

Fire Training Program Forced

GRANTS PASS—Sixteen smoke jumper candidates are now assembled at the Siskiyou national smoke jumper program. Initially started some six years ago in Montana, with three more added in Oregon and Washington on the Chemam, Waldo and Siskiyou forests, providing a highly trained group of men whose objective is, through the use of planes and parachutes, to quickly reach and fight fires while they are yet small.

The group, now in training on the Siskiyou forest, will use two biplane planes owned and operated by the forest service and piloted by forest service pilots. The planes will be available for initial training on the Rogue River, Klamath, Siskiyou and Siskiyou forests. Smoke jumpers are also now being trained for immediate dispatch from points where they are in the northwest or California when not engaged in fire-

fighting elsewhere. Physical requirements for the smoke jumper candidates are rigid. Men accepted usually must be between the ages of 18 and 27, average from 130 to 190 lbs. in weight, must have good eyesight and hearing and can have no organic or other physical defect which would prevent strenuous work. Their training includes very rigid physical conditioning, instruction in use of all types of parachute equipment, jumps from practice towers, high line let-down and training in the safe tree-to-ground descent in case chutes hang up in tall timber. After ground instruction and conditioning has been completed which normally requires approximately two weeks all men are given practice in actual parachute jumping from planes and all normally complete a minimum of seven practice jumps before being allowed to jump in actual fire fighting. Thorough instruction and actual experience in all methods of forest fire fighting are given as a final training step or all men before they are considered qualified.

Experience has shown that training and actual fire fighting take up most of the time during the summer months for this crew but a considerable work program is also lined up for all such employees, to be sure that they re-

main in condition for their strenuous work and that productive work is accomplished for money expended.

Don Meyers of Grants Pass will fly one of the forest service personnel planes connected with this program this year and will be called upon to fly tools, equipment and food to fire fighters on the ground, when not engaged in flying jumpers.

The second plane assigned to this program will be furnished by region 5, in California and will be flown by Stephen Ayres who also piloted one of these planes last season.

The Siskiyou forest also uses one small observation ship covering this forest for fire detection work, and this plane will likewise be based at the Illinois Valley airport at Cave Junction.

Local News Items

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Jagers had as recent house guests, Mrs. Gladys Basler and son, Larry, of Los Angeles, who left last Thursday for points further north. The Jagers and Basler families are old friends when the men were employed by the state highway commission. Mr. Basler was killed in action on Okinawa about two years ago.

Mrs. Verna Acshe returned to her home the first of the week from Portland where she had attended the Rose Festival and had visited friends.

Joe Morrell left Wednesday for Salem where he is a delegate of Aerie No. 2090 F. O. E. of Klamath Falls, to attend the state convention. His daughter, Mrs. M. M. Bean, is accompanying him and will continue on to Portland

where she will visit for a week. Miss Mary Cavitt went to Portland the latter part of the week for medical attention.

Miss Helen Payne and Miss Eugenia Moore spent the weekend at their homes, coming from Ashland Friday evening. They are attending the summer session at Southern Oregon College of Education.

Relatives have received word from Miss Evelyn Reekman that she is completing her training with the infantile paralysis foundation at a hospital in Denver, left on June 15 for Honolulu to go to work in a hospital, July 1 to Sept. 1. She is a sister of Everett Reekman of Harbor and is well known in this area. She was in the WACs, where she received her commission as a physical therapist, and worked in various military hospitals in this country before her discharge.

News was received that Violet Jagers and Glen Garvin who are attending 4-H summer school at Corvallis, says that they are having fun and are learning a lot. Last Friday evening during the Curry county time over radio station KOAC, Glen spoke for a few minutes on this part of the country and the crops grown here—especially the Easter lily industry.

Ben Turner enjoyed a visit last week from Lt. Col. and Mrs. Joseph E. Iples of Tampa, Fla. Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Hastings returned last week from Portland where they have been for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Pickett of Malin, Ore., and Miss Marie Vacek of Alaska, are house guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Newton.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bush left Monday for Bullards to visit John Evans, former Harbor resident.

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