

Reporter tours blighted forest

DDT ban leaves timber to mercy of tussock moth

By ERNIE CERESA

The nation's concern with "environment" and "ecology" has resulted in the tussock moth destruction of 500,000 acres of prime timber and 200 million trees that may take from 100 to 150 years to replace.

The timber, located in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of California, is being destroyed because the Environmental Protection Agency, created by Congress and given extraordinary powers, refuses to allow the use of the chemical DDT, the only known deterrent to the tussock moth.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz took a 75-minute helicopter ride Friday into the heart of the moth-infested regions of the Blue Mountain Forest.

"I will use my influence to see that steps are taken to control the moth, and we must do all we can to control it. So much depends on the efficient management of our forests that we can't see this thing go on," he told a group of citizens, forestry personnel and members of the Boise-Cascade Company at La Grande.

It was small comfort to his listeners, who know already that the decision to use DDT lies with the EPA, which they suspect of being dominated in its policies by over-zealous environmentalists.

I saw the almost total devastation of forests at Mt. Emily, Ruckle and High Ridge. Forestry officials estimate that 650,000 acres of timber are either destroyed or damaged by the tussock moth. Douglas fir, white fir and grand fir are the preferred targets of the moth. But the caterpillars (larvae) will feed on many other trees after the choice "menu" has been exhausted.

In some areas, ponderosa pine, tamarac trees and even buck brush have been attacked by the moth.

Aerial applications of 1/2 pound of DDT in one gallon of fuel oil per acre has been suggested as the dosage required to control the moth. Distribution will be by helicopter to border streams and river beds. However, the Environmental Protection Agency will have to approve its application, even though there is no insecticide registered with the EPA for use on the tussock moth.

Requests by the States of Oregon and Washington and the U.S. Forest Service to use DDT to control the moth were denied by the EPA in the spring of 1973.

According to Forester Kenneth Keeling, "It is too late this year for any type of chemical control, as the insects have now completed their feeding for the year and are in the cocoon (pupae) stage."

Some have already emerged from cocoons as moths and begun to lay eggs, but no tree damage is done in this stage. One female lays an average of 250 eggs, on the cocoon from which she emerges. All the damage that will occur in 1973 has already been done, as the female dies soon after the eggs are laid.

The eggs hatch in late May and can only be controlled with chemicals soon after they hatch and while they are in the caterpillar stage. To be effective, chemical control must be used during June or early July.

Unless controlled by mid-July, entire trees may be defoliated and may die the following year. Sometimes only the tops of trees are attacked, and may die, or spiked top may develop.

Increased fire protection is now needed in the infected areas. The fire that burned 6,130 acres at the edge of La Grande last month was aided in its spread by the tussock moth-killed timber. Added protection to the other infected areas will be needed for the next 3-5 years.

Over 40 million board feet of timber was destroyed in 1972 on private lands. Another 140 million board feet was lost in 1973. A large amount of timber was destroyed both years on national forest lands. Salvage of the killed timber was started this summer, and will need to continue at a fast pace to remove timber before insects and disease make it unmerchantable. Over 300 individual forest landowners have been affected.

New office hours for planners

The Morrow County Planning Office will be open from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, during September and October, according to County Judge Paul Jones.

Those having business with the planning office may telephone during these hours, 676-5030, or visit the office at Room 201 in the court house. Del Smith is the planning director.

PUBLIC MEETING ON WILLOW CREEK DAM

The proposed Willow Creek Dam will be discussed at a public meeting, Friday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m.

Interested persons may attend this meeting to be held in the judge's room in the court house.

Many acres of the Blue Mountains will need reforestation once salvage is completed and the tussock moth controlled. Forestry officials are developing plans to assist private land owners. A major problem will be having an adequate supply of seedlings available for planting.

EPA's briefing memorandum directed toward the application of DDT states, "Since 1937 five serious infestations have occurred in different areas of Washington and Oregon. In each of these outbreaks there was no significant spread of defoliation in subsequent years beyond the initial area of infestation."

EPA did not mention that in the 33 recorded infestations since 1928, 20 per cent did not collapse during the third year. Records show that 5 collapsed in the fourth year and two in the fifth year. The odds were one chance in five that this

population collapse would occur in 1973. There has been some population decline in some areas, but no total collapse.

Upon considering the virus didn't collapse the population in the early larva stages, and that the epidemic has tripled in size beyond the initial area of infestation during 1973, one might wonder if this isn't the third year of infestation.

After all field surveys have been completed this fall we will have to wait for a Research Lab Report in March, 1974, to learn if it will be controlled.

