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HELP FIGHT FIRES

By Charles V. Stanton

What would you do if you saw a forest fire just getting started?

We well recall the first time we had to answer that question with action.

Fishing in high country following an electrical storm, we discovered a "sleeper" fire starting to awaken. Lightning had set fire to a partly buried log. Sparks from the log had ignited nearby grass and litter. The fire was just getting a start. Had we waited to get to a telephone, the fire would have raged reproduction timber and raged into nearby virgin forest.

We had no tools or equipment with which to fight the blaze, but we did have a felt fishing hat. Dashing frantically back and forth between a nearby stream and the fire, carrying a hatful of water on each trip, we succeeded after a few minutes of hard work in stopping the spread of the fire on its outer perimeter and then stomped out the smoldering embers. We dampened the spark-throwing log, and scooped up loose sand and dirt to cover partially the exposed end.

After resting long enough to get the tremble out of our knees and regain our breath, we hurried back to our car and drove to the nearest forest ranger station, several miles away. A fireman took instructions as to location of the blaze while on the dead run, gathering up fire fighting tools. Prepared for action, he took off over rough roads at the highest speed his car would permit. Later, he looked us up at our camp with a word of thanks and reported that the smoldering log was just about ready to blaze again when he arrived on the scene.

Fire Reporting Instructions Given

Not many people ever have the experience of arriving at the scene of a fire in time to stop it by single handed action. Usually the rapid spread of a blaze requires work by experienced fire fighters equipped with proper tools and machinery. The public CAN help most materially, however, by reporting fires promptly. Every minute gained in fighting a fire means that it can be controlled more easily.

Urging public assistance, the Keep Oregon Green association has issued a bulletin entitled "How To Report A Forest Fire."

Here is the simple set of instructions every citizen is urged to follow:

Go to the nearest telephone. Tell the operator you wish to report a forest fire. She will connect you with the nearest fire warden or ranger.

Tell the fire warden the approximate location of the fire. Give landmarks, crossroads or identifying aids to help orient the fire. Do not report the fire if men already are fighting it.

Telephone operators are urged to cooperate and save the time of fire headquarters dispatchers by advising the citizen if the fire already has been reported.

We would like to add another suggestion: As you drive along highways, county or forest roads, observe locations of ranger and guard stations. They usually are plainly marked.

On two occasions we have spotted new forest fires and, having recalled that we had passed a guard station only a few miles back, turned around and carried word to the firefighters in less time than it would have taken to find a telephone.

Here in Douglas county it is not far between saw mills. If you have seen no ranger or guard station, give word of a new fire at the first sawmill you reach. Logging and mill crews are cooperating in fire fighting.

In The Driver's Seat



We little dreamed last Friday morning, when E. J. remarked he must get an electrician to fix the pump, that said electrician would be a nephew from the Rio Grande valley!

I was letting my housework "keep" while I tried to be of use and out over the cement block wall at the spring house. I could hand things and save E. J. climbing in so much. I came back from the mailbox waving an envelope addressed to Chester Martin. "I guess Chet will be here any minute," I said happily.

"Good!" said E. J. and added with a grin, "He'll fix the pump. They don't come any better than Warrens kids!" (And how pleased Chet was to grab a wrench, turn this or that, and presto—that was it!)

When the mail came, the pump was setting on the ground; still no water in our pipes. But by the time our dear lad's cheerful grin and soft Texan drawl greeted us, E. J. had managed to get the pump back, alone, and there was water once more in the pipes. How good it seemed to visit. Three years since we had seen him.

Friends were taking him with them on a six weeks' trip. After we met them it didn't seem so extraordinary that they had driven 1400 miles to "pick him up!" They would—and think nothing of it!

Chet is one of these people who is always lending a hand, always doing the little something extra that is so natural for him. The whole family is like that. So when the Brownlows from Illinois needed a special light in their big trailer, they spend the winters in Allen, Texas—they ordered it from our brothers shop. Chet happened to draw the installation order that day. As the Brownlows told it: "He was such a pleasant chap. We got to talk about fishing. He said he'd bring us some fish, but we didn't think much about it. Then one night, here he came, with some dandy fish. . . Well, next thing we knew we were visiting out at their place. . . We went fishing together. And when we planned this trip we thought we'd enjoy having him with us. So we went back down to Texas again and picked him up instead of going directly from Little York (Illinois) to California."

America Needs Quality For Victory; Quantity Is No Longer Sufficient

By Bruce Bioassat

American troops in Korea are not battle-hardened veterans. They're green soldiers struggling against great numerical odds with insufficient and ineffective weapons.

These men were garrison troops in occupied Japan, not even thoroughly trained for combat. Despite these extreme handicaps, they are inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in an often valiant rear guard action.

The hard truth is, however, that the Korean war imposed such disadvantages upon them because the U.S. Army is almost totally lacking in combat effectiveness fit for 1950 warfare. Taking assurances from comfortable prophecies that Russia couldn't fight a war until at least 1952, we at home shrugged off the task of building a real defense.

