

# Fire Guards Learn Protection Of Forests From Experts

## Training School Conducted By Umpqua National Forest At Wolf Creek Ranger Camp

By LEROY B. INMAN

Shaping a group of young, inexperienced men into hardened fire fighters, capable of taking care of themselves and putting out fires in rugged mountain areas is not an easy task. But it must be done, annually, by forest supervisors and rangers, whose task it is to protect our forests to the best of their ability.

The Umpqua national forest headquarters at Roseburg has just completed conducting a special training course for forest guards at the Wolf creek guard station up Little river, about 35 miles from Roseburg. The week previous, the Douglas Forest Protective association held its guard training school, and already the men trained, augmented by seasoned foresters, are being tested in action on the huge Calapooia creek fire east of Sutherlin.

To get an idea what goes on at these training schools, this reporter accompanied Umpqua National Forest Supervisor Robert Aufderheide on the Wolf creek camp. We drove almost to Glide, detouring around new highway construction and turned south on the Little river road, where the county has just completed glass-smooth asphalt macadam paving for a mile and a half, and have oiled another dozen miles.

### Logs Stock Piled

We passed on our right the vast log pond of Associated Plywood where logs are held for winter deck of Roseburg Lumber Company, stacked with logs cut from national forest lands designated for cutting and sold on a per thousand board-foot basis.

Ray Hampton, fire supervisor from the Roseburg office, and in charge of the training program at Wolf Creek guard station, greeted us and explained that 44 young men were being trained in five separate classes—communications, compass and map reading, fire suppression, smoke chasing and fire finding instrumentation.

Some of these men will be used as lookouts. Others will be on guard duty, subject to call when fires occur, while still others will do trail work. The Umpqua National forest's complement of 50 year-around employees is increased to about 150 rangers for the fire season. About 40 of these are employed as lookouts.

**Class Instruction**  
Felix Campbell, communications technician, was conducting a school on communications. Campbell's job during the winter is to repair and keep communications equipment in first class condition during the winter.

He explained that radio now plays a very important part in forest service communication, but was quick to point out that telephones are still indispensable.

FM high frequency, battery-operated radios are used on the lookouts. Batteries operated eight hours daily on a standby basis last about two months, said Campbell. They have a wide range and can be heard from one end of the forest area to the other.

Tuned to these sets at 35,000 kilo-

cycles are handy talkies, which may be carried around by the men in the field. These have a range of from eight to 10 miles and are used chiefly in communicating with lookouts. They have also been used successfully by low flying airplanes, communicating with the lookouts. Lower frequency radios are also used by work crews, but these are not tuned to the lookouts' band.

### Important Phases

While map and compass reading, smoke chasing and fire finding instrumentation are all important steps in preparing the young men in the work and in finding their way about in the mountains, their fundamental work is that of fighting fires. To accomplish this, actual fire suppression training is conducted.

The area near Wolf Creek camp was dry, the humidity low and the temperature hot, but there is no way to learn how to fight fire better than actually fighting it. So a spot fire nearby for each class was set and it was up to the trainees to get to the fire as quickly as possible and put it out.

Wright Mallory, assistant ranger at Tiller on the South Umpqua, was in charge of this phase, assisted by Earl Karlinger, assistant ranger on Diamond Lake district, and Frank Wilson, assistant on the Bohemia district, east of Cottage Grove.

### Trained to Keep Calm

An important step, explained Mallory, is keeping the young recruit calm when he goes on a fire. He told of one young husky fellow who became panicky and began to tremble when a section of the fire seemed to be getting away. He said he took the fellow aside, held his hand and watched the fire burn a few minutes, then showed him what to do.

There are four steps in fire suppression, he explained: first, tell the men what to do and why; second, demonstrate how; third, let them do the job. The fourth test comes when they actually go out on the job to fight fire.

### From Many States

From where, the question was asked, are these men recruited? The answer was, "just about everywhere in the United States."

In the group of 44, two are from West Virginia, one from Maine, one from New Jersey, one from Missouri, and one each from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Arkansas. Several are from California and the remainder from Oregon. Some are high school students or graduates. Some are college graduates.

Alan Sturdivant, a husky youth from Clarksville, W. Va., said, "I studied forestry and graduated from the University of West Virginia this year. I decided the best way to learn forestry was to get out where there are some trees." With him came Bert Toller of Williamson, W. Va., and also a graduate of the state university there. Both agreed they liked Oregon very much. Sturdivant spent a summer in Wyoming and did some fire fighting.

Jack Tykert of New Jersey, but a student at the University of Maine and studying forestry, said, "This is what I really want. I like Oregon, what I've seen of it, and I like the big trees." Forest fire fighting isn't altogether new to him either, as he did some in New Jersey.

### Good Psychology

Setting spot fires and sending the men out on the job is important psychology. They learn how to meet the situation, and how to put the fire out, said Mallory. They learn that fire can be put out completely with dirt and without the

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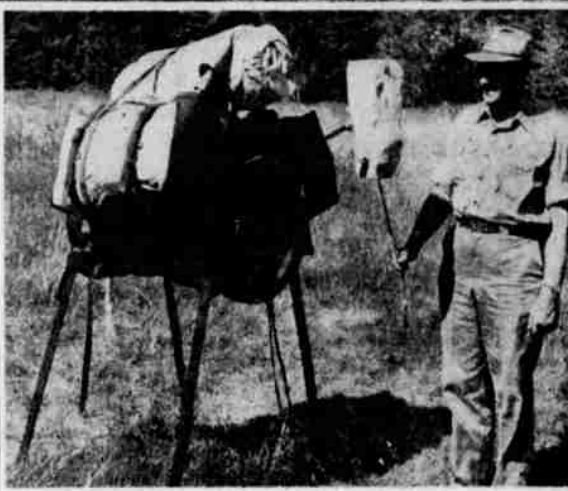
ROSEBURG, OREGON—THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1951

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**FIRE GUARD SCHOOL**—Wolf Creek ranger station was the scene of last week's fire guard training school, conducted by the Umpqua National forest staff.

