



A Blueprint For Progress

**1968 UNION COUNTY
LONG RANGE
PLANNING CONFERENCE**

A Blueprint For Progress

UNION COUNTY COURT

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Glen McKenzie, Summerville, left, was General Chairman and County Agent Ernest Kirsch, Secretary, of the Union County Long Range Planning Conference. This was one of the many conferences required to plan committee meetings. More than 100 meetings were held involving more than 200 citizens in 34 committees. The committee reports were presented and adopted at a county-wide conference February 28 and 29, 1968, in La Grande.

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FOREWARD

The citizens of Union County have a long history of concern for and devotion to their community. This concern and devotion has expressed itself in many constructive ways that have kept Union County in the forefront of communities of Oregon striving to provide a stable, harmonious, comfortable home and place of work for the people who live here.

Union County citizens realized the need for long-range planning as long ago as 1924, when the first long-range planning conference was held. Since that time similar conferences have been held in 1936, 1946, 1958, and now in 1968.

The first conferences were concerned mainly with natural resources, primarily agricultural. Succeeding conferences have gradually included planning for human resources as well, with the realization that all resources of a community are interwoven and that the neglect of any one of these resources will reflect in a report that is not complete.

The reports presented here will serve as guidelines for the years to come. More than 200 Union County citizens served on the 34 planning committees. They held more than 100 meetings. They consulted with federal, state and local agencies as well as with industry.

The weather committee toured the weather station in Pendleton. The vegetable committee toured processing plants. The water committee consulted with the State Water Resources Board. Other committees made similar detailed investigations.

Committee membership involved both lay citizens and professional people. It combined the thinking of rural and town citizens in all sections of the county. The chairman of the money-management committee was a banker. The chairman of the tax committee was a farmer. The chairman of the youth committee was a housewife who had led 4-H clubs. A businessman chaired the mineral committee.

The many hours spent by committees in planning for future development and social changes will have been useless if organizations and individuals do not work for the committee recommendations.

This conference report is a blueprint for progress.

Action will be the next step.

Glen McKenzie
General Chairman
1968 Union County Planning
Conference

Ernest J. Kirsch
Union County Extension Agent
Secretary

PHYSICAL & SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Union County, located in northeastern Oregon, has an area of about 2,034 square miles.

The county has three distinct physiographical areas: in the west, the Blue Mountain Range; in the center, the Grande Ronde River Valley; and on the east, the Wallowa Mountains. The mountains provide timber, recreation, wildlife, and grazing land. The valley supports the agricultural base of the county. The Grande Ronde Valley is a large basin closely encircled by mountains. It is an alluvial stream valley traversed by the Grande Ronde River. There are more than 100,000 acres of agricultural crop land on the valley floor.

Elevations in the Grande Ronde Valley range from 2,700 to 3,000 above sea level. Elevations in the surrounding mountains are much higher. Mt. Emily on the west towers to 6,064 feet, while Eagle Cap on the east reaches 9,675. It is the highest point in the county.

Two major climatic factors influence agricultural production—precipitation and frost. Precipitation varies from less than 10 inches in sections of the North Powder area to nearly 30 inches in some of the agricultural areas north of Elgin. Some mountain areas receive in excess of 50 inches annual precipitation.

The range of precipitation is also excessive in the Grande Ronde Valley, ranging from a low of 12 inches to a high of more than 20 inches in less than 5 miles. The average date of the last killing frost in La Grande is April 24, and that of the first killing frost is October 2. The growing season is about 160 days. However, some sections of the valley are more susceptible to frost and have a shorter growing season.

There is considerable variation in the soils in the county. Some soils are highly alkaline, while others are highly acid. However, most of the soils are near the neutral range and very productive. Soil textures vary from clay to sand within a few feet in the Grande Ronde Valley.

Gross agricultural income for the county has ranged between \$10 and \$12 million in recent years. Major agricultural enterprises are beef cattle, wheat, grass seed, green processed peas, swine, cherries, hay, dairy products and barley.

The production of wood products is a major source of income to the county. Commercial forest land is estimated at 778,000 acres, with live saw timber totaling more than 6 billion board feet. White fir, Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine and western larch, make up about 85% of the saw-timber species. Minor species include lodgepole pine and Engelman spruce.

Recreation is an important industry which emphasizes hunting, fishing, skiing, camping, and other outdoor activities. Elk, deer, and small game are plentiful in the area.

A more complete resources analysis is available in the "Resource Analysis of Union County, Oregon," prepared by the Research Development Section, Cooperative Extension Service, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, dated September 1, 1967.

Community Affairs

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

The school and education committee was charged with the task of studying the schools and school systems in the county and of recommending changes that should be incorporated in the next 10 years. The committee studied this assignment in the following segments: (1) Primary and secondary schools, (2) vocational schools, (3) intermediate education district, (4) community colleges, and (5) Eastern Oregon College.

A major concern is the development of a curriculum in accordance with the needs of the youth of the community which maintains balance and consistency between grade levels and subject areas. The youth within a community are in a state of flux, and teachers are not going to have the same kind of students tomorrow as they have today. The percentage of college-bound youths is growing in most communities, and curriculum development is being more academically oriented. Considerable support is given to this movement by secondary teachers and parents whose attitudes are strongly focused on academics. However, this committee has concluded that we need to provide more vocational and technical training in a centrally located comprehensive high school as our communities become more highly industrialized.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Because vocational programs are expensive, the following recommendations are made:

- The quality of teaching and learning should be improved by:
 - Changing the nature of teacher presentations from lecture to one of guidance by proper motivation, providing information not readily available to students elsewhere, and making meaningful assignments.
 - Changing the character of independent study by providing spaces in each classroom where students can work with a variety of materials covering wide ranges of difficulty as they think, read, view, listen, write, discuss, make experiments, and discover.
 - Making provision for student discussion. Students need to learn how to express themselves orally, how to listen to the ideas of others, and how to identify areas of disagreement and consensus—and how to respect each other in the process. These skills have to be taught and they have to be practiced.
 - Continuing improvement on the process program and teacher evaluation.
- A study should be made as to the feasibility and desirability of the establish-

ment of a centrally located county-wide vocational school at the secondary level and the expansion of the vocational and technical programs beyond high school.

- Union County has adequate access to Treasure Valley and Blue Mountain Community colleges, and there is no need at this time for additional community colleges in this area. Eastern Oregon College has good four-year degree-granting programs and two-year preprofessional programs that can adequately serve the northeastern Oregon area.
- Legislation to allow Eastern Oregon College to provide by contract vocational or technical training through the state system of higher education should be supported.
- The discussion on public-relations school and education programs resolved that:
 - The senior citizens program endorsed and expanded.
 - Open house programs such as trade fair shows be encouraged.
 - Schools be encouraged to participate in public functions by preparing displays at the county fair.
 - Schools be encouraged to increase their public relations programs by getting more information to the public through additional news releases to all news media, by increasing circulation of school papers to the general public, and by using more newsletters and more personal contact by school officials. All of this should stress what the school's programs are and what their educational goals are.
- A greater public awareness of the functions of the Intermediate Education District should be made. The public should decide on what services they need from the IED and let their wants be known so that it can best serve the county's educational system.

TAX AND SANITATION

The purpose of this committee was to study and discuss changes in the county's economy and to make recommendations for tax changes that would allow the county to carry on needed services without overburdening any one segment of the socioeconomic structure of the county's population.

A further purpose of this committee was to explore the sanitary facilities and conditions of the county and to make recommendations on this subject.

TAX: RECOMMENDATIONS

The present tax situation in the county is burdensome, and property owners are concerned with increased costs of schools, welfare programs, and local governmental functions. Part or all of the cost increases in these areas are usually passed on to the property owners as increased taxes. It should also be recognized that land, particularly for agriculture, is no longer an indication of wealth or high income potential and should not be reflected as an ability to pay base for taxing purposes. The following recommendations are made by this committee as ways of decreasing costs and reducing the tax burden:

- A broader-based tax used as an offset to the property tax should be adopted. The monies from this tax should go to the schools through direct payments to the county.
- A new property tax base should be established for budgets, and then the 6% limitation should be eliminated but replaced by a cost of living index as the new budget limitation.
- Basic school support should be put on a flat grant based on a per pupil basis.
- The state should standardize school plans to facilitate building, and the county should adopt these plans for construction in local school districts to insure a greater return for school construction tax dollars.
- The Intermediate Education District's (IED) functions should be substantially changed or eliminated, and the equalization factor of fund distribution should be retained.
- Changes should be made to eliminate differences resulting from distribution of revenue from national forests and O & C lands to some, but not all, counties and schools.
- A complete study should be made of all personal and real property that is now tax exempt so that much income-producing property could be reclassified and put on the tax rolls.
- All earmarked state funds, except those of the state highway department, should be put in the general fund, and those agencies now using such earmarked funds should prepare proper budgets and submit to the same audit procedures that now apply to the other state agencies.

- A study should be made of state and county agencies as to their functions and responsibilities. This study should be aimed toward the elimination of areas of duplication and obsolescence.
- The State Tax Commission should require that all appraisals be brought up to date and insist that they be kept up to date.
- Government agencies should use restraint in the acquisition of private lands to assist in keeping property in private hands and on the local tax rolls.
- A study should be made concerning welfare programs and more stringent controls be established as to the qualifications standards for receipt of welfare payments.
- A serial levy road fund should be established by the county to maintain and establish the building and improvement of county roads.

SANITATION: RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recognizes the county-wide problem of garbage and trash disposal and the problems of the location of proper sites and the care and maintenance of these sites. The following recommendations were made concerning this problem.

- The city and town refuse dumps should be kept open on Saturdays and other times that are normal "off-work" hours to facilitate greater public access to these facilities.
- The county should procure and maintain a county refuse dump to serve small communities and rural residents.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

An active arts program is important to a community because such a program contributes to the vitality and interest of community life; it helps promote new and developing industry; and it can help produce economic stability.

La Grande and Union County are better organized in the arts than many communities. The Grande Ronde Arts Council, Inc., was formed in 1964 by the Cultural Activities Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of La Grande. The purpose of this council is to unite all the cultural activities in the county. A calendar of events is maintained on a monthly basis, and these events are encouraged, promoted, and coordinated. The Oregon Arts Commission is working closely with the Grande Ronde Arts Council.

The following is a list of cultural organizations in Union County. Most of these groups are members of the Grande Ronde Arts Council. The Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra and Association, the Union County Choral Society, the Music and Drama Guild (which sponsors the "Little Concert Series"), the Union County Art Guild, the Grande Ronde Camera Club, R's Poetica, the Union County Community Concert Series, art research groups, the Union County Historical Society, the Knife and Fork Club, the Blue Mountain Gem Club, the Indian Festival of Arts, Inc., the La Grande public library (which also hosts art exhibits), Eastern Oregon College, which includes Orchesis (modern dance), theater, musician and art; The Swiss Festival (a family enterprise), and the Union County Fair. The public schools emphasize the arts. Union, Oregon, has a cultural center and art instruction available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been made by this committee:

- Union County should acquire or construct a community multipurpose building that can be used as an art center. This building could also be used the entire year as is needed by all groups interested in art. We recommend that the planning of this facility be done through the Grande Ronde Arts Council.
- Union County should coordinate its festivals. This committee feels that all the festivals should be held at the same time—during the Union County Fair at the fairgrounds.
- Union County needs to coordinate its publicity so that the public will be more aware of the needs of an active arts program.
- We recommend the further development of a publicity program by means of radio spots, brochures, or an arts council news column. This publicity program should be to educate the public and stimulate more interest in and understanding of all the arts.

LOCAL AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Local Government and Agencies Committee was primarily concerned with the role of local government, its structure, and the growing number of state and federal agencies that have been superimposed on local governing bodies. One of the striking features of county government that concerned this committee was the lack of a clear line of authority in our county government. Other areas of current concern were the apparent overlap of federal, state, and local governmental agencies in personnel and functions. The function and structure of judicial systems were also explored.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of these apparent problems in local governmental structures and functions, the following recommendations were made.

- The county court should appoint a blue-ribbon committee, as soon as possible, to investigate the possibility and feasibility of establishing the home-rule form of government in the county.
- A study should be made of all governmental agencies (federal, state, and local) working in the county to further determine their functions and their impact, if any, on local government.
- The towns and cities in the county should coordinate and cooperate with each other and with the county government to help bring about great efficiencies in local government.
- Studies should be made of the court system in the county to determine the desirability of the following suggested changes.
 - Authorization of a district court in Union County to have limited civil and probate jurisdiction.
 - The abolition of the judicial functions of the county court (county judge).
 - The abolition of the justice courts in Union County.
- The retention of the consolidation of governing power in the small local governing unit, as far as is practical, rather than concentration of governing power in larger units of government.

HOUSING AND BEAUTIFICATION

In order to formulate plans and recommendations for the future, a look into the past is necessary. Since 1957 the housing industry in Union County has taken a decided step forward. This certainly does not mean that ample housing has been attained for the area. In 1967 about \$5 million was loaned in the county on dwellings alone, but there still exists a shortage of housing. This shortage has created a tremendous demand for rental units for the resident unable to purchase.

Increased tourism indicates a need to protect natural beauty of the Grande Ronde Valley. Only recently the federal government purchased a scenic strip from Hilgard into the city limits of La Grande so that the west bank of the Grande Ronde River will be protected. It is important that as a committee and as citizens we make every effort to enhance and improve the beauty of our valley. Following are the recommendations of this committee:

HOUSING

FINANCING

Union County is fortunate in that five commercial lending institutions are actively engaged in financing dwellings both in urban and rural housing. In addition to this, the Farm Home Administration is also actively engaged in financing rural housing.

These commercial lenders are at the present time making available to builders and purchasers standard conventional loans plus FHA and veterans' loans.

With this type of financing available, it is reasonable to assume that in the foreseeable future no difficulty should arise in finding available money for the purchase or construction of new dwellings.

ZONING

On December 1, 1964, the county court and the citizens of Union County adopted a uniform zoning ordinance for the county. The zoning ordinance set up certain areas where all types of land use could be realized. It is anticipated that within the next 10-year period the areas inside of the city limits of the incorporated towns in Union County will become fully utilized and that other areas outside the perimeter of the city limits will need to be planned and zoned for additional housing.

Small acreage tracts of from one half to four acres, within one mile of the city limits, should also be made available, so that people of retirement age may be able to supplement their pensions by raising gardens and other produce on these small acreages.

BUILDING CODE

The county at the present time is considering a uniform building code. Such a code would require anyone building a home to submit his plans to a qualified

inspector for approval. This would assure the builder that solid and safe construction practices would be followed and that the results would be a more liveable and salable home. We recommend the adoption of this code.

HOUSING FOR THE AGED

Although there is not enough information available for recommendation from this committee, it is felt that a further study of housing for the aged should be undertaken. If the findings of this committee indicates that housing for the aged is needed, then some cooperative effort should be made to provide low-cost housing on a cooperative basis.

SPECIFIC HOUSING NEEDS

Although many new homes have been built in the past 10 years both inside the cities and in the country, no multi-family units have been built, with the exception of duplexes. This lack has created a definite shortage of housing for people who desire apartment living. It is recommended by this committee that the county court and the city officials of cities within the county cooperate in any possible way to encourage the construction of multi-family units.

