

Seminal

COQUILLE, OREGON

JULY 27, 1950

GORSE A NATIONAL CALAMITY

Gorse Control Experiments Pay Off; Field Trip To Be Run In Curry County August 11

Satisfactory gorse control practices can be developed from results obtained at the Oregon State college experiment station, according to an announcement from Dr. D. D. Hill, department head. A public demonstration will be held August 11, at the Gorse Station near Port Orford.

Interested land owners, public officials and agricultural extension service workers are especially invited to promote the development of a practical control program based on experimental evidence. "Recent developments in the use of chemicals are particularly encouraging," states Dr. Hill.

In New Zealand gorse has been described as a national calamity by Dr. Harry S. Smith of the University of California, now stationed in Honolulu on fruit fly investigation. He states that introduction of a weevil used in New Zealand for seed destruction, will be studied by his department. A similar insect has been noted native at the Oregon Gorse station.

The tour will start at the Sixes Grange hall at 1:30 p. m., daylight saving time. The results of four years of investigation will be studied. Some of the newer chemicals are giving very interesting results.

Confidence in the control program was expressed by the taxpayers in the city of Bandon last November. They voted a special millage levy for Gorse control. The almost complete destruction of Bandon by fire in 1936 was attributed to the very high inflammability and heavy infestation of Gorse. This disaster and subsequent action by the Sixes Grange and the Western Oregon Livestock association resulted in the establishing of the station by the Oregon legislature. Four Western Oregon counties have cooperated by matching state funds to finance this project.

Scattered infestation of Gorse has been noted in all Western Oregon counties, and in Washington, California and British Columbia. "Most areas are small and subject to complete economic control providing all land owners will use recommended practices based on present experimental evidence," believes Dr. Hill.

"Over 50 per cent of the infested area in Curry county is under satisfactory control," states R. M. Knox, county extension agent. "Land owners who realize the economic importance of this weed are willing and anxious to use economic control measures."

Smith's letter may be of interest and with his permission is quoted as follows: "Your letter regarding Gorse in New Zealand was forwarded me here from Riverside.

Unfortunately I do not have my notes, photographs and other data regarding this matter at Honolulu. I can say, however, that the statement that Gorse is a national calamity in New Zealand is not an exaggeration.

"The trees on enormous acreage of forest land was girdled in order to make better growing conditions for range plants. After a relatively few years these areas are invaded by Gorse and Bracken and completely taken over so that they become valueless for sheep grazing. So far there is no way to restore this land to grass and so a good many thousands of acres are being replanted to timber, particularly Monterey pine.

"As Mr. Holloway has told you the New Zealand entomologists have introduced a weevil that is destructive to the seed of Gorse but it does not affect the plant itself and so the only possible value from such an introduction is that it might, by destroying the seed, slow down the rate of invasion of new areas. We are planning to introduce this weevil into California and of course you in Oregon will be supplied with colonies. However, from what I saw in New Zealand I am not very much impressed with the value of this introduction.

"It is my opinion that it would be well worth your while to undertake a much more detailed study of Gorse in its native habitat in the British Isles in the hope that something might be found which would actually kill the plants. Since Gorse is a leguminous plant, there is, of course considerable danger that insects feeding on it might also attack economic crops and therefore a study would have to be done very carefully and would take a considerable amount of money."

Hill's investigation to attend the August 11 field day program follows:

"August 11, 1950, has been selected as the day for the Gorse Field Day, to be held at the gorse project in Curry county. The tour will start from the Sixes Grange hall at 1:30 p. m., daylight saving time.

"The experiments now under way now indicate substantial progress toward the matter of gorse control. It is believed that these experiments will form the basis for the development of satisfactory gorse control practices. In the course of the tour, you will be shown the effect of various chemicals on solid stands of gorse, both large and small. In addition, there is a considerable amount of work being done on gorse control in pastures. It is believed that, here again, the solution is in sight. For

example, one pasture, seeded on a gorse area, is now in its fourth year. To all intents and purposes, gorse is being controlled satisfactorily in this pasture.

"You are cordially invited to attend and to bring any others who may be interested."

Much interest is being evinced in the Coos county fair saddle horse division it was learned today.

Increased interest in real estate following the outbreak of hostilities has been reported by Realtor Cecil Little.



BARBARA BATES approvingly inspects the "General." The film is "The Inspector General," Warner Bros. Technicolor comedy starring Danny Kaye, which comes Sun. and Mon. to the Myrtle Lane theatre.

Governor Sets Visit To Southern Oregon

A visit to Southern Oregon with stops at Florence, Reedsport, North Bend, Coos Bay, Coquille, Myrtle Point, Bandon, Port Orford and Gold Beach is planned by Governor Douglas McKay on Sept. 21 and 22, he reported this week.

Myrtle Lane Theatre Doing Fine Business

A fine attendance at all the movies shown at the new Myrtle Lane Drive-In theatre was reported by Lloyd Claver, one of the owners of the new theatre, who said acceptance of the new drive-in had been fine.

The drive-in opened only a week ago and many motorists are taking advantage of the movie theatre under the stars where you sit in your own car and regulate sound according to your taste and desire.

Interesting fact, said Claver, was that the attendance at both the Roxy and Liberty theatres in town, had not been cut down either, though many hundred people were going to the Myrtle Lane drive-in.

Fresh fruit salads are excellent with a cream cheese dressing. Sprinkle a few whole or slivered salted almonds over the salad to make it even better.

BOUNDARY QUESTION GOES TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Coos county district school boundary board will submit to District Attorney James A. Norman a petition for transfer of property from Bandon district 54C to Parkersburg, Dist. 11. Question is legality of wording.

Cheney Lumber company now has a full crew in its camps, Dugan Pearl said this week. Generally throughout the area a full scale highball is the order of the day with lumber cutting, sawing and hauling accounting for a major activity in the industrial life of the county.

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Loss of Hearing Rob You of Success and Happiness?

Here's new hope for the hard of hearing. You may discover that the new better-than-ever Beltone hearing aid restores you to normal business and social life... helps you hear clearly again without strain. The tiny one-unit Beltone is so easy to wear. No separate battery pack. Unsurpassed for power and clarity.

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Free Beltone Clinic
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Thur., Aug. 3rd

Mr. S. C. Mitchell, 75 W. Broadway, Eugene, is a member of J. N. Taft and Assoc. of Portland, who have been serving the hard of hearing since 1934.

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Acme Breweries, San Francisco, Calif. - NS-7