

Huge Douglas Fir Tree Has Fallen Before Humming Saw

LONGVIEW (AP) — Another towering sentinel of the evergreen forests of Southwest Washington has fallen before the humming saws of Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. loggers.

This tremendous Douglas fir — 12 feet, 2 inches through at the stump end — was cut last week in Weyerhaeuser's Gray's River operations in Pacific County.

The 24-foot butt log alone scaled 11,300 board feet, which would provide enough lumber for a five-room house. The 224-foot tree was cut into seven logs.

Weyerhaeuser representatives said it took a pair of fallers, using a power saw, four hours to topple the Gray's River tree. The logs were skidded down hill to the truck road by a tractor with an arch. The logs will be hauled by truck 16 miles to the company's dump at Dee River. There the logs will be rafted and moved 60 miles to Longview.

Logging lore has a Douglas fir in British Columbia ranked as the largest ever cut in the Northwest. Historians record that this tree, logged in 1895, was 417 feet tall, 300 feet to the first limb and 25 feet in diameter at the butt. The towering tree was located near North Vancouver, B.C. But, there has been some controversy about it.

In the 1940s a 586-year-old fir was cut in the Packwood region southwest of Mt. Rainier. Its top lost in some storm, the giant still

stretched upward for 196 feet and was 12 feet, 3 inches through at the butt. It was consigned to a plywood plant.

Another big Weyerhaeuser tree was cut in the Vail operations of Thurston County back in 1926. It measured 22 feet in diameter at the stump. Still another big tree was found near Mineral after it fell in a 1929 windstorm. It measured 15 feet, 4 inches at the base. Another 13-footer was located in the Queets River valley of the Olympic National Park. Then, too, there is the famous Clatsop tree in Clatsop County, Oregon, near the Coast Highway. It is 15 feet, 5 inches at breast height.

Van Fosson Pleads Innocent To Charge Of Taking Papers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rea S. Van Fosson, one-time Air Force officer and House committee investigator, has pleaded innocent to charges of making off with a secret government document.

The 35-year-old Van Fosson appeared before U. S. Dist. Judge Matthew F. McGuire to enter his plea to three charges of violating federal laws.

McGuire set Monday, Nov. 28, for the start of Van Fosson's trial, which his attorney, Edward Bennett Williams, said likely will last 4 weeks.

The Air Force document was alleged to involve Jay Lovestone, at one time head of the Communist Party in the United States.

Van Fosson resigned as an Air Force captain last November in the midst of a furor over the turning-over of the document to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The next day, Van Fosson took a job with the committee at \$8,500 a year. He lost the post in January. He was arrested last Aug. 11 at his home in suburban Silver Spring, Md.

Radford Stresses No Major Change In Arms Planned

By MARVIN L. ARROWSMITH
DENVER (AP) — Despite an apparent slip of the tongue on figures by Adm. Arthur W. Radford, his office says no major change in defense spending now is planned. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, himself said as much recently after conferring with President Eisenhower. He created a bit of confusion, however, by mentioning a figure of \$37,750,000,000 for the current basic military program. At another point he indicated to newsmen he expects the total to be between 34 and 35 billion.

To questions raised after Radford had departed, his office said the admiral meant what he said in stating no major change was in prospect.

After an hour-long conference with Eisenhower, Radford told newsmen that from a national security standpoint the United States "was never better off." He said he and the President discussed national security problems, including military spending.

His remarks on the security picture were in response to a request for comment on former President Truman's assertion that "the cuts in our ground forces are unjustified and most dangerous at this time."

ACCIDENTS REPORTED

SALEM (AP) — Traffic accidents took 40 lives in Oregon during August, or five more than in August, 1954, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry said Friday.

First Shipment Uranium Ore From State Slated

LAKEVIEW (AP) — The first shipment of uranium ore mined in Oregon from the state is scheduled for shortly after Sept. 22.

On that date a new Interstate Commerce Commission rail rate for the mineral takes effect on the Southern Pacific between here and Kalumite, Utah, where the Vitrol Co. has a smelter.

Four carloads will be shipped from the Lucky Lass mine where it has been stockpiled by the owners, Chas. Shelton and Robert Adams. They want to determine the commercial value of their ore. Their claims are among several promising ones staked recently in this Southern Oregon area.

The SP filed the new rate Friday after Shelton and Adams announced they would make the shipment.

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