BEAUTIFICATION: RECOMMENDATIONS

- This committee recommends to the county court that a citizens' committee be appointed to study the feasibility of locating a new dump facility for Union County. Each year more refuse is being discarded along our roads. It now has become an unsightly spectacle to ourselves and to our guests. If a county dump were made available as some accessible point to all the county, this problem could be alleviated and possibly eliminated.
- This committee recommends that the Union County Court create a park commission and that this commission be charged with the acquisition and development of county parks. Investigation should be made into the feasibility of obtaining federal aid in acquiring this land and establishing these parks along our roads throughout the county.
- A general effort should be made to generate pride in the upkeep of private property throughout the county. It is possible that some civic groups within the area could be encouraged to sponsor a clean-up and paint week. Appropriate prizes should be awarded people who cooperate with this project.
- In the past 10 years considerable industrial development has occurred within the perimeter of this county. So far we have been extremely fortunate that these new industrial ventures have not contaminated our pure water or pure air. We realize that too strict regulations will deter the industrial progress of this county. We encourage a watch-dog attitude on future industrial trial expansion within the county so that our pure air and our natural water can be maintained.

Industrial Development

The Industrial Development Committee considered past achievements of individuals and groups in bringing industry into the county and explored areas of resource development and ideas that would create a climate favorable to further development of traditional industries and the development of latent resources to attract new industrial endeavors.

Studies conducted in the county indicate that the resources of the county favor agriculture, agriculturally oriented industry and business, forestry, forest-product industries, recreation, and tourism. This does not preclude the development of "intellectual" industries, such as electronics, that can be associated with Eastern Oregon College.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering this situation and the progress that has been accomplished in the past 10 years, this committee made the following recommendations:

- Development should continue in presently defined industrial sites, and industrial-zoned areas should be expanded, because in some areas, such as La Grande, industrial sites have been taken by the freeway.
- The planning commissions of cities and of the county should consider additional land to be used for industry to allow for future expansion.
- Zoning in the areas adjacent to industrial sites should remain in commercial agricultural use to prevent subdividing and the inevitable frictions between industry and homeowners.
- Emphasis should continue on forest product industries.
- Outdoor recreation is a growing industry. Union County has many desirable resources. This industry should be developed to capitalize on the demands.
- Transportation facilities, including a commercial air service, should be developed to accommodate the tourist and the recreation industries.
- Water development (dams) should be emphasized, since additional stored water will tend to increase the recreation value of present sites. Additional water would also help to intensify agricultural production, thus creating opportunities for agricultural processing plants and service developments.
- Planning should be undertaken in coordination and cooperation with Eastern Oregon College so that the college's program could be expanded to attract certain research industries that prefer to locate close to universities and colleges because of the type of employees these industries need.

Family Living

FAMILY AND HOME MANAGEMENT

Shoppers need more consumer education in order to make sound decisions in comparative buying. A problem also exists in the use and care of appliances, including the responsibilities of the manufacturer as well as the responsibilities of the consumer.

More concern needs to be shown the elderly in our community, particularly in the fields of health and nutrition and in the area of recreation.

Certain young people in our community feel there is lack of interesting things to do.

There is need for families to know and make use of home safety practices. At least one family member should be trained in first aid or medical self-help.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Families should take advantage of information and programs available on the selection, use, and care of household appliances and equipment.
- People should be encouraged to use the Extension Service educational programs and bulletins. Young married couples should be made aware of these services by a bulletin board at Eocene Courts and by bulletins available at the EOC bookstore, the Salvation Army, etc.
- The secondary school home economics departments should continue with a stronger emphasis on management in these areas: food buying and preparation; clothing selection and storage; buying appliances; and budgeting of both money and time.
- Programs for the well being of the elderly should be initiated and existing programs supported in the fields of housing, health, recreation, etc.
- More information on all youth activities of church, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and schools should be made more readily available to the public. Youth should participate in activities in which *they have a part in planning*.
- Families should make use of home safety bulletins and programs of the Extension Service, the fire department, insurance companies, civil defense, the American Red Cross, and Medical Self Help.

HOME EXTENSION

Home Extension is one of the continuing education programs of the Oregon State University Extension Service in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and with Union County. Students are women and in some instances men, who participate in regularly planned group meetings, workshops and single special-interest meetings or activities, such as tours or demonstrations of home economics or related subjects.

Home Extension began in Union County in 1917 with the first Home Extension agent, Clara M. Murphy, who served for one year. History lists the next home agent as Marjorie Ellsworth, 1941-43. Other agents have been: Julianne Wise, 1943-45; Doris McWhorter, 1945-46; Thalia Jewel, 1946-49; Ethelyn M. Mikkalo, 1949-55; Dorothy Teel, 1955-57; Dolores Uria, 1957-59; C. Hallene Price, 1960-66; and Nancy Hamlin, 1966-68.

A home agent's work originally was primarily devoted to the programs of the organized unit meetings. The past 10 years has seen an increasing emphasis on expanding the Home Extension program to include clientele beyond the unit members. The youth, senior citizens, young married, working women, families with children of all ages, low-income families, business and sales personnel all have needs which are being included in yearly planning of county-wide programs. In addition to meetings, the home agent gives information on the radio, in news stories, over the telephone, by an Extension bulletin, or by home visits.

Some phases of unit and county programs during the past 10 years have included the following areas of family living: clothing and textiles; family life; family finance; food marketing; foods and nutrition; home furnishings; home management and equipment; and housing.

The United States Census of Population in Union County in 1960 showed the following distribution of men and women in each age group. This gives some indication of the potential audience of Home Extension programs.

1960 Union County	Total	Male	Female	Percent
Total population	18,180	9,087	9,093	100.00
Under 5	1,807	939	868	9.9
Age 5-9	1,822	919	903	10.0
Age 10-14	1,787	897	890	9.8
Age 15-19	1,509	740	769	8.3
Age 20-24	1,074	550	524	5.9
Age 25-34	1,877	902	975	10.3
Age 35-44	2,160	1,035	1,125	11.9
Age 45-54	2,264	1,162	1,102	12.5
Age 55-64	1,670	850	819	9.2
65 and over	2,210	1,092	1,118	12.2
Median Ager		30.8	31.2	31.0

MAJOR NEEDS

Union County's major Home Extension needs are summarized in the following quotation from a dean and director of Home Economics in one of our colleges: "Creative leaders through the extension of education can contribute new ideas that will enable man to deal more effectively with his environment and thus improve the quality of home and family life."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The goal of Home Extension in Union County might be the goal of the National Extension Homemakers' Council family-life chairman. "Through education programs, strengthen and focus on the family unit as a central force in our democracy."

After studying Home Extension in Union County the past 10 years, this committee recommends the following:

- *Family Stability.* To strengthen family stability in all phases of family life, more women of all ages must be informed about the available Home Extension programs.

- Youth and Young Marrieds.* This group should be reached through the high schools, where the Home Extension program can be publicized. A current Extension lesson should be presented annually to high-school girls, and the Girls League, future homemakers, or home economics classes, should be informed about the program.

Youth must be trained to help themselves. Organized classes in baby sitting and organized classes in housework, ironing, lawn care, etc. will help youth to be self-sufficient.

More young marrieds should be informed about the program. Inviting and personally bringing young marrieds to existing units or county meetings; organizing groups of young marrieds; and making special leadership training available should help to involve these young couples in the program.

- Senior Citizens.* Programs should be designed especially for senior citizens, with consideration for special needs, interests, and time available for continuing education.

- Low Income Groups.* Groups can be formed to include persons with common socioeconomic situations. Special leadership training and lessons and activities tailored to the needs of low-income groups should be available. The disadvantaged should be invited to participate in existing groups in their neighborhoods.

- Women of All Ages.* More women should be provided with all phases of information including in the current Home Extension program. These include all county women, who should be informed of future scheduled programs.

Existing publicity can be extended by sending a newsletter in August to all women of the county, included should be a proposed schedule of pro-

grams for the year which should also appear in radio, programs and news stories throughout the year.

- *Consumer Competence.* Families need information about a variety of subjects to help in examining alternatives; this in turn, will help them in making wise decisions. Included should be information on best buys, wise credit, and living within one's income.

—*Annual Consumer Instruction.* Consumers should be instructed annually on selection and use of household furnishings, appliances, and other products for the home. This instruction can be given in the following fashion:

Invite local businessmen to participate in consumer education meetings annually. Discuss the selection, use, and care of products currently available. Continue special-interest consumer meetings, planned by the program planning committee and the home agent, each year. Continue publicity of current home-living information through radio programs by the home agent for homemakers, news articles by the home agent, and news letters published monthly by the home agent. Add short presentations or "eye openers" on new information at monthly unit meetings.

- *Family Health.* Attendance at the foods and nutrition unit and county meetings during the past 10 years continue to reflect the concern of homemakers for the nutrition of their families. Additional emphasis in the field of foods and nutrition for low-income families is needed.

—*Improvement of Nutrition of Low-Income Families.* Cooperation with other agencies (welfare, CAP, etc.) is needed to reach low-income families with information, bulletins, and special programs.

"Abundant Food" workshops should demonstrate and exhibit the use of available abundant foods. Such workshops should be conducted at private or public places familiar to low-income groups (i.e. Salvation Army, etc.) They should be scheduled to coincide with distribution of abundant foods and should be well publicized.

Hourly transportation from the abundant foods distribution center to site of the workshop should be provided, as well as baby sitting services, if needed.

A More Effective Home Extension Educational Program

—*More Intensive Training of Leaders.* For effective leadership, officer training should be continued. A leadership training lesson should be scheduled at September unit meetings, and the mechanics of good leadership as related to project leaders, unit officers, and unit members demonstrated.

The promotion of additional visual aids and kits, an invitation to more local and state specialists as resource people for project training and county meetings, and more careful selection of project leaders would be steps forward to a more rewarding program.

More advanced information about the basic portion of the project lesson might also contribute. Two project leaders and an alternate might be

selected for the entire program year, or two teams of project leaders might alternate the responsibility of the lesson presentation each month for an entire unit year.

- Involvement of People of the County.* People should be involved in understanding the problems and opportunities of their county, and educational program should be based on these needs. If council members were invited to all unit meetings to share their information, and if the members were informed of the needs and interests of units, greater cooperation could result.

Further steps would be to continue to survey unit interests prior to program selection; to present suggested program for the coming year to units by a program planning committee member with a county council representative of the unit present and to include methods and times of presentation in the planning of the following year's Home Extension Unit, county, or area programs by the home agent and the Program Planning Committee.

- Re-evaluation of the Program.* The program should be re-evaluated regularly to chart more effectively future plans. This would include annual evaluation by the county council and home agent of their duties and responsibilities at the county council meeting prior to the first month of the unit year.
- Accumulative Calendar in Extension Office.* A calendar should be maintained in the extension office which would include major meetings or activities of all Union County Extension agents. This calendar should be displayed prominently for easy reference by agents and secretaries. Two or three tentative dates should be agreed upon for special interest meetings at the beginning of the unit year.

FAMILY LIFE

The committee suggested that the main ideas from the 1958 report are still important, but that the committee make specific recommendations as to ways of implementing these ideas. The following were suggested:

- Make every effort to unify the family by enhancing family relationships.
- Parents should take every opportunity to know and understand their children. Do we take time to listen to our children, our husband, our wife?
- Have respect for a child's need for privacy and expect reciprocation.
- Be truthful in answering children's questions rather than giving weak excuses or insignificant and meaningless answers. Build trust and honesty in the child from the beginning.
- Respect and accept individual differences in order to develop the abilities and talents of each family member.
- Each family should have a goal—something they all work together to achieve. The more goals a family has and the faster they attain them, the more satisfaction they will gain. These might be long-range goals, such as planning and saving for a trip or vacation, making a project out of each family member's birthday, etc. Or, the goals may be short range, like painting the garage, attending the community concert or fair together, supporting a foreign orphan; taking in a foster child, or adopting an orphan child.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Families should share decisions involving matters that directly affect family members.
- Encourage classes for adults and youth in family life and associated problems through the Extension Service and other adult education programs.
- Improve the youth employment situation in the county. Vocational rehabilitation centers and the Oregon State Employment office and schools should work with local citizens in developing a youth employment program.
- Establish a family counseling program supported by the cooperation of all agencies, organizations, and people in the community. This program should also provide services for unwed mothers and teenage married couples.
- Encourage Union County families and organizations to support and participate in the programs for the mentally retarded.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

The ease with which credit is obtained and the lack of knowledge in many families about handling easy credit, and the inability to plan wisely without proper guidance make it difficult to maintain the family estate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Money Management Committee offers the following recommendations:

- The continued teaching and upgrading of money management studies in the social science, mathematics, and home economic courses of the school system; encouragement of schools; invite people in the business community to bring outside ideas and experience to the classroom.
- The use of adult education courses and Extension Service lessons on consumer credit, interest, contract terms, investments for retirement, and health, medical, and accident insurance.
- Closer investigation by merchants into a customer's credit standing and references, and aid to the customer by not allowing him to overextend his financial capability.
- A county program of financial counseling available to all, but especially to the person who is deeply in debt.
- Encouragement of local mass media to present special programs or series of articles in the newspapers concerning money management, credit buying, and investments.

RELIGION

The religious or spiritual strength of a community provides an important foundation for a higher cultural caliber of the people and for the moral welfare of its youth. (The phrase "cultural caliber" is in no way to be interpreted to mean the neglect or elimination of any class or group of people. Our aim is the togetherness of all the people of our community.)

Union County, over the years, has enjoyed an appropriate emphasis upon the finer things of life and has produced the kind of solid citizenry that is a boon to any community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made by the Religion Committee for our county's future planning and to enhance the worship of our people:

- Churches take a religious survey. This would involve personal contact by a survey committee of each citizen regarding church preference.
- A church directory be developed and distributed.
- Church members foster the interrelationship of churches with rural, business, professional, and industrial groups.
- Churches support Bible and literature groups and humanitarian organizations, such as the American Bible Society; Gideons; the Salvation Army; and the American Red Cross.
- All churches encourage city and county-wide meetings, sponsoring special speakers, choirs, banquets, etc., for interchurch religious coverage.
- Churches organize county-wide visitation to be made to rest homes, to include participation by both adults and young people.
- Churches supply leadership in organizations which provide higher moral and spiritual activities for youth, such as 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts of America, etc.
- Churches and their constituents in our communities enhance basic, simple Bible Christianity within the minds of the people and in their practices of worship.

Recreation

The manner in which the American people participate in recreation, the amount of money they spend for leisure activity, and the hours they engage in personal pleasures have changed drastically over the past years.

This increase is due to several interrelated factors. First, many people have enough money left after paying monthly bills to buy fishing poles, skis, and bowling balls. Second, the work week has shrunk from 70 hours in 1850 to 40 hours today. Third, the population has more than doubled since 1900.

There is every reason to think these same forces will continue, resulting in even greater pressures on our recreational facilities. It is, therefore, the purpose of this committee to present the facilities currently available, and to show the potential of the county and how to start moving toward capitalizing on one of the county's richest resources—*Recreation*.

Before any logical plan of action can be developed, it is important to find out what facilities and activities are currently available in the county. Therefore, a list of existing recreation facilities was compiled.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES

City of Union—One city park capable of providing picnic facilities for citizens of Union and a public community hall.

