

Insect Rivals Fire As Forest Killer

Researcher Reveals Host Of Bug Predators Which Sap Tree Life

BY CHUCK GRELL

The Douglas fir bark beetle, which annually is causing more loss in Douglas County forests than occurs by fire, is only one of 39 insect predators feeding on Douglas fir, according to G. Lloyd Hayes, director of the Siskiyou Cascade Forest Research Center in Roseburg.

Furthermore, the bark beetle currently doing the damage in the forests is but one of seven different bark beetles that attack the Douglas fir.

The infestation was brought about through three factors: three successive winters of heavy blowdown, a long period of hot, dry, long summers, and the big fire season in 1951.

The insects took control because of the weakened condition of the trees.

But the Douglas fir also faces threats from the six other bark beetles, five defoliators, two twig borers, 22 wood borers, two aphids and scale insects and one seed destroyer.

The seed destroyer, the Douglas fir seed chalcid, destroyed one-third of the seed crop in 1953, Hayes said. However, there was a light cone crop, and that situation is more or less normal for a year of light seed production.

Light Years Dangerous He explained that nearly all seed may be destroyed by the fly, which hatches in the cones of the tree, during a light year. In a heavy seed year, the insects do not number enough to reach a great proportion of the seed. Given two or three years, they may increase in numbers, but another light production year will kill the insects by starvation.

The majority of the wood borers may find some value in an unmanured forest, according to Hayes. They do break down windthrows and other forest debris that may prevent fire hazard.

But in a managed forest, they are detrimental to salvage operations. Most of the wood borers are beetles and moths in their adult stages.

The defoliators include the threatening spruce budworm. An epidemic of the budworm was stamped out by aerial spraying north of Roseburg, and spraying operations still are going on in the forest east of the Cascades.

Budworm Killed Out Most of the budworm was on private lands near Roseburg, and 1800 acres were sprayed by an oil solution of DDT before it was killed out. The budworm is the only serious defoliator of the five, which feed on forest foliage.

A threat is posed in Douglas County by twig borers, which attack small trees. An outbreak of the Douglas fir twig weevil is current in the Glendale, Camas Valley and Calapooia sections.

The scale insects and aphids, sucking insects, cause but little harm.

Hayes emphasized that other insects normally live off the Douglas fir, but the 39 named are the most prevalent.

The bark beetle, of course, remains the most serious current threat to the Douglas fir. And it shows the most serious threat in Douglas County, although heavy infestations also are found in Lane, Linn and Coos Counties.

County Heavily Hit In the fall of 1951, the latest year for which Hayes had figures readily available, 689,200 acres of Douglas fir forest in Oregon had "heavy to very heavy" infestations of the beetles, which attack fire-killed and windthrown trees, then spreads to mature trees. Of that amount, 516,900 acres were in Douglas County.

Total acreage with "light to very heavy" infestations in Oregon was 3,047,000. The five Southwestern counties of the state—Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine and Jackson—was hit by the beetle in 2,166,600 acres, or 69 percent of the total.

Throughout Oregon, 24.5 billion board feet of timber was being threatened by the pest and 16.9 billion board feet of that was in Douglas County.

All of the seven bark beetles are not primary killers, which attack even the most vigorous trees in the forests. Some are secondary killers, which kill only the fire and weather damaged trees, and the ones weakened by the summer droughts.

Cash Lack Cited Hayes said: "If as much money was spent each year for fighting

six bark beetles, one defoliator, eight wood borers and the seed beetle.

Most Oregon conifers have insect predators, some serious, but most not. Examples are:

White fir—26 predators, including the spruce budworm and one bark beetle which are regarded as serious.

Port Orford cedar—five predators, none serious.

Incense cedar—12 predators, none highly serious.

Budworm Spruce—16 predators. Strangely enough, they do not include the spruce budworm.

Engelmann spruce—12 predators, including the spruce budworm. A bark beetle infestation in Montana, Idaho and Colorado has brought about a tremendous salvage program, according to Hayes.

Lodgepole pine—29 predators, including two serious bark beetles.

Redwood—five predators.

Hemlock—eight predators, including the spruce budworm.

Hayes said that presence of the insects in the forest actually is in the normal scheme of things. The forests would thrive through the years despite attacks by the predators because weather and other factors would return the balance of nature to the favor of the forests eventually.

But particular notice is given the insects now because of the presence of another predator—man. The forests find economic importance in man's schemes, which do not include competition with the other enemies of the trees.

Copco Plans Project In Myrtle Creek Area

A report to the Myrtle Creek Mail states that California-Oregon Power Co. will spend \$50,000 in the Myrtle Creek area this year.

It states that new electric facilities will be installed the largest item to be a distribution substation at the north end of Oak

Examiner Dated A driver's license examiner will be on duty in Roseburg Thursday and Friday at 343 N. Main St., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., to test prospective drivers.

Californians Visit Tenmile

By LOUISA COATS

Mrs. Ann Berquist of Oakland, Calif., spent the past week visiting her sister, Mrs. Gerda Johnson in Tenmile. She came up with Mrs. Fred Prall and children, who stayed to visit for two days then drove to Woody Island, Wash. Mrs. Berquist returned home by bus on Sunday evening.

Drive To Eugene Mrs. Evelyn Sanquist and son of Camas Valley and Mrs. Warren Lockwood of Tenmile drove to Eugene Monday.

