

3000 Firemen Battle Blazes In California

United Press International
More than 3,000 firemen today came close to controlling the last of a series of major forest fires that destroyed an estimated 45,000 acres of valuable timber and watershed in Northern California during the weekend.

The State Fire Dispatcher's office in Sacramento reported 80 per cent control over the two largest timber fires still out of control in El Dorado National Forest, scene of the heaviest loss. Both of the blazes are in the Placerville area. A 16,000-acre fire at Ice House and a 7,600-acre fire at Jaybird.

Fire fighters today stemmed a 14,000-acre blaze near the Yuba County community of Camptonville. The fire destroyed a forest service lookout station and several cabins near the community of Pike.

The three huge blazes have destroyed nearly 40,000 acres, or 400 million board feet of timber, enough to build 25,000 standard homes. Officials have estimated damage this weekend at more than 10 million dollars.

The only remaining sizeable forest fire still out of control in Northern California had burned 1,000 acres four miles west of Blocksburg in Humboldt County. With the aid of lower humidities, fire fighters were reported to have the blaze 90 per cent controlled.

Forestry officials said that the flames during the weekend were expected to decrease. They hoped for control over the three remaining blazes by late afternoon.

Advise Registrants In Political Course
John Sullivan, chairman of the national affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce, has asked that anyone interested in participating in the non-partisan "Action Course in Practical Politics" register at the chamber office by Nov. 10.



BOY SCOUT AWARDS

Paul Jenkins, Mt. Emily Boy Scout executive, left, presents Life awards to Ivan Hibbert, Troop 113; John Wallsinger, Troop 109; Lynn Waite, Troop 113, and A. B. (Spud) Olson, institutional representative of Post and Troop 114, Presbyterian Church, during Boy Scout court of honor at LDS church Friday night. (Observer)

Court Of Honor Here Sees Many Awards Tended To Boy Scouts

Mt. Emily District officials of the Boy Scouts of America were present at a court of honor held at the LDS church here Friday night during which special awards and recognition were given Boy Scouts and their leaders.

Paul Jenkins, district Boy Scout executive, served as master of ceremonies for the colorful affair which saw Boy Scouts in attendance also from Union.

One of the features of the night was the second annual uniform inspection under the direction of Jack Lew, district commissioner, and Bill Lee, Bob Wilkins and Bob Orr.

Jenkins told the parents present why a uniform inspection was necessary and explained this particular phase of the Scouting program.

Olson In Charge
Conducting the court of honor was A. B. (Spud) Olson, institutional representative, Post and Troop 114, Presbyterian church. This included recognition of Tenderloin, awards to Second and First Class Scouts, Star awards and the Life and Silver Palm.

Lee Reynolds gave a talk on the Boy Scout Jamboree, while Lou Kyler, council president, stressed the personal award as a membership incentive.

Kyler made a special presentation to Troop 8 of Union, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars post there, for being the first to reach their goal.

Awards Presented
Awards were presented to the Verrinch, Troop 112; Keith Pumphrey, Troop 45; Turk Ballard, Troop 85; Ronnie Drake, Troop 85, and Troop 114 members Floyd Shenfeld, Arthur Beasley, Allan Waite, Bob Breyles, Dennis Cooper and John Huntsman, Charles Snyder, institutional representative, Lions club, was in charge.

First Class awards: Pat Gavin, Troop 114; Rusty Lew, Troop 114; Leo Nebeker, Troop 113; Wayne Westenskov, Troop 113; Steven Nebeker, Troop 113, and Bud Cokrell, Troop 85. Edward Watts, executive board member of the council, was in charge.

Star awards: Lynn Waite, Troop 113, and John Wallsinger, Troop 109. Dr. Ernest C. Anderson, president of Union Stake of the LDS church, was in charge.

Life award: Ivan Hibbert, Troop 113, with Judge W. F. Brown in charge.

