

FOREST BURNING MYTH PERSISTS DESPITE TRUTH

Old Theory On Fire Prevention Exploded Years Ago — Ruinous Blazes Took Toll in Good Old Days

A myth is hard to dispel even after the truth has been established. The recent series of forest fires again revived the myth about burning the ground cover each year as an efficacious blaze preventative.

Called Baloney. Oh yeah? Well for years and years trained foresters have been saying that's a lot of bunk. Back in 1927 John D. Guthrie wrote an article for the Four L Lumber News on historic forest fires. Major Guthrie was then assistant district forester of the United States forest service at Portland. Now he is forest service inspector of the CCC at Washington, D. C.

In that 1927 article Major Guthrie said: "When Europeans first landed on these shores there were surely enough forests to burn and the white man began at once to burn them. It has long been the practice to lay the blame for forest fires of early days to Indians, to pirates, with little or no foundation in fact or record, that the Indians practiced the forest off regularly. If the American Indian did all the forest burning he is credited with there would have been no forests left in America when the first settlers landed."

Seedlings Destroyed. In an article written for the same journal in July, 1932, Major Guthrie said that during every bad fire year foresters have come to expect "a service of so-called arguments for 'light-burning' of the forests."

"Burn over the forest floor regularly," the advocates of slash forestry say," Major Guthrie continued. "Yes, and burn, kill and destroy all the tiny tree seedlings, one inch to three, four to six inches tall, which are your future forest."

"Burn it off like the Indians used to do." And with this statement there is the implication that the early-day Indians were pretty good foresters. "Slash forestry" is a good name for that mythical system supposed to have been used by the early redman.

Not Indian Custom. "As to the Indians making a practice of burning the forest regularly, with a conscious idea of keeping it clean and open, there is not the slightest bit of what may be considered as real evidence."

Continued burning of the ground cover not only destroys the tiny trees of future forests but eventually ends any kind of useful growth, Karl L. Januoch, supervisor of the Rogue River national forest says. Only the most useless kind of brush will grow after a while, he asserts. "Furniture is thus ultimately ruined," he adds.

Proof of this, Mr. Januoch states, may be seen in any burned-over area of the forest. He cites an old burn on Hunckleberry mountain where thick brush 12 feet high harasses the foresters.

Bad for Cows. "A man can't even crawl through that brush, much less a cow." Another bad feature about burning, Mr. Januoch pointed out, is that it leads to erosion. With growth burned out, rains and melting snow soon denude the land of top soil, he asserts.

As to there being no serious fires in the good old days when the ground cover was supposed to be burned regularly, the record is full of them. Some of these fires were cited by Major Guthrie as follows:

Big Stands Ruined. In 1946 occurred the Yaquina fire in Oregon, covering 450,000 acres of "probably what were as heavy stands of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and western cedar as could be found on the Pacific coast."

Seven years later in the same region came the Neastuca fire which covered 320,000 acres on the Oregon coast.

"The Silverton fires of 1865, again in Oregon, is said to have covered probably 1,000,000 acres. That summer was very dry. Settlers in Silverton read newspapers at night by its light. The air was filled as if a dense fog and the ashes on the burned area were four to five inches deep. It is recorded here that it was common practice then for settlers to fire the forests as if they had no value."