There's another unpleasant fact we must digest: even if we had equal numbers and equal equipment, that would be no guarantee of victory.

Writing in the Saturday Evening Post, Hanson Baldwin, New York Times military expert, declares we won World War II not because we had the best soldiers in the world but because, with our allies and our huge industrial output, we mounted the biggest military machine. Baldwin says:

"Given equal armament and equal numbers, the enemy usually won. Our victories were fashioned out of overwhelming superiority in weight of metal and in numbers."

To be sure, he adds, we had some crack fighting units, some good leaders and some fine equipment. On the sea and in the air, we gained a few key triumphs over stronger enemy forces. But generally, says Baldwin, our land forces didn't measure up in basic fighting quality.

"Captured enemy intelligence documents repeatedly mention the lack of aggressiveness of the American infantry," he writes. "Our own training program constantly tried to step up the battlefield initiative of our troops."

Baldwin also asserts that our generalship, though usually good, seldom merited the label "best."

And he runs through a long catalogue of weapons to show we frequently fell short of the enemy and our allies in the quality of our arms. Moreover, he insists we still lag in such vital categories as tanks, tactical aircraft, artillery, rockets, anti-aircraft and self-propelled guns, and new aircraft carriers.

But against all the deficiencies of men and equipment, Baldwin balances these military virtues: "Intelligence and initiative were

American strong points. . . . In general education, mechanical aptitude, technical skills and factory output, we were greatly superior."

Too, he says, we had some of the best equipment in every field, generally where commercial use aided technical advances. And in construction, engineering and supply, "our services wrought minor miracles."

These virtues suggest why our soldiers may not be the world's best. The qualities they do have are those exalted and developed by a peace-loving people. Ours is not a military civilization dedicated to the soldier, as was the case in Germany and Japan.

If war came to our soil, if our freedom were directly threatened, there's little doubt how we would fight. What we must realize is that with Russia grasping for power everywhere, American soil is indeed menaced by every Soviet breach of the peace. For today we are the real enemy—the only enemy with strength.

Against colossal Russia, numbers and material substance would not necessarily be on our side. To be ready for such an adversary, we must have both quality and quantity in men and arms. The higher virtues of a peace-loving people are not enough in this crisis.

Idaho Insurance Head Dismissed By Governor

BOISE.—(AP)—Gov. C. A. Robins has dismissed James Hubbard as State Insurance commissioner.

The governor's action followed a recommendation from the Ada county grand jury that Hubbard be dismissed "to protect the people of the state and the insuring public."

In its report, the grand jury said, in part:

"We conclude that the said department of insurance is in a chaotic condition, and that the commissioner of said department is not qualified to conduct the business imposed upon him by the laws of the state of Idaho."

Cop Uses Psychology To Nab Two Bad Boys

SPOKANE.—(AP)—Detective V. M. Morgan found a quick solution to a burglary—with the help of the culprits.

Morgan was taking the report of a burglary when he saw two Indian youngsters walking back and forth in front of the store. The police car parked at the curb was taking up all their attention.

Acting on a hunch, he confronted them with, "Now boys, you know you've done something wrong."

The boys—brothers aged seven and nine—let loose a stream of tears and howled in unison, "We won't do it again."

Morgan recovered the loot which included a can of snuff, two pipes, \$2 and some candy.

Down at juvenile headquarters they were in for punishment—probably a severe lecture.

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SHORT SLACKS

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Plaid trimmed, 8-oz. 10 to 16

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Penney's

In The Day's News

By Frank Jenkins

(Continued from Page One)

flatlands TO PUSAN. From Kwangju, Pusan is only 120 air miles distant. Pusan is the big port we are using to supply our whole Korean campaign.

IF THE REDS SHOULD BOOM EASTWARD FROM KWANGJU AND TAKE PUSAN, OUR WHOLE EFFORT IN KOREA WOULD BE ENCIRCLED AND TRAPPED.

I think it probably won't get that bad. I certainly HOPE it won't get that bad. But the Communists have us heavily outnumbered, and the long history of war tells us that the side with the most men and the most weapons on the battlefield and immediate reserve usually wins the battle.

MEANWHILE—
In Washington—
"Members of Congress called today on top military leaders for an appraisal of the nation's fighting readiness. AND FOR AN ACCOUNTING OF THE BILLIONS SPENT ON DEFENSE SINCE 1947."

"Chairman Vinson of the House Armed services committee says in advance of the inquiry his committee is launching that the big question the Pentagon planners will be asked is:

"WHAT HAVE THE ARMED FORCES TO SHOW FOR THE 48 BILLION DOLLARS THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOTTED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS?"

Congress, badly scared, along

ing big, said nothing about military "liberation" to oust the western occupation armies.

They apparently were driving for new forms of political agitation to sabotage western occupation policies and revive Communism's broken-down fortunes in West Germany, where the Reds have slumped with each succeeding election.

These schemes were hatched during the recently concluded annual convention of the Russian zone's Socialist unity (Communist) party here.

Among the foreign guests at this convention were numerous leaders of the Cominform.

But the Communists, though talk-