

Medford's Lumber Boom

Forest Supervisor Sees Need of Curb To Guarantee Sustained Timber Yield

(An explanation of the current lumbering boom here and discussion of the prospects for continuation of the timber supply in the area tributary to Jackson county industrial centers has been prepared by Karl L. Janouch, supervisor of the Rogue River National Forest. Supervisor Janouch's summation will be published in two installments. The first appears herewith.)

By Karl L. Janouch

A substantial public interest prevails in this county as regards the harvesting of the local timber resources. People are noticing the many truckloads of logs passing over our highways and through our cities. Hundreds of carloads of lumber are noted in our railroad yards. Bankers are experiencing an influx of a new kind of money. Business and professional people are getting acquainted with a new clientele. Civilians find lumber to be a scarcer article. This is developing a concern. What is going on in our woods? Is there a supply of timber for a continued harvest of trees at the present rate? What provisions are being made for reforestation? Are the scenic values along highways and roads being destroyed? Are the fishing streams and lakes protected from depletion of the trees along the shore lines? Will we have untouched forests for recreation? How about our camp ground areas? Will continued employment in lumber industries be maintained? These and many comparable questions are asked. Many of our business and professional people would like to know how to plan for the future.

Due to the display of public interest, it is appropriate to outline the local timber situation and to answer the questions that have been and are being asked. The Rogue River National Forest staff has made a comprehensive survey of the timber resources of the area tributary to the industrial centers of Jackson county. This plan was carefully analyzed and a potential determination of a timber disposal plan was made in accordance with the long established

economic policy of the U. S. forest service. Briefly, this policy is that all natural resources of forested lands should be managed and utilized that the use and/or harvest thereof shall make the greatest possible contribution to the stability and economic welfare of dependent communities and to the full enjoyment and welfare of the public as a whole. Proper management and utilization of forested lands in compliance with this expressed policy calls for timber harvesting in an orderly manner so that there will be a continuous, stable supply of usable products for all time to come. Upon this depends the welfare of any community located within a forest zone, where forest resources contribute both directly and indirectly to the financial income of the people. In planning for timber harvesting, full protection must also be given to other resources existing on the area which may be of equal or greater value to the community—for example, watersheds which provide domestic and irrigation water, recreation areas such as camp grounds and fishing streams which afford pleasure to the local residents and attract a tourist business, timber stands bordering public highways for the pleasure of the traveler, grazing lands for cattle and sheep and breeding grounds and range for game animals and birds.

We are now at the cross roads where we meet a dangerous procedure in the harvest of our timber resources and now is our opportunity to stop and look into the situation. We can save our forests from depletion and we can protect all the other forest values.

The timber resources within the Upper Rogue River production unit support an industry that produced 200 million board feet of timber in the year 1943. This was an essential contribution to the war effort since lumber has become critical material number one during this year. This production created a payroll of approximately \$3,600,000 and the forest industry was paid approximately \$8,840,000 for the lumber produced. Such an amount of money contributed a material financial income to all the business and professional people of our county and furnished additional work to our transportation facilities, machine shops and other service institutions. Our farmers were also benefited through a consumption of their products purchased by "lumber" money. Approximately 5825 people were directly supported by the 1943 lumber production and 8930 people indirectly gained their livelihood. This makes an estimated total of 14,765, or more than one-third of the men, women

and children of the county who are maintained by the lumber industry. Naturally, with the knowledge of the large financial return and the number of people that are supported, many of our citizens are delighted and would like to see not only a continuance of the lumber output, but an increase to make more dollars and to support more people. Can they have both?

The Upper Rogue River production unit includes all the timber lands in the Rogue and Applegate River drainages located approximately six miles east of Grants Pass and west to the Cascade mountain range divide and supports a stand of about 18 1/2 billion board feet of timber available for lumber manufacture. This volume will produce a sustained yield output of approximately 218 million board feet of raw wood products may be manufactured annually without excess depletion of the supply, providing fires, insects, disease and natural causes do not divest the stand.

Last year, 200 million board feet were harvested in the Upper Rogue River production unit. This constitutes approximately 20 per cent overcut, or an excessive harvest, and a lead to complete depletion of the supply. It must be remembered there is a war on and industry is keyed up to produce as much lumber as possible for the armed forces. Many sawmills are working overtime and it is expected that many will fall back to their pre-war production. However, many sawmill owners have already expressed a desire to expand their plants up to as much as 100 per cent after the war and many outside interests are examining the Southern Oregon area with the idea of locating additional mills. Any plan that calls for removing more than 218 million board feet of logs yearly from the Upper Rogue River production unit leads to depletion of the timber resources. This will eventually reduce the financial income and stability of local communities and will have an ill effect on our general welfare.

Devastation of timber resources also has an adverse effect on the watersheds supplying irrigation and domestic water, water used for power fish and wild life, esthetic values and recreational resources which furnish us enjoyment and brings tourists to our communities. Also, the indiscriminate removal of forest cover results in soil erosion which fills up reservoirs and irrigation ditches and produces many other economic losses.

