SCRATCHING HEAD in puzzlement, Eugene Pollack can hardly believe eyes as he finds opossum comfortably settled under hood of car. Just how animal managed to find way into securely fastened cover is mystery. Car was in Chicago.

Fire Prevention and Standby Methods in Firefighting Talked

A discussion of fire prevention and fighting methods and a request for a standby list of men and equipment for emergency use in bad fire situations featured a joint meeting of state forestry men and members of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association at the Jackson hotel Friday evening.

Some 63 men, mostly from Jackson and Josephine counties, attended the session, which took the place of the usual series of meetings on fire protection before the summer months.

To Use Map

One of the standby plans will include the use of a map showing locations of lookouts, wardens, crews and equipment, state men said. Normal fires they expect to combat with their own crews, but in extremely bad fires they will need to rely on loggers, private equipment and the "know-how" of experienced men. It is hoped to have "on tap" a large number of small crews to be held in readiness for emergencies.

Transportation on such cases will be largely by private cars, it was pointed out, in an attempt to get men to the scene fast, and to get fires under control while still small. Operators were requested to fill out forms showing the number of men on each operation, and the type and amount of equipment.

Data Given

The other half of the same form gives operators information showing state forest patrol personnel and the type of aid available to loggers, as well as information on how to get aid. There is no obligation entailed in filling in the forms, it was pointed out. But if loggers are called upon to help fight fires, the state will pay the costs, it was said.

Loggers Praised

Frank Hamilton, district warden here, complimented local loggers and operators upon the high type of cooperation they offered last year, particularly during the second Foots creek fire. The state asked for 125 men, at 5 a.m. on a Sunday morning, he said, and a full quota was on hand shortly.

During a question and answer period, it was pointed out that wages and rental on equipment are set up by a committee comprised of forest service and labor union representatives. Overtime pay for work in excess of 40 hours is not paid.

Loggers present urged the increased use of fire warning signs, and volunteers will post them in critical areas.

Discuss Inspection

During a discussion of inspection policies and procedures, questions of permit issuance, humidity factors and isolation of slash burning were brought up.

The state forest conservation law was also discussed, and the three methods of restocking cutover areas were mentioned. In northwestern Oregon blocks of seed trees, comprising some five per cent of the area, are advocated. In this area, the use of individual seed trees works well, it was pointed out, and two should be left on each acre.

In ponderosa pine stands, the most successful method was said to be a diameter cut limitation, with nothing under 16 inches being taken, with at least four such trees to each acre.

Talk Slash Burning

Hamilton also discussed slash burning procedure at some length, pointing out that state headquarters will notify local wardens when conditions are right for burning, and permits may then be issued. He urged good advance planning before slash is burned, and good men with sufficient equipment should be used. He stressed the importance of operators getting releases on current slash areas, and also emphasized the importance of keeping to a minimum the needless killing of young reproduction growth.

Destructive logging methods come in for their share of criticism, and it was pointed out that these bring about a greater slash problem, and a higher percentage of killed reproductive growth.

Permits Here

Association radio members reported that permits for the new communications network have arrived, and that the sets will arrive next month.

Among the speakers were Dwight Phipps, deputy state forester; Jim Walker, district forest supervisor; Hamilton, and Keith Young, Coos county warden and representing the Coos County Forest Patrol association.

Car-Washing Service Opens Here Today

Calvin Pryor and Everett McGraw Saturday announced the opening of a new semi-automatic car-washing service, located at the Olympic Trucking terminal, at the corner of Central and Riverside avenues near the south city limits.

The service, to be known as Mac's Olympic Car Wash, opened for full-time operation this morning. It will specialize in washing cars while the customer waits, and can complete one job in about 10 minutes.

The cars are first cooled in the shade, and by a hose, and then two men scrub the car with soap. It is then run through two automatic sprinklers. Automatic brushes are not used, Pryor said, because there is too much grit in dust in this country, and might damage paint jobs.

Electronic Unit To Plan Program At Monday Meet

Another planning session of the proposed naval reserve organized electronic company will be held here Monday evening, according to Lt. Henry Fisher USNR. Navy veterans, former members of other service branches, and interested civilians are invited to attend the 7:30 p.m. meeting in the Federal building at 33 North Riverside avenue.

