

More About Chittum

By: Walt Klamath, Outpatient Counselor

This is a little more about the chittum peeling experiences of years past.

While still in High School in Siletz, I kind of considered myself as an outdoorsman. As stated at other times, there were many places back in the woods that I was familiar with and traveling through the woods on the back trails I did quite often.

Many times I had to go chase cattle around many of these places, course this was not the fun part, I had to do this. Now, when one has to do something, that takes all the fun out of it, in fact I tried all kinds of tactics to get out of it. One way of getting out of chores was to get sick. I did this once, and my Uncle figured that what I needed was a good dose of castor oil. Now, anyone that ever has tasted that awful foul stuff, knows better then to get sick again! Anyway, that is a different story.

One time some of us, (probably juniors or seniors) Frank Strome, Don Shepard, and myself, decided to go out and make a fortune peeling chittum. Seeing as how I knew about these chittum patches and also knew how to get to them and so forth, I was the one that would lead this expedition.

One Saturday we decided to pursue the quest and we met at my home, two miles above Logsdon, early. I don't remember how early it was but I doubt if it was early-early. Now, seeing as this is bear country and who knows what other kind of man eating creatures there may be out there, I carried along a very long-barrelled 38/55. It had a hole in the end of it that one could pitch a dog through, besides we may find a deer, who knows.

We crossed Rock Creek at the falls, picked up the trail, and headed out to the Henry Orchard maybe five miles away. We crossed the first barrier and came to a place called the Elliot Place. All this was timber at this time. There was a giant walnut tree there that was kind of a marker for the trail. Now, mind you, I have walked this trail many many times, but for some reason I went the wrong way. I suppose that we were talking and having a good time thinking about all the money that we were going to make.

As time progressed, something did not seem right, with the amount of time spent traveling we should have been there. Then I realized the horrible truth, we were lost! Frank and Don were lost from the very beginning, but not me, I was the woodsman. I doubt if I told them at this point, but when I headed for Sam's Creek, which I knew the general direction, maybe at that time I conceded that I did not know where we were at.

I knew that when I found Sam's Creek I would find our way back to the Elliot Place. Well, we found Sam's Creek and waded up the creek because there was so much brush and high banks.

There were some old roads from long ago but, I was not familiar with them at this time, that would come later. We did find the point of beginning and started over again. We found the orchard, found lots of chittum, but it was very late in the day and a long way to go to get home before dark. I don't remember if we even peeled any bark or maybe we stayed out over night. Whatever we did, this was not the most

ego building trip I ever made in the woods. It was embarrassing as all get-out to get lost in the woods, especially where I grew up.

I have been turned around several times since then in different parts of the state, but I was by myself and no one knows exactly if I knew where I was or not, maybe a little late in getting back to camp. Come to think of it I don't think that we ever went into the hills together after that, wonder if there was any connection?

TOBACCO

"It can't happen to me"

By: Walt Klamath, Outpatient Counselor

Tobacco, like alcohol or any other habit forming drug, has some of the symptoms of all addictive substances. With the smoker, early warnings are ignored. The signals are the drizzly nose, coughing, choking, spitting up weird looking stuff, that probably will not even be looked at it is so icky-looking, won't admit to where it came from. People meet these things every day and kinda shrug it off till something mean happens.

Tobacco users will say that they will smoke 'till it causes a problem, then they will quit. Yep, they quit smoking, but then will start the smokeless tobacco, they start to chew the stuff. Now every one knows that if it is chewed the lungs can't be hurt. True. Now the mouth comes into play, the throat, tongue, teeth, foul breath, even worse then the smoking, if that's possible.

Illnesses caused by tobacco are most of the time painless, in the beginning. By the time that it is recognized that something is wrong, it is too late to reverse whatever has gone wrong.

Tobacco, the experts say, is probably the most dangerous substance consumed by people. The inhaling of the smoke and all the contaminants of the cigarettes get to the vital organs within seconds of use.

When people drink alcohol while smoking (most people that drink also smoke), alcohol intensifies the tobacco, in turn for the favor, tobacco intensifies the alcohol's negative effects on the body.

Some of the diseases that smoking causes or intensifies are the hardening of the arteries and cancer of the bladder. This little piece of equipment is constantly bombarded with the cancer causing effects of tobacco. The kidneys that supply the bladder too is high risk for cancer from the same source. Diabetics who smoke cut down their circulation to the lower extremities, possible loss of the toes or feet for that matter.

The evidence is overwhelming that tobacco use, in any form has a devastating potential for the human body. Cancer alone is a very high ratio between smokers and non-smokers. It is true that people that don't smoke or use tobacco products will get these same diseases, however, there is a significant higher percentage of the people get these diseases that use tobacco products.

Tobacco also works with other drugs, both legal and prescription and over the counter drugs. Tobacco has not learned the difference yet of which ones to increase the potency of.

The upside of tobacco use is, that when one quits smoking, before any real major damage

has been done, the human body will perform its miracle and recover from the ill effects, and in due time will equal the one who has never smoked or chewed, however it is not guaranteed. The safest way to go is not to inhale all the poisons in the first place, not to put all the things in the mouth, just to spit it out anyway, make trails all over, along the side of the car, to the garboon and down the outside of the mouth, you've all seen the two trails down peoples mouths.

Several years ago there was a high percentage of doctors that smoked, in fact the statistics were over half. Today there are about 10 percent that use tobacco products.

In the early 1800's it was proven that tobacco was bad for ones health, but through successful advertising and good lobbyists tobacco became a subsidized product, impossible for them to lose money, the government guarantees it.

Years ago, there was a Country Western Singer, Tex Williams, sang a song "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke that cigarette" Goes on to say that smoking is all important, even at the Golden Gate, St. Peter will have to wait till he has had that cigarette. Incidentally the writer of that song died from lung cancer, attributed to his use of tobacco.

Yep. Smoking is beautiful!

Fire

By: Walt Klamath, Engineer, Engine 802 SRFD

Again a gentle reminder about putting the numbers of the residence in a place that is readily visible. Some of the numbers are there alright but we, of the emergency services, cannot spot them easily and will sometimes, if not real familiar with the area, will pass it up.

It is important that there is very little lost time when on an emergency call, for whatever reason. In the case of fire, every minute a fire squares itself, so minutes are precious, time actually becomes an enemy. When a fire truck has to back track, there is some valuable time lost. It may be just a matter of seconds, the fire has not taken into consideration "time out" while the fire crew re-orient.

Then, too, another factor evolves. People follow fire apparatus and get too close so we can't back up fast, the people do not want to lose their place in line so they are hesitant to back up. More time lost.

Another thing to consider, especially those building a new home, or buying another home: the access. Can a big rig get to the home without see-sawing back and forth several times. Now this can be extremely frustrating for the fire crew, the home owner, and every one else with the very real possibility of losing the services of the attack vehicle and blocking all use of any other support equipment.

I wrote one time in this newsletter that most of the time a fire can be found when its smoking. Today I must say there are times others can see the smoke but firefighters cannot from the truck.

It is of extreme importance that all home owners and renters alike, post numbers in a very visible place near the roadway. If you have no number, make up one and put a fence post or something that can be identified. The fire personnel are there to help you when the need arises, but sometimes they need help to help.