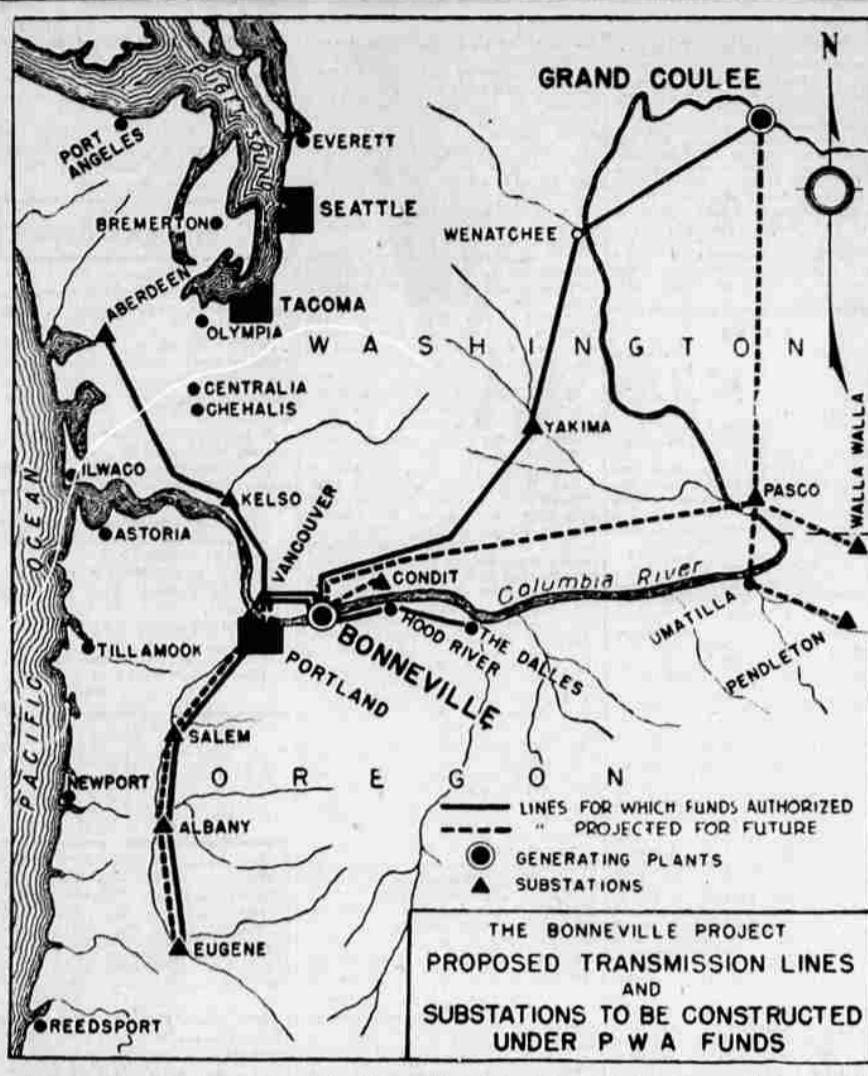
Many Lives Lost. In September, 1868, occurred the Coos fire which burned over 300,000 acres on the Oregon coast from September 15 to October 20. Also in September of that year the St. Helens fire covered more than 300,000 acres.

Numerous of the historic American forest fires cited by Major Guthrie took an appalling toll of life, some wiping out entire settlements.

With these facts in mind, foresters are inclined to lose patience when they are advised to "burn the ground cover regularly to improve the forests and prevent fires." But, they confess, it is hard to destroy a myth.

FIND WANDERING BABE UNHARMED IN CANYON LOS ANGELES, Aug. 8.—(UP)—A 20-hour search in which 12 airplanes and a blimp took part in scanning mountain country ended late Sunday when two-year-old Yvonne May Jeffries was found unharmed in a canyon in San Dimas park.

Where Bonneville Power Will Go



This map shows the power lines which will be built with the \$10,750,000 allocated recently by the PWA for transmission lines to carry Bonneville dam power. The black lines represent the lines to be built, while the dotted lines show what additional lines Administrator J. P. Ross had asked for but which were not provided for in the allocation. Where dotted lines parallel black lines, Ross had asked for double circuits instead of the single lines allocated.—(AP Photo.)

JUNIOR CRATERS TRIM PROSPECT

Medford's Junior Craters belted out 21 hits yesterday at the high school park to defeat Prospect, 16 to 7, in a Jackson county league baseball game. Johnny Gitzen led the attack with five hits in six trips, including a double. George Harrington hit three singles and a double. Malcolm Stone two singles and a triple and Croucher a triple.

Croucher and Harrington worked on the Medford mound, with the former fanning nine and allowing eight hits and five runs in the first six innings and the latter holding Prospect to a pair of tallies in the last three frames. Dewey Hill, Prospect manager, had a perfect day at bat with four hits in as many chances.

