

## Malheur County Well Represented at Annual PTA Convention in Salem

Malheur county was well represented at the annual state P.T.A. convention which was held in Salem April 21 to 23, when 18 delegates from the 14 organized local units in this county were in attendance. This included the county president, Mrs. Jesse Rigney, Nyssa, and the county vice president Mrs. John Elfering, Vale.

The convention theme for this year was "Three Keys to the Future," the keys standing for better communities, better schools, better homes. Greetings were expressed at the opening session by Governor Paul Patterson, Dennis Patch, president of Marion county P. T. A., and general chairman of the convention, Dr. Rex Putnam, State Supt. of Public Instruction, Warren Tinker, president of the Oregon Education association, S. E. Broglotti, president of the State School Board association, Charles Barkley, representing the Salem mayor and Dr. Walter E. Snyder, Salem school supt.

Main speakers for the convention were Mrs. Herman Nordfors, Longview, Wash., National P.T.A. vice president, Mrs. Paul Patterson, Oregon's first lady and Mrs. Helmer Lindstrom, Astoria, state P.T.A. president.

It was announced that Oregon now has an all-time high of nearly 110,000 members. Malheur county is at the top of its increase quota for this year.

The delegates from Malheur county were as follows: Mrs. J. W. Rigney, Nyssa; Mrs. John Elfering, Vale; Mrs. Leslie Ballantyne, Nyssa; Mrs. Charles Newbill, Mr. and Mrs. Durlin Hammon, Adrian; Mrs. Leon Davenport and Mrs. John Fowler, Conklin School, Ontario; Mrs. Charles Harvey, Lindberg School, Ontario; Mrs. Leonard Grimes and Mrs. Harry Knester, Pioneer School, Ontario; Mrs. L. C. Engle, Lincoln School, Ontario; Mrs. Dan Townley and Mrs. Herbert Halton, Vale; Mrs. Paul Towell, Harper; Mrs. Al Traudt and Mrs. William Patterson, Annex.

On Thursday evening, these 18 delegates were entertained at a social hour in the home of Dennis Patch, Salem, who was formerly Nyssa high school principal. He proved his loyalty to this vicinity when he publicly presented Mrs. Rigney with five pounds of White Satin sugar during the "Cherry Juice Special" breakfast—a convention feature. Mrs. Rigney promised to inform the local Chamber of Commerce of this honor. Mrs. Patch was one of the convention hostesses and the Malheur county group had her as a guest at the Regional luncheon held Friday noon at the Senator hotel in Salem.

Mrs. Rigney has announced that there will be a county P.T.A. council meeting on Friday, April 30 at 8 p. m. in Ontario at Conklin school. Convention delegates will be present to give the convention highlights. Mrs. Alta Pekkala, county P.T.A. pre-school chairman will be the main speaker at the meeting.

### CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank my friends and neighbors for the flowers, plants, cards and visits during my recent illness and confinement in the hospital.

Mrs. Nettie Bennett

John A. Wright of Evanston, Wyo., is a guest this week of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Peterson. Mr. Wright is Mrs. Peterson's father.

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## State Officers Meet With Local Farm Bureau Men

George Dewey, executive secretary, and Cliff Wright, organizational director, attended the April meeting of the Malheur county Farm Bureau officers held at the FB hall at Cairo. A national affairs committee was appointed to study and report on national legislation of interest to farmers.

Letters were read from Sen. Wayne Morse and Rep. Guy Corbin giving their support to the King bill now in congress. The county Farm Bureau had sent letters to the senators and representatives and to the American Farm Bureau federation asking their support of the bill to place potatoes and onions on the commodity exchange to help eliminate gambling on their futures.

Dewey reported on the progress being made on the live-

## Malheur County Among Nine With Valuation Drop

The assessed value of taxable property in nine Oregon counties declined during 1953, even though the total valuation in the state increased.

This is the report contained in a memorandum on the trend of assessed value of Taxable property in Oregon, prepared by the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service at the University of Oregon.

The report lists economic development, county assessment standards and state tax commission policies as reasons for the changes. The nine counties are Crook, Harney, Jefferson, Lincoln, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla and Walla. All but Lincoln are in Eastern Oregon.

In the eight Eastern Oregon counties, the decline came largely as a result of a decrease in the assessed valuation of personal property, the report says. In Lincoln county the decrease was due mostly to a reduction in the state assigned ratio, which resulted in a decline in the assessed value of utility property.

Between 1951 and 1952 there were decreases in the assessed value of three counties. However, Walla county is the only one to show a decrease both during that period and during 1953.

Although the assessed value of taxable property in the state reached a new high in 1953 for the seventh straight year, there were a number of changes in the totals for different classes of property in various counties, the report states.

There was a decline in the assessed value of at least one class of property in at least 27 out of the 36 Oregon counties. In nine of these counties the decline came in both personal and utility property. In one county, Deschutes, there were reductions in both utility and real property. Jefferson county showed reductions in all three classes. In nine counties the only decline came in utility property, and in seven the decrease came in personal property, the report continues.

However, there was a substantial increase in the assessed value of property in some counties during the same period. The report attributes this increase to the rapid growth in some counties, reappraisal programs in others and a flat percentage increase in assessment to achieve equalization between classes in still others.

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## Dry-Land Wheat Costs In Circular

Costs of dry-land wheat varied more than \$1 a bushel among 18 Wasco county farms studied by Oregon State college agricultural economist D. Curtis Mumford and reported in OSC circular of information No. 541, "Costs and Returns on Dry-Land Wheat Farms."

Copies of the circular are available from county extension agents or OSC.