Eagle Palm award: Bill Lee, Explorer Post 110, with C. Richard Neely Jr. committee member of the post, in charge.

Merit Badges
Merit badges went to the following: Russell Browning, for rowing, cloth; Jerry True, for first aid, cloth; Larry Ammons, for fishing, cloth, and Samuel Miller, for rowing, cloth all in Troop 110, Union.

Hearings on all cases were scheduled for 3 p.m. today.

Legal Threat Against City In New Sewage Plant Site

Elk Hunter Accidentally Shoots Self

Gordon Hoffer, 23, is reported in good condition at the Grande Ronde Hospital here after suffering a gunshot wound in the leg while hunting late yesterday afternoon in the Palmer Junction area.

State Police said that the wound was caused by a .44 magnum pistol. Palmer Junction is about 15 miles north of Elgin. The victim was brought to La Grande by the Elgin first aid car.



JOHN PETTLEY

School Bus Driver Safety Meet Here

A county-wide school bus drivers' safety conference will be held at the La Grande High School audio visual room at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

County School Superintendent Wilbur Osterloh said that I. M. Luman, director of transportation, State Department of Education, Salem, will conduct the confab. It is expected that all school bus drivers throughout the county as well as administrators in charge of the bus program and local and State Police representatives will be present.

School Heads Confer In Salem Wednesday

A state-wide county superintendents' meeting will be held in Salem Wednesday under auspices of the State Department of Education.

The legislative committee of the county superintendents' association will report at this meeting, according to Wilbur Osterloh, Union County school superintendent.

Humorist Will Address Knife, Fork Membership

John Pettley, London-born Englishman who visited the United States in 1946 to study applications of Meteorology to love-making and promptly fell in love with the country, will be the guest speaker to address the local Knife and Fork club Wednesday night at 7 at the Sacajawea Hotel.

Pettley returned to his native England after a year here but stayed there only a year. Back he came to America, acquired an American wife (now has a family of four) and has lived here since 1948.

He admits American customs and manners stumped him but briefly. They're "the greatest in the world he brags and wouldn't change them for those of any other nation. He will talk to members here on the subject "An Englishman at Large in America," which is a humorous recital of his early experiences in the United States.

Van Doren Says His TV Quiz Shows 'Rigged' All The Way

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Charles Van Doren made a "soul-searching confession" today, all his TV quiz appearances were rigged from beginning to end.

The 33-year-old English instructor who won fame and \$129,000 on the now defunct show "21," made a clean breast of his "deception" during 90 minutes of sometimes emotional testimony before a House subcommittee.

Changing his previous story of innocence because "I could no longer lie," Van Doren admitted under oath that he followed a script written in advance and that he didn't even tell the truth to his lawyer or a grand jury.

Van Doren was dry-eyed and somber as he read a prepared statement to the subcommittee but tears welled in his eyes when he was questioned by members.

Mediators Try Again

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'Trick Or Treat' Is Nightmare For Some

United Press International
Officials totaled up the damage today from a series of vicious pranks and tragic accidents that turned Halloween into a day of needless death and destruction in many parts of the country.

Trick or treat pranks got out of hand in Shreveport, La., where a bomb was set off at a Roman Catholic church, and Fremont, Calif., where someone put nausea pills in children's candy.

Children at Fremont came home with the usual assortments of candy, apples, popcorn and cookies. But many of them also had some mysterious pills.

After gobbling them, the youngsters began vomiting and suffered stomach cramps. Five of the children were violently sick, doctors said.

Pills Traced To Children
Officers questioned the children and traced the pills to a prominent Fremont dentist. He denied the accusations but police said he faced charges of malicious mischief.

A crowd of 150 men and boys turned Halloween into a nightmare for the one-man police force in Arkona, Ont. The mob spent the night throwing rocks and eggs at passing cars and setting bon-

fires on the main street. Elsewhere, youngsters dropped pumpkins on motorists' cars and in one case sent a bulldozer crashing into a home.