We can cut 218 million board feet of logs in the Upper Rogue River production unit and not suffer any financial, social or esthetic losses. We can build up all these values through proper forest practices and utilization.

(Continued Tuesday)

THE GRANGE

Upper Rogue Grange met November 16 with fair attendance.

We were pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Bickerstaff with us from the Eagle Point grange. Mr. and Mrs. Bickerstaff are living at Rogue's Roost.

The following officers were elected: Master, Roy Vaughn; overseer, Herb Carlton; lecturer, Carl Richardson; steward, Paul Force; assistant steward, Ronald Axtell; chaplain, Florence Austin; treasurer, Frank Ditsworth; secretary, Ola Houston; gatekeeper, Owen Austin; Ceres, Selma Carlton; Flora, Elva Carlton; Pomona, Beverly Force; lady assistant steward, Georgie Grieve; executive committee, May Richardson, Ed Houston and Bruce Grieve; agriculture chairman, Ed Houston.

H. E. C. met after grange and Sister Lillian Force was elected H. E. C. chairman for a second term. It was decided to have a potluck supper Thursday, December 21.

Sister Richardson is in charge of decorations and the worthy lecturer already has plans under way for a special program. It was also decided to have a small gift exchange.

WEATHER

Northern California and Sacramento, San Joaquin, Livermore, Salinas and Santa Clara valleys: Clear today, tonight and Tuesday; slightly higher daytime temperatures, but cool at night with local frosts in valleys.



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New Scout Chief



Olin D. Sharpe of New York City has been appointed regional executive for the Boy Scouts of America in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Sharpe has been active in the Boy Scout movement since 1911 when he joined Troop No. 1 of Neodesha, Kas. He progressed through all ranks to attain Eagle Scout rank, the highest in the Boy Scouts of America.

WAVE ENLISTING TO BE CURTAILED

WAVE enlistments will be curtailed effective December 1, with only a limited number allocated to Oregon, according to Herb Crain of the Medford U. S. navy recruiting station.

Beginning in December, only about 100 WAVES will be enlisted nationally to provide replacements for the WAVES now on duty. The goal set for WAVES enlistments will be reached by December 1, due to the record of approximately 5,000 enlistments per month which has been maintained for the past year.

Any young woman interested in the WAVES, it was emphasized, should complete her application and arrange to place her name on this waiting list so that she will receive first call when billets are open.

TRAGIC GREETING

Brea, Cal., Nov. 20—(U.P.)—William Edward Gregory ended a 1,300-mile trip from Cottonwood Falls, Kan., yesterday at the home of his estranged wife, Mrs. Katherine T. Gregory, whom he shot and killed as she greeted him and then turned the gun on himself Deputy Coroner C. R. Coudon reported today.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

TOPIC SELECTED FOR HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST

Oregon Historical society has selected "The Constitutional Convention of 1857" as subject for the 1945 C. C. Beekman essay contest. Prizes offered are first, \$60; second, \$50; third, \$40 and fourth, \$30. Money will be awarded for the best four original essays written and submitted by girls or boys between 15 and 18 years of age attending any public or private school, academy, seminary, college, university or other educational institution within the state of Oregon.

All essays must be in the hands of Oregon Historical society, Public Auditorium, Portland, not later than March 17, 1945.

Books on the subject are available at the local library or may be obtained from Oregon State Library at Salem.

Essays must not be over 2,000 words in length and may be hand written or in typewritten form. There shall also be delivered with the essay a certificate signed by the principal or teacher of the educational institution attended stating the writer is a student of that school.

Sams Valley Club Sponsors Dinner Thanksgiving Day

Sams Valley, Nov. 20—A community Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Sams Valley Ladies' club will be held at the Sams Valley Grange hall Thanksgiving Day.

Those attending are urged to bring well filled baskets and come early as serving will begin during the noon hour.

The afternoon will include visiting, music, etc., for the elders at the Grange hall and the school gym will be open for games for the youngsters.

There will be no school on Friday following Thanksgiving.

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Griffen Creek Hot Lunch Program Is Assured At School

Griffen Creek, Nov. 20—Griffen Creek's hot lunch program was assured. Friday night when a record crowd attended a gala carnival at the school gym and generously patronized the many colorful booths.

A short musical program, under direction of E. C. Root, was introduced by a combined orchestra group of Lone Pine and Griffen Creek students.

A trio of girl musicians completed the program. Carlene Mark presented two cornet solos, a piano duet was given by Beverly Mers and Muriel Toile.

The carnival is an annual affair and credit for its successful production goes to the untiring

efforts of the teachers under Principal Myrna Frink and the organized mothers.

FINED IN CRANTS PASS
Grants Pass, Nov. 20—Arthur R. Fisher of Medford was fined \$25 in police court on Wednesday on a charge of violation of the basic traffic rule.

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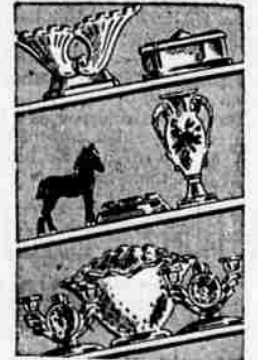
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