

Science at Work

Rain-Making Devices Hailed as Curb on Forest Fires—Helicopters Also May Be Helpful.

By Paul F. Ellis

United Press Science Editor

New York (U.P.)—Forest fires that burn out thousands of acres of valuable timber each year may be prevented some day by man's rain-making devices according to A. A. Brown, of the United States Forest Service.

Brown in a report to the 54th Fire Protection association, said annual meeting of the National many fires are caused by dry-lightning storms. He predicted the future goal would be to prevent the storms from forming.

That may be done, he said, through use of the rain-making technique, developed by Dr. Vincent Schaefer, of Schenectady, N. Y.

"There is a chance to break up such local storms before they reach the lightning stage," he said. "We also hope that the work which has been going on in seeding clouds with dry ice to cause precipitation may have value at times in forest fire fighting, where even small changes in the humidity and temperature are of great importance in the behavior of a forest fire."

Helicopters Also Helping

Brown also reported that rapid development in the helicopter field indicates that the so-called "wind mill" machines may have more use in fighting fires.

He said that as of now, load limitations and ceilings still limit use of the helicopter in mountain country but that the situa-

tion may change with developments.

The helicopter has possibilities not only for providing emergency shuttle service but has possibilities as well of applying control measures directly to a fire to make it a "flying fire wagon," he said.

Seats Can Be Safer

Edward R. Dye, head of the development division of the Cornell aeronautical laboratory, told the association that rearward facing seats anchored and with strong well-padded backs to support the spine and head, are "practical for the protection of air passengers."

He said life safety from fire in aircraft accidents depends much on the ability of the passengers to evacuate the aircraft.

"From reports covering commercial airplane crashes where survival has been limited, primarily by fire following a crash, many of the passengers have been subjected to such inertia induced by shock that even though they were not seriously injured they could not help themselves from the wreck due to their dazed condition," he said.

He suggested that at least one member of the crew, probably the steward, be located in a crash and fire-resistant compartment in the tail of the airplane.

This crew member, he said, should face rearward and be pro-

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VACATIONISTS HELPED

London—(U.P.)—Under nationalization, special low rates are offered by British railways to anglers visiting fishing centers, hikers and cyclists returning from country tours, Boy and Girl scouts attending rallies and young scholars and employed persons under eighteen years of age.

vided with a crash safety belt. "I'm convinced," he said, "that a person so protected can ride through much more severe crashes than passengers in other parts of the airplane and he would thus be in a better condition to supervise the removal of passengers from the fire hazard zone."

Little Quickies



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Quick Action Saves Farmhouse From Fire

Williamsport, Pa.—(U.P.)—Elev-n-year-old Thomas Stroble earned the praise of his parents and fellow members of 4-H clubs when his clear thinking saved his home from destruction by fire.

Tommy was tending to his chickens when he saw smoke pouring from the brooder house. Flames began to lick at the walls of the coop and came perilously close to the house and other farm buildings.

Tommy, living up to the first "H" of the 4-H Club, which stands for "head" or clear thinking, grabbed a stout chain, attached it to a tractor and the coop. He dragged the brooder house out into an open field.

The young farmer lost 200 chickens along with the brooder, but his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Stroble, replaced them.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads

Hoe With Brain Latest Device Offered Farmers

Pasadena, Cal., June 14—(U.P.) A hoe with a brain was the latest labor saving device offered to farmers today.

David Packard, of Palo Alto, former Stanford football player, told the annual convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers of a robot hoe that thins out plants and weeds as fast as 20 agricultural laborers.

Works Successfully

The electronic device, he said, has worked successfully in thinning sugar beet plants, and plans are underway to try the machine in cotton fields.

An electric "eye" operated by light refractions from leaves of plants and weeds, is adjusted so that it selects for chopping off plants at certain intervals or plants which are out of alignment in the rows, Packard explained.

Cost Under \$5000

"One machine will cost less than \$5,000 and it should pay for itself in one season," Packard said, revealing that a new concern has been organized to manufacture it.

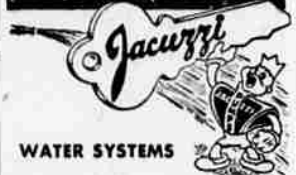
Titus G. Leclair, of Chicago, was elected president of the electrical engineers, succeeding James F. Fairman of New York. C. M. Laffoon, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was awarded the Lamme medal, one of the highest honors given members of the institution.

