

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 years ago

May 15, 1985

B.t. attack begins

After several weeks of warning, Cottage Grove residents finally saw and heard spray helicopters overhead last week as the massive eradication project moved into the South Lane area.

The helicopters doused the town and surrounding hills four days in a row with the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) to kill gypsy moth caterpillars.

Most of the spraying was performed Saturday and Sunday.

Aerial spraying in Lane County began May 1 and is expected to continue through June. Most of the 227,000 acres infested with gypsy moth

have received the first of three application. Some snowy high-elevation areas have not received a first dose because the moth eggs have not hatched into caterpillars, coordinators say.

For B.t. to work the moths have to reach caterpillar stage and eat B.t. with foliage. B.t. causes caterpillars to stop feeding and die but has no known harmful effects on humans or higher life.

Spraying of the Cottage Grove urban area should have taken only one day, said Rachel Sound Nunn, a public information officer of the project.

David Keim, plant protection and quarantine officer, said one helicopter began dousing Cottage Grove on Thursday. The operation was halted 30 minutes later because the helicopter blew a hose in the pump into the spray boom, which controls the outflow of the pesticide.

Also, 211 gallons of the pesticide were spilled on the ground at the Cottage Grove airport on Thursday when a spray pilot accidentally flipped the emergency dump switch, which ejects all the liquid from the helicopter container, Nunn said. She added the switch is used in critical cases in flight when a pilot needs to lower the aircraft quickly.

Thursday's spraying was discontinued at 6 a.m. until Friday.

Similarly, Friday was fraught with problems, this time weather problems, Keim said.

The clouds and the rain caused the operation to cease shortly after 6 a.m., he said. Only 492 Cottage Grove acres were sprayed that day with 370 gallons of the insecticide.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

May 4

Burglary, Church of the Nazarene

The complainant said that a rock was thrown through the kitchen window on the southeast side of the building sometime during the night and that the pastor's office was ransacked as well. The stolen property was a box containing numerous checks in the amount of approximately \$800, and cash and coin in the amount of several hundred dollars.

Found child, Conoco gas station

The caller reported an unattended six-year old female child at the location that appeared to have wandered away from home. Officers transported the child back to her home, and DHS responded to the location to interview parent and conduct safety check.

May 4

May 5

Suicidal subject, Birch Ave.

The caller's 16-year old son broke up a pencil sharpener, cutting his arms in the process. Medics determined that the cuts were superficial and transported the subject to the ER for further evaluation.

Reckless burning, S. 17th St.

A caller said there was fire on the front steps of his business, with some damage occurring overnight.

May 7

Theft, N. Lane / Bridge

The caller said that her vehicle was broken into sometime during the previous 48 hours, but she did not immediately report it. She now sees the suspect wearing her sweatshirt that was stolen from the vehicle. Officers contacted the reporting person, but she didn't want to file a report; she was more concerned about the proximity of the suspect.

Officers told the subjects under the bridge to clean up the mess they had made or else they would be charged with trespassing and littering.

May 9

The suspect was described as tall, with short curly hair and glasses, and he was last seen heading west on Main St. The damage was estimated to be \$500.

Suicidal subject, CG High School

The caller requested units to respond to the location for a suicidal subject on the buses from the track meet. Officers checked the area.

Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, Row River Rd.

The reporting person said that a guest's car was broken into during the night. Officers contacted the victim, who said that \$150 of wine was stolen from his vehicle sometime between 8 p.m. on May 8 and 7:30 a.m. on May 9.

May 8

Criminal mischief, Main St.

The reporting person said that a male subject threw a rock through the front window of the location.

Offbeat Oregon History

Oregon's Doolittle raiders made history in startling ways

BY FINN J.D. JOHN
For the Sentinel

This article is the third in a series about Oregon's connection to the famous Doolittle bombing raid on Japan, conducted in 1942 just a few months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The audacious air strike was delivered by the Army's Pendleton-based 17th Bomb Group, taking off from the deck of the Navy's brand-new aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet. Last week, we talked about four of the aviators with deep Oregon connections; this week, we'll finish up with three more.

Col. Dean Davenport

Dean Davenport was originally from Tacoma but grew up in Portland and graduated from

high school there. He was a law student at Albany College (now Lewis and Clark) before he became a Flying Cadet in February, 1941.