City of Elgin—One city park.

City of La Grande—Memorial Park with a swimming pool, a playground, and baseball fields; Riverside Park with a playground, picnic tables, and a large open-air meeting hall; several small playground parks throughout the city; public school and Eastern Oregon College facilities; and Morgan Lake Recreation Area.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest—Moss Springs Campground; North Fork Picnic Area; River Campground; Grandview Campground; Anthony Lake area; and several hundred small undeveloped camp and picnic sites.

Umatilla National Forest—Woodland Campground; Squaw Springs Minimum Development Site; Alpine; Spout Springs Winter Sports Site; and Jubilee Lake Campground (1969-1970).

Oregon State Game Commission—Jubilee Lake (100 surface acres); Roulet Pond (1 acre); Vogel Pond (1 acre); Pondosa Pond (3 acres); North Powder Pond No. 2 (3 acres); Morgan Lake Fishery (64 acres); Minam River Fishery (380 acres); Ladd Marsh Game Management Area (2,000 acres for hunting); and fish release in many high mountain lakes.

Oregon State Highway Department—Blue Mountain Forest Wayside (482 acres); Catherine Creek State Park (160 acres); Gangloff Wayside (2 acres);

Hilgard Junction State Park (89 acres); Red Bridge State Park (37 acres); Ladd Canyon Roadside Area; and Emigrant Spring (not actually in Union County, but serving the people of the area).

Major private outdoor developments for public use—Spout Springs; Anthony Lakes Ski Area; Boulder Park; and Cove Swimming Pool.

There are many more facilities that can not be listed here because of space, and there are still more that the committee does not even know about.

Certainly we can expect the growth of interest in recreation to continue over the next 10 years at a rate equal to or more likely greater than that of the past 10 years.

To point this out a little more clearly: skiers tripled from 1.4 million to 4.3 million from 1956 to 1964 in the western states. It is estimated that the number will grow to 12.1 million by 1976, just 2 years short of the end of the current 10-year planning period. What about campers, fishermen, hunters, golfers, bowlers, and sight-seers? What is Union County going to do with or for these people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussion and recommendations that follow are to assist residents of Union County to determine ways and means of handling eventual tourists and those seeking recreation. The committee recommends that:

- The United States Forest Service continue to develop campgrounds and other recreation facilities, including the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National forests, to meet future demands. Citizens can help by backing federal programs for recreational development.
- The Oregon State Game Commission embark upon a program to construct fishing facilities such as Jubilee Lake in other feasible sites in the county.
- Federal Land Management agencies and private lumber enterprises close unnecessary temporary roads after logging operations have ceased. This recommendation is twofold. First, it will keep motor vehicles from traveling low-standard roads, which often leads to erosion of the road, destruction of forage, and stream siltation; and second, too many roads tend to disrupt the natural migration of big game and make it difficult to have quality hunting.
- Self-guided tours be developed. These would be selected routes of travel throughout the county that would provide a scenic and interesting trip for the motoring public. Brochures showing routes and points of interest, geology, vegetation, and historical value could be made available by local organizations.
- A study be made to determine if a convention complex could be built and maintained within the county.
- A public golf course be built for county residents. This could and probably would be related closely to the convention complex.
- Local residents look into the possibility of establishing facilities for boy's camps, girl's camps, and dude ranches.

- County residents and businessmen promote the development of our two ski facilities. Spout Springs and Anthony Lake both have the potential to develop into large attractions in the Pacific Northwest. County planning and development organizations should keep in mind these two facilities and encourage developments such as highways that would increase the flow of people into the county.
- Marginal farmland owners consider recreation as a supplement to other crops grown on their land. Farm and ranch vacation programs are becoming a big business in the Midwest. This type of income supplement can sometimes make an uneconomical farm become profitable. The county agent's office has information on this subject.
- The county utilize funds available from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal program) to develop public recreation facilities such as Morgan Lake.
- The local Snowmobile Club adopt by-laws regulating the use of these machines in given areas so as not to jeopardize the big game herds. Snowmobile operators must recognize the possible losses from harassment during a period when animals are already under stress. It is also important to see that cross-country trips are taken by people and machines that are adequately equipped for such trips.
- A complete study be made of recreation potential and a plan for developing these resources of the area. We concur with the Northeast Oregon Planning and Development Council in this request.

Youth

4-H CLUBS

Publicly supported education for boys and girls in Oregon is in two dimensions. One is formal education—the public-school program. The other is voluntary informal education known as 4-H club work, the off-school educational service for boys and girls administered by the Cooperative Extension Service. The roots of the 4-H education program run deep in the history of education as a tested means of providing responsible education for youth. It is through the 4-H project and related programs that 4-H members grow intellectually, socially, spiritually, and physically, and develop basic attitudes through the employment of mental and manual skills.

The purpose of 4-H is to encourage boys and girls to develop fully their potential by helping them to appreciate the value and dignity of work; acquire knowledge and skills and explore careers; develop the ability to cooperate with others; learn to accept and discharge responsibility; develop leadership and be of service to others; and grow into responsible citizens whose characters are based on the concepts of American democracy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are presented by this committee:

BLUE MOUNTAIN 4-H CENTER

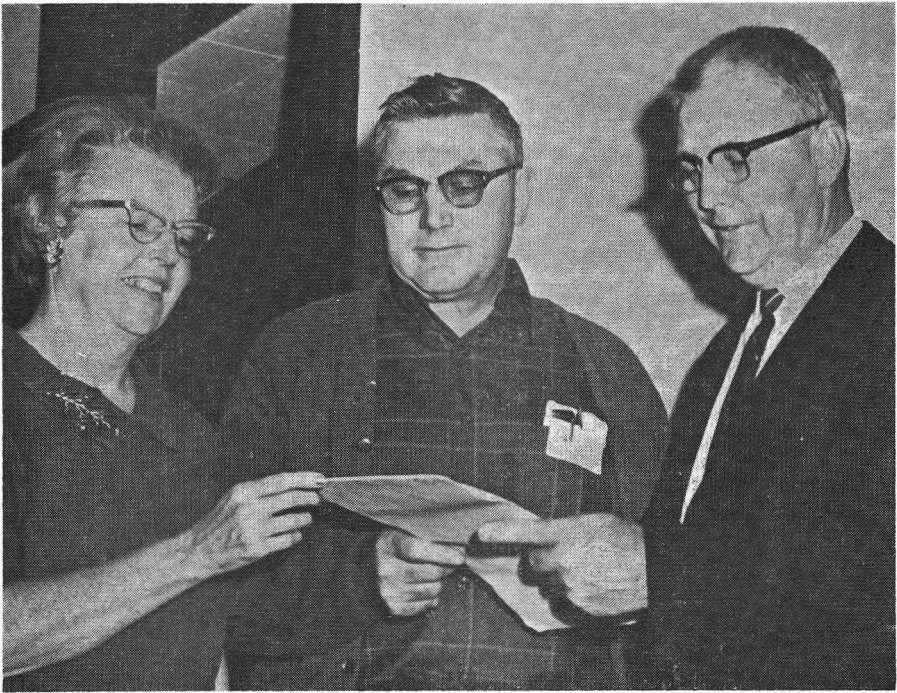
For many years we have recognized the need for strengthening the 4-H camping program and for acquiring facilities for our 4-H adult activities. In 1967 Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties signed a 50-year lease agreement with the Steele Lindsay family and the Boise Cascade Corporation for a 240-acre site eight miles north of Island City known as the Lindsay Tree Farm. Articles of Incorporation were signed and by-laws established for the development of the Blue Mountain 4-H Center. The purpose of the center will be to provide a year-around camping experience for members in these counties. Facilities will also be available for leadership-training meetings, camp-counselor training, Extension conferences, and for use as a training laboratory for adult activities.

Officers elected for the development include: Homer Case, Alicel, chairman; Mrs. Rae Mahana, Wallowa, vice chairman; Extension Agent James Huber, secretary; and Mrs. Robert Staley, La Grande, treasurer.

Initial plans include the construction of a lodge with kitchen, dining, and recreation facilities for approximately 200 people. Later, cabins to provide sleeping accommodations for 10 to 12 people each will be built. The facilities, once completed, will also be available to other youth and adult groups in the area.

We recommend that 4-H members and leaders give active support to this new program for youth in Union County. We suggest that all leaders and members earn money and donate labor so that our Blue Mountain 4-H Center will be complete 10 years from now. We also encourage local citizens and business firms to donate money and materials to this center. We believe the future of this nation rests in the hands of the youth of today. The center will be a means of strengthening 4-H in northeastern Oregon.

The committee also gives its wholehearted support to the development of the state 4-H center and pledges the resources of the Union County 4-H program to assist with this development.



Blue Mountain 4-H Center Site Secured—Examining a 50-year lease between Boise Cascade and 4-H leaders on 240 acres near La Grande, for the Blue Mountain 4-H Center are Mrs. Dick Hibberd, regional director State 4-H Center; Glen Parsons, Boise Cascade; and Homer Case, president. The 4-H Committee urged early development of the site for 4-H camps and other activities.

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

Statistics show that we are now enrolling in our 4-H program one out of every three youths in Union County between the ages of 9 and 19. It was the

consensus that we should endeavor to continue to expand our membership with an increase of at least 25% during the next 10 years. It was agreed that our major problem was not one of increasing membership, but rather a problem of retaining both members and leaders. In most years there is a dropout of about 50% of our first-year members and leaders. In some areas of the county approximately 20% of the boys and girls that sign up for projects fail to enroll with a 4-H group. Recommendations on how to increase and keep both leaders and members follow:

- Leaders, members, and agents should enthusiastically talk 4-H as often as possible.
- Interest in 4-H work should be built up on awards night or during achievement programs.
- Community leaders should continue to assume responsibility for finding leaders and interested youth.
- A strong 4-H Leaders' Association should continue to be encouraged.
- Junior leaders should be used to the fullest extent possible. Each new club leader should have an experienced junior leader. Older club members can be used to better advantage.
- Parents should be involved in 4-H work. Personal contact should be used to interest parents in assuming the role of a leader. Every time contact with parents is established, 4-H should be discussed.
- Union County's Extension units, the Union County Livestock Association, and adult riding groups should actively sponsor 4-H projects in their interest areas, help secure leaders, and encourage youngsters to enroll.
- New leaders should be encouraged to attend monthly 4-H leaders meetings.
- New leaders must be extended a special invitation to the annual banquet and given appreciative recognition.
- More experienced leaders could be used to train new ones.
- The leadership training program for leaders and older 4-H members, on a community basis, should be continued.

PARENT-LEADER COOPERATION

- At the beginning of the year encourage each 4-H club to entertain parents. At the meeting acquaint parents with what is expected of the youngsters, review project requirements, and encourage parents to follow through and help their sons and daughters to complete their projects.
- Expect leaders to visit the 4-H members' homes and offer advice regarding their projects.
- Hold club meetings in homes when possible.
- Discourage too much parent participation in competitive events. Parents should let the child do his own work.

- Make 4-H fun. We do not want to put too much pressure on 4-H members in competitive events.

UNION COUNTY FAIR

We are pleased that all the recommendations concerning improvements at the Union County Fair suggested at the 1958 planning conference have been accomplished. We appreciate the effort of the fair board and the citizens of Union County in providing the new all-purpose building. It greatly strengthens our home economics, horticulture, natural science, and health programs in Union County.

It is recommended that the Union County Fair Association construct additional and more adequate housing and showroom facilities to meet expanding needs of our 4-H horse, rabbit and dog programs.

EASTERN OREGON LIVESTOCK SHOW

There has been a continuous growth in our 4-H entries and activities at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show. It is recommended that the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show management provide more housing for our livestock and horse club exhibits. We also need an all-weather show arena for both sheep and beef exhibits.

Featured 4-H events should receive more publicity. A schedule of events should be printed in newspapers and should be reported daily through radio and television, so that spectators and parents will know when the events are taking place.

STATE FAIR

Approximately 35 club members participate at the fair and over 100 displays are entered each year. It is recommended that the state club office endeavor to consolidate events and reduce the number of days required for participation at the state fair. It is further recommended that the state-fair management consider scheduling the state fair later in September so that the county fairs may have more appropriate dates.

CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

We recognize the value of 4-H in developing better citizens for tomorrow's world. Citizenship is a social responsibility. It means understanding, appreciating, and doing things which make life better for ourselves and for other people.

A community is a place where people live and work together. The communities gain when young people begin to work to solve problems. Wherever they may live tomorrow, today's young people will be members of changing communities.

We suggest continued support for a strong "Know Your County Government" conference and appreciate all who have worked on the project in the past to make it highly successful. We recommend that the Extension Service pro-

mote all activities and projects that stress leadership and citizenship, including the effective "Know Your Union County Government" conference. We further encourage:

- Each leader to urge all 15-year-old members to attend the "Know Your County Government" conference.
- Delegates to the State 4-H Conference to share their experiences with younger club members.
- All officers to attend 4-H Officer Training Day and to recognize and practice democratic procedures in their club meetings.
- The promotion of 4-H through National 4-H Week with window displays, news articles, and radio programs.
- Each club to stress sportsmanship in club and local contests and activities.
- Each 4-H club to develop a citizenship and community service project annually.
- Older youth to affiliate with the Empire Builder-Youth Council group to develop citizenship and leadership and to participate in community service programs.

YOUTH-COUNCIL EMPIRE BUILDERS

Union County is proud of its local Youth Council and Empire Builder group and believe it to be one of the best in the state. It is recommended that effort be made to increase the enrollment in this older youth group. Not enough people understand the Youth Council-Empire Builder program. Officers of the Youth Council should visit the schools and explain the program to 9th graders and senior high students. At least two representatives from each of the five high schools in the county should be on the board of directors of the Youth Council. All youth organizations in the county should be represented on the council. Special commendation should be given to members of the Youth Council for their outstanding activities in sponsoring the "Know Your County Government" Conference, the Citizenship Symposium sponsored by *Readers' Digest*, and the Youth Counseling and Guidance program sponsored by New Holland Farm Equipment Company and the National County Agents' Association. It is recommended that each year a major program such as the three mentioned above should be undertaken by the Empire Builder-Youth Council group. Projects suggested by this committee include: active participation in the development of the Blue Mountain 4-H Center; a county-wide beautification project; counselor training; and sponsorship of a group for a major publicity program to inform others about 4-H programs.

It is further suggested that personnel at Eastern Oregon College be asked to conduct leadership workshops to train junior leaders from not only Union County, but from neighboring counties as well. Other youth group leaders, including those supported by the United Fund agencies and church groups, should also be invited to participate and take advantage of the training provided by the faculty of Eastern Oregon College.

SCOUTING

Scouting was first started in the United States in 1910 and is growing fast, with about four million boys enrolled nationally. In Union County, we have 11 Cub Packs, 12 Scout Troops, and 3 Explorer Posts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the suggestions for carrying on our program are as follows:

- *Community service projects.* Lists of projects are needed for individual scouts and units to complete for individual or unit service credit. These projects should benefit not only the sponsor of the unit, but the community, the county, or the state. Such projects might include conservation work, litter cleanup, aiding in surveys, or other publicly minded projects.