Average production costs, based on 1952 figures, were \$1.61 a bushel ranging from \$1.20 for the five lowest cost operations up to \$2.32 for the five highest. The five farms with the lowest per bushel cost averaged 38 bushels per acre, while the high cost farms averaged 27 bushels.

All costs were included such as a salary allowance for the operator, taxes and insurance, and depreciation on machinery and buildings. The wheat, selling at \$2.32 a bushel, returned 12.3 percent on an average capital investment of \$116,990. Farms studied averaged 910 acres of cropland.

stock disease research laboratory. He also reported that Farm Bureau is still growing in Oregon with 5100 members, an increase of 2000 over last year. He told of the possibility of opening a full time Farm Bureau office in this vicinity and explained requirements to receive help from the FB insurance. The insurance was established in 1948 and nearly a quarter million dollars have been paid back to the policy holders as refund dividends.

The Malheur county Farm Bureau has compiled figures on the cost of production of field corn and sweet corn in the county. They will be ready for publication in the near future.

Wright commended the Farm Bureau on its publication of sugar beet costs.

## Chemists Seek Control For DDT Resistant Flies

DDT-resistant houseflies that now have a toe-hold on Oregon may have left one or two chinks in their armor that can be pierced by Oregon State college scientists before the pests become a serious threat here.

OSC agricultural chemists attacking the problem with radioactive DDT and a study of life processes in flies have received a renewed search grant of nearly \$11,000 from the army. The project started last year with a \$15,000 grant using houseflies as a basis for studying growing resistance of various pests to DDT and other chlorine-containing insecticides such as lindane, methoxychlor and aldrin.

The study now holds promise of bringing secondary benefits to Oregon in control of DDT-resistant flies first found at Corvallis where DDT came into early use in the college livestock buildings. Entomologists cooperating in the research say resistant flies are now reported elsewhere in Oregon and they believe it is only a matter of time until other state areas develop their own resistant strains.

L. C. Terriere and L. F. Remmert are heading up two teams of OSC agricultural chemists attempting to locate the site in flies where DDT causes death or builds up resistance. Approximately 10,000 flies are tested each week.

Radioactive DDT that can be traced with a Geiger counter in the tissue of flies is one of the tools that may lead to the root of the problem. Terriere says DDT fragments which are not toxic have been found in the tissue of DDT-treated resistant flies. Attempts are now being made to identify the fragments which might be used to discover

## Best Shrubs and Trees Compiled

Trees, shrubs and vines best suited for the various Oregon areas are under study at Oregon State college with publication of recommendations planned for next year.

Donald J. Martel, head of the landscape architecture department, has been compiling information on Oregon ornamentals for five years. More than 1000 trees, shrubs and vines are now being cataloged according to soil, water, temperature and sun requirements and physical characteristics—structure, height, flowers and other growth aspects.

The reference is expected to be especially valuable for Eastern Oregon, where little material has been published to guide gardeners.

Robert Ramsey, Corvallis senior, is assisting on the project this year. Recommendations are about two-thirds completed.

### PLANS MADE FOR MAY BREAKFAST

Plans have been completed for the May Day waffle breakfast May 1 at the George Coleman home. Hostesses for the annual affair are members of the Dorcas circle of the Women's Society of Christian service of the Nyssa community Methodist church.

Serving will be from 6 until 10 a.m. The Coleman home is located 2½ miles west of Nyssa on Gem avenue.

the difference between resistant and non-resistant flies.

First-year trials by Remmert's group also hold hope that the scientists can pinpoint the site in non-resistant flies where the toxic action of DDT takes place. They succeeded in locating in houseflies one of the newest and most fundamental particles in living cells which are being used as a base for testing effects of insecticides.

## Results of Cattle Feeding Research Reported by OSC

Surplus Oregon feeders and lower grade slaughter grass cattle—which both tend to flood fall markets—may be profitably fed to higher grades for spring slaughter. These are preliminary findings of a feeding and grading demonstration conducted during the past season at the Malheur branch experiment station.

Common feeder cattle averaged a net profit of \$55.16 a head compared to \$25.31 for choice feeders during a 150-day feeding trial supervised by Neil Hoffman, station superintendent, and is sponsored jointly by the Oregon State college experiment station and extension service. No labor charges, interest or taxes were figured in the costs.

Sixty yearling steers, representing five grades of feeders, were fed identical rations of alfalfa hay and ground ear corn and barley. Groups of inferior, medium, and good feeders fell between the extremes in net profits recorded for the choice and common feeders.

Ed Coles, extension livestock marketing specialist, says that while these results represent only one season's trials, they showed considerably higher profits in feeding common feeders bought at 11 cents a pound and sold as finished grades of "commercial and good" at 18 to 20 cents a pound. Choice feeders bought at 17 cents a pound sold for 22 cents.

Profits were made by feeding animals into higher slaughter grades and not through weight gains, Coles stated. Feed costs per pound of gain ran higher for all lots than the selling price per pound of live cattle. Cost per pound of gain was 21 cents for common feeder steers and 25

### BALLANTYNE RETURNS

Pfc. David L. Ballantyne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Ballantyne of Nyssa, returned last Wednesday after spending a year and a half overseas in the signal corp. Pfc. Ballantyne spent a year in

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Staples of Coalville, Utah and Mrs. Ralph Anderson spent Tuesday in Weiser relatives.

Korea.

cents for choice feeders. John Landers, extension animal husbandry specialist, said the trials showed that animals' ability to put on gains may vary widely within grades. Good feeders showed the highest average daily gain of 1.91 pounds, but the 10 animals in the lot ranged from 1.25 pounds per day to 2.53 pounds. Choice feeders showed the lowest average gain of 1.62 pounds. Common feeders averaged 1.86 pounds a day and ranged from 1.29 to 2.1 pounds.

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