Secretary Butz promised to "try to get DDT authorized for usage against the moth infestation." The promise provoked a bitter comment from at least one "laborer in the timber vineyard," Glenn B. Parsons: "EPA took the risk; the people of the Blue Mountains suffered the loss."



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz pauses before boarding his plane to read some of the signatures on a petition handed him by Gerald Swaggart, Heppner. The petition contained more than 200 names of persons advocating the use of DDT in the Blue Mountain Area.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol 90, No. 29

Heppner, Ore., Sept. 6, 1973

15c

Four fined on DWI charges

Gene Arylan Hembree, 34, 390 Union St., Heppner, pleaded guilty to charges of driving while under the influence of liquor Tuesday before Justice of the Peace Charles O'Connor.

Hembree was fined \$305 and ordered to spend 10 days in the county jail, later suspended, and had his driver's license revoked for 90-day period. Hembree was arrested by State Police, July 8.

William B. Baker, 22, Heppner, was arrested by City Police early Sunday morning for driving under the influence of liquor.

Baker appeared before Justice O'Connor, Tuesday and pleaded guilty to the charges. He was fined \$305 and had his license suspended for 90 days.

Baker, a truck driver asked for a limited driving permit to allow him to continue working.

Mark Lovgren, 21, 24 S. Court St., Heppner, was arrested Aug. 25 for driving while under the influence of liquor.

Lovgren pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on his own recognition in order to obtain legal advice.

Lovgren is presently attending Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Nathan Ray Hammons, 19, Roseburg, Ore. was arrested by City Police officers for driving with a suspended license. Justice O'Connor fined Hammons \$105.

James Garrett Watson, 50, Lapwai, Idaho, was arrested Aug. 10, for driving while under the influence of liquor. He pleaded guilty to the charges before Justice O'Connor Aug. 15. He too, was fined \$305.

Calvert is promoted

Richard S. Calvert, operations officer at First National Bank of Oregon's Heppner branch, has been appointed assistant cashier, reported Manager Ken Belcher.

Calvert joined the bank as a management trainee in 1971 and was assigned to the Heppner branch as operations officer in July 1972.

A native of Salem, he graduated from high school there, and later attended Southern Oregon College.

Jaycees disband; give city \$1,000

A check for \$1,000 to establish park and recreation facilities at Hager Park highlighted Tuesday's night Heppner City Common Council meeting.

Ed Struthers, Morrow County Jaycee president, presented the check to Mayor Jerry Sweeney and announced to the council the disbandment of the organization. The Jaycees lost their charter because of lack of required membership.

In other business, the council

Sunday School classes to begin Sept. 9

Seven teachers will be ready to begin Sunday School classes for families of All Saints Episcopal Church and United Methodist Church, and for any persons who would like to come at 9:45 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 9.

The three youngest groups will meet in the basement of the Methodist Church. Judy Gochner will work with the children from age 3 through kindergarten. Ruth Maatta will have the 1st and 2nd grade youngsters. Cindy Green will teach those in the 3rd and 4th grades.

Four classes for older students will be held upstairs in the same building. Jean Bennett will teach the 5th and 6th grades; Maxine Rietmann will have grades 7 and 8; and Cliff Green will teach the high school students.

announced the position of city librarian has been vacated. Applications for a new librarian will be accepted until Sept. 24.

Don Jensen, Vancouver, Wn., requested permission of the council to purchase Bucknum's Tavern. Upon approval of the police department, Jensen will apply to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for a state license.

The council accepted Warren Richey's request for dancing in his tavern. Mayor Sweeney pointed out that on Oct. 3 a new law will allow

dancing in all Oregon taverns. The council also passed the ordinance commission request to raise the temporary permits for mobile home from \$5 to 25 for 90 days.

Dean Gilman, chief of police, reported during the month of August, \$216.75 was collected from the parking meters and \$118.14 was paid in fines.

Concluding the meeting, the council adopted a proposal of the charter revision for the city of Heppner. Further explanations of the charter will be made at a later date.

Last rites read for Ethel Blanche Ross

Ethel Blanche Rose, 76, died Friday, Aug. 31, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Born July 31, 1897 at Lime Ridge, Wis., she was the daughter of Frank W. and Inez Goodell.

In May, 1920, she graduated from nurses training at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. Mrs. Rose was employed at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner as a registered nurse from 1953 until she retired in June, 1971.