Pictured, upper left, are supervisor Robert Aufderheide and Ray Hampton, fire supervisor, in front of the cook house. Upper right, Felix Campbell, in charge of communications, conducts a class on use of radios, Handy Talkies and telephones. Lower left, Hampton illustrates how a mule is packed to carry supplies into the mountains. Lower right, how to put out fires is the most important phase of the training, and actual experience is provided. (Staff photos)



## Forest Products Market Report

(Willamette Valley Area)

Second growth sawlog prices showed further signs of weakness in the Willamette Valley during the week ending June 23. Demand continued good however. Dry cascara prices dropped 40 percent. Other forest products continued steady according to the weekly farm forest products market report, prepared by the OSC Extension Service from data supplied by State Farm Foresters and other information.

### DOUGLAS FIR LOGS:

Second growth Douglas fir sawlogs at Willamette Valley mills were slightly weaker at \$30 to \$40 a thousand board feet, mostly \$35 to \$38. Demand remained good during the week, but buyers were more particular about quality. Eight foot logs down to six inch diameter continued in good demand with minor price declines at the upper limits. Prices ranged from \$15 to \$18 a cord or \$35 to \$38 a thousand. Old growth Douglas fir sawlogs were steady at \$32 to \$60, depending on grade. Peellers were \$70 to \$110.

**PULPWOOD:** The pulpwood market was unchanged during the week. Pulp mills in the central and northern valley offered \$20 a cord for peeled spruce and \$19 for peeled Douglas fir, white fir, noble fir, and hemlock 4 and 8 foot lengths down to 4 inch diameter. Unpeeled, these species brought \$2 less. There was a limited offer of \$15 a cord for peeled Douglas fir, white fir, hemlock and pine in 8 foot lengths in the southern valley.

**POLES AND PILING:** Prices of Douglas fir poles and piling were generally unchanged and demand was good at valley pole yards. Peeled poles ranged from 9 cents to 45 cents a linear foot depending on length. For example 30 foot peeled poles were 11 to 12 cents, while 60 foot peeled poles

were 32 to 40 cents. Barkies ranged from 9 cents to 43 cents a foot, and were only 2 cents under peeled prices at one central valley yard. Piling prices were 15 cents to 42 cents a foot for lengths from 20 to 100 feet.

**HARDWOOD LOGS:** Hardwood mills were paying \$30 to \$40 a thousand for alder and ash. Maple ranged from \$30 to \$45. Cottonwood was \$24 to \$28 a thousand. Oak and chinquapin were in limited demand at \$37.50 in the Eugene area.

**OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS:** Dry cascara bark tumbled to 15 cents a pound, 10 cents less than last week. Fern was unchanged at 19 cents a bunch.

## Dillard Grange Holds Meeting

The Evergreen Grange had visitors from the State Grange at a meeting Friday. State Master Elmer McClure and past State Master Ray W. Gill of Portland visited the Grange enroute to California. McClure gave a brief report on the recent State Grange convention held in Portland. Paul Krueger county deputy who was also a guest, requested that grangers pay their yearly dues in the first quarter in order to win the pennant offered by the State Grange for 100 percent payment of dues.

Emery Baker, chairman of the local executive board, reported on clean-up day at the Grange Saturday, June 16. Helpers were Mr. and Mrs. Ross Jenkins, Mr. John Hess, Verne Hixon, Mr. and Mrs. John Lander Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Folmsbee and Mr. Baker. Charles McCord reported he had received a reply from Congress-



## Edwards Predicts Cost Of Academy

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel K. Edwards estimates that the final cost of a proposed air force academy would be around \$148,000,000.

The estimate was contained in a letter to Chairman Vinson (D-Ga) of the house armed services committee. Vinson made it public in introducing an administration bill to establish an air force school at a site yet to be selected.

Edwards said an accurate estimate of construction costs would be made "only after full investigation of the actual site selected for development and a determination of the type architecture and materials to be used." He estimated that the cost of operating the academy for the first year "at limited strength" would be about \$5,000,000.

Vinson's bill provided only \$20,000,000 for the initial outlay.

French Guiana became a prison colony in 1852. Sentences to the notorious colony were abolished by French law in 1938. The site of the former prison colony today is profitably occupied by DP's recruited by the International Refugee Organization.

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## Attention Taxpayers:

The Annual meeting of the Douglas County Taxpayers' League will be held at 10:00 A. M., Friday, June 29th, Circuit Court Room, Court House, Roseburg, Oregon, for the consideration of the 1952 Budget, the election of officers, and such other business as shall properly come before the meeting.

You are vitally interested in the tax picture of Douglas County, and it is only by your attendance at the Budget Meeting of the County, that the County Officials can know your attitude on tax matters. Make it a point to attend this meeting. All Taxpayers are cordially invited to attend.

Douglas County Taxpayers' League  
G. N. Riddle, Pres.

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