

### Dry Spring Brought About Critical Condition In Forests Of S. W. Oregon

Dry and windy weather in April, May and June gave western, especially Southwestern Oregon, its most dangerous forest fire conditions in 16 years, according to a joint statement issued by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service and the Portland office of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Forest fire conditions are rated under a system which uses as its three most important elements: the number of days without rain, the average length of periods between rains, and the burning index, which is a measure of the combined effect of relative humidity and wind velocity on the speed with which fire spreads.

The past three months saw the greatest total number of rainless days in Western Oregon for any April-to-June period since 1924, according to Robert W. Cowlin, director of the experiment station. Rainless periods averaged longer than in any spring since 1935. The burning index averaged higher than in any spring since complete records were begun in 1932. "These fire-season factors made the 1951 April-to-June period the most hazardous at least since 1935," Cowlin said.

Weather bureau marks fell this year for both the months of April and June. The longest April dry spell on record was registered according to Col. E. S. Ellison, in charge of the bureau. Many rainfall was well below the normal, and June had the least rain on record for that month.

The April dry period lasted 25 days with no rain in western Or-

gon. Then followed a rainy period, April 26 to May 13. Portland went 54 days, May 8 to June 30, without a wetting rain (.25 inch or more in 24 hours). Similar dry periods were experienced throughout western Oregon. Between wetting rains, windy days and low humidities were numerous. In Portland there were 12 day in April and 9 in June with relative humidities of 30 per cent or below at 4:30 p. m. observation. Thirty per cent or lower is considered critical burning humidity in the Douglas fir area.

At Eugene, humidities at 4:30 p. m. dipped to or below the 30 per cent mark 10 times in April and 16 times in June. On nine of these June low humidity days, Eugene's 4:30 p. m. wind was 15 miles per hour or greater. Wind is important in rating fire conditions, since once fires start they spread more rapidly with increasing wind speeds.

Weather of the past three months was an abrupt and complete change from the above-normal rainfall throughout Oregon. Low humidities and high temperatures of the past several weeks have dried out Oregon forests to the point where only a prolonged substantial rain can bring more than temporary relief," Kermit W. Linstedt, regional fire chief of the forest service, stated.

"We are entering that part of the fire season which is normally most dangerous and is usually a period of prolonged drought. Fire protection agencies throughout western Oregon are facing the prospect of an unusually hazard-

ous summer fire season. This points to the need for even more than usual care with fire in the woods this year," Linstedt said.

### Jacksonville Bills 'Gold Rush' Event For August 4, & 5

JACKSONVILLE — The 100th anniversary of gold discovery in Jacksonville, Ore., which for a time made Jacksonville the most populated town in Oregon, will be celebrated this year August 4 and 5. The Jacksonville Lions Club, sponsors of the annual gold rush jubilee plan an "all-out" celebration for the centennial event.

At the same time the Southern Oregon Historical society will observe the first anniversary of dedication of old Jackson county court house in Jacksonville, as a public museum.

The big downtown parade, becoming known as the most typical of its kind in Oregon, will be one of the celebration's features. Scheduled for 1 p. m., Sunday, August 5, entries are expected from as far away as Reno, Nev., and California towns. The Jacksonville Lions club extends invitations to organizations or individuals throughout the state to enter floats typical of gold rush days. Horsebacking organizations are especially invited to place entries or appear with mounted groups.

There will be log cutting contests, a "gold rush" with "finders keepers," dancing and "plenty of contests for the kids."

An old timers parade, with costumes of yesteryear, and a "kids" parade will be featured Saturday morning, August 4.

Prizes will be given for all parades and children participating are promised ribbons for entries in the "kids" parade as souvenirs in addition to the winning entries.

Information for groups or individuals wanting to participate in the centennial jubilee in Jacksonville will be furnished from Lions Club headquarters, Garden club rooms, the U. S. Hotel, at Jacksonville. Those interested are asked to write headquarters.

Saturday night, August 4, a pageant program will be featured with the grand entry a thrilling spectacle of the arrival of authentic wagon train of settlers with the pulse of "gold fever" in their veins. A staged program fitting to the celebration will immediately follow on the same field.

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### Weather Report

For the week ending on Sunday:	Max.	Min.	Rain
July 9	76	51	....
July 10	57	51	....
July 11	60	51	....
July 12	61	53	.01
July 13	61	53	....
July 17	61	52	T
Rain for week			.01

### O. E. S. To Picnic

A picnic for Eastern Star members and their families will be held all day, Sunday, July 22, at the Hendry ranch on the Win-

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