

Hailstone Fall Study Conducted At Oregon State

A way to make hailstones slushy and half-melted during their two-mile descent from thunderclouds in which they are formed may be attempted by Oregon State college weather scientists within the next three years.

This may be tried in the Medford area where hailstones do considerable damage to the pear crop when they reach the ground area.

A young pear takes a "whale of a whacking" from hailstones. A pear gets a dimple on it where the hail hits, the texture of the skin is changed, and growth is stunted. When the pears are put into automatic peelers, the dimpled spot remains and has to be hand peeled.

The weather scientists will seek ways and means of reducing occurrence of hail at the ground in the Rogue River valley. This means to get the hail to fall slowly so it melts on the way down. It is impossible to keep a thunderstorm from forming hail.

Fred W. Decker of the Atmospheric Science branch of OSC Science Research Institute is in charge of the \$54,000 hail study project supported by the National Science Foundation, Medford Pear Shippers association and the OSC Agricultural experiment station.

If hail can be made slushy and trapped with air, it would tend to fall flatter and would not be damaging to pears. If made to fall more slowly, hail is more likely to melt in the two miles of air before it reaches the ground and the pear crop.

From noting cloud development, internal precipitation development of the storm, atmospheric electric measurements, and upper air sounding data, the weather scientists hope to pre-determine the various types and sizes of hail that will fall from a given storm.

Presently, the weather scientists are studying the natural hail fall. They have over 500 stations in a hail-recording network in the Rogue River valley near Medford and in the surrounding hills. The stations are about every six-tenths of a square mile.

In addition, some 30 volunteers gather hailstones and immediately put them in a deep freeze so the stones can be analyzed for internal structure and density. Jud Parsons of Medford is in charge of the hail records and volunteer collections.

To study the natural hail fall, a weather radar station has been established at the foot of Upper Table Rock by Wilfred G. Jency, electronics engineer of the OSC Atmospheric Science branch, and Robert Matthews. This radar system scans horizontally and vertically, mapping the thunderstorms. A time-lapse camera also photographs the cloud formations. Scientists will be able to compare treated and untreated storms to have a basis for valid comparison. To make the hail fall slower and melt, Decker said they are now considering "seeding" thunderstorms with harmless chemicals and plastics.

Hail is the rarest form of precipitation. It takes a "supreme effort of nature" to produce hail,

Grade Students Present Programs At Parents' Tea

Pupils of Mrs. Gladys Spitz's fourth grade class held their parents' tea Oct. 12 in the multipurpose room. The program was centered around physical education and consisted of exercises, rhythms and songs.

Kathleen Peterson, room president, welcomed the guests. Twenty-seven parents and seven children attended the tea.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Martin Greig and Mrs. Earl Hastings, room mothers, assisted by Mrs. Don Strickland.

Mexico Review Presented
Elvin Ballou's students held their parents' tea Oct. 21 in their home room. The program consisted of a review of Mexico in regular classroom discussion. Mothers were introduced in Spanish by their children.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Bill Hamilton and Mrs. Joe Stephen, room mothers. General business followed.

Depict American Explorers
Parents' tea was held Oct. 21 in Mrs. Nelda Schenk's room. Theme for the program was "Explorers of the American Continent," depicted in original verse and song.

Twenty-three mothers, one father and several children attended. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Boyd Wilson and Mrs. Alfred Adams, room mothers. They were assisted by Mrs. Carl Burningham and Mrs. Bill Fitzsimmons.

Students Present Skit
Mrs. Mary Hatt's sixth grade students held their parents' tea Oct. 21. They presented their program before an audience of 29 adults and several small children. The program consisted of a skit in which the children visited Mexico, Japan, Russia and Africa, and concluded with a song, "God Bless America."

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Vernon Widmer and Mrs. Ambrose McCarthy, room mothers.

Indian and Seed Units
Mrs. Naomi May's third grade class held their parents' tea Oct. 20. A short program summarizing Indian and seed units studied by the children was presented.

Refreshments of cake, punch and coffee were served by Mrs. John Briehl and Mrs. William Wahlert, room mothers.

VISIT SON IN WASHINGTON
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Eldredge spent the weekend in Camas, Wash., where they visited their son, Mr. and Mrs. Don Eldredge and family.

Decker noted. Many meteorologists believe large raindrops from thunderstorms are just-melted hailstones. Hail falls at about 25 feet a second, or one mile in three minutes, Decker continued.

Hailstones range from buckshot size to 1 1/4 inches in the Rogue River valley although three-inch hailstones are not uncommon in the mountains.

Dr. W. R. Varner of the OSC group has charge of atmospheric electric and lightning measurements designed to reveal likelihood of hailfall. Herbert Kershaw supervises the synoptic meteorological analysis.

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OSC Counseling, Testing Center Aid to Students

A counseling and testing center started just after World War II at Oregon State college to help veterans find courses and careers for which they were best suited has become a permanent and important part of the college campus.

Last year, 359 students were helped in the center. This fall in anticipation of a record campus enrollment, a fourth part-time counselor has been added to the center's professionally trained staff.

Basic purpose of the center is to serve students who "feel the need for help in solving problems of occupational decision, educational choice or personal adjustment," says Dr. Theodore M. Madden, director of the center and member of the psychology department staff.

Center counselors are not academic advisors, he emphasized. That responsibility is carried by faculty members and every OSC student has a faculty advisor.

Some students, however, have great difficulty in deciding on what sort of training and work after college will be best, Madden noted. In such cases, aptitude tests are among the tools counselors use to help point the way for the student.

An occupational library also is maintained to give students in-

sight into what's involved in various occupations and qualifications for success in them. Equally important too is the exploration of feelings that occur when the student discusses his hopes and plans with the counselor, Madden stated.

Personal and social adjustment problems also bring some students to the center, he added. In these cases, the trained counselors assist students in understanding

and working out a solution to their problems.

Center services are offered on a voluntary basis but college staff members, parents and others have been encouraged to suggest to students who wish assistance that they visit the center. Counselors with Madden include Roy D. Lewis, Dale D. Simmons and Dr. Elizabeth Brody, all members of the psychology department teaching staff as well.

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