

CCC slates workshop on new business

Would you like some help in starting a new business or running your present business more successfully?

The Small Business Administration and Clackamas Community College are co-sponsoring a special one-day workshop just for that purpose. It will be held next Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Clairmont No. 153 on the CCC campus.

Subjects covered will include success and failure factors in the present economy; getting and keeping more customers; managing your dollars in a crunch; SBA financial and management assistance programs, keeping accurate records, and the law and your business. There will be different speakers on every topic, each an expert in his field.

There will also be a film on planning of a business, a kit of free SBA publications will be distributed and there will be ample time for questions and discussion.

For information and registration, call 657-8400, ext. 233.

Researchers study timber near volcano

The eruption of Mount St. Helens smashed down two billion board feet of timber, or enough to build 200,000 two-bedroom houses.

Researchers will be trying to find out if that wood was invisibly damaged by the blast, or if it's still strong enough to use for building homes.

The project, which is funded by the U.S. Forest Service, will be conducted by Oregon State University researchers.

Some of the timber knocked down by the eruption is obviously useless, but forest service surveys indicate that some may be salvageable. Weyerhaeuser Company has already begun salvaging timber on its land.

But it is not known if the sound-looking timber is up to standards, or whether invisible heat or impact damage reduced its strength.

In the past, tests have shown that wood is damaged under stress of high heat, depending partially on how high the heat, and how long it is applied. Also, sudden force, like that of a volcanic blast, causes more damage to the wood than an equal force more slowly applied.

But up until now, nobody has researched the effects of a real volcanic blast on Douglas-fir. Bending, a common wood test, will be used to determine the strength of the wood.

Douglas-fir will be the only species tested, and only in its unseasoned state. When the researchers compare these values to similar tests made years ago, they will be able to tell what effect the volcano has had on all that wood.

The researchers will be testing wood without any strength-reducing characteristics such as knots or crossgrain. That will give them a better comparison with what was tested years ago, and they will be able to tell what the other grades of lumber will show.

Crews have already retrieved log samples from three of the proposed 12 sample sites. Those sites are about 13 miles north of the volcano, just on the edge of the area where all standing trees were blown down. With fall rains beginning in the area, access will be limited and the rest of the samples might have to wait until next spring or summer.

For the tests, workers will saw several two-by-two-inch test specimens, 30 inches long from each of the samples. Three or four samples will be taken from each site. The standard tests involve supporting each specimen one inch from each end, and pushing on its center until it breaks.

Measurements are taken periodically of the force being applied, and the bend in the wood. The maximum force at breakage is also recorded.

The samples received so far are ash-covered, but look sound. The only visible defects are silvery concentric discolorations in some of the samples, well inward from the bark.

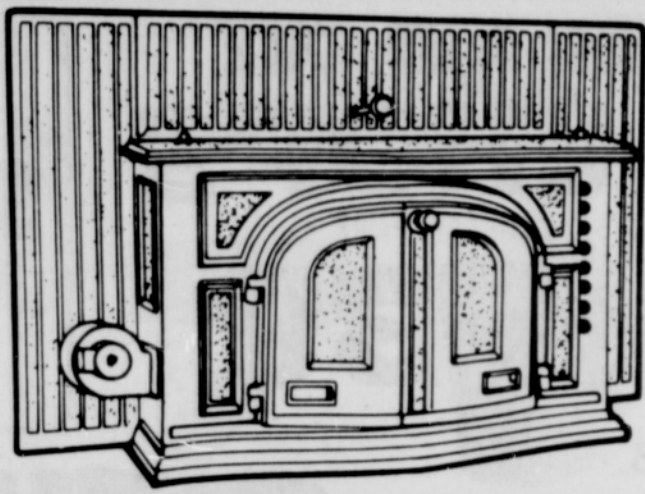


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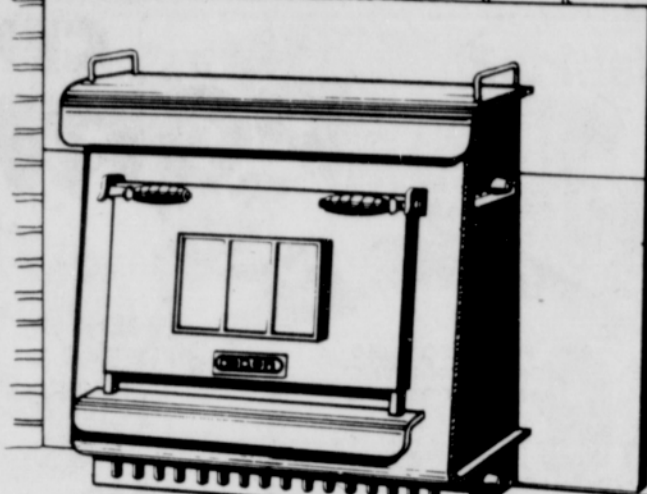
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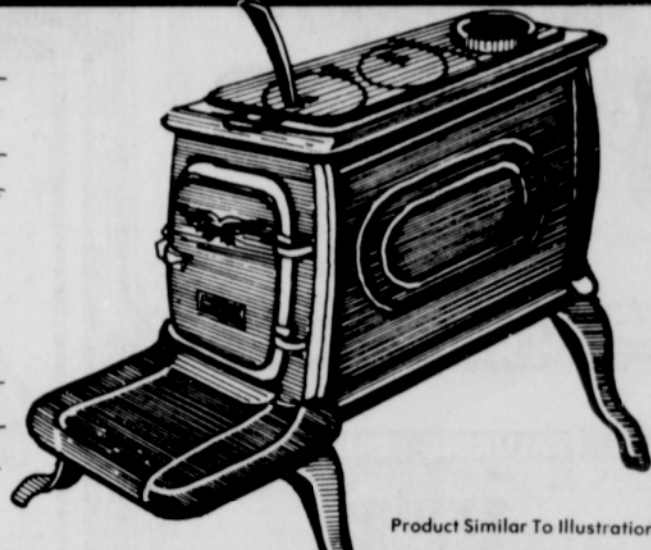
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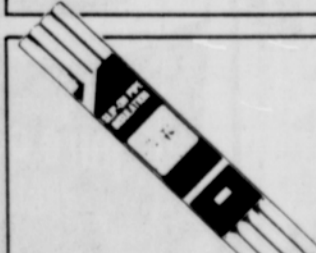


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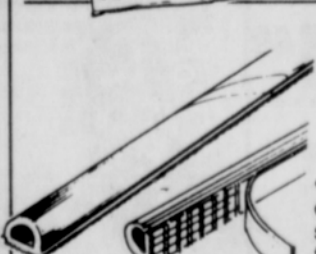
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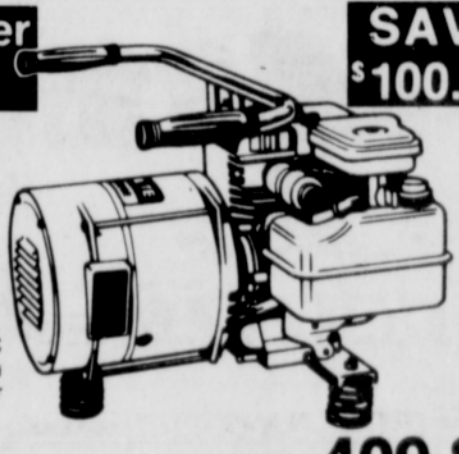
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