- *Strengthening of troop committees and institutional representation.* The committees of each unit should be complete in order that those units may operate in the most efficient manner possible. Parents of boys in units should be informed of their obligations to the unit in order that their boys may benefit from the best possible program. These parents should be asked to serve as committeemen sometime during their boys membership in scouting.

The institutions sponsoring units should be fully aware of their responsibility to the unit. In too many cases sponsoring institutions are led to believe that they are to supply only a meeting place. This is not their whole responsibility. They are required not only to provide a meeting place, but also adult leadership and a representative (the institutional representative). It is this man's job to represent the unit's interests which concern the institution. All too often the institutional representative is just a name on a piece of paper, not a functioning officer.

- *Increasing leadership training.* A leadership training committee should be formed in order to initiate a complete program of training for those new leaders without training and to retain and refresh those with training.

- *Merit badge counselors.* A complete list of merit badge counselors is needed and should be kept up to date in order to give those boys working on merit badges the best chance possible to have the proper type of guidance.

- *Improvement of Communications between the units and leaders.* An attempt should be made to improve the relations through communications. There should be a good line of communication between the District Scout Organization and the units and unit leaders. Also, there should be a line of communication set up so there would be communication between like units: pack-to-pack, troop-to-troop, etc.

- *Parent Participation.* An attempt should be made to reach the parents through the media of communication with which they are familiar: TV, radio, and

newspapers. Parents should be drawn into the picture in order that they may participate. The parents of scouts should be invited to more troop and district activities and asked to join in the program. At first a parent might hesitate at taking on a major job. In such a case, he might be asked to do specific little tasks, to take a job on the troop committee, or become an assistant leader. The problem to the present date has been poor communication between the units and the parents and failure to draw the parents into the program early.

- *The development of a youth center.* At the present time the committee feels that study should be continued on the building of a youth center in La Grande to serve the county. Also, it is felt that there would be a need for more leadership and planning in support of the project than could be procured at the present time.

SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

From 1910 to 1960 the population of Union County increased from 16,191 to 18,180, a growth of approximately 2,000. From 1960 to 1966 it decreased by about 300.

The 1966 school enrollment was as follows:

La Grande District No. 1—	Kindergarten through grade 6	1,603
	Grades 7 through 9	738
	Grades 10 through 12	687
Union District No. 5—	Grades 1 through 8	328
	Grades 9 through 12	168
N. Powder Dist. No. 8J—	Grades 1 through 8	121
	Grades 9 through 12	55
Imbler District No. 11—	Grades 1 through 8	170
	Grades 9 through 12	64
Cove District No. 15—	Grades 1 through 8	143
	Grades 9 through 12	66
Elgin District No. 23—	Grades 1 through 8	381
	Grades 9 through 12	178
County Totals:		
Elementary		2,778
Junior high		753
Senior high		1,237
TOTAL		4,168

SCHOOL NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The relatively stable population makes it easier to plan for educational needs.

While there has been considerable reorganization and combining of elementary schools during the past decade, the high school situation remains the same: three larger high schools with enrollments of 168 to 687; three smaller schools with enrollments of 55 to 66.

Recently some interest has been shown in combining all high schools into one central valley school to furnish a broader curriculum for the students. This, the committee believes would bear further study.

School developments which will have a great impact on the education of the boys and girls of Union County, are listed below:

First is the continued growth and expansion of Eastern Oregon College. Its increased enrollment, added faculty members, and expanded curricular areas offer a continuing education to most of our high school graduates. The fact that the college is within driving distance of every community in the county is an added advantage in helping the young people to continue their education.

Just across the hill at Pendleton is Blue Mountain Community College, which offers many courses in trades and industry.

Second is the impact of the help that the government of the United States is giving to the local school districts. While there are many ways in which these funds aid us, the committee feels that the greatest improvements were in these areas:

- Libraries: the purchase of new books and materials; the addition of more librarians and adult library aides.
- Additional materials for science and mathematics classrooms and laboratories.
- The expansion of the vocational education programs.
- The many summer training courses offered free to bring teachers up to date on new teaching methods and materials.

Third, we wish to mention the county Intermediate Education programs. We were especially impressed by the following.

- The program for the mentally retarded, which now runs from grade one through high school.
- The program for help in hearing and speech.
- The program of guidance and mental health.

Any or all of the above-mentioned programs are available to any school in the county.

The IED Instructional Media Center provides materials and services from which all schools may draw.

- An IED consultant will aid schools in drawing up acceptable programs and assist in obtaining federal funds to carry them out.
- The center maintains a film library where films may be procured quickly and easily.

The committee makes no strong recommendations. We feel that further use of federal funds would aid our schools and that the idea of a centralized high school should be explored further. It could have much for youth in improved curricular offerings.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Because the youth of Union County, other than those who live on farms, have limited opportunity to work a job which yields them a paycheck, they have limited opportunity to learn how to work and to realize what is expected of them when they are on a job. This committee feels that steps should be taken in Union County to provide work opportunities for all youth who seek work, and that parents and employers should take every opportunity available to help the youth of our county realize that when they accept a job they accept a definite responsibility to the job and to the employer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- Employers and parents take every opportunity to instruct our youth about work attitudes and responsibility to the job and the employer.
- An effort be made to establish a manufacturing or processing plant in our area that would afford jobs for our women and girls at least part of each year, preferably during summer vacation.
- Better use be made of the employment services offered by the Oregon State Employment Office, the Community Action centers, local churches, and farm and civic organizations. This applies to the people who want help as well as to our youth. It is felt that with proper support of these efforts, many more youth could be gainfully employed both after school and during vacations.
- All youth have in their possession when they start job hunting: (1) a Social Security card and (2) a birth certificate issued by a division of government. (Hospital certificates are not valid evidence of birth when applying for a work permit.)
- All young people get at least a high school diploma. It is the committee's feeling that the lack of such a diploma presents a very severe handicap to those seeking employment.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Guidance and counseling is an integral part of today's society. Parents, educators, pastors, and others were able to provide satisfactory counseling, for the most part, to the youth of yesterday. Today, because of population growth, the rapid pace we have set for ourselves, and the complex society in which we now live, many boys and girls have become alienated. The more sophisticated boys and girls of today need all of the parental guidance they can get. Unfortunately, they still must seek additional guidance concerning a choice of career and their potential place in society. Even more unfortunately, the victims of broken and loveless homes will have to receive their guidance from any source available, if any. Consequently, the need for professionally educated counselors is more apparent each day. This is not to infer that the indiscriminate addition of counselors to the schools and county agencies would solve all of the problems of youth. Counseling is only one part of the total program. At this point, most of the time, little as it is, is spent correcting or alleviating problems instead of working on preventative measures. Additional personnel — counselors, social workers, psychologists, juvenile workers and others — would help tremendously; but a more integrated total program involving all the people of the Union County community must be implemented if any program is to have real meaning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SCHOOLS

- Counseling services should be available on at least a half-day basis or more in all the county's schools. The counselors should be certified or at least should have extensive training in their field. In the A-2 size and larger schools there should be one counselor per 300 students. A counseling center or office should be established in each small school for confidential counseling, distribution of vocational materials, display items relevant to test dates, deadlines on applications, scholarships, etc.
- A full-time school psychologist should be on the staff of A-2 or larger schools. In the smaller schools a full-time school psychologist should be available on a county-wide basis. He should be able to travel to the schools, since this is more practical than bringing students to an office.
- A school social worker should be employed on the same basis as the school psychologist. The school social worker is a very valuable member of the pupil-personnel services team. He is the liaison between the home and the school. Since a majority of the pupil problems are allied with the home, it is extremely difficult to implement any change in a child's behavior unless the home is included in working toward a solution.
- School counseling facilities in the A-2 schools and at designated location for

the smaller county schools should be made available during the summer months. Services to be provided include:

- Individual instruction or classes, depending on interest, in "How-to-Study Techniques," "Job Searching Techniques," "Career Planning," "Individual Testing," etc.
- Acting as a job placement bureau for odd jobs in and around town for high school students.
- Availability to students who wish to confer with a professional person sympathetic to juvenile problems in a confidential setting unknown to his peers.
- Availability to parents who can meet with a counselor in a relaxed atmosphere unhurried by the commitments and demands of the regular school session.
- A followup of students through the summer months who have emotional problems and who need continual help. Many such students are "lost" in our present traditional system during the summer months. This function would be the most important of all the facilities.
- Acting as a referral agency in working with the county juvenile court, juvenile counselor, and other juvenile agencies on a county-wide basis.

OTHER SERVICES

- *Job fair.* A job fair similar to the one in Portland should be established in Eastern Oregon for the vocationally orientated students.
- *Summer scholarships.* It is recommended that a program to provide summer-school scholarships for interested students be initiated. Such a program would provide opportunity for further study for students who are unable to find employment during the summer.

COMMUNITY AND COUNTY

- *County psychological service.* It is important to have a psychological service on the county level to supplement the school's program. This service would be much more effective on at least a weekly basis rather than as a monthly program.
- *Family counseling service.* Family counseling and guidance services are a most urgent need in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. A review of cases referred to the Union County Juvenile Court in the past six years reveals that between 70 and 80% of juveniles referred are from families in dire need of family counseling and guidance. By the time the court has become aware of the child and the family problems, the situation many times has reached disastrous proportions, affecting not only the child, but the entire family and the community in general. If crime and delinquency are to be stemmed, an effective long-range plan of family counseling and guidance is a must.
- *Adult education.* Since our society is more complex today, and since the youth of today are better educated academically, the parent of today is faced with problems of rearing children that are different in nature and consequence

from those of former years. Classes should be available to parents who wish to learn more about child behavior.

- *Community recreation center.* Such a facility is needed where not only the youth can go but where their families can go if they desire. It is important during the formative years of preadolescence that the family enjoy some recreational facilities as a unit if possible. Although quite unrealistic as it may be, a facility constructed as a joint community project, such as an ice skating rink, would be a tremendous asset to the community. Such a facility could offer recreation on a year-around basis unaffected by general climatic conditions.

CHURCH

Since the churches reach only a small portion of the population today, it does not have as much influence as it once enjoyed. Nevertheless, it does not mean that the church cannot offer services much more extensively in the area of counseling than ever before. Not only is society undergoing rapid change; many churches are also undergoing change. The ambiguities and frustrations facing adults and the youth of today have placed an unprecedented counseling burden on the pastors in numerous churches across the nation. Ministers are feeling a greater need for preparation to handle the counseling problems that come to them.

Agriculture - Crops



Wheat is the major crop produced in Union County. It provides nearly \$4 million annually to the Union County economy. High-yielding semi-dwarf white wheats account for 90% of Union County's 2.3 million bushel production. The Cereal Committee recommended continued research and education on wheat diseases, varieties and other production problems.

CEREALS

Wheat has been the number one crop in Union County for more than 100 years. It is planted on more acres of cultivated land than any other crop, and it provides more cash farm income than any other crop.

Precipitation and soils are especially adapted to wheat production on dry farms in the county. Wheat continues to be a rotation crop on irrigated farms, but other crops frequently provide more farm income on these fields. Soft white varieties are produced. Although these make excellent cookie, cracker, and pastry flour, two thirds of the production is exported, principally to the Orient.

Wheat yields have increased. New wheat varieties, fertilizers, and efficient farming practices have contributed to increased yields. Prices have not kept pace with costs of production on wheat and other cereal crops. The cost-price squeeze is the biggest problem facing wheat growers in Union County.

TABLE I
1962 PRODUCTION COSTS*
WHEAT—GRANDE RONDE VALLEY
Average Yield 44.4 Bu. Per Acre

Item	Cost per acre
Plow	\$ 2.19
Spring tooth (2)	1.68
Harrow48
Rod weeder (4)	2.20
Spreading fertilizer27
Fertilizer (70 #N)	10.77
Drill94
Seed	1.80
Spray	1.58
Rotary hoe44
Combine	5.76
Trucks	2.17
Storage	5.33
Handling	2.84
Wheat tax22
Fire insurance44
Taxes	4.75
Interest (operating capital)	1.37
Interest (land investment)	21.00
Freight (to Portland)	7.11
TOTAL COSTS	\$73.34
Income 44.4 bu. @\$2.02	89.69
Profit (1962)	\$16.35

*Source—Tri-County Study, Oregon State University, 1963.

TABLE II
RETURNS FROM ONE ACRE OF WHEAT—
UNION COUNTY — 1967

Income	
44.4 bushel @\$1.67	\$74.14
Wheat Certificates	21.13
Total Income	\$95.27
Costs*	
1962 Costs plus 20%	\$ 87.01
Profit	\$ 8.26

* Cereal Committee found that costs had risen an average of 3% per year between 1962 and 1967. Labor, machinery, taxes and interest increased the most.

Barley and oats are planted as a substitute crop where wheat is controlled by federal programs. Although considerable barley is used by local livestock producers in years of high production, the major portion is exported from the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

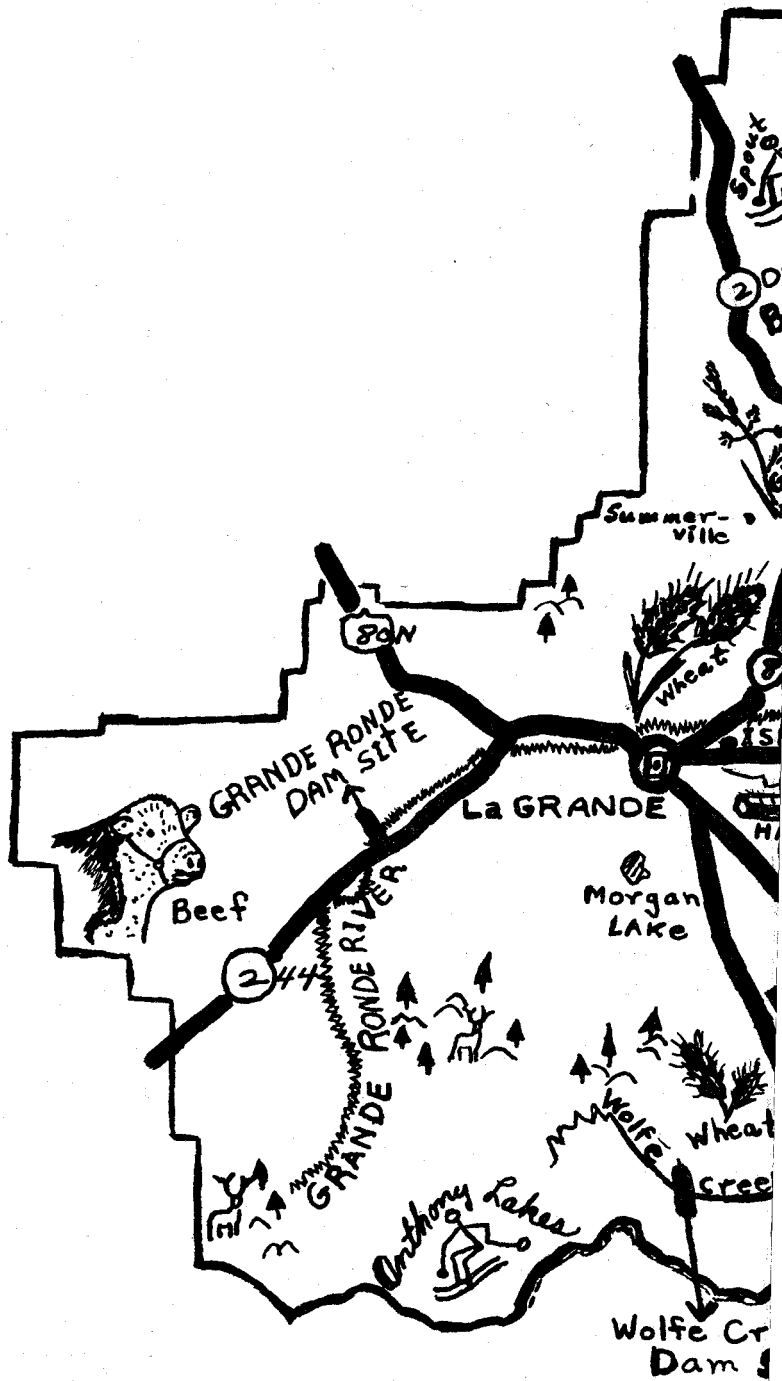
RESEARCH

- Research budgets for cereal plant breeders at Pendleton Experiment Station, the Agricultural Research Service at Washington State University, and Oregon State University should be maintained or increased. Research on new varieties should include wheat, barley, oats, and species crosses adapted to the area, such as critical. A high-producing winter wheat with seedling vigor to reduce erosion is needed. A high producing winter-hardy barley is needed for the area.
- Additional trials on weed sprays adapted to Union County are needed. We recommend that the Extension Service continue and expand trials on new chemicals for weed control. Cheat grass and rye and special weed problems have not been solved. This may require additional Extension staff. We also urge farmers to keep abreast of chemical research.
- Additional research is needed on wheat diseases: foot rot, rust, smut, and wheat streak mosaic are problems in Union County. OSU has received funds to employ a full-time pathologist on cereal disease research. This program may need to be expanded in the years ahead.
- Research is needed on soil tests which will indicate accurately elements needed for cereal production. At present these tests are fairly accurate for phosphate, potassium, and boron. Adequate tests are not available at this time for nitrogen and sulfur. Union County farmers spent \$444,000 in 1964 for fertilizer materials, according to census data. Adequate soil tests could improve the efficiency of these expenditures.
- As yields increase straw becomes a greater problem. Saving the straw for conservation purposes can increase disease problems. Research is needed to coordinate increased production with important conservation practices. We recommended additional research and economic studies on the use of crop residues to eliminate burning.