Davenport was co-pilot on Plane 7, known as the "Ruptured Duck." That name turned out to be apropos, because after dropping its bombs, the Ruptured Duck ran out of fuel over the East China Sea just short of the beach it was trying to reach and land on and plunged into the water. Davenport and his pilot, Ted Lawson, were thrown through the plane's windshield, still strapped into their seats. Despite severe injuries, they managed to get out of their chairs and make it to shore.

Picked up by Chinese Nationalist fighters, they were carried south through hostile country in various primitive carts and trucks, a journey that took

seven weeks. Finally they were rescued by an Air Force plane, which took them home to recover.

The Ruptured Duck's story was told in a 1944 movie titled "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," in which Tim Murdock played Davenport's role. As part of the movie, Davenport re-enacted the takeoff from the Hornet in another B-25, with a pier in Santa Monica standing in for the aircraft carrier.

Davenport retired in 1967; his awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star and Legion of Merit. He died on Feb. 14, 2000.

Staff Sgt. Jacob DeShazer

Jacob DeShazer was born in Salem, the son of a Church of God pastor, and grew up on a wheat farm in Madras, graduating from Madras High School in 1931. He enlisted in 1940 and became a bombardier and airplane mechanic in the Air Corps, and when the Doolittle raiders took off, he was at the bomb sights in the last plane to take off — Plane 16, dubbed "Bat out of Hell."

DeShazer's was one of the airplanes that ran out of gasoline a little too early. Forced down in Japanese-controlled territory, they found themselves almost

immediately in the power of their infuriated enemies.

It seemed the crew of the "Bat out of Hell" had found its way back into hell, along with three surviving crewmembers of another plane. There followed, at Japanese high command, a fierce debate over whether the aviators were prisoners of war, to be interned as per the Geneva Convention; or "war criminals," to be tried and executed. A compromise was reached, in which all were sentenced to death, but the sentences of all but three were commuted to life in prison.

In prison, the Americans were treated very poorly, underfed and frequently tortured. DeShazer's bitter hatred of the enemy changed, though, when he was given a Bible to read for three weeks before passing it on to the next prisoner. Returning to the faith of his youth (from which he had strayed), he finished out his time in prison as a devoted Christian.

After the war, DeShazer enrolled in Seattle Pacific University, and in 1948 was flying once again back to Japan — to serve as a missionary there. While there, he made a new and lifelong friend in an ex-Imperial Navy flyer named Capt. Mitsuo Fuchida — the man who had, from the cockpit of his torpedo

bomber, led the first wave of Japanese attackers into Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

DeShazer's awards included the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart and Chinese Breast Order of Yung Hui. He died on March 15, 2008, at his home in Salem.

Major Gen. David M. "Davy" Jones

David M. Jones was originally a Marshfield (Coos Bay) boy, although he graduated from high school in Arizona. He was the pilot of Crew 5, and was publicly identified by Doolittle himself as his top pilot.

Jones and his crew had as close to a routine finish as was possible under the circumstances. He guided his plane as close as possible to a known friendly city before giving the order to hit the silk; none of his men were captured or injured.

After the raid, Jones was assigned to command the 319th bomb group in North Africa flying B-26 Marauders against Rommel's forces. In December 1942, the Germans managed to shoot him down, and he found himself a prisoner of war.

Jones quickly developed a reputation in his prison camp, Stalag Luft III, for defiance and harassment of his German captors. Soon he was on the camp's "X Committee," or escape committee — the secret group of

prisoners who controlled and coordinated all attempts to escape.

After the war, Stalag Luft III and its X Committee became famous for the audacious bustout told of in the Steve McQueen movie "The Great Escape." Jones led the digging team for the "Harry" tunnel (the committee's plan involved three tunnels, named "Tom," "Dick" and "Harry"; only "Harry" made it to completion). In fact, the character of Capt. Virgil Hilts ("the Cooler King"), played by Steve McQueen himself, was partly based on Jones.

Jones retired in 1973, and died at his home in Tucson on Nov. 25, 2008. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Commendation Ribbon, and the Chinese Order of Yung Hui.

(Sources: doolittleraider.com; ohs.org; archives of Salem Statesman Journal and New York Times)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY May 14 44° 70° A.M. Showers	FRIDAY May 15 46° 71° Partly Cloudy
SATURDAY May 16 45° 63° Cloudy	SUNDAY May 17 44° 68° Cloudy
MONDAY May 18 44° 71° Partly Cloudy	TUESDAY May 19 47° 69° Partly Cloudy

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