"We were axtremely pleased with the turnout at the first organizational meeting last week," Lt. Fisher says, "and we are confident that the unit will be ready for activation in a few weeks. However, it is important that deck officers qualified to take over the administrative duties of the unit be found so that the staff may be completed."

May Receive Pay

Lt. Fisher says that navy veterans who have already indicated an interest in the group have been attracted by the opportunity to continue their training and receive a full day's pay for the weekly two-hour drill sessions. Radio receiving and transmitting equipment and radar has already been installed by the volunteer electronic warfare company and it is expected that sonar and fathometer instruments will be ready for use in the near future.

Purpose of the new unit is to train recruits in the operation and maintenance of radio and sound equipment and to provide facilities where navy veterans may brush up on their past training. A full schedule of courses will be offered allowing men to advance in rate as fast as requirements are fulfilled. Instructors in radio, radar, sonar, and electronics are available to start course work as soon as the unit is activated.

Five Officer Vacancies

As only five officer billets are open in the ultimate complement of the company, Lt. Fisher urges interested men to report on Monday while there are still vacancies. Officers with D, C or T classifications are eligible for assignment.

Special feature of Monday's meeting will be the showing of navy combat films taken during Pacific action during the last war.

Shady Cove Officer To Lead Seabee Unit

Seabee volunteer reserve Unit 13-30 held a special meeting last week. Lt. Cmdr. Jackson, Seabee reserve officer from Seattle assigned Lt. John Jones, Shady Cove, as unit commander.

The drill nights have been changed from Monday to Tuesday and the next drill will be held June 6 at 8 p.m. in the Federal building. Chief Paul Jennings will give a lecture on cold weather engineering. All members of the Seabee reserve and former Seabees are urged to attend.

(Acme Telephoto)

ATOMIC SPY CONFESSES—Research Chemist Harry Gold (right) is escorted to prison by an FBI agent after his arraignment in Philadelphia on charges of atomic espionage. FBI agents, who arrested Gold, 39, said he admitted helping pass vital A-bomb information to the Communists. His bail was set at $100,000.

Virgo, Goddess of Justice

By J. Hugh Pruett
Astronomer, Extension Division, Oregon Higher Education System

Many will recall that during the entire total lunar eclipse of a little over a year ago a bright star stood close beside the darkened moon as if lending kindly reassurance during the "hour of distress." This star, blue-white Spica, now twinkles well up in the south around 9 p. m. standard time (10 p. m. DST), the exact time depending upon how far you are from a standard time meridian. On May 28, Spica will be only a few degrees west of the big moon. Red Mars, farther to the west, is considerably brighter.

Spica (Spika, long 1) and several faint stars near it outline the constellation Virgo, The Maiden. The ancient Greek poets wrote fondly of the virtues and deeds of Virgo. In the times that were old even to the early Grecians, this beautiful maiden, the goddess of justice, abode—according to legend—on the earth. But troubled by the wickedness and injustice prevalent here, Virgo finally chose the heavens for her dwelling place. From the skies she descended at the appropriate season to preside over the harvests and to administer justice to men.

Represented Wheat

In mythology, Spica represented the golden heads of wheat carried in the left hand of Virgo. This star is actually about 500 times more luminous than is our sun, but the great distance—its light requires 120 years to reach us—dims the brilliance considerably. Spica is one of the very hot stars with a surface temperature of around 20,000 degrees centigrade as compared with our sun's 6,000 degrees. Compare either with the boiling point of water, 100 degrees centigrade (212 degrees fahrenheit.)

The stars tracing the body of Virgo form a large, rather awkward letter Y, which is easily pointed out without a diagram. Spica is at the lowest part of the letter. From this bright star trace an imaginary line northwest. We soon pass a faint star, then almost an equal distance farther northwest we find Gamma, of about the same brightness as the dimmest star of the Big Dipper. These three form the stem of the Y. Gamma is at the point where the arms of the letter branch.

Difficult Names

Two stars of approximately the brightness of Gamma, and almost north from it, form one arm of the Y; two others almost west form the other arm. The spread of the open part of the letter covers more sky space than the entire handle of the familiar Big Dipper.