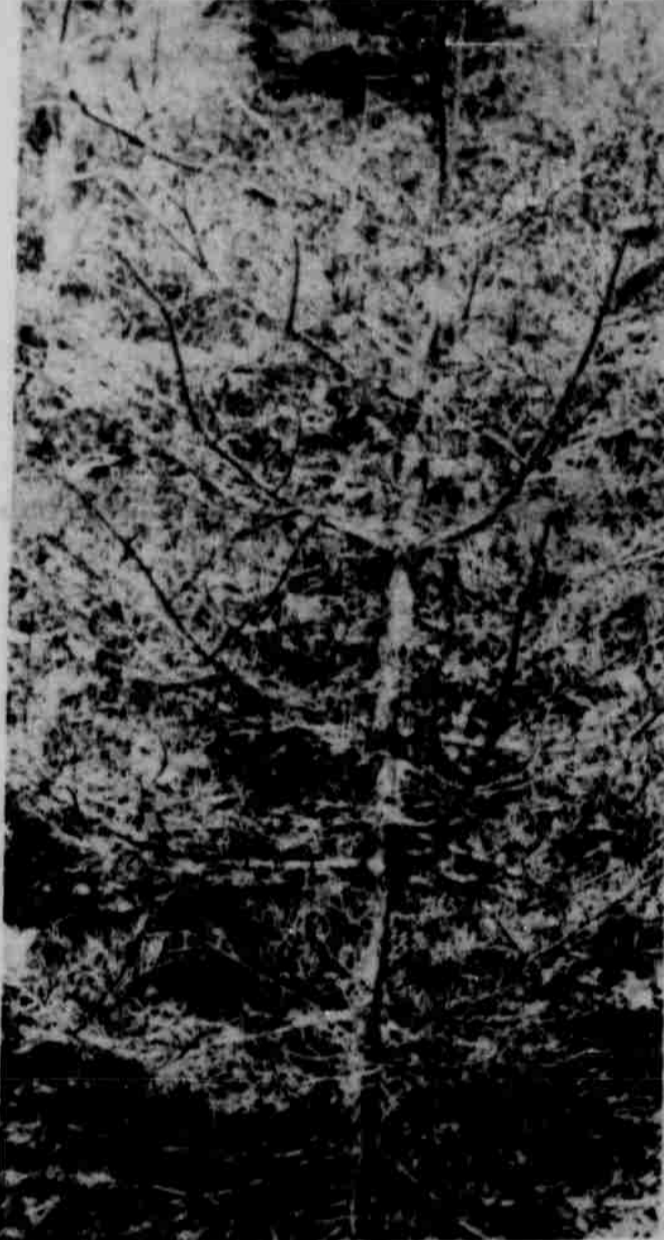
On July 14, 1933, she was married to Ray Jasper Rose in Waukegan, Ill. He preceded her in death in 1955.

Mrs. Rose is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth M. Bailey, and son-in-law, Charles L.

Bailey, Heppner; four brothers, Arthur Goodell, Reedsburg, Wis., Floyd Goodell, Shirland, Ill., Charles Goodell, Sauk City, Wis., and Forrest Goodell, Grants Pass; two sisters, Helen Markin, Rock Ford, Ill., and Alice Goodell, Reedsburg, Wis.

Funeral services were Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2 p.m., at Sweeney Mortuary Chapel. The Rev. Edwin Cutting, United Methodist Church, officiated. Interment was in Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Casketbearers were Howard Bryant, William Lowe, Frank Connors, William Nichols, Robert Lowe and Dr. Wallace Wolff.



Another young tree "saved" by the use of Zectran. The tree was saved from growing, and will have to be piled and burned to make way for reforestation. Zectran was recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a substitute for DDT in killing the tussock moth. Here, too, EPA's judgement was bad.



Bill Weatherford, Heppner, looks disgustfully at a small tree in the Blue Mountain Forest. This tree, along with 200 million others, has been killed by the tussock moth.

An opinion poll on parking meters

The Chief of Police says he will be glad to forget about parking meters on Heppner streets if only the city council orders him to do so. The mayor and some council members have indicated they will be guided by the wishes of the public in any debate over removal of the meters.

Well, what does the public think? Do motorists find Heppner parking meters helpful and convenient, or do motorists find them nuisances and exasperating?

Would you spend a stamp to register your support of or opposition to parking meters?

There is a coupon below. Let's have a poll on the subject. Fill out the coupon and return it to the Gazette-Times. We will publish the results in a future issue, but not the names of those participating in the opinion poll.

Let's vote!

— I love Heppner's parking meters and want them to remain.

— I love Heppner's parking meters but want them removed.

— I hate Heppner's parking meters and want them removed.

— I hate Heppner's parking meters but want them to remain.

— I don't care whether the meters stay or go.

Check one.

(Sign your name) _____

Return to Gazette-Times, Heppner, Ore.



Senator Mark Hatfield, Ernest Joiner and Judge Paul Jones discuss the Willow Creek Dam Project. Hatfield visited Heppner recently during the fair and met with many of the local citizens.