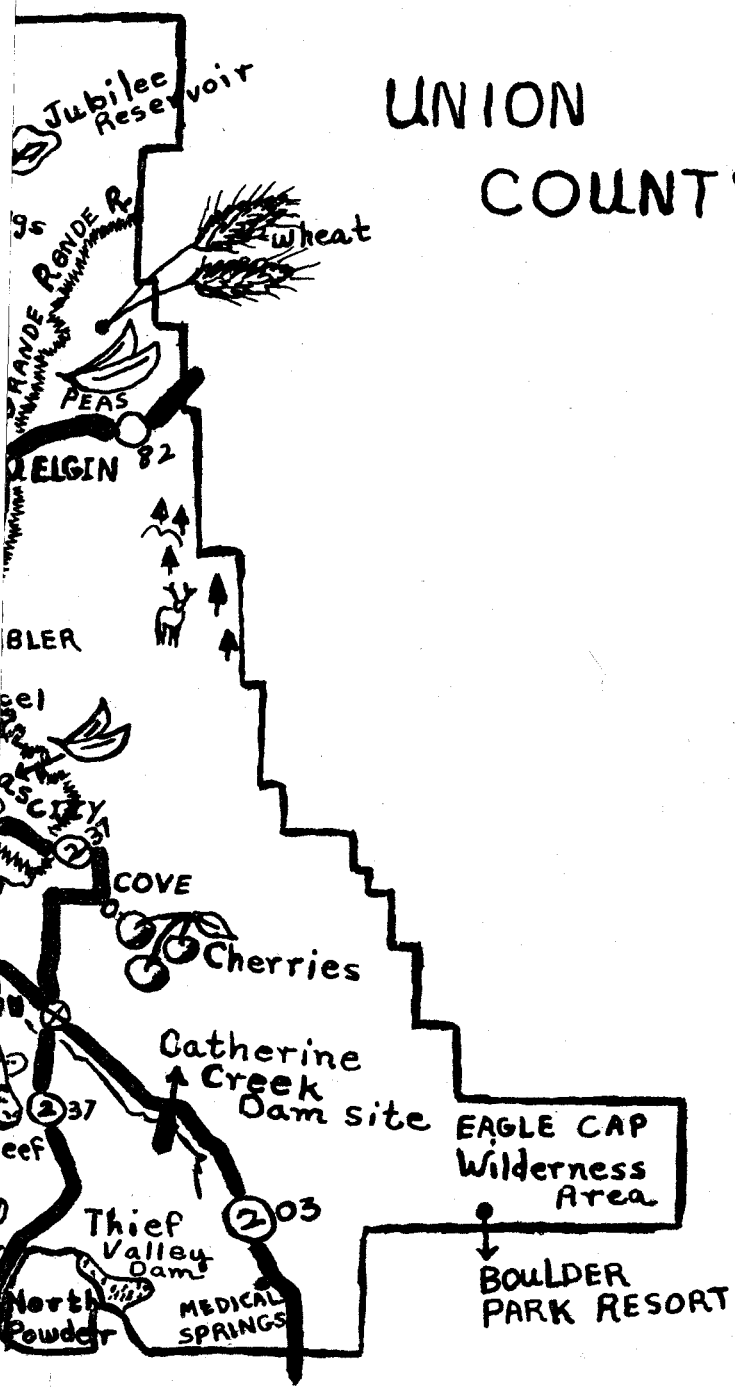
CONSERVATION

Wind is the major erosion problem in Union County. This erosion frequently occurs during the winter months. There is some water erosion in the Elgin community and on the steeper land in other sections of the county.

We urge that all agencies and organizations working on soil conservation, including the Soil Conservation Service, soil conservation districts, the Extension



UNION COUNTY



Service, and the Agricultural Stabilization Committee encourage the adoption of practices to reduce soil erosion.

This committee feels that certain practices are particularly helpful. These are as follows.

- Stubblemulch fallow. Spreading the straw with a combine and cultivating with subsurface implements which leave crop residue at or near the surface.
- Strip cropping. Where wind erosion is a problem, strips of alternate grain and fallow perpendicular to prevailing winds. Contour strip cropping reduces water erosion.
- The growing of grasses and legumes in rotation with grains.
- Sod waterways.
- Early seeding of wheat perpendicular to the prevailing winds.
- When land is worked in the fall it should be left rough and cloddy.
- The use of subsoiling to increase water penetration where handpans occur.

A new soil and water research laboratory is planned for Pendleton in the near future. It is hoped that this laboratory will be able to:

- Develop conservation measures that can be profitably applied to the land to reduce both wind and water erosion.
- Determine methods of controlling soilborne diseases where plant residue is incorporated in the soil.

STORAGE AND SANITATION

About 410,000 bushels of additional cereal storage facilities were constructed in 1966 and 1967. These should provide adequate storage to meet needs for several years. The Food and Drug Administration recently placed additional restrictions on wheat sanitation. The committee anticipates that these restrictions may become more severe in the years ahead. It is therefore recommended that:

- Any new storage handling facilities include provisions for keeping grain clean and free from possible contamination by insects, birds, rodents, and other contaminants.
- Every farmer and commercial elevator operator make every effort to prevent contamination of grain. Farm storage bins need thorough cleaning before harvest. They should be frequently checked during the storage period.
- Combines, grain trucks, elevators, and other equipment which come in contact with harvested grain be carefully cleaned before harvest.

TRANSPORTATION

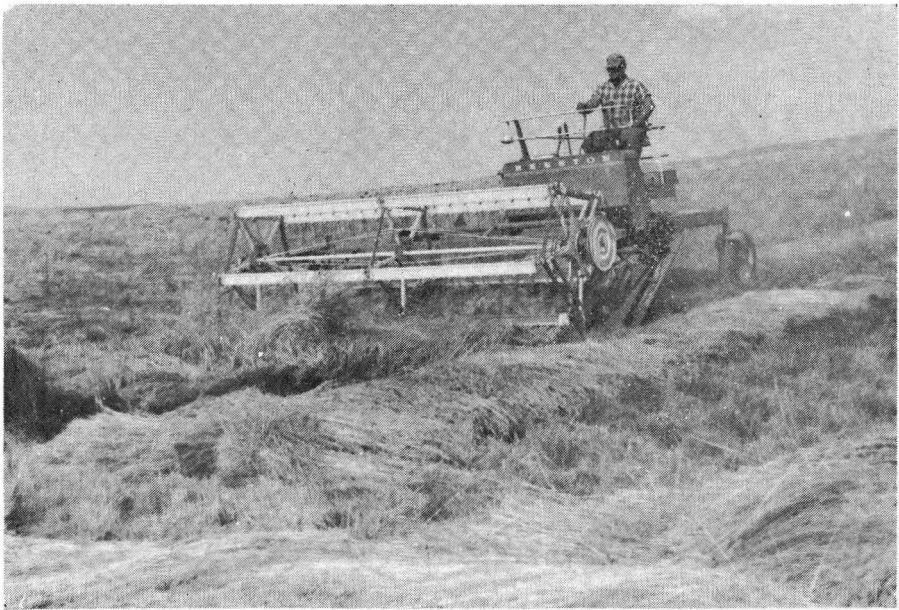
Freight is a major cost of marketing cereal crops produced in Union County. Other areas with access to competitive barge transportation now enjoy reduced rail freight rates.

- We urge grain companies to investigate the possibility of combining truck and river-barge facilities to reduce transportation costs on cereal grains.

- Large hopper cars, multiple car shipments, hopper spouts, mechanical samplers, and other technological changes should bring about reduced freight rates. We urge all grain shippers to keep abreast of these changes so that they may take advantage of any savings that may result.
- Grain shippers should do all they can to provide freight rates in Union County that are on a parity with other producing areas in Oregon.

GRAIN QUALITY

- To reduce the possibility of mixing grain classes, we recommend that Union County concentrate on the production of high quality, soft white wheat. Production of hard red varieties is discouraged.
- Producers should use high-quality, clean seed.
- Roguing wheat fields to eliminate rye and other wheat varieties is essential to provide clean seed and prevent soil infestation.



Swathing fine fescue in preparation for combining near Imbler. Union County produces top quality turf grass seed. Varieties of bluegrass and fine fescue are shipped throughout the United States to provide seed for home lawns, golf courses and parks. A well organized, successful, county weed control program has assisted the development of this million dollar industry.

SEED CROPS

Climatic and soil conditions in Union County are conducive to high production of excellent turf grass seed. The Union County weed control program has assisted in reducing the possibility of contaminating grass-seed fields. The development of irrigation and use of fertilization have contributed to the stability of production. The industry provides about \$1 million annually to the economy of the area.

Grass seed growers are experienced in management and production practices which are needed for profitable production of high-quality seed. Union County has several modern cleaning and handling facilities. Most of the grass seed produced is marketed in the eastern half of the United States. These markets have recognized the quality of seed produced and the dependability of processing plants in Union County.

Prices of turf grass seeds are dependent upon the economy of the country, total national production, and in some cases, international production.

Fluctuation in home building and the general economy of the county has tremendous influence on grass-seed prices. Grower prices of Pennlawn fescue have fluctuated from 46c to 18c per pound from 1964 to 1967. Merion Bluegrass has fluctuated from a high of about \$1.35 to a low of about 40c per pound in the same period.

Grass seed production has special soil-building characteristics. It eliminates nearly all wind and water erosion. It fits in well with the rotation of other crops. It increases soil organic matter which reduces erosion in future crop production.

With increased irrigation in the Grande Ronde Valley, an increase in grass seed production is anticipated. Where irrigation is available, most soils in the county are adapted to these seed crops. Union County is a relatively crop and weed-free area which should permit increased production of high-quality seed.

TURF GRASSES

The fine-leaved turf grasses such as the strains of Kentucky Bluegrass and fine fescues are especially adaptable to our area. Grasses such as ryegrass and bentgrass should not be grown in this area because of possible contamination of land for the bluegrasses and fescue production.

ALFALFA AND CLOVER SEED PRODUCTION

The climate of Union County is somewhat adverse to the production of alfalfa seed. Alfalfa, however, does have a limited place in the county seed production areas.

Clovers may be a good seed crop. This possibility should be investigated more extensively.

FORAGE GRASSES

There are several forage grasses which can be grown for seed production. The wheatgrasses are most adaptable. However, forage grasses present a potential contaminant to turf grasses in harvest machines and seed-cleaning equipment.

CONCLUSIONS

The committee believes that:

- Supplemental irrigation is essential to maintain high yields.
- Field burning is necessary for the removal of residue and the control of insects, plant disease, and rodents. Growers must take extreme precautions when field burning.
- Weed and crop-free seed is a major factor in the production of top quality seeds. Growers must keep abreast of new cultural practices in weed and crop control.
- Fertilization at optimum levels is essential to the production of high yields. Nitrogen is most essential. Other elements are sometimes required.
- Insects and plant diseases are minor problems. However, the grower should be aware of this potential hazard.
- The grower should use modern equipment, properly adjusted and suited to total acres of production.

REQUESTS

The committee requests that:

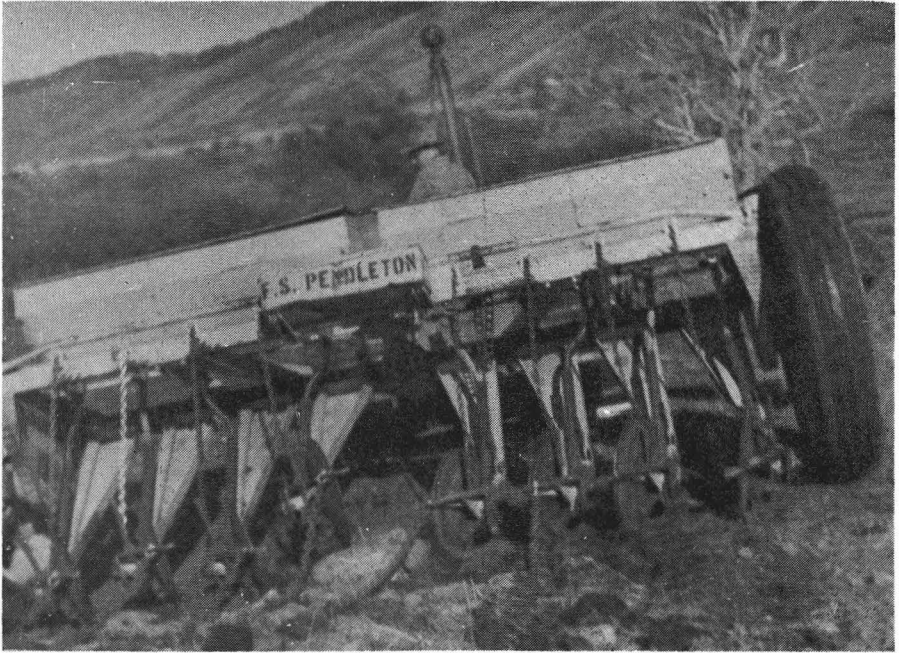
- The local fire authorities provide legal traffic control signs to the growers and that the grower have them on hand at the time of the fire.
- More fertilizer trials be made under present conditions and over a 10-year period.
- More information on irrigation be made available. This may require additional research.
- As new seed varieties are released, Oregon State University send foundation seed to a crop and weed-free area such as Union County.

