

Forest Service and CCC Gird for Annual Battle With Fire Demon

LOSS OF TIMBER GREATLY REDUCED IN RECENT YEARS

Improvements in Organization, Equipment Help — Public Education Also Big Factor in Prevention

PORTLAND, Ore., May 26.—(AP)—Scouts and shock-troops of a small, but highly-organized army soon will disappear in the deep green of the northwest's national forests to defend against the material gains of recent years against the relentless enemy of the nation's woodshed—fire.

The acreage of fire-ravished forests in 1935-36-37 in Oregon and Washington was lower than in any other years in the history of the U. S. forest service. The last three-year average was 6896 compared to the 1920-30 average of 88415.

J. F. Campbell, regional fire control chief, attributed the lessening of fire losses to improvements in organization, equipment and fire control methods of the forest service, assisted by the civilian conservation corps.

Propaganda Helps
As in war, the first line of defense is propaganda—public education for fire prevention. The man-caused fire which never occurs, destroys no timber.

Pre-suppression measures, the next phase, are designed to anticipate fires which do occur, whether by lightning or man. Drop a match or lightning bolt in almost any portion of the patrolled area and the fire-fighting machine will click along a pre-arranged plan based on knowledge of where the spark was most likely to occur and advance preparations to detect and extinguish it before the fire ran wild.

In 1937 only 34 out of 1508 fires in the two states exceeded 10 acres. Weather conditions, fuel types and other factors are translated into hazard ratings. Maps, corrected daily, convey to rangers possibilities of fire in almost every square mile of the huge area. A glance reveals possible causes of a fire in a given area, how fast it could spread, which look-outs could discover it and the time required to reach it.

Communication has developed in 25 years from the primitive heliograph to a criss-crossing telephone

system and portable two-way radio developed by the forest service for patrolmen, lookouts, airplanes and mobile equipment.

Airplane Adjunct
The airplane now has another important place besides that of detection. An isolated fire-fighting crew of 425 men and 50 horses was able to subdue a fire last year because airplanes parachuted-in supplies.

Power machinery has become increasingly important. A tractor-trencher doing the work of 50 men builds fire lines with amazing speed over country that appears impossibly rough. A power brush-buster sweeps through growth up to six inches thick in the fraction of time that axmen could clear it away. Portable pumps shoot powerful streams of water from neighboring lakes or creeks on smoldering debris.

The prize in this never-ending fight is some 20 million acres of America's most valued timberlands—an area comparable to that recently absorbed by Germany in her Austrian coup. It is one of the last great stands of the nation's dwindling timber heritage.



Modern machinery adds greatly to efficiency of forest fire fighters in Oregon. Above at left a forest service tractor is shown digging a fire-break ditch. The machine supplants the work of many men. At right, above a forest service guard reports progress of a blaze by portable radio. The short wave sets keep fire fighters in constant touch with headquarters and lookouts. Portable pumps and hose lines aid forest service and CCC fire brigades. A crew is shown below in action with the equipment.



HOPKINS DENOUNCED FOR TAKING HAND IN PRIMARIES OF IOWA

WASHINGTON, May 26.—(AP)—Senator Wheeler (D-Mont.) denounced WPA Administrator Harry Hopkins on the senate floor Wednesday for what he said was "reprehensible" conduct in connection with the Iowa senatorial primaries.

Wheeler said he was "perfectly shocked" to learn that Hopkins had been quoted as saying that if he lived in Iowa he would vote for Representative Wearin (D-Iowa) against the incumbent Senator Gillette (D-Iowa).

The Montanan asserted that on the basis of that statement it was evident that relief funds should be earmarked to prevent relief officials from "juggling these funds around" to help one candidate and punish another.

"I hope the people of Iowa will resent the activities of these men in charge of government spending agencies in butting in on the Democratic primary," Wheeler said.

"In the first place we don't know if Mr. Hopkins is a Democrat or not. Certainly we know Mr. Ickes was not a Democrat before he came to the cabinet."

Gillette sided with Wheeler a year ago in the fight to defeat President Roosevelt's supreme court plan.

Hopkins, Wheeler declared, "might just as well have put a slip in the pay envelope of every individual relief worker in Iowa." If newspaper accounts of his statement were correct.

CAVE JUNCTION SCHOOL DESTROYED BY FLAMES

GRANTS PASS, May 26.—(AP)—Fire of unknown origin destroyed the white school house near Cave Junction this morning. Keith and James Wells, returning from a lodge meeting at 2 a. m., reported they saw a car parked in front of the building, giving the only clue. Nineteen pupils enrolled for the school, which closed a week ago. Insurance was \$700.

DEATH ENDS SEARCH FOR FABULOUS MINE OF EARLY TEXAS DAY

PHOENIX, Ariz., May 26.—(AP)—The long search of C. W. McKee for the famous "mine with the iron door" was ended in death today.

The 64-year-old Arizona pioneer, who had devoted 14 years to hunting for the legendary treasure store, died last night, a week after suffering a heart attack.

When death came, McKee believed himself near solving the secret of the hidden mine, which since the 16th century, has lured treasure hunters. Members of McKee's family said he recently expressed conviction the mine with the iron door was close to the center of his operations, near Oracle, Ariz.

McKee claimed to have found the original dump of the mine. In his possession were many maps, gathered in Arizona, California and Mexico, he said showed the location.

According to the mine legend, its veins were worked in the 16th century by Spanish padres, who shipped the riches to Spain. It was sealed by the last of the missionaries before his return to Spain.

McKee said his information was that the hidden tunnel contained 2,500,000 ounces of gold.

The Sahara desert embraces an area nearly as large as the mainland of Europe.

ORDERS RECEIVED ON WINE RULING

Copies of the Oregon liquor control commission's new regulations restricting sale of fortified wines were received today by retail establishments here.

The regulations provide that after July 1 wholesalers and bottlers will not be permitted to bottle or sell fortified wine in flask-shaped containers of less than 24-ounce capacity. Retailers are given until September 1 to dispose of stocks of the prohibited sizes. After September 1 prohibited sizes remaining in stock may not be sold. There will be no extension of time beyond the dates set, the commission emphasized.

Purpose of the regulation is to lessen drunkenness and to minimize use of fortified wine by minors and others not legally permitted to purchase intoxicants.

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REALTY AGENTS TO MEET HERE

A regional dinner-meeting of real estate agents will be held in Medford at 8:30 Monday, June 6. It is expected that about 100 will attend from Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Coos and Douglas counties.

The program is being prepared by William L. Graham of Salem, deputy state real estate commissioner. Hugh H. Earle, state insurance commissioner, has been invited to attend and if he accepts, insurance men here will be asked to come to the dinner-meeting. It was stated by Carl Y. Tengwald, president of the Medford Realty Board.

In a letter to Mr. Tengwald, Mr. Graham said he expects real estate men of Portland and the Willamette valley to attend. He stated that an informative program would be presented.

Closing time for 600 Late to Classy Ads is 1:30 p. m.

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