Score: R. H. E. Medford 16 21 5 Prospect 7 14 3 Croucher, Harrington and G. Gitzen; Lenzy and Hill.

TRIO KILLED WHEN BOLT HITS BEACH

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—(UP)—Three persons were killed and 15 injured Sunday when lightning struck Beach No. 14 at Jacob Hill park, Rockaway. The bolt struck about 20 feet from the edge of the water while many of the 80,000 persons at the park were on the beach or in its vicinity. Cesare Ceto, 36, was killed by the bolt and Pete Cava and his wife were pronounced dead after members of the police emergency squad had worked over them with inhalators for several hours.

Those injured were taken to the Rockaway beach hospital for treatment.

6 BRITISH AIRMEN DIE IN WAR GAME

LONDON, Aug. 8.—(UP)—Six men were killed and one was injured Sunday in the final day of British aerial "war games," in a series of spectacular airplane crashes that added a touch of grim realism to the mock warfare.

Five persons died when a bomber skidded into a hedge near Great Barton, Suffolk, and crashed in flames. An observer in another bombing plane was killed and the pilot injured when the plane crashed near Highongar, Essex.

Three two-seated fighters, lost in a fog over Lincolnshire, were abandoned in mid-air when they ran out of gas. The crews all landed safely in parachutes. A fourth plane in the squadron attempted a blind landing and crashed at Digby, Lincolnshire.

Meanwhile, authorities searched for a biplane which left Sealand Saturday night bound for Newcastle, and has not been reported. One person was aboard.

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TERRY IS CITED IN MINING CASE

Complaints charging Norman H. Terry of the Rogue River district with larceny by bailee, and with practicing the profession of mining engineering without a certificate of registration have been filed in justice court. Pleas on both charges will be made today. P. L. Heath of Rogue River is the complainant in both instances.

Bonds in the larceny by bailee charge were set at \$1,000, and in the other case at \$500. Terry has been unable to provide either, his attorney, Don Newbury reports.

Terry is alleged to have failed to turn over \$500 assertedly given him by Heath, and to have represented himself as a mining engineer.

MOOSE TO GIVE DANCE NEXT TUESDAY EVENING

The Moose lodge will hold a public dance at the K. P. hall Tuesday evening. According to D. D. Davis, assistant secretary of the lodge, the orchestra and drill team will be present and there will be initiation of several candidates prior to the dance. Dancing is expected to get under way about nine o'clock.

BREAK SEEN SOON IN BARTLETT DEAL

It is expected the next few days will see a "break" in the local Bartlett pear canning price situation. Court Hall, a buyer's representative for a number of years, said Sunday there might be developments in the next couple of days.

Picking of Bartletts is expected to start the latter part of the week in some orchards, and will be in full swing next week. County Horticulturist A. B. Cordy said he had heard reports some orchards started picking on a small scale today, but they were unconfirmed.

All of the packing plants have made preparations to start operations next Monday, August 15, but do not expect to operate full swing until a few days later.

OREGON'S STATE FAIR WILL OPEN LABOR DAY

SALEM, Aug. 8.—(P)—Leo Spitzbart, manager, said Saturday that Oregon's 1938 state fair will open Labor Day, September 8. He predicted that not less than 26 of the state's 36 counties would enter exhibits.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 1:30 p. m.

CONDITIONS BEST WHEN MOST JUNE MISHAPS OCCURRED

SALEM (UP)—If you want to make a safe auto journey in Oregon during June, don't pick a clear day or a dry road, make sure your travel at night and don't choose a car with no apparent defects.

Such a list of safety precautions might, at least, be inferred from the June statistical summary of motor vehicle accidents compiled by Secretary of State Earl Snell.