FORAGE CROPS

Most recent production figures for Union County show that the county produces:

78,000 tons alfalfa hay valued at	\$1,560,000.00
12,200 tons grass hay valued at	190,000.00
2,500 tons all other hay valued at	37,000.00

The forage crop committee reviewed the hay acreage figures and the value of forages in rotation programs as well as the importance of forage as livestock



Range improvement is a major recommendation of the Union County Forage Crops Committee. This range drill borrowed from the U. S. Forest Service, Pendleton, was used in a demonstration trial on the John Koenig ranch near Cove. The committee recommended continued research and education in range improvement.

feed and as a cash crop. The variation in supply and demand has created an unstable market. It is expected that there will be an improvement in hay production and irrigated pastures with more irrigation water in the valley.

New methods of handling hay may also have an effect on forage production in the county—lower cost, improved quality, and wide markets.

Rangelands have been largely undeveloped, and much can be done to improve rangeland and add to farm income.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends that:

- Forage producers think about quality as well as quantity, especially those raising forage for sale.
- Best adapted varieties be stressed.
- Private companies and research workers in college be encouraged to search for an effective early spring weevil control chemical.
- Research on alfalfa production problems in the northern part of county be continued. These problems include fertility, "sick" alfalfa, nodulation, and inoculation.
- Research and education on quantity and time of fertilizing intensively managed irrigated pastures be instituted.
- Relation of protein content change with changes in yield and requirements of different classes of livestock be investigated.
- Studies be made in hay-handling methods with machinery and labor available to obtain maximum TDN per acre for costs involved, i.e., bale, silage, cubing, and haylage.
- The possibility of producing field corn for silage be investigated. The growing season may be limiting factor in producing comparable pounds of TDN per acre.
- Work be done in finding ways to stabilize the hay market from year to year, i.e., possibly a marketing association using a protein-price scale.
- A large amount of work be done on range management practices. Emphasis should be placed on removal of undesirable plants and shrubs, reseeding to productive grasses, continued water development, and prevention of degeneration of range to poor condition.

FRUIT

Union County has produced tree fruits and many other horticultural crops since the first settlers arrived in the Grande Ronde Valley by covered wagon. There was a rapid expansion of tree-fruit production, particularly apples and cherries in the early part of this century.

In recent years apple production has declined, but sweet cherry production has expanded. The agricultural census shows that between 1959 and 1964 the number of apple trees declined from 9,235 to 3,008. Plums and prune trees declined from 3,940 to 2,292 trees. During the same period there was an increase from 43,077 to 58,059 cherry trees.

CHERRIES

Frost is the greatest hazard to cherry production. Frost has nearly wiped out the crop in four of the last six years. A few orchardists are using heaters.

Cherry production is scattered around the perimeter of the Grande Ronde Valley, where frost is less frequent. About 80% of the orchards are in Cove and Pumpkin Ridge communities. However, there are orchards in the Mt. Glenn, Island City, Union, and Elgin areas.

Union County harvested a record production of cherries in 1967. This production amounted to 1,700 tons. It brought a gross income of more than \$600,000.

Most cherries are shipped directly to a cannery in Salem. The fine quality of cherries produced in the county has made it possible for growers to obtain top prices. In 1967 some of the production was brined.

Cherries are marketed through two cooperatives, the Pumpkin Ridge Cherry Growers Cooperative and the Cove Cherry Growers Cooperative. They have handling facilities in Imbler and Cove respectively. The Cove Cherry Growers Cooperative is one of the oldest cooperative marketing associations in the state.

The cherry fruit fly is a continued threat to the industry. The Union County Court and growers have cooperated in a highly successful control program. The county is a control area, and everyone with a cherry tree is required to spray during fly season.

The lack of markets for varieties and quality of fruit produced contributed to the decline of apples and other fruit crops. If markets were developed there could be an expansion of prunes, apples, and other fruit crops. There are areas adapted to apple production that are unsuited for cherry production because of frost hazards.

ADVANTAGES TO CHERRY PRODUCTION

These are some advantages to cherry production in Union County:

- There are substantial acreages available in Union County for increased fruit

production. The fringes of the Grande Ronde Valley and the Cricket Flat area of Elgin are particularly suited for cherry production.

- The dry climate during the picking season results in good quality fruit.
- The present cherry producers have a good canning market with a reliable firm which has provided a price that is on parity with other producing areas.
- Union County generally has adequate fruit harvest labor. Pickers are able to harvest our orchards after cherry harvest is completed in other areas. Upon completion, pickers can move to apple and pear orchards in Washington and Oregon.

TABLE III

CHERRY PRODUCTION — UNION COUNTY 1961-1968

Year	Production	Value
1961	1,051 tons	\$360,000
1962	582 tons	150,000
1963	300 tons	96,000
1964	1,638 tons	524,000
1965	85 tons	37,000
1966	362 tons	133,000
1967	1,647 tons	611,000
1968	161 tons	76,000

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Irrigation and orchard heating are expected to bring about the greatest improvement in production in the years ahead. When they are economically justified, the committee encourages these two practices. Studies by OSU indicate that water is probably the limiting factor affecting fruit size.
- Irrigation of cherry orchards requires careful timing for high-quality fruit production and healthy trees. Water should be applied in the spring, particularly in May. Irrigation just before picking may lower the quality of the fruit. Orchards should be irrigated in August, immediately following picking. Irrigation too late in the season can delay dormancy, and trees are more susceptible to winter injury.
- Cover crops on irrigated orchards will assist in erosion control, but can reduce fruit quality in dryland orchards.
- Good pollinators are essential for cherry production. Continued research to develop a pollinating variety that will sell is recommended.
- Any new planting should be with the understanding that new markets need to be developed. However, the demand for sweet cherries is expected to increase along with the national population.
- There are a number of orchards that have been neglected. These are a source of insects and diseases. An effort should be made either for caring for these orchards or for their removal.

- Cherries that will not make size for canning should be brined. This not only provides a source of income, but trees that are overloaded and not picked suffer damage and in some cases die in a dry season. This was evident in 1967.
- Cooperatives should consider providing adequate brining facilities.
- Cooperative associations should consider remodeling facilities to handle cherries on pallets to reduce labor costs.
- An orchardist with a combination of Royal Ann, Bing and Lambert varieties has a longer picking season. He also spreads the risk from frost injury, and less equipment is required to harvest. At present about 15% of the crop is Royal Anns. This should be increased to about 35%. We therefore recommend that new plantings be of a combination of 50% Royal Anns, 20% Bings, and 30% Lamberts, until Royal Anns account for 35% of the total crop. There is some additional frost risk with Royal Anns, as they bloom earlier than Bings and Lamberts.
- Herbicide sprays by air have caused injury to fruit trees and fruit crops. Controls may be necessary if air operators are not extremely careful.
- OSU has conducted an extensive study of leaf analysis for fertilizer requirements. This data indicates that nutrition is not a serious problem in most orchards. Recommendations for fertilizer can be obtained by growers by submitting leaf samples to the soils laboratory at Oregon State University. As time goes on OSU should update its leaf-analysis research.
- Tours, field days, and demonstrations that have been sponsored by the OSU Cooperative Extension Service have met with wide acceptance among growers. These should be continued.
- There is a limited local demand for U-pick of small fruit. This requires advertising. There might also be some demand for U-pick of apricots, peaches, pears, and prunes.

VEGETABLES AND OTHER CROPS

Union County is suited to the limited production of some cold-hardy vegetable and specialty crops. Frost is the greatest hazard for vegetable crop production. The growing season is relatively short.

Peas are the only vegetable crop grown extensively at this time. Between 10,000 and 12,000 acres of peas (including green processing, seed, and dry edible) are produced annually.

Union County has been producing green peas for processing for a number of years. Yields are high, particularly under irrigation. Peas fit into a rotation with wheat. In this rotation peas tend to break the cycle of soil-born wheat diseases, such as foot rot. Blond peas are a problem in high-producing areas. Processors, producers, plant breeders, and the Extension Service have cooperated to solve the problem. The project has proven that some varieties are less susceptible to disease.

The season in Union County is later than vegetable-producing areas in the Pendelton and Walla Walla areas where processing plants are located. Processors have been able to extend their pea-processing season by contracting with growers in Union County.

A number of small plantings of vegetables and other crops have been grown with satisfactory results. Some that have shown promise in these small trials include potatoes, sugar beets, winter squash, cabbage, lettuce, onions, carrots, asparagus, mint, safflower, and certain vegetable seed crops.

Some vegetable seed crops are now being produced in the Grande Ronde Valley. Del Monte has a vegetable seed plant in La Grande. Pea and spinach seeds are produced.

CONSIDERATIONS

In any expansion of vegetable production it should be recognized that:

- Frost is a hazard to most vegetables.
- Buyers go to dependable sources for high quality produce. Dependability and assurance of quantity and quality are frequently more important than price.
- Union County probably could not support a processing plant because of the short season. However, there is the possibility of a plant to process specialty items.
- Vegetable-crop production requires special knowledge. Success might require a farmer who had produced vegetables in another area to start the program.
- A small acreage of some crops will supply a tremendous volume of production. It is easy to get an oversupply. (Squash was produced on several acres, warehouses were filled and there was no market.)
- Most processed vegetables and vegetable seeds are produced under contract. Without contracts, marketing risks are too great for most farmers.



Bush type snap beans produced more than three tons per acre in this commercial planting on the Willie Hamann farm in 1968. Commercial plantings in Union County were made in June and harvested in August, 1968. Tests were a direct result of recommendations of the vegetable crops committee. Extension Service cooperated with processors in encouraging seven growers to plant 107 acres. Willis Goodwin, fieldman for Rogers Walla Walla, Inc., is inspecting field three weeks before harvest.

- With modern transportation and storage methods, it is no longer necessary for producing areas to be near markets. California markets are readily available to Union County producers and vice-a-versa.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- With the expansion of irrigation contemplated in the Grande Ronde Valley and the Elgin area, farmers should recognize the possibility of producing vegetable and specialty crops adapted to the area.

- There is a possibility of expanding the pea acreage in the county. This crop fits in well with rotation and conservation practices in the county. Peas are harvested in ample time to prepare ground for fall-seeding grains.
- One Milton-Freewater processor is interested in extending his processing period for snap beans. A few farmers should cooperate in trial plantings on a commercial basis.
- We believe production of the following additional crops should receive serious consideration as markets become available and newer varieties are developed: potatoes, sugar beets, mint, safflower, onions, cabbage, carrots, asparagus, and turnips.
- New processes such as freeze-dry, Foamat and radiation may result in great changes in the production and marketing of vegetable and specialty crops.
- The Extension Service should continue to investigate production and marketing possibilities of vegetable crops in Union County.
- Information about vegetable and other crop production and marketing based upon local trials and experience should be available to farmers.
- Processors, producers, and the Extension Service should continue efforts to solve the problem of blond peas. This cooperation is essential for the solution of additional production and marketing problems as they develop.
- Weather studies are needed in the agricultural areas of the county to determine frost-free dates, summer temperatures, etc.
- Tours of processing plants provide an opportunity for a better understanding between producers and processors. They show processors that growers are interested in processing problems.
- Tours to other vegetable-producing areas are also encouraged for their educational value.

At this time present crops produced, appear to be the most profitable under Union County conditions.

Agriculture - Livestock

DAIRY HERDS

Dairy cow population continues to decrease in Union County. The number of cows has shown a gradual drop from the high of 8,000 head in 1945 to 1,400 in 1967. Labor, narrow net return margin, desire for less time-consuming enterprises, and more attractive opportunities in other industries appear to be the reasons for this.

The volume of the cream business has decreased. In 1966, 129,000 pounds of butterfat was handled by the local creameries. In 1967, volume dropped to 81,000 pounds, the lowest since 1944.

The number of Grade A herds is not too stable, although herd size has increased somewhat. Since 1945 there has been a loss of 12 Grade A dairy herds, which is a 66% loss in Union County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

- Research and educational work on feed improvement and management with emphasis on good producing dairy ration should be continued.
- Educational work on breed improvement for maximum production should be encouraged.

MARKETING

- There is a market for more fluid milk than is being produced locally. However, price must go up or cost of production down in order for dairying to maintain itself.
- Substitute dairy products have affected local markets only indirectly through general price structure, but will be a more important factor in the future. Promotion of dairy products should continue strongly.
- Uniform price schedules for producers and consumers on the retail market should be established for all fluid milk in the state, and there should be better state control of milk coming into the state.

MANAGEMENT

- Dairy operations must be of sufficient size to be handled economically and have sufficient volume so that the operation will have base enough to warrant expenditure.
- Dairy operation must be either a family operation or partnership or be large enough to warrant hired help to allow the operators some free time.

BEEF CATTLE

Union County has approximately 44,000 head of beef cattle. This includes 20,000 beef brood cows, an increase of 3,000 head in the past 10 years. Forage utilized from the 176,000 acres of rangeland in this county grossed \$3,261,000 in 1967 for beef cattle. This is one of the greater sources of agricultural income in Union County. This committee feels that issues facing the beef cattle industry in the next 10 years are government controls, disease, and management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOVERNMENT CONTROLS

- Beef imports must be held in line with domestic production.
- Government intervention in hide marketing has lost export business. Such measures must be curtailed.
- Government must not be allowed to enter into a price-support program for the beef industry.
- Meat inspection should be the same in all states. Imported meat should meet the same standards as domestic.
- Federal grading on beef should meet consumer demand.
- Freight rates must be kept in line with production costs.
- Regulations should be formed forcing restraint in the acquisition of private lands by any government agency.

DISEASES

- Research should be continued for new and improved vaccines.
- The use of vaccines and other preventatives for calf scours, parasites, and other diseases should be encouraged.
- Producers must be kept well informed on the effect of the chemical content of insecticides and herbicides used on beef animals and forages.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Research and education should be made available regarding the use of feeding protein supplements on irrigated pasture and dryland pastures.

More data must be obtained and disseminated regarding the seasonal digestibility of different range forages, i.e., the best period of grazing for different forage species.

Oregon State University should expand the northeastern Oregon range and forest research management program.

Research is needed to determine the number of pounds of beef from well-managed forage-producing acres.

Research should be continued on control of sagebrush, star thistle, Medusahead rye, and other undesirable plants and shrubs on rangeland.

The committee suggests that a land-use committee for natural resources be formed to study resource development.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Research by the experiment station should be conducted on advantages of fall calving.

Education on the methods and the importance of improving percentage of calf crops through good herd management should be encouraged.

The committee feels that Union County needs upgrading of present herds and an increase of all registered breeds of beef.

WILDLIFE

It is noted that cattle and big game (deer and elk) in well balanced numbers are necessary to maintain range in good condition, i.e., grasses and also shrubs at a desirable height for better forage production.

More state and federal lands should be opened for multiple use of cattle and big game.

Predator control work should be continued and educational programs extended on the control of gophers, rodents, and starlings.

A better relationship between ranchers and sportsmen is desirable. A more amicable relationship might be effected by a recognition of mutual problems; the education of youth through hunter safety classes; and more cooperative use and improvement of private and public lands.

