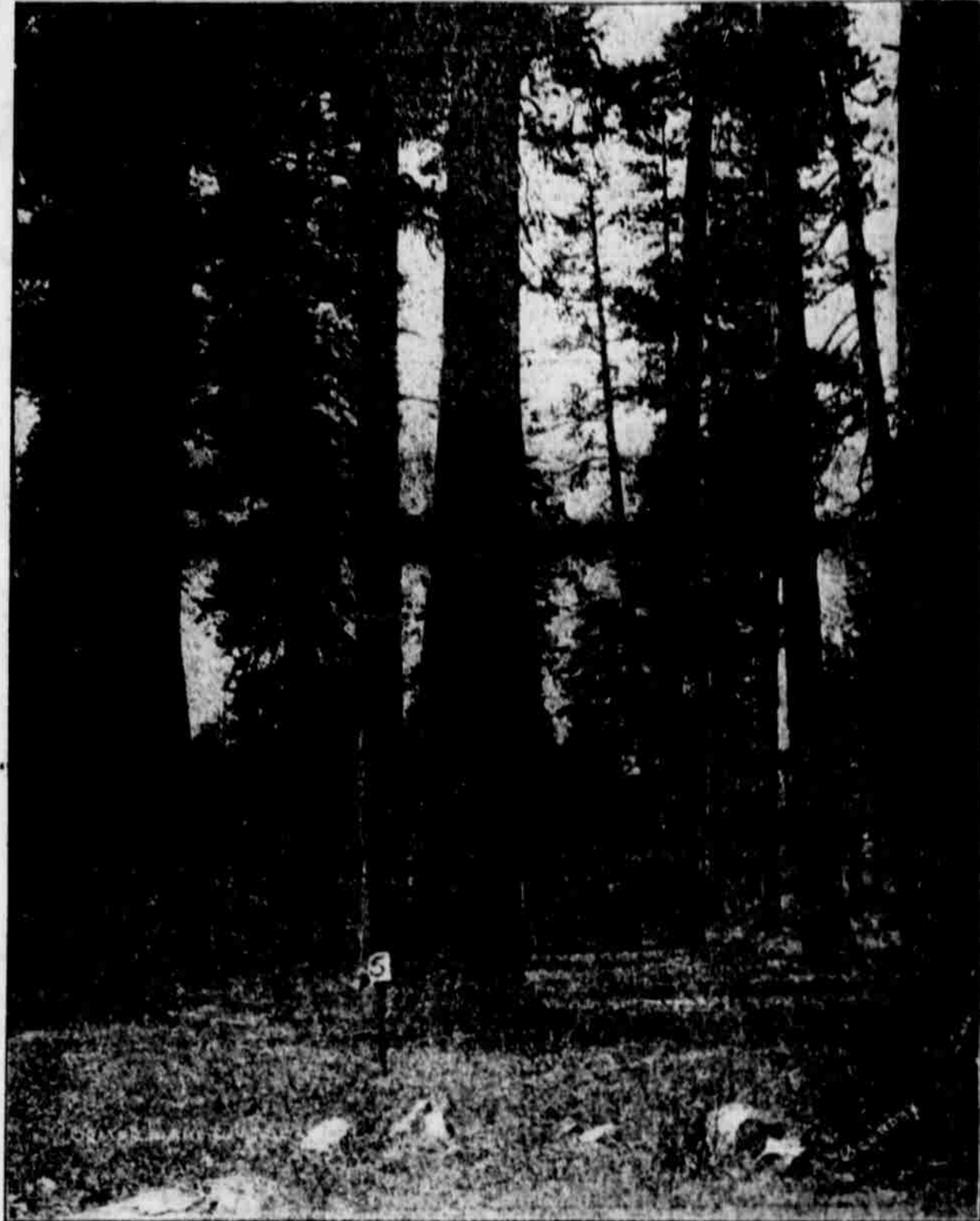


Great Forests Line Jackson County Highways



Forest Fire Protection

In planning an organization and placing in effect a fire plan, the fundamental consideration was to establish a system as efficient as possible with the amount of money available. The government, like private business, is limited in its expenditures. From the appropriation congress makes each year, separate funds are allotted for special purposes, such as permanent improvement fund, fire protection fund, general expense fund, etc. The best possible use of this money must be made to accomplish the work required and insure reasonably safe protection of the forests.

Aside from patrol and fire fighting other means are employed to prevent fires as far as such means prove effective. Precautionary measures, such as the piling and burning of brush and debris on timber sale and free use areas serve to clean up the ground and greatly lessen the fire menace. Educating the people that use or travel through the forests to exercise great care with fire, cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and matches is an important preventive measure, and in this work the state governments, timber owners' associations and others help greatly. Constant reminders of the danger of fires in the form of signs are posted all through the woods. Clearing and burning brush along roads and trails is still another measure being employed just as fast as time and money permit.

But the chief principle of fire protection under present day conditions is embodied in the lookout and patrol system. This consists of establishing lookout stations on high peaks, the view from which commands a vast scope of territory. During the months of July, August and September, except when weather conditions are unfavorable to fire, men are stationed on these high peaks whose duty it is to keep a constant lookout in all directions for fire. There are fourteen such lookout stations established on the Crater forest. The men at these points are equipped with telephones and immediately report the direction, approximate distance and location of all fires discovered.

It took time and money to extend telephone lines through the woods to lookout stations. It could not be accomplished in two or three years for the appropriations were limited. However wonderful success has been achieved in this respect. There now remain only four lookout stations yet to be equipped with telephone lines and there will be eighteen of them on the Crater forest.

From the combined lookout stations, as arranged, practically the whole surface area within the Crater national forest, 1,080,000 acres, can be seen. Many of the lookouts necessarily command in part the same territory, and when such is the case there is exhibited a gratifying spirit of rivalry between two or more lookout men to discover and report before another, the location of a fire in common territory. Each lookout station is equipped with a lookout



Timber Wealth Great

Development of the timber resources of southern Oregon in the hands of the government will probably take place rapidly within the next few years, no doubt much more quickly than the timber in possession of private owners. Of the 20,000,000,000 feet of standing timber in Jackson county, more than one-half of it is in the hands of private owners. Yet the lumbering industry in Jackson county is in its infancy, while it should be foremost among all industries in the county. In some future time it certainly will be, but such development depends on better transportation facilities. Owners of large tracts of timber have so much capital involved in the acquisition of their holdings that they are reluctant to invest heavier in the construction of railroads in order to get their timber to market. Market values for lumber have constantly been increasing and they feel it a good investment to continue holding their timber. The government is willing to sell its mature timber at any time, and its recently fire killed timber it is advertising for sale now at extraordinary low prices and in large enough bodies to warrant the construction of railroads to the timber.

Railroad Built

The Pacific & Eastern railroad already touches the timber belt of Upper Rogue river, and the railroad proposed to the Blue Ledge copper mines will open up the vast timbered region of the Siskiyou range.



Mill Creek Falls on Road to Crater Lake.

The milling of the lumber from these great forests will be reduced to minimum cost because of the unlimited water power afforded by Rogue river and Butte creek on the one hand and by the Applegate, Little Applegate, Joe and Elliott creeks

on the other. All the merchantable timber included in this estimate is of first grade. The trees are long-bodied, towering from 150 to 300 feet, the straight brown trunks free of limbs for many feet up.

Crater Lake, Filling Crater of Extinct Volcano, Oregon's Greatest Scenic Marvel



M. L. ERICKSON.