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BAN FERNOMANIACS

By Charles V. Stanton

Keep Oregon Green officials are waging war this season on "fernomania," those people who each year set fire to forest lands to destroy the brown, bracken-fern covering of hillsides.

Last year, it is pointed out, fernomania destroyed 1,800 acres of forest land, and the year before 25,000 acres were burned over "when these match-happy fernomania went on the loose."

Dr. O. R. Chambers, head of the psychology department at Oregon State college, in a press release reports:

A fernomania isn't exactly a criminal. He has a delusion that by setting fire to fern patches he can destroy these deep-rooted plants which grow throughout western Oregon and Washington. I feel certain that if the potential victims of this spring-time seizure could be injected with factual information on effects of fire on fern, the malady would in due course disappear.

For instance, why not tell these fernomania, or people suspected of having these tendencies, that fire doesn't kill the fern, but does kill out the valuable natural grasses, and the young trees; that following these spring fires worthless brush and more fern will most certainly come up? The deep rooted fern is not killed out by fire, so comes right back in with vigor characteristic of the spore-like plant.

An old fern patch is an unsightly thing about this time of year. Last year's growth has died down and the new growth is just starting. There is a strong temptation to destroy the old, dead ferns, often mistakenly believing that such fire would kill ferns and permit grasses to grow undisturbed. The facts, however, are just the reverse, for fire does not damage ferns, but is apt to kill off shallow-rooted grass, while the blaze, most certainly, is highly destructive to small trees.

Many people believe that ground burning is beneficial in our forests. This was a favorite practice among stock-growers in early days. They would set out huge forest fires, killing off undergrowth and destroying forest litter. Thus they promoted better range for cattle.

But in these days we recognize our forests as a continuing crop. We are growing new trees side by side with mature trees. Our hillsides are covered with trees of all size and ages. We are starting new policies of cutting, known as selective logging and sustained yield.

Under selective cutting, only mature trees are taken from a certain section and all immature trees are left undamaged. Sustained yield operates in sections where a large percentage of timber is merchantable, a huge area being divided into blocks, so that by the time the cycle of cutting has been completed in 75 to 100 years, the first block cut will again be ready for logging.

When we permit fires in our forests, even minor ground fires, we are permitting destruction of hundreds of young trees, which, in 75 or 100 years, would, if unmolested, provide raw material for sustained lumber industry.

We are also learning the value of forest litter in keeping soil rich and productive, preserving moisture, maintaining watersheds, etc. Agricultural experts are watching with much interest experiments being conducted in various parts of the country where, instead of deep plowing, farmers are scattering refuse from woodlots, corn and cane fields, etc., over their fields, discing the litter into the surface of the soil and planting their crops. Indications are that such practices are most effective in halting erosion, restoring depleted soil, preserving moisture and preventing loss of topsoil from wind.

When we burn fern patches we are losing valuable fertilizer and lowering productive values of the soil.

Someone, speaking of the cigaret shortage, said recently: "There are not enough cigarets in this great land to start next summer's quota of forest fires." But even with the shortage of cigarets and matches we fear there are still too many people who fail to realize the economic value of our forest lands and who, for reasons of selfishness, carelessness, or pure cussedness, will continue to start fires. Only when the public comes to full realization that every fire is an economic loss, creating higher taxes and loss of payrolls, will the practice of incendiarism be halted. The firebug should be punished, but too often he receives the protection of persons who know his identity but are not sufficiently concerned to give their information to law enforcement agencies. But when all people thoroughly understand the magnitude of his crime and the fact that his nefarious act strikes at the pocketbook of every taxpayer, his activities will be drastically curbed.

The Keep Oregon Green program of education gives promise of eventually bringing about better public understanding and cooperation.

empty, and the idea seems to be that if these times are picked the girl will stand a better chance of coming out of the rush alive and all in one piece.

But the customers are nobody's fools either. Studying the habits of their quarry, as an astute hunter studies the habits of the wild game, they have got onto the system and at likely hours they secrete themselves in dark corners and behind pillars and when the first sale is made they rush in for the kill.

It is to this low estate that the lot of the cigaret smoker has fallen in these perilous days.

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Lax Lawmaker

SALT LAKE CITY, March 13.—(AP)—State Rep. T. Jones started home from the legislature, after 64 days of lawmaking.

However, he didn't get very far before being stopped by a policeman for driving with 1944 license plates on his car.

To Make Official Visit—Mrs. Edna Stanley, grand guardian of the Eastern Star of Oregon, will pay her official visit to Bethel No. 15, of Myrtle Creek, Wednesday, March 14. Parents, Masons, members of the Eastern Star, Secret Dads and members of other adjoining Bethels are cordially invited.

How To Relieve Bronchitis

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel certain laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchia, mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION

for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

U. S. Governor

HORIZONTAL

1 Pictured

governor,

6 Be carried

11 Rejoinder

13 Tapioca-like

15 Entangle

16 Genuine

17 Type of nut

19 Constellation

21 Shop

22 Kind of tide

23 Royal Italian

24 Affirm

26 Wicked

31 Cognomens

33 Prattle

34 To one side

35 Brazilian state

38 Footlike part

39 Muse of

41 Fashion

43 Frighten

45 Stellar body

46 Driver of a

team of horses

VERTICAL

1 Be seated

2 Beautify

3 Simple

4 Facsimile (ab.)

5 Exclamations

6 Harvests

7 Remove

8 Networks

(anat.)

10 County in

Texas

11 Uncommon

12 Symbol for

tantalum

14 Separate

15 He is gover-

nor of

18 Sewing

implements

20 Opera (ab.)

25 Ornamental

flower vessel

27 Princes

28 Edit

29 Phantasm

30 Newspaper

paragraph

32 Caterpillar

hairs

33 Hard blow

(slang)

44 Print measure

45 Stellar body

46 Driver of a

team of horses

47 Remove

48 Networks

(anat.)

10 County in

Texas

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(anat.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle



MOSS
HART



16:15—Music for the Night
10:30—Sign Off

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1945

6:45—Yawn Patrol.

6:55—Schriker Auction.

7:05—News, White King Soap.

7:15—Four H Club.

7:30—State and Local News, Boring Optical.

7:45—The Beehive.

7:55—Rhapsody in Wax.

8:05—Haven of Rest, Crew of Good Ship Grace (ABC-KOOS).

8:20—Give Away, Jambores, Fisher Flouring Mills.

8:45—Musical Market Basket.

9:00—William Lang and the News, Kraml.

9:15—Songs by Marion Downey, Coca Cola Bottling Co.

9:30—About Town, Jesse and Lowell.

9:45—Shoppers Guide, Harbors and Marshall Wells.