SWINE

Union County had a gross income of about \$637,000 from swine operations in 1967. This was realized from approximately 900 brood sows over six months of age. The average number of pigs weaned is about seven pigs per litter, with sows farrowing up to 2 1/2 times a year. Hog numbers through the past 10 years have fluctuated considerably. Brood sow numbers are now lower than they were 10 years ago, with a limited number of operators.

Where formerly swine production was more widely distributed, with many ranches having a few brood sows and marketing of more weaner pigs, we find fewer, more specialized swine farms with larger numbers per farm, maintaining brood sows and marketing market hogs. A majority of the hogs are now raised in confinement with different types of problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESEARCH

- More research is strongly recommended on adequate and economical methods of swine waste disposal.
- Research should be continued for better conversion or cheaper feeds.
- Methods of increasing farrowing rates should be studied and information disseminated.

EDUCATION

- Educational field trials should be set up or continued on management, housing, and nutritional needs.
- The carcass contest at the county fair should be continued. The committee feels that these shows and contests have done much for the improvement of the quality of swine in Union County.

MANAGEMENT

- The committee suggests that the size of a swine operation be such that one operator could maintain it and be busy full time.
- Persons going into the swine business should make a careful study of building layouts, making sure that the buildings are adequate, that a good water supply is available, and that the location is suitable.
- Good management practices for disease-free herds should be carried out. Producers should maintain a vigilant attitude toward prevention of contagious diseases, such as hog cholera, rhinitis, etc.

MARKETING

- More market information could be utilized in establishing local markets. Also the possibility of carcass marketing should be investigated, in line with the movement of those from the East to Portland.

SHEEP

Sheep numbers in Union County have dropped in the past to or three years to the low mark of 1950. This trend parallels the national situation and is due to lamb and wool prices, imports, synthetic fibers, labor, and desire for less time-consuming enterprises.

In Union County one of the primary problems is the marketing of lambs. Lambs are now being marketed over an extended period, a practice which results in only a small number being available at any one period. This prohibits competitive buying.

Sheep are an ideal class of livestock to utilize acreages farmed for forage production. Union County has a potential for increasing sheep numbers because of the number of acres which could fall into this category. Sheep are also efficient utilizers of small acreages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Producers should be kept up-to-date in research. The committee also recommends that managerial education be provided, particularly in controlling internal and external parasites and sheep diseases, i.e., foot rot, sore mouth, and overeating disease.
- Educational activities on the advantages of pooling lambs and wool should be increased.
- The committee recommends that additional education should continue in the preparation of wool for market.
- Educational work should be conducted in market classification and the grading of lambs for slaughter and breeding purposes.
- An active county sheepgrowers' association which would serve as a nucleus to work on problems facing the industry in Union County should be formed.
- The committee commends the county court and the fish and game commission for their assistance in predatory animal control and strongly recommend that work be continued.
- Public awareness of the destruction of sheep by dogs running loose should be increased, and the public should be alerted to this menace to the sheep industry.
- The committee feels that there is a place in the county for more farm flocks particularly around 250 ewes.

POULTRY

The poultry industry in Oregon has remained fairly stable in the last five years. Many eggs and much poultry are imported into the state.

This is true of Union County, where a large number of cases of eggs are shipped into the county weekly. Poultry numbers have declined from 22,000 to 10,000, about a 50% decrease in chickens in the county over the past 10 years.

The poultry business has become a highly integrated industry and one that is very specialized. The broiler industry is unprofitable on a commercial basis in the county because of the tough competition from other areas of the country. The committee feels that there is a market for eggs from 30,000 hens in the county. However, because of the fluctuations in prices and the insecurity of markets, the establishment of a profitable poultry operation is very difficult.

Other poultry have been very limited in the area. Competition, narrow margin, and more desirable opportunities in other fields are factors for keeping individuals from maintaining flocks of turkeys, geese, or others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MANAGEMENT

- A poultry plant must be of sufficient size to warrant investment and offer economical return. The operation should include producing and distributing facilities.
- Anyone starting into the laying-hen business should utilize all the modern equipment possible in order to have an economical unit and maintain uniform quality and quantity. A thorough investigation should be made into all types of poultry plants, and the choice should be constructed to fit the individual's needs adequately.
- A dependable and low-cost feed source must be secured.
- Growers must keep alert to all new management and marketing practices.

MARKETING

- The owner must find and maintain a stable market outlet for his product.
- Because egg quality is very important for producers to maintain, they must continually strive to sell a product that consumers demand.
- Demand for high-quality, local eggs exceeds the supply greatly; however, the supply must be constant once the market is developed.

THE FUR BUSINESS

The business of raising fur-bearing animals in Union County is limited and very speculative. Mink production has been declining, with a reduction of approximately 50% in number of breeder females in the past 10 years. There are now two ranches with about 1,000 breeder females in the county.

A fairly recent development is the establishment of chinchilla herds in county. Although limited now, the number of breeders is expected to increase.

A small number of beaver are kept in the county. These have various owners but are kept in one location.

Some trapping is carried on, mostly of water species. However, because of low prices for pelts, such ventures have been limited in the past few years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The committee suggests that a current directory of local producers of fur-bearing animals be compiled and maintained so that operators can keep informed.
- The committee also recommends that a uniform grading system for both foreign and domestic furs be developed.
- Since the initial investment for fur-bearing animals is so high (chinchilla are approximately \$600 per pair and mink about \$200 per animal), it is recommended that anyone entering this particular business give financing serious consideration.
- Chinchilla raisers need a dependable supply of hay which is free of contamination from pesticide and mice.
- Sanitation and disease control as well as the diagnosis of symptoms and a knowledge of the best known treatment to protect the grower's interest are imperative.
- A practical knowledge of genetics is necessary to produce quality furs that fit changing demands.
- The committee feels that continued and additional research must be done in nutrition, breeding, and management.

CONCLUSION

The Industry has many limitations, which may become more acute. A luxury item is produced, then imports affect local supply and demand. A cheap, ready supply of feed, adequate financing, and marketing play an important part in the fur business.

HORSES

OBSERVATIONS

The committee finds that in Union County the horse population is increasing with more individual owners and clubs creating greater interest in horsemanship. The committee, by survey, estimates that there are approximately 2,100 horses in the county.

The local market does not generally demand a high-quality registered horse. The increasing horse population in Union County is largely for recreational purposes.

PREDICTIONS

The committee predicts that in the next 10 years the number of horses in Union County will not increase as fast as in the last decade. More emphasis will be placed on quality, and there will be a better market for well-bred registered horses. Instead interest in horses will necessitate more varied activities.

To maintain and further this increased activity more indoor facilities will be in demand because of the inclement weather conditions prevailing during a large part of the year.

The committee's conclusion is that the greatest use of horses in Union County as the present is for recreational purposes and will remain so. The committee submits recommendations in two areas: (1) improving the recreational opportunities; and (2) improving educational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improving recreational opportunities:

Presently, recreational activities include local horse club participation and competition, specialized group participation, (such as roping clubs), and individual activities—hunting, packing, trail riding, etc.

- The committee feels that there should be further exploration of opportunities to expand activities, such as inaugurating a pulling contest at the county fair, winter cutter racing, etc.
- The committee recommends consideration of the possibility of a change of horse show dates during the county fair so that more adult horse owners may participate.
- Endurance trail rides are becoming popular throughout the country. The committee feels that Union County is ideally situated for organizing endurance rides and that an activity of this sort would not only be for local interest, but would attract horse owners from outside our area.
- As horse owners in the county become more plentiful and seek new activities, there is a need to consider erecting a large public, multipurpose building which

would serve as an indoor arena and boarding facility, and would meet the needs of a number of groups.

- Increasing the use of the facilities at Union for horse activities should be considered.

Improving educational opportunities:

- The committee recommends that attention be given to educational activities which would provide opportunities for horse owners to learn more about upgrading the quality of horses; nutrition; horse handling; medical care, etc. (veterinary short courses, etc.).
- Organization of new 4-H horse clubs should be encouraged to provide both educational and recreational opportunities to Union County youngsters.
- Leadership and organization need to be provided which will allow young people to participate in advanced activities.

Forestry

For more than three and a half centuries the forests of our country have continued to fill the nation's need for wood — needs which now number many thousand of essential products. In so doing they have transformed most of North America's virgin forests into thriving and well managed forests which not only provide essential products but also food and habitat for wildlife, watershed protection, and countless opportunities for healthful outdoor recreation.

Today the United States is well along in the vast transition from the initial harvesting of our forests into the new era of scientific tree farming. We are growing wood fibre faster than we are removing it by harvest and losing it to fire, insects, and disease. Yet, with a forecast of a 350 million population by the year 2000, much more wood will be needed, and there will be less land on which to grow it. Only seven tenths of our nation's forest land is now available for the production of wood products—an average of three acres per man, woman, child. Even if we were to lose no more forest land to parks, agriculture, wilderness, superhighways, airports, reservoirs, game preserves, and urban growth, by the year 2,000 we would have only half as many acres per person.

This report outlines forest policies which the Union County Forestry Committee agrees are essential for increasing the productivity of our forests and provided the profit incentive to encourage more and more forest landowners to become tree farmers. To the extent that these policies are translated into action, the taxpayer will be relieved of the burden of increasing public activities directed to the same objectives.

The committee believes that permanent forest industries contribute to our national standard of living and are thus essential to Union County's economic security and welfare; that the wise use of all our forest resources is vital to the American public and to communities and wood-processing industries dependent upon our forest lands: and that private enterprise and initiative are providing and must, to an increasing degree, continue to provide for effective, profitable management, use, and renewal of our forests.

The growing and harvesting of repeated crops of trees is exemplified by privately owned tree farms that pay their own way in the interest of a sound national economy. It is fundamental that forest management progress in the United States has been made and will continue to gain because of the profit motivation of free individuals. It should be noted also that the nation's forestry effort requires cooperation among forest industries, private landowners, federal, state, and local governments.

UTILIZATION OF SMALL TREES

The sawtimber growth on private and federal lands is insufficient to supply

needs of local mills. Sawtimber growth can be materially increased by thinning. Thinning can be increased by finding a market for small material.

A chip market of sufficient size to permit economic chipping of round material is anticipated. In the meantime, we need to expand other markets for small material. Recently a chip-and-saw mill has been introduced into the Wallowa area. This mill is a natural for material 8 to 12 inches in diameter breast high. It is hoped that this type of mill will soon be introduced into Union County. While the chip-and-saw mill is an efficient mill for this type of material, the problem facing industry is how this size material can be cut, skidded, loaded, and hauled at a reasonable cost. Equipment companies have recognized the problem and are working on a solution.

Post and pole harvest (material under 8 inches) is a small part of our forestland production of this type of material. Some of this material is presently being shipped to Washington, Idaho, and California. The fence post market can be greatly increased. The most critical aspect of a fence post is its durability. A preservative treatment plant, particularly a penta treatment plant, could logically locate in this area.

Traditionally, wooden posts have been set by hand at the sacrifice of increasingly higher costs. A solution to this problems has been found recently in the hydraulic post driver. This post driver could set a post in 35 seconds on good ground. The application of a hydraulic post driver to Eastern Oregon should open up huge markets for wooden posts.

The committee recommends that these markets be explored and developed by the Union County chambers of commerce, the Union County Industrial Development Corporation, and any other interested groups.

IMPROVEMENT OF WOOD-PRODUCTION METHODS

The production of wood may in many cases be increased 50 to 100%. An acre of ground can support only a limited number of trees growing at a maximum rate. Cutting the excessive trees precommercially will enable the remainder to grow at this maximum rate. The wood that would have been lost on die-out and deformed trees will show up on the fewer, better remaining trees as usable, sellable wood.

FORESTRY RESEARCH

What is the prime need of forestry for research?

The committee strongly urges that intensive research be done in the management of east-side associated species. With the building of the new forest and range research facilities in La Grande, we recommend that so far as possible the research be carried out in this area.

The committee also recommends that the Forest Survey Report No. 135, *Forest Statistics for Union County*, published in April 1960 by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station be revised as soon as possible.

CULL WHITE FIR

What should be done with the cull white fir found in such profusion in Union County?

We recommend that cull lowland white and grand fir in operating areas, reasonably close to marketing areas, be left standing until such time as they can be economically harvested. The committee believes this will be in the near future.

TAXES

The committee recommends that careful consideration be given to the tax rates set on producing and potential forest land to the end that rates established will not preclude owning and holding forest land for the production of timber crops. This is important to the maintenance and stability of the Union County communities. The committee heartily endorses the Eastern Oregon severance tax law.

FUTURE LOGGING AND MILLING TECHNIQUES

Eastern Oregon is continuing in the process of converting from an old-growth virgin forest to a young-growth managed forest. This conversion makes changes in methods of harvest and plant facilities necessary. Previous systems used to harvest large logs for lumber are not always suitable for the smaller logs and more sophisticated plants and commodities of today and requires changes in logging technique and plant facilities.

Because of the irregular terrain, the development of suitable equipment and technique is more difficult in the Blue Mountains than in neighboring regions.

An expansion in the pulp-and-paper industry will soon require additional changes in timber management and harvesting operations. Transportation of wood fibre has been a major deterrent to development of this area. The expanding national population and increasing demand for paper products will soon justify more complete utilization of thinnings and logging residue.

Union County forest product industries are represented by the following operations:

- Union — Ronde Valley Lumber Company — sawmill
- Alicel — Peacock Lumber Company — sawmill
- Elgin — Boise Cascade Corporation — studmill and plywood plant
- Island City — Boise Cascade Corporation — particle board plant
- La Grande — Boise Cascade Corporation — sawmill

The problems facing the industry and forest landowners are to change the forest from a mixture of old and young trees into a young, vigorous, highly productive stand, and to update logging and manufacturing methods to utilize this material and produce a continuous flow of desired products.

LOSS OF COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND TO OTHER USES

The population growth of the United States is driving more timber lands into other uses. This increased population provides us with bigger markets, but reduces our forest land. We are losing forest lands because of conversion to farmland, road right-of-way, gasoline right-of-way, telephone right-of-way, powerline right-of-way, and other manifestations of an increasing population. Some right-of-ways could be managed for the production of small forest products without impairing the primary function of the right-of-way. Other right-of-ways

could be combined into one multiple right-of-way rather than a series of separate ones.

A potentially great loss of commercial forest land is possible due to pressures for wilderness and other set-aside areas.

The committee recommends that all commercial forest land, both public and private, be developed on a multiple-use principle and that no limited use withdrawals, such as that proposed for the Minam, be made.

GRAZING USE OF TIMBERLANDS

Originally in Union County, wild-land grazing was centered around use of grass and weed forage in natural openings and open pine timberlands. In recent years, with the trend towards more intensive forest management, a new grazing potential is being realized. The sowing of grass following the opening of a forest stand by precommercial and commercial thinning is being accomplished on the better managed lands. A good stand of grass can be obtained from broadcast seeding of open disturbed forest ground. It is recommended that grazing and tree growing be accomplished on the same ground.

WILDLIFE

What is the greatest forestry problem relating to wildlife?

