

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Fire Destroys Chambers Mill On August 6th

Arson Squad Scouts the Fire Bug Theory, but Unable to Assign Cause.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN \$250,000.

A third costly fire hit this section last Thursday evening when the mill of J. H. Chambers and Son burned to the ground, causing damages according to unofficial estimates in excess of \$250,000. With the mill building, dry kiln and planer shed, five million feet of lumber was destroyed.

The blaze, of undetermined origin, started near the green chain in the mill and whipped by a southwest wind, swept the mill, planer shed, dry kiln, docks and piled lumber in its path. So intense was the heat that traffic on highway 99 was detoured around the Blackbutte highway. Flames jumped the roadway and spread rapidly toward several oil company storage tanks. For a time it appeared as though the tanks might not be saved as well as several dwellings in the path of the fire. Volunteers fought the spreading flames and succeeded in saving property along South Fourth. Flying embers threatened the south part of town as far east as 6th street and is said to have started a grass fire near the Sixth street grocery. One dwelling and most of its contents, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Lorenz, located just south of the mill docks, was destroyed when the docks and lumber piles burned.

A slight shift in the wind was probably responsible for keeping down damage from the fire and saving the retail shed of the Chambers mill. The flames were so hot on the south side of the mill buildings that firemen concentrated their efforts on saving the retail shed and scattering piles of lumber.

Planer foreman, F. G. Dorsey, was painfully but not critically burned for the only casualty of the fire. A truck from the Eugene fire department came down, but arrived too late to be of material assistance since the major part of the destruction had already occurred.

All kinds of wild rumors were current following the blaze as to its cause. Officers checked every clue, but according to early reports had disproved all of the theories that the mill was deliberately set. On the scene to investigate shortly after the fire occurred was Sam Pomaroy, United States fire marshal for Oregon; Capt. Malhorne, Lt. Howard and Lt. Lunksden of the arson squad of the state police. Capt. Malhorne said Saturday that the police had definitely proved that there was no can of gasoline or kerosene near the start or the fire and that there was no cut hose as had been reported a number of times. Officers also scouted the sabotage angle of the fire and also that it might have been caused by a fire bug.

Another theory is that the fire was of accidental nature and was probably started from a spot fire with the aid of the wind, which happened to be blowing just at the right angle for a few minutes.

The present mill, built in 1927, covered a site of nineteen acres. The owners have made no plans other than the decision to operate the mill at Lorane. The Lorane mill placed in operation about a year ago has a daily capacity of about 60,000 feet.

Navy Relief Campaign Nets \$104.40 To Date

The navy relief campaign sponsored by the Cottage Grove Lions club has netted about \$104.40, according to Larry Levens, chairman. The public response was very gratifying considering the fact that no canvass of the community was made. The softball benefit games Friday night netted \$44.40 and the sale of pins about \$60.00.

Vinal T. Randall Jr. was among the twenty-one men to be accepted for service in the United States navy according to the Eugene recruiting station. Two Lorane boys, L. D. Ream Jr. and Harold Frank Gowing also enlisted.

Chemical Found To Kill Poison Oak in Jig-Time

At long last an effective control for the poison oak shrub, a most pestiferous plant common to many parts of the west appears to be in the offing. Nothing certain about it yet, but it is the most promising material yet tried, says Lynn Harris, in charge of the experimental station weed control research at O. S. C.

The promising chemical is ammonium sulfamate. This is the same material that has been reported as so effective farther east in controlling poison ivy—a first cousin to poison oak.

In preliminary tests for more than a year the ammonium sulfamate appears to have many advantages over present chemical weed killers. First, it is effective, giving a high percentage of kill of both tops and roots when sprayed on the growing shrubs.

Second, it is fire retarding rather than being highly inflammable as are most chlorate weed killers. This is an important item where the plants are thick over a considerable area.

The third advantage is that its effect on the soil is beneficial rather than harmful, as the chemical in breaking down tends to leave nitrates and sulfur in the ground.

The best time to apply the spray is in the middle or late summer, when dry soil aids the killing power of the chemical. Where complete kill is not obtained in one season, a second application appears to finish the job.

Exact dosages and strength have not yet been worked out accurately, although good results have been obtained with a strength of one pound per gallon of water, sprayed on all parts of the plant.

The experiment station is not yet prepared to give an unqualified recommendation of this control method, but does believe it is worth more field trials—if the material can be obtained. The chemical is manufactured by one of the largest companies but distribution has not yet been worked out thoroughly. Both manufacture and distribution have been hampered by war conditions.