PRANK COSTS PLENTY

Russell, Kan.—(U.P.)—A collegiate prank cost the prankster \$272.50. Ken McCullough, Great Bend college student, was fined that amount for reckless driving and failing to obey a police stop signal in chasing two carloads of students along a mid-Kansas highway.

Dead line Sunday Classified in at Noon Saturdays

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Block-like Boxes Used in Home Construction

Pittsburgh—(U.P.)—Houses built of wooden boxes and put together like children's blocks slashing construction costs in the small town of Grindstone, Pa.

Louis Sabatini, 34, who with the help of three men built his four-room house in 17 hours, said the cost would be less than \$5000.

The boxes or blocks are open on the inside so interior walls can be finished with either plaster or board and plaster or with solid wood, ready to paint.

Activians Set Up Girls' Summer Camp

Members of the Medford Active club went to Lake O' Woods Sunday to set up the Low Echo girl scout camp for the summer session.

This year's enrollment at the camp is expected to be the greatest ever held.

The Active club annually sets up the camp for summer session, and in the fall dismantles and stores the camp's equipment.

wall board. The exterior is of solid wood, ready to paint.

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Radio, heater, two-tone paint, hydromatic drive, low mileage.	
1949 Chev. 2-Dr. Aero Sedan	\$1695
Low mileage, clean as a pin. This is a real buy.	
1948 Chevrolet 4-Dr. Sedan	\$1395
Radio, heater, lots of extras, exceptionally clean.	
1947 Chevrolet Aero Sedan	\$1295
Radio, heater, plastic tailor-made seat covers. Runs very good.	
1947 Mercury Convert. Club Cpe.	\$1295
Radio, heater, twin spotlights. Look this one over.	
1946 Chrysler Royal 4-Dr. Sedan	\$1195
Heater, fluid drive. Very clean.	
1946 Chevrolet 4-Dr. Sedan	\$1045
Radio, heater, white wall tires. Really good.	
1942 Chevrolet 2-Door	\$695
Radio, heater, seat covers. Try it and you'll buy it.	
1941 Plymouth Club Coupe	\$595
Radio, late model engine, tailor-made seat covers. Completely reconditioned.	
1941 Oldsmobile "6" 4-Dr. Sedan	\$445
Has some extras. This is an exceptional buy.	
1941 Studebaker 4-Door Sedan	\$395
Heater, very clean.	
1941 Chrysler Royal 4-Dr. Sedan	\$595
Radio, heater, late model engine. This car really runs good.	
1940 Ford 2-Door Sedan	\$195
Runs very good. Needs some body work.	
1940 Pontiac 4-Door Sedan	\$195
This is a mechanic's special.	
1939 Pontiac 4-Door Sedan	\$295
Radio, heater. Runs very good.	
1937 Ford 4-Door Sedan	\$95
This is a steal.	
1936 Pontiac 2-Door Sedan	\$145
Runs very good.	
1936 Oldsmobile 4-Door Sedan	\$165
This will surprise you for an old model car.	
1936 Buick Coupe	\$75
Radio, heater. Look this over.	

Trucks and Pickups

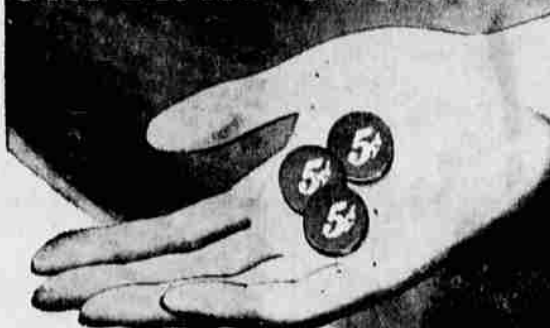
1949 Chevrolet Panel	\$1495
Radio, heater. Just like new.	
1949 Chevrolet 3/4 Ton Pickup	\$1445
Radio, heater, 4-speed transmission. Really clean.	
1948 Chevrolet 3/4 Ton Pickup	\$1245
Heater, 4-speed transmission. Like new.	
1946 Chevrolet Log Truck	\$2395
3-speed Brown-Lipe transmission, 2-speed axle, dual axle trailer, ready to go to work.	
1944 Chevrolet Dump Truck	\$945
Brown-Lipe transmission, 3-yard dump box. This will do your hauling.	

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