The committee feels that though the State of Oregon has complete jurisdiction over wildlife, the state should recognize that game habitat ownership is principally private and government land, that the landowner has a vital interest in the management and harvesting of this crop along with other crops. The landowner should be considered and consulted in setting game regulations and seasons. Early seasons on forest land should be set only after consideration of fire danger.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Normally there is no problem with securing adequate stocking on timberlands in Union County. Care should be taken when planning a harvest of timber so that a method is chosen that will not materially alter the site. Clear cuts on south exposures can hold back natural reproduction. Natural reproduction is preferred over artificial because it represents generations of natural selection planting.

Land managers, both public and private, need to continue improvement of forestry practices in Union County. Much of our economic future is dependent on keeping forested lands highly productive. Timber use, recreational use, grazing use, and water yield are all compatible if each is managed with consideration given to the impact on others.

FOREST CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Union County's timber economy has developed around the manufacturing of a single product—lumber. This made the local economy dependent on the national lumber market. The development of a diversified forest industry capable of making full use of the forest potential will expand and will stabilize the local forest economy.

Eastern Oregon's forest resources are important not only locally but also nationally. Eastern Oregon contains 2.4% of the nation's commercial forest land and 4.7% of all softwood sawtimber and currently produces 6% of the country's softwood lumber. This part of Oregon has more softwood timber volume than 37 of the 50 states.

Only limited benefits result from limited use of the timber. Logs shipped out of the area are of little benefit to the local economy. Logs processed locally into lumber and fabricated products will increase local employment and income. The benefits of product refinement can be measured by the gain in employment as shown by the following tabulation. This is the man-years employment presently required to process one million board feet of timber into the various products.

Item	Man-Years Employment
Logs	2.7
Logs to rough dry lumber	7.0
Logs to rough dry lumber to dressed lumber	9.0
Logs to rough dry lumber to millwork	15.0
Logs to plywood	15.8
Logs to pulpwood and paper	16.1

The cumulative impact of the forest industry on the economy of Union County is shown by the following annual summaries:

Number of employees	1,275
Salaries and wages	\$ 8,000,000
Net sales	19,600,000
Real and personal property taxes	267,000
Severance taxes	75,000
Local purchase	5,700,000
(excluding logging contractors)	
Investment increase 1962-67	264%

The greatest opportunity for expansion through use of Union County's forest resources lies in the direction of greater product diversification and refinement.

Water

Union County has a large undeveloped water resource. Some development occurred more than a hundred years ago. But interest in water development was low until recent years. The northeast Oregon regional development study conducted by Larry Smith and Associates in 1964 showed that one of the greatest potentials in the area is water development.

In 1964 agricultural census reported that irrigated acreage jumped 40% during the five-year period from 1959 to 1964. In 1959, 27,073 acres were irrigated; in 1964, 39,431 acres.

To date nearly all water development has been from private capital. Recent private developments include pumping from rivers and streams and irrigation wells.

Several major public projects are under consideration. The Grande Ronde project, which includes dams on Catherine Creek and Grande Ronde River, will provide full-season irrigation water to nearly 100,000 acres in the Grande Ronde Valley. The Wolf Creek watershed project will provide supplemental irrigation water to 8,000 acres in the North Powder community. A watershed project is also under consideration in the Elgin area.

Approximately 67% of the runoff in the Grande Ronde drainage occurs between March 1 and July 1. The stream is nearly dry during August and September. Full development of water potential requires storage dams. The Grande Ronde river dam and the Catherine Creek dam have been authorized by Congress for construction by the Corps of Engineers. The Bureau of Reclamation will provide the irrigation works. The Wolf Creek project will be constructed under the direction of the Soil Conservation Service and Wolf Creek Water Control District. All proposed projects are multipurpose. They provide irrigation, flood control, recreation, industrial, and municipal benefits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee submits the following recommendations:

- The development of our water resources, making optimum use of these resources should be completed as rapidly as possible.
- The county should expand its support wherever necessary to bring about the early utilization of water.
- Full irrigation at a cost based on present crops of wheat, peas, grass seed, pasture, and alfalfa should be developed.
- More federal and state support for water resource development is needed urgently.

- Water resource committees, chambers of commerce, farm organizations, and other interested groups should work together to promote the investigation, planning, and construction of all economically feasible water-development projects.
- Further investigation is needed of possible nonconsumptive use sites, such as Jubilee and Morgan lakes. These not only provide maximum recreation, but provide some downstream water through percolation in the summer months.
- With increasing demands for water, it will be imperative that efficient irrigation methods be used. Fortunately, most areas of the county are adapted to sprinkler irrigation.
- The county should investigate dedicated federal and state recreation funds that become available for water development.

THE GRANDE RONDE PROJECT

- Early construction of the Catherine Creek and Grande Ronde dams is needed to develop fully the agricultural potential of the Grande Ronde Valley.
- These multipurpose dams will also provide needed flood control, recreation, industrial, and municipal benefits to the valley.
- The committee urges Congress to appropriate funds to the Corps of Engineers for planning and construction of these two dams.
- The committee also urges Congress to continue to fund the Bureau of Reclamation for completion of the irrigation distribution plan. It is requested that construction funds for this phase of the project be provided as needed.
- The committee urges that the dams and distribution system be funded and construction simultaneously.
- Necessary irrigation districts should be formed to utilize fully irrigation water from these two storage reservoirs.
- Modern farming methods require more than 160 acres for economical farming of crops produced under irrigation in the Grande Ronde Valley. Any irrigation development should be based on an economic unit.
- The Grande Ronde project should provide for a maximum irrigation development period of 10 years.
- Irrigation water costs should be based on present irrigated crops of wheat, peas, grass seed, pasture, and alfalfa.

SMALL WATERSHED PROJECTS

- An early completion of the dams and irrigation works associated with the Wolf Creek project is strongly recommended.
- The committee supports the Elgin watershed investigation. The county court is to be commended for supporting this project.
- There are some potential dam sites on the tributary streams of the Grande

Ronde River and Catherine Creek. These should be fully investigated. Clover Creek and Jimmy Creek in the North Powder area are also in this category. Some of these could be developed as private water projects. Others might be developed as small watershed projects. Many of these sites are catalogued in reports compiled by the state resources board.



The possibility of increasing water development through wells was investigated by the Water Committee. This 1,000 ft. well with pumping lift of 200 ft., came into production in 1967 on the Wes and Charles Kliphardt farm near Alicel. The conference recommended full development of Union County water resources.

WELL DEVELOPMENT

- Some areas in the Grande Ronde Valley contain a large volume of underground water suitable for irrigation, industrial, and municipal uses.

- Underground water supplies in other areas of the county are still in need of investigation before certainty of well development.
- As data is collected, the geological report on the Grande Ronde Valley should be updated.
- Wells in some areas offer opportunity to provide drainage as well as irrigation water.

DRAINAGE

- Any water development should recognize the possibility of aggravating drainage problems. Such developments should provide any drainage required in future years.
- In some areas of the county drainage will increase agricultural productivity. Farmers should consider the value of drainage works. ACP cost sharing is available for many of these projects.

WATER QUALITY

- Water-quality control must be a necessary part of any future water developments.
- Oregon now has water-control standards which have been approved by the United States Department of the Interior.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Everyone benefits from water developments. Economic growth, recreation, flood control, and other public benefits should be emphasized in discussing water projects.
- Cooperation between all water uses is essential for future development.

The committee is indebted to Mr. Chris Wheeler, state engineer, and Mr. Quentin Bowman of the state water resources board, for providing valuable information in the preparation of this report.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the committee realizes that water is one of our most important resources. Because water problems are technical and complex, this report is brief and of a general nature. The committee is aware that some aspects of the water situation may have been overlooked. However, as our water resources are developed, if such matters as conservation, multipurpose beneficial use, good public relations, and sound economics are kept in mind, our problems should not be as big as they might seem.

Mineral Resources

This committee views the mineral potential of Union County with optimism and recommends an alert attitude toward capitalizing on this resource.

Listed here in order of their importance are mineral and related resources worthy of note: (1) gravel and sand; (2) basalt, scoria, volcanic cinder, and diatomite; (3) geothermal (hot springs) resources; (4) fertilizer industries; (5) ornamental building stones; (6) tours of natural geologic features; and (7) metallic ore.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This committee highly recommends the immediate formation of a strong Union County action committee on mineral resources. Such a committee should perform the following duties:

- Initiate and complete an inventory of all clean gravel and sand deposits and do everything possible to see that these deposits be so zoned as to be available for future operations.
- Initiate and complete an inventory of basalt, scoria, volcanic cinders, diatomite, peat, and vermiculite in Union County and fringe areas.
- Complete work already begun by this committee through Mr. Norman Wagner, state geologist, on our geothermal resources, to develop heating of and power for manufacturing, heating of greenhouses, poultry projects, public buildings, and electric generation.
- Promote mining, manufacturing, processing, and distribution of mineral and related resources from our deposits. (Examples: prefabricated concrete beams, floors, walls, concrete pipe, fertilizers, asphalt concrete, pumice and concrete blocks.)
- Support tourism and related business. This committee wishes to assist the State of Oregon Highway Department to establish a state park to include the rock wall near Elgin—a geologic rift—and neighboring Jones Butte and adjacent fossil beds.

This committee has collected a considerable packet of pertinent information, maps, and statistics for use by the action committee.

Wildlife

SITUATION

Union County possesses a wide variety of fish and wildlife within its boundaries. This would include animals from the largest elk to the smallest songbird.

The most notable of the big game species in the county are deer and elk. Upland game species includes wild turkeys, pheasants, quail, grouse, chukar partridge, Hungarian partridge and doves. Waterfowl includes ducks and geese.

Waters in Union County, ranging from the high mountain lakes and streams to the valley ponds and intermittent creeks, provide a wide variety of fishlife and resulting recreational opportunities for the angler.

The fish species found in the county include chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, brook trout, golden trout, black bass and many other warm water fishes.

It has been predicted by some experts that recreation in all its forms will be Oregon's number one industry. Hunting and fishing will be one of the most important forms of this recreation. Union County, with its wide variety of hunting and angling opportunities, figures to be one of the more important counties in the state in this industry.

During the 1966 hunting season, the last year for which figures are available, 11,094 elk hunters hunted in Union County and harvested 1,827 elk. During the same year, 5,998 deer hunters bagged 3,753 mule deer in the county. This is just one example of the impact that wildlife makes upon the people and economy of Union County each year.

Each year the land and water in Union County is suitable to support fish and wildlife shrinks in size while the demand for this fish and wildlife by hunters and anglers increases. Here lies the great challenge facing the people of Union County and those public agencies charged with the management of fish and wildlife. How to meet this increasing demand for fish and wildlife and still not conflict seriously with the other land and water uses of the county? It is evident to the wildlife committee that this is going to require the fullest cooperation of all interested parties. It is to this end that the committee has made its recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The committee recommends that landowner-wildlife relationship problems be resolved by cooperative meetings between landowners, sportsmen and wildlife department personnel.
- It is recommended that private land purchases by public agencies for fish and wildlife purposes be carried on only after consultation with parties directly affected and after consideration of the present use of land is given.

- It is recommended that more emphasis be put on quality hunting and less on quantity hunting.
- It is recommended that a study be made to determine the contribution that fish and wildlife makes to the economy of the county annually.
- That range management programs on public and private lands be on a coordinated and cooperative basis to obtain maximum yields in forage without being detrimental to the range use.
- That deer and elk numbers be held at such a level that conflicts with other land uses are held to a minimum. (Most members of the committee agreed that as the available big game range diminishes, big game numbers should not be increased on the remaining range.)
- Support be given to obtain legislation that would make revocation of hunting and angling licenses mandatory in cases of conviction for vandalism and destruction of private or public property and certain game and fish law violations.
- Additional game law enforcement officers be assigned to this area.
- A continued study be carried on to determine the effects of pesticides on the fish and wildlife populations of the county.
- The agencies charged with wildlife management look into the feasibility of compensating landowners for providing habitat on their lands specifically game birds.
- A study be made for possible non-consumptive use reservoir sites for angling for the public. Also, the county court is requested to investigate the possibility of obtaining dedicated federal monies for this purpose.

TABLE IV
ELK HUNTERS AND HARVEST — 1956-1966
UNION COUNTY, OREGON

Year	Elk Hunters	Elk Harvest	Percentage Successful
1956	5,019	657	13%
1958	5,625	745	13%
1960	5,927	1,236	21%
1962	7,864	1,343	17%
1964	9,341	2,585	28%
1966	11,094	1,827	16%

Weather & Air Pollution

Accurate predictions are needed for frost protection reports and forecasts for burning conditions for cherry growers and seed growers respectively. This information now comes through Pendleton; information available to the local radio station for frost warnings during the critical period would benefit growers.

Standards are needed for acceptable levels of air pollution. More information is needed by the public and forestry service on burning conditions.

Umatilla County has some rain-generating equipment, one generator being located in Union County. The assessment is 10c per acre for the area involved.

After studying the problem, the committee feels that there is not enough information available to make recommendations on weather modification. However, developments in this field should be watched and considered. Local reporting of weather and weather conditions should be frequent, and radio stations should devote more time to spot announcements concerning frost. Current weather information comes over news wire out of Seattle, and there is no localized weather forecasting.

Forestry service weather reports come from Salem, after being reported through Portland, and there is a delay between reports of local conditions and state approval for burning.

These problems all point to the location of the weather station in Union County to aid in weather prediction, frost warnings, and burning conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends that:

- Every effort be made to have the Weather Bureau station a meteorologist in Union County to develop a base for making decisions on smoke dissipation.
- An official weather station be established in Union County manned by a full-time meteorologist, as soon as possible.
- A system of temperature recording of highs and lows around the valley at numerous points be taken.
- News media provide information on temperature and dew point when the weather report indicates a colder trend.
- An effort be made to maintain the clean quality of our air. Any new industry must comply with state and federal regulations on air pollution, and every effort should be made to utilize the waste products of our existing industries.

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General Chairman

Ernest J. Kirsch, Co-Extension Agent
La Grande, Secretary

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J. Dale Standley, La Grande
John McKinnis, Imbler
Harlow Speckhart, La Grande
Gordon W. Clarke, La Grande
Norman Koopman, La Grande
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Ed Draper, Island City
Clayton Fox, Imbler
Merton Kuhn, La Grande
Tom Lampkin, North Powder
Terry Lincoln, La Grande
Odin Miller, Union

Frank Nims, Cove
Al Peters, Union
Doyn Price, La Grande
Dean Puckett, Cove
Ben Robinson, Imbler
Glen Sands, Cove
Harlow Speckhart, La Grande
Carl Webster, La Grande
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Ron Bayes, La Grande
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Mrs. Robert Fallow, La Grande
Mrs. Robert Brogoitti, La Grande
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Bernal Hug, Elgin
Carl Helm, La Grande
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Bob Becker, Cove
Ed Draper, Island City
Bill Howell, Imbler
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Ted Hunter, La Grande
Don Guyer, La Grande
Forest Gray, La Grande
Noel Scott, Elgin
Carl Nelson, La Grande

Bob Wilkins, La Grande
Lloyd Bronson, Union
Mrs. Robert Carey, La Grande
Mrs. Pete Ramey, La Grande
Mrs. John Paulsen, La Grande
Eva Wear, La Grande

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Dave Baum, La Grande
Chairman
Willard Patterson, La Grande
Bill Carey, La Grande
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John Sullivan, La Grande

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