This Section Is Believed Next in Dim Out Orders

Officials believe this section will be next to be included in the dim out regulations effective on the coastal area August 20th. In the coastal section directly west the dimout follows roughly the summit of the coast range. The new order will probably extend the dim out regulations about 50 miles or more to make the dim out order follow a straight line north and south in western Oregon to connect with the northwest portion of the state and northwest California. To find out what will be required the public should become familiar with public proclamation No. 10 issued by J. L. DeWitt, lieutenant general, on August 5th. Copies of this resolution may be obtained from your district air raid warden or from the civilian defense office in the city hall. Dim out regulations should be particularly interesting to sawmill operators in regulating the burners. The dim out order covers: signs, commercial flood lighting, display lighting and amusement places. Ground areas and industrial illumination, traffic signs and signals, street and highway signs, residential commercial and industrial windows, and industrial fires including sawmill burners.

GIRL SCOUTS, RAINBOW GIRLS TO BEAN FIELDS

About twenty-five Girl Scouts and Rainbow Girls left with Mrs. K. M. Bird Sunday for the bean field near Eugene and expect to spend a month or six weeks in that area picking beans. Mrs. Bird, who will serve as supervisor, said she would like to be relieved before the close of the season by mothers of some of the girls.

THRASHING SEASON ABOUT OVER

Grain threshing season is about over in this section of the country where both threshers and combines have operated. The yield has been about normal and above in most sections of South Lane county.



OUR GREEN WAY OF LIFE

What do the forestry terms, "timber cropping" and "tree farming," mean in practice by the West Coast lumber industry? Here is an answer in pictures. Upper left is a block of seed-bearing Douglas fir left in logging seven years ago, to provide natural reforestation on a harvested area. An average of 1,000 young trees per acre make a thriving new crop. Upper right shows one of the 7½ million reforested acres in the Douglas fir region.

Protection of the slow-growing timber crop by industry costs money. Six tank-pumper cars operated by one lumber company for fire-fighting are illustrated. Their combined capacity is 60,000 gallons. Such equipment is common on logging operations.

In addition to 11 million acres of old growth in the Douglas fir region there are more than 3 million acres of second growth of saw timber size. Posts and poles are a first harvest. Pictured are 40-foot poles selectively taken from a 60-year-old stand of Douglas fir. Such cropping helps pay tree-farming costs and gives more growing room for remaining trees.

Two Companies Are Mustered in For 16th Battalion

Major LaSells Stewart, accompanied by First Lt. C. T. Anlauf, motored to Marshfield Tuesday evening and mustered in Company G, 16th Battalion, Oregon State Guard. This is the seventh company of the battalion mustered in under the jurisdiction of Major Stewart, the others being the two companies in Cottage Grove and those at Creswell, Drain, Reedsport and Lorane. Another company being organized at Oakridge will make the strength of the battalion over one thousand, including the headquarters company at Cottage Grove, Kenneth Ward and Worth Harvey of Headquarters Company and Kenneth Richards, assistant postmaster, accompanied Major Stewart on the trip.

Lorane Company Mustered in

Capt. H. W. Lombard and Lt. George Matthews drove over to Lorane Tuesday evening where Capt. Lombard assisted in mustering in Company C of Lorane. The company consists of sixty-two enlisted men and two officers, 1st Lt. Robert G. Conner, and 2nd Lt. John Eastburn. There was a good turnout and much interest shown according to a report by Capt. Lombard.

Companies A and B of the 16th battalion journeyed to Culp Creek Tuesday for the weekly maneuvers. A good turnout of company members was reported and members had the opportunity of observing a display of concentrated food. The food was displayed in a pack and represented three days ration. Members then engaged in a mile march, marching to the Culp Creek school and back.

Women Employed In So. Lane Mill

For the first time in the history of this section women have been employed in the lumber industry; not extensively as you may have heard, but one mill hit by the war, the Row River Lumber Co., has made a start by employing four women. Others may be added if more employes are lost to war industries or to the armed forces. This is the only mill in the South Lane area to employ women so far as known.

Other mills have experienced a shortage of labor, but have managed to operate rather consistently. Workers at the J. H. Chambers and Son mill, thrown out of work by the fire last Thursday evening, have practically all been re-employed. Offers of work have come from as far south as Roseburg.

SMALL FIRE AT CRESWELL MILL

At the same time the J. H. Chambers and Son mill was burning here a small fire broke out in the Creswell Lumber company mill Thursday evening, but was extinguished before any damage of consequence was done. Reports current here at the time of the fire that mills at Junction City and Creswell were burning proved erroneous.

