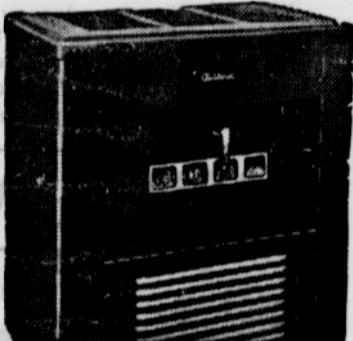


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## Guests Noted At Gibson Home

TIMBER RT.—Mr. and Mrs. Bud Gibson and family had as guests during the holidays Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith and Terry from Springfield, Gary and Vern Smith from Portland, Mr. and Mrs. George Hult and Marvin from Sweet Home, who were here over New Year's. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gwin and family and Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn Graves and family from Crow visited them Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hult went to Gales Creek Sunday to visit for a few days.

Kathy and Patricia Reynolds spent Saturday night and Sunday with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Reynolds and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn Graves and family from Crow spent from Friday to Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Thacker.

Tommy Galloway from Clatskanie and Chris and Ron Smith visited from Christmas until Tuesday with their grandmother, Mrs. Nell Thacker.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kells from North Plains visited Mrs. Carl Snyder Saturday evening.

Glen Reynolds was in the hospital from Monday to Saturday.

Start the New Year with a fresh outlook - by giving old discards, clothing and household articles, to non-profit Goodwill Industries. Help is needed now and all through the year.

Don't expect free passes for travel on the road to success.

## Mrs. Waddell Visited While Recuperating

MIST—Mr. and Mrs. Lawton Waddell are staying with the Shalmon Labels due to being without electricity since last Monday. Mrs. Waddell returned from the hospital New Year's Eve after having two growths removed and is doing just fine. Marlene Kahoe of Portland was here over the week end to see her mother and other family members. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Waddell and children of Eastern Oregon arrived New Year's Eve to visit his dad and family. They also visited with the Ralph

Waddells at Gearhart.

Bob Grimsbo returned to his studies at Pacific University at Forest Grove Sunday afternoon. New Year's day the Grimsbos were at the Harold Cases to watch the Rose Bowl game on TV.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Itzen and children and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Silbaugh and family were with their mother, Mrs. Edna Johnson for the Christmas holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Carl are staying with Mrs. Johnson.

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