Criminals, too, took advantage of the spook-filled holiday. Four thugs wearing Halloween costumes forced their way into a home near Pontiac, Mich., terrorized a babysitter and ransacked the place.

At least two children were killed by cars during Halloween festivities Saturday night, two little girls were criminally assaulted and three youths were shot.

16-year-old Killed
A city electrician at Cahute, Kan., Charles Doudna, shot and killed Jim McCune, 16, an honor student and star athlete. Doudna said he caught McCune and a group of youngsters tipping over a park bench and thought it was his duty to protect city property.

At Pomona, Calif., two other youngsters were shot after yelling "trick or treat" at a young man.

In House, Tex., three small daughters of a doctor were killed from a fire believed started by a Halloween jack-o-lantern left on an upholstered chair in a dining room.



ROUGH ROADS AHEAD

Bud Jones, left, crew leader for Wallowa and Union counties in the 1959 census of agriculture talks with two of his census takers and gives them a bit of advice about the rough territory they have been assigned. Hazel Wilson will cover the region from the Snake River to Joseph and north to the state line. Noel Scott will visit farms in the rough territory north of Elgin. Census takers began canvassing farms this morning. Additional Pictures on Page 7. (Observer Photo)

WHEELCHAIR? NO HANDICAP

Dr. J. B. Gregory, 72, Carries On Medical Practice As Usual

By NEIL ANDERSEN
Observer Staff Writer

A wheelchair is not a handicap, according to Dr. John B. Gregory. And the 72-year-old general practitioner should know. He has been conducting his medical practice, which includes minor surgery, from a wheelchair since shortly after he fell and broke his hip last Aug. 2.

The doctor had been horseback riding with his grandchildren on the farm of his son, John J. Gregory, when the accident occurred. He fell when his heel caught in a hole, fracturing the right hip. Never one to be idle long, the doctor was out of the hospital in nine days and resumed seeing patients on Aug. 30. Two rooms were altered in Dr. Gregory's residence, 1509 Walnut St., and soon were filled with patients.

When the space at home was unable to meet the needs, Dr. Gregory returned to his office at Fourth Street and Spring Avenue

where he goes about his daily business with amazing speed and efficiency in his wheelchair.

Minor Surgery
"Once I get my foot comfortable and by a stool I can do minor surgery," Dr. Gregory said. "Several doctors in town watched me the first day I did surgery sitting down. When it was all over I recommended they try it. It's not bad at all," he said with a trace of a grin.

The doctor is a robust, healthy looking man despite his confinement to the chair. His hair is thinning and turning grey. Bright blue eyes twinkled gaily as he showed the X-rays of the "nail" used to keep his hip in place. He even stood up and moved the leg around.

"It doesn't hurt at all as long as I don't put any weight on it," he grinned.

Dr. Gregory is married and has three children. In addition to his son, John, he has a daughter,

Mrs. Katharin McFarland, and another son, Robert, who is just a month old.

The doctor's desk is cluttered with photographs of his children and grandchildren. On the walls hang pictures of horses drawn by his granddaughter who has a talent for drawing.

Horses His Hobby
Horses play an important role in the doctor's life. The doctor once had a stable of American bred saddle horses. He still keeps three registered horses on his son's farm along with Shetland colts for his grandchildren. With the children's pictures there are photographs of his son John astride the horses that were shown throughout the country.

The doctor was born in Alabama and received his medical degree from the University of Alabama. He practiced for two years in Birmingham before he moved to Wallowa County. He

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DOCTOR IN A WHEELCHAIR

Dr. John B. Gregory continues to conduct his medical practice from a wheelchair although he fell and broke his hip last August. Dr. Gregory is 72 years old and has practiced medicine in Union and Wallowa counties since 1909. The doctor has given up his fishing pastime, horseback riding and the hip mends. (Observer Photo)