Sixty-eight people attended the Easter program and service at the Tenmile Methodist Church Easter Sunday.

Mrs. Ernest Thomson of Tenmile has just returned home from El Cerrito, Calif., where she has been for the past five weeks caring for her daughter, Mrs. Ernest Strong, and baby girl, Liane.

Attend Services Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Saum and daughters, Sharon and Cuylla, of Reston Road spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Purdy of Roseburg and attended the early morning Easter service and church Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Heater and daughter, Sandra, of Happy Valley visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Howard and family Saturday evening. The evening was spent playing cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker Smith of Eden Lane spent Sunday evening at home of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Degner on Reston Road.

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Local News

Discharged From Hospital — Henry Reed, who has been a surgical patient at Community Hospital for the past month, was discharged Friday and is now at his home, on Malloy St. and can receive visitors.

In Corvallis — Mrs. Arthur Rich and three sons, Stanley, Timothy and Jeffery, of Roseburg are visiting for two weeks in Corvallis at the home of Mrs. Rich's mother, Mrs. E. B. Hoerner. While there she will also visit with her friends in Corvallis where the Rich family formerly resided.

Move To New Home — Mr. and Mrs. Andrew D. Fisher have moved into their newly completed home on Del Rio, below Winchester.

Mrs. Fisher is chief operator at Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company and Mr. Fisher is a salesman in specialized parts for St. Dillard Motor Company.

Houseguest — Mrs. Beatrice Walters of Vancouver, B. C., was a houseguest of her cousin, Mrs. Rex Jones, 1002 Winchester St., Thursday and Friday. Mrs. Walters left by bus Saturday for Seattle, where she will visit for a few days with relatives and friends before returning to her home.

Attend Spring Shoot — Medford Rod and Gun Club held a registered Western Spring Zone Shoot Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Medford. It was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Gilkeson, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Krusen, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Short, Mr. and Mrs. Chub Handy and Mr. and Mrs. Enos Handy, all of Roseburg.

Moving From Roseburg — Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McAlvin, Foothill Drive, have sold their home and are moving with their two children, LoAnn and Jimmy, to Arlington, Calif. where they have purchased an appliance store. Mr. McAlvin has been administrator at Community Hospital since its opening date. They will leave Roseburg Wednesday.

MNO Meeting May 13 — Instead of meeting tonight, the MNO Club will meet May 13 at the home of Mrs. W. R. Casebeer.

Myrtle Creek Minister Planning To Retire

Rev. Leo Horner, minister of the Myrtle Creek First Christian Church for the last three years, will quit his post before July 1, according to the Myrtle Creek Mail.

The young minister will move his family to Indianapolis, Ind., where he will continue his studies of theology to attain a bachelor of divinity degree. He previously attended Northwest Christian College at Eugene.

A successor has not yet been found for Horner.

Don Parr To Broadcast KOAC Elementary Sing

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, (Special) — "The Big Broadcast," elementary school chorus which will be broadcast from McArthur Court April 23 from 1:15-1:45 p.m. over KOAC, will include several thousand children within the KOAC area.

Among the University students taking part in the broadcast will be Don Parr, announcer, from Roseburg.

REDS SLAY YOUTH

BRUNSWICK, Germany (AP) — West German Police reported Saturday that Communist border guards shot and killed a 17-year-old East German youngster Friday night as he was trying to flee into West Germany.

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3 Night Spots Being Improved

Three Roseburg night spots are undergoing renovations in anticipation of awarding of the liquor by the drink licenses.

The new Skyroom, under the management of Kitty Lee, is to have its grand opening on Monday night.

Formerly the Vets Club, the Skyroom is offering one of the largest night club dance floors in the state, continuous floor entertainment, completely draped walls and ceiling. It is located at 115 W. Washington St.

Renovations also are being planned for the Umpqua Lounge in the Hotel Umpqua. A new marquee on Oak Street is to be built when weather permits, according to co-owner Emil Ramberg. Entrance to the lounge also is to be widened. Improvements will cost \$50,000, Ramberg said.

Entertainment also is planned there later, and food is to be served. Asa Arnsberg, Portland, is the other owner. A grand opening is scheduled for May 9, although the lounge is open for business now.

The New Rose Room in the

ENTERS MEDICAL SCHOOL

Alstrup Johnson, son of Alstrup Johnson Sr., 427 W. Mother St., Roseburg, is one of 96 students accepted to the 1953-54 freshmen class in the school of medicine at the College of Medical Evangelists at Loma Linda, Calif. Johnson took his pre-medical courses at Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif.

Hotel Rose will have its grand opening on May 4, according to Manager Frank Bodin. It currently is being finished, with completion scheduled next week. Improvements will cost about \$8000. Capacity will be 20 to 22, Bodin said.

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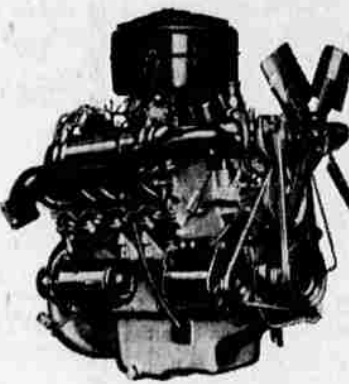
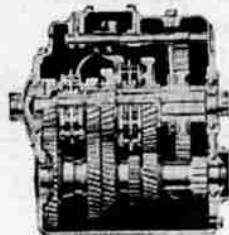


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