2nd Half League Finals Friday Nite

Softball fans were treated to a couple of wins in the Navy relief benefit games Friday night and the wins strengthen the belief that the South Lane association has about as strong teams as to be found in this section. In the first game John Henry Long's aggregation, the Grove Hardware, outthrew and outplayed the strong Junior Chamber of Commerce outfit 14-12, and after the visitors tied up the game in the seventh inning, Joe Bricher was the hero of the game with a long home run and this, with an error, gave the Grove boys the victory.

The summary:

	R	H	E
Grove Hardware	14	14	8
Jr. Chamber	12	9	4

Fred Anderson's Butchers were probably more fortunate in the feature game in winning from the Roseburg All-Stars 3-2, the winning run was on an error by Shortstop Hammond of Roseburg, who threw to first base with the first baseman absent and Dugan trotted home with the winning run. The summary:

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	R	H	E
Quality Market	3	7	1
Roseburg	2	10	3

Monday night the Quality Market nine ran their winning streak to fourteen games with a win over Drain 10-8. The game was close and interesting and had Anderson up from the bench several times when the Butcher Boys got into trouble. On the same night Grove Hardware won from the Eagles 8-5 to resume their winning ways.

Friday night's postponed game between Knickerbockers and the Quality Market teams will be the final game of the second half of league play. Quality Market remains the only undefeated team in the second half. Knickerbocker's team was dumped by Grove Hardware and Quality Market took the Hardware boys into camp. Other teams of the league have lost two games in the second half of play. Should the Five to One Dollar boys win from the Butchers, three teams, Knickerbocker's, Grove Hardware and the Quality Market will be tied for first place in the last series of games.

The North Douglas county boys from Drain, a team that plays ball all the time, will meet the Grove Hardware nine in a non-league game for the first game of the evening.

ABSENTEE BALLOT OPEN TO OREGON SOLDIERS

Oregon members of the armed forces who will be away from home on November 3, general election day, will be permitted to vote by absentee ballot. Secretary of State Snell said yesterday at Salem.

To vote, a soldier must be registered in his home precinct.

BIG WHEAT CROP

Elmer Kent received a letter from his mother who is visiting in western Kansas saying they have the largest wheat crop for more than 20 years, one farmer had 5600 acres, was using 27 combines. Several have 2500 acres or more. One had 50,000 bushels piled on the ground as the elevators were full of last year's crop.

Annual Report of Hi School Shows Dist. Good Shape

The annual report of the Cottage Grove union high school district 14, for the past year ending June 30th as prepared by Clerk Worth Harvey and Superintendent H. B. Ferrin, for the school board and patrons of the district, shows the district to be in excellent financial condition and the year closing with a cash balance. The expenditures for the year were \$1,281.09 under the budget.

The average per pupil cost as reported to the State Department of Education was \$111.46. This shows a reduction of \$3.60 over the previous year, and is \$13.23 less than the state average for Oregon high schools last year.

The year closed with no warrants outstanding, and with bonded indebtedness to the amount of \$143,800.00.

The report shows that the federal government and state vocational department spent \$2,040.56 for rural defense classes in carpentry and auto mechanics, and \$1,735.92 for out-of-school NYA classes in home nursing, and office practice classes.

Ninety per cent blanket co-insurance has been carried on buildings and equipment amounting to \$240,000.00. This amount has been increased \$10,000.00 for the coming year in view of rising building costs. Recently the school board has taken out war insurance on all buildings, equipment, and buses.

The assessed valuation of the district was \$4,695.00. The millage levy was 11.2 mills.

A high percentage of taxes were collected this year, with 87½ per cent of the 1942 levy.

The report shows in detail the assets and inventory of the district. After deducting depreciation the total assets amount to \$503,182.80.

The attendance statistics reveal a 55 percent increase in enrollment during the past eight years. The total number of students registered was 463, 219 boys and 244 girls, two less than the previous year. The average daily attendance was 382.5, and the per cent of attendance 92.4 per cent.

A report on the high school cafeteria shows the receipts of the year as \$1,953.87, and expenditures as \$1,915.83, with a net profit of \$38.04.

A summary of the detailed records which are kept on the five school buses show that the buses traveled a total of 34,344 miles. The cost per bus mile for the year was 16 cents.

Any patron of the district desiring a copy of the school's report can secure one from the superintendent's office.