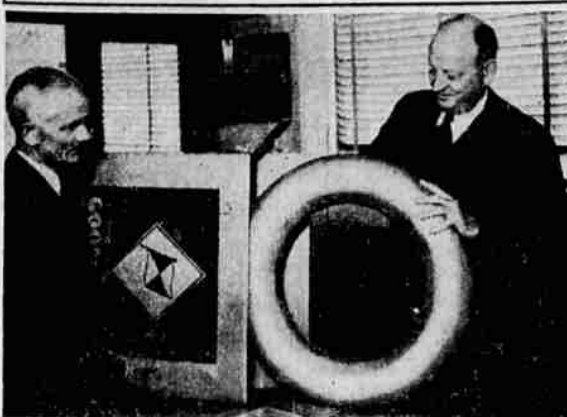
The summary revealed that most of the accidents reported during that month occurred under supposedly favorable driving conditions. The daylight hours produced about four-fifths of the accidents, 1925, with the hour of 5 to 6 in the evening leading all others with 232 reported mishaps.

Nearly 87 percent of the 2498 accidents occurred on dry roads. They resulted in 12 of the 29 fatalities while 13 cases where road condition was reported as slippery caused no deaths. In the 108 wrecks reported where road conditions were not stated in the report 14 were killed.

Cars apparently in satisfactory condition involved in collisions and other types of accidents numbered 2740, about 58 percent of the 4768 total. Two were killed and 112 machines were wrecked in cases where faulty brakes were reported.

Safest day to travel during June was Monday, which had a total of 310 auto mishaps. Saturday, occurring only four times in June, had 464 accidents, surpassing the other days of the week, including Wednesday and Thursday which each came up five times during the month. Safest hour was 4:01 to 5:00 a. m.

GOODYEAR BUILDS LIFE GUARDS ON WEST COAST



The first Goodyear LifeGuard built on the Pacific Coast is shown being packed for shipment to the Goodyear Museum, Akron, Ohio, by Vice President J. E. Mayl and J. A. Wilson, Division Superintendent. Western demand for LifeGuards, which rid tire blowouts of danger, will be supplied by Goodyear's Los Angeles factory as rapidly as possible.

low point in the ebbing total of accidents in the morning hours. From that time on hazard increased steadily until the evening peak was reached with two exceptions, the hours before and after noon to 1 p. m.

Only 13 crashes occurred on roads where a lighted or unlighted obstruction was involved, while 1838 happened on clear roads.

AQUAPLANE TITLE IS WON HARD WAY

HERMOSA BEACH, Cal., Aug. 8.—(UP)—Frank Rodecker of Hermosa Beach, his body covered with bruises and abrasions from a rough ride, finished ahead of a field of 19 starters Sunday in the 42-mile ocean aquaplane race from Catalina Island to Manhattan-Hermosa beaches.

His victory was disputed, but the protest was disallowed by the rules committee.

Price Sloan of Lake Arrowhead finished second behind Rodecker, who was taken to the hospital for treatment after ending the gruelling race. He was discharged after receiving first aid.

It was the roughest passage in history of the 4-year-old event, which today attracted an estimated 100,000 persons to the strand between Manhattan and Hermosa. Virtually every rider took at least one spill and four of the 19 starters dropped out of the way. Among the finishers was a Santa Monica girl, Mary Ann Hawkins, who wound up in 14th place.

FARM SECURITY LOANS ARE NOW AVAILABLE HERE

Farm security funds for loans to Jackson county farmers unable to secure necessary credit from other sources for purchase of livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and other production goods, are available for the 1938-1939 program, announces Eugene Hampton, county FSA supervisor, 211 Fluhrer building.

Where purebred sires and heavy equipment can be more economically provided on a joint use basis, loans will be made for cooperative purchase of such facilities.

Farm plans based on estimated livestock production and crop yields are worked out by the borrower in cooperation with the local supervisor to provide for meeting most of the food needs on the farm. Where debt adjustment is necessary to place the farm on a sound basis, this service is worked out through negotiations between debtor and creditor prior to making of the loan.

General qualifications governing FSA loans are: 1. Applicants must be bona fide farmers unable to secure adequate commercial credit to purchase necessary production goods.

2. Applicants must be located on a productive farm capable of supporting the family and repaying the loan on the basis of an approved farm and home plan.

3. Applicants not owners of their farms must have a satisfactory rent, lease or other tenure agreement.

4. New settlers from within or without the state must supply references from their place of origin as to farming experience and integrity.

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