Should you care for difficult star names, remember that the most western star of the Y is Zavijava; the most northern, Vindemiatrix.

The Milky Way, according to one ancient legend, is made up of the golden grams of wheat scattered along the path trod by the beautiful Virgo.

Lard Diet Claimed Helpful For Eczema

Chicago, May 27—(U.P.)—An increase of lard in the diet has shown good results in the treatment of eczema, according to an editorial in the National Live Stock Producer.

The article was based on findings of Dr. Arild E. Hansen, of the University of Texas. He said that tests were made with adults, children and babies.

Summer Program Of Crafts To Be Given at YMCA

With the assistance of several adults who are enthusiastic about a craft program in the YMCA, an interesting and varied craft program for youngsters and teenagers will be launched this summer, "Y" officials said Saturday.

Jake Fisher of the Groceteria will instruct in leathercraft, emphasizing the tooling of leather. Fisher learned this hobby while in veterans hospitals and is adept at it. The Kiwanis club is contributing funds to purchase the bare essentials in leathercraft tools. Classes will be Thursday, from 7 to 9 p.m. for junior high and high school students and Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for grade school.

Ceramics will be a specialty for girls, with Mrs. Arthur Brereton and some of the women in her class conducting a course on Wednesday morning. Any woman interested in helping with this instruction should contact R. L. Jones at the YMCA.

Kiln Presented

A number of beautiful pieces have been made by the adult ceramic classes in the past few months, and several molds have been purchased to assist in pottery making. Five Medford women making it possible for the YMCA to purchase a large kiln for the baking of clay are Mrs. L. L. Sanders, Mrs. Charles Bottjer, Mrs. Charles Lemery, Mrs. Gordon Kershaw and Mrs. Marshall Bessonette.

Ceramics has gained such a large following in the Rogue valley that the YMCA will accept clay work from non-members for firing at reasonable rates.

The most unusual of hobby crafts will be a course in fly tying by Jim Duckett, who will intruct boys on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Duckett will conclude the course by taking the boys on fishing trips where they will learn how to use them.

These programs are all a part of YMCA boys' and girls' "summer adventure program."

Youth, 17, Receives 50 Years In Prison

Des Moines, Ia., May 26—(U.P.) Tommy Ellis, 17, AWOL soldier accused of the knife slaying of an 85-year-old Des Moines widow in a $5 robbery, today entered a surprise plea of guilty to a second degree murder charge and was immediately sentenced to 50 years in prison. Ellis interrupted court proceedings today just as they were about to get underway and entered his plea.

District Judge Loy Ladd asked the freckled and red-haired youth if he were ready to plea to a second degree murder charge.

"Yes, sir," Ellis replied in a firm voice.

Ladd then accepted the guilty plea and sentenced the husky youth to 50 years in the state prison at Fort Madison.

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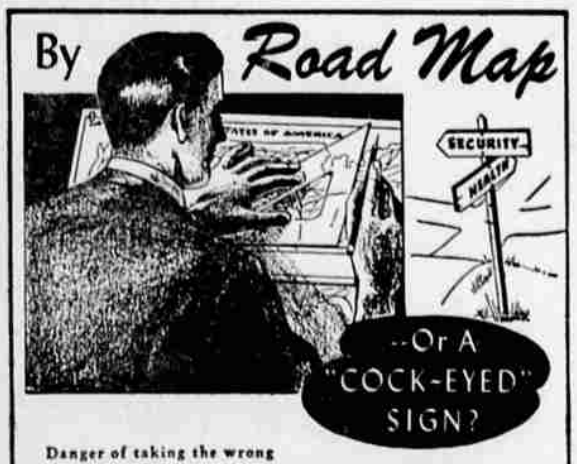

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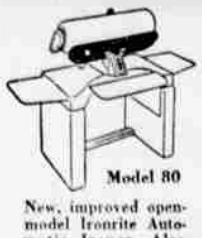

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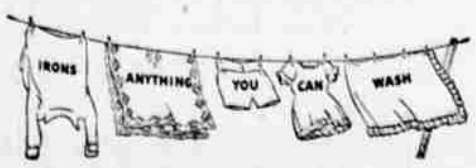

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