Bible Lecturer to Be at Assembly of God Church, 18-23

The Rev. Cecil Lowry, principal and instructor in the Southwest Bible Institute at Fort Worth, Texas, will be here at the Assembly of God church, 724 East Main street, to hold meetings from August 18th to the 28th, at 7:45 each evening.

The Rev. Lowry is a highly educated, good natured philosopher who has the knack of forcefully impressing his listeners, regardless of his topic. He has spent much time on the ground floor, gathering data and speaking from actual life experiences in conjunction with Biblical teachings. He attended the senate hearings on the movies at which time the movies were represented by Willie.

The services will continue each night including Saturday night, inasmuch as the Rev. Lowry will be here for a short time only. The Rev. Hilton T. Park, local pastor, is in charge of arrangements.

HOHMAN TAKES OVER SIGNAL STATION

G. C. Hohman has purchased the interest of R. B. Gray in the Signal Service Station at the corner of 5th and Main and will continue the operation of the station. R. B. Gray and family moved to Portland last Thursday where Mr. Gray will be employed in the ship yards.

Mr. Hohman is an experienced service station operator and will be glad to meet both former and new Signal patrons. See his announcement appearing elsewhere in this issue.

Stewart W. King Loses Life in Cottage Fire

Dies in Eugene Hospital Few Hours After Early Morning Fire.

THREE COTTAGES BURN AT AIRPORT PARK.

Stewart W. King, 23, who received third degree burns in the fire early Monday morning, died a few hours later in a Eugene hospital. Blows and bruises found on the body of King after he was dragged from the cabin were first believed to be partly responsible for his death according to officers, but an autopsy completed by Dr. Joseph Beeman of Portland with the Oregon state police crime laboratory revealed that death was due to burns. M. Perry, chief of police, said what appeared to be marks of body blows might have been due to King struggling to get out of the burning building.

Dr. G. L. Earl, attending physician, said on hearing of King's death that marks on the body of the deceased, which at the time indicated that he might have been struck probably hastened his passing since people ordinarily do not die so quickly from burns of this nature.

J. D. Smith, keeper of the cabins, expressed the opinion that the cabins might have been set because when he first saw the fire all three cabins were burning furiously.

The three cottages and contents were a total loss. Damages was unofficially estimated at \$4,000.

Three 3-room cottages at the Airport Park, just south of town on Highway 99 were destroyed by fire starting about 1:00 o'clock Monday morning. The fire, believed to have been caused by a cigarette, started in the cottage occupied by Stewart King, foreman of the dry seasoning plant here. King, taken from a room of the cottage by firemen, suffered third degree burns, according to Dr. G. L. Earl, the attending physician, and was carried to a Eugene hospital where early reports said his condition was critical.

In addition to the three cottages destroyed, the blaze destroyed the contents of the cottages and most of the personal belongings of the tenants.

Police Have Busy Week Running in The Dead Alleys

Police chase down some dead alleys in trying to find solutions to the many problems put up to them and in addition to a busy week the past week, they received two hurry calls which apparently demanded immediate investigation. A lady who had rented a house came home to find the house empty and what she thought was a bomb in the house. Investigation revealed that the so-called bomb was a glass fire extinguisher.

In another instance the local police were called out to Row River to investigate an urgent message from a drowning man. The message found in a glass jar, had evidently been placed by a boy prankster and read: "I'm drowning on an island where Mosby Creek runs into Row River. Help!"

PICNICKERS, SWIMMERS BE CAREFUL OF FIRES

All of South Lane county should be fire conscious after the occurrence of so many fires recently and this should apply to the young folks too. Complaints have been made this week that picnickers and swimming parties have built a number of bonfires without permission. Practically all of this section is in the restricted area at the present time and no fires should be built without a permit under penalty of a fine or imprisonment, or both. District fire wardens are loathe to be too hard on the young people, and this is meant as a warning to refrain from building fires on river banks and in and near picnic grounds without permission.

Be fire conscious during the worst two months of the year, August and September.

City Tax Rate Is 56 Mills 1942-43

The city tax rate for 1942-43 will be 56 mills according to word received by Worth Harvey, city treasurer, from Welby Stevens, assessor. This is only about fifteen mills higher than the six months period ending July 1st which was 41.2 mills. Several factors enter into the lower tax rate, the principal of which is increased valuation. Complete data however is not available for comparative purposes.

A break down of the various charges entered is as follows:

State and county	11.5
City	20.3
School Dist. 45	12.6
Union High Dist. 14	11.6
Total rate in mills	56.0