

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Second Section

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY JUNE 27, 1950

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OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

Time and Trees
We sat there on a log that had been a seedling over 1,200 years ago. Billy Entwistle, once a bull-team logger, helped a 9-year-old Cub scout nail up a "Keep Green" sign on the dead forest giant, and I thought about the meaning of time. Around the log were fir and hemlocks about 20 years old.

We were all out in the woods to help start the wheels rolling on a campaign to get people to thinking of the danger ahead in the holidays that will run from Friday, June 30, through to the last shot of fireworks on the night of the "Fourth of July."

Fire danger. We were in the midst of an area that contained 75,000 acres of second and third growth forest, practically all of it logged between 1910 and 1940.

Through it all fishing streams ran. There were hiking trails and camping sites. Roads webbed the area. Travelers through it would number thousands in the July 1-4 holidays.

Billy Entwistle was telling the Cub scouts that they should live to see the greater part of the 75,000 acres logged all over again.

"Give the trees time," said Billy Entwistle. "Time—and no fire." No Sun

"Once upon a time," said Billy Entwistle, "our summers here were all fires and no sun. In the summers of the 1870s and the 1880s, when I was a boy and then a young logger, the people of western Washington seldom saw the sun on the Fourth of July—or on any other summer day. All summer hundreds of forest fires were kept burning. In heaviest rain they would smolder and the smoke would die down. Rainy spell over, we'd have the twilight of smoke again."

"Was it the Indians who burned the forests all the summers?" asked one of the Cubs. "I heard at school the Indians burned forests to make better hunting grounds."

"You heard something wrong, son," said Billy Entwistle. "The Indians did not set the fires that hid the summer sun in those times and killed so many of the lowland forests, which had the biggest and best trees of all. The Indians had been here for at least 10,000 years, the scientists declare, before the 1870s, when the great summer burnings began. Prospectors, ranchers, stockmen, homesteaders, hunters, all white, fired the forests to clear them out for their own purposes."

"No one dreamed that timber could ever become scarce. Of all things trees were the cheapest. White men burned wonderful forests just to make trails for easier travel. Many traveled the waterways by boat and canoe, camping overnight on the beaches. If their beach fires started forest fires, no one was concerned."

"Let 'em burn," they said. "Fires do no harm. Too many trees, anyway."

"Is it any wonder that the sun did not shine in the summertime? But never blame the Indians, who loved their home country, for the fires of other days."

First Warden

It seemed a long while back, even to me, and to the Cubs a time much farther away—the 1870s. Billy Entwistle is now 85. His father was a California '49er who found no gold and

County Budget Hearing Set Wednesday, 11 a.m.

Taxpayers will get a chance Wednesday to tell the county budget committee what they think of the proposed 1950-51 budget for Jackson county.

The committee, composed of M. T. Wray, Roger F. Rath, Arnold Bohner, Judge J. B. Coleman, and Commissioners R. R. Lytle and L. G. "Shy" Northland, has drawn up a budget calling for total expenditures during the next fiscal year of \$1,595,358.55. The levy on property owners will be \$541,751.33, and the budget is within the six per cent limitation. The budget hearing will be held at 11 a.m. (DST) Wednesday in the county court chambers at the courthouse.

Redmond, Ore., June 27—(U.P.) Construction of a central Oregon district hospital was approved by a special bond election in Redmond Friday. The hospital was favored 478 to 169.

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BATTLE OF THE BULGES—Anne Sterling (left), Hollywood actress, whose overflaring curves give television censors the heebie-jeebies, has challenged New York actress Faye Emerson (right) to a "Battle of Plunging Necklines." The green-eyed sweater girl said she's ready to confront Miss Emerson "any place she names" to settle the squabble over which bosomy beauty first introduced the daring décolletage to television.

Grand Junction, Colo. (U.P.)—Purchasing and processing of uranium ores found in the Marysville area of Utah is being stepped up. The Atomic Energy Commission is planning expansion of its facilities, including construction of a new ore purchasing station and a new processing plant to handle the untapped uranium ores found in the Marysville deposits.

Man Injured in Jeep Wreck, Hospitalized

Guy Rawles, Humboldt creek, received serious but undetermined head injuries this morning in a jeep accident in the Humboldt area. Apparently alone, the victim walked to a nearby mill where he was further injured by striking his head on a log when he fell into the mill pond during a lapse in consciousness, reports said.

Men working at the mill rescued Rawles from the pond and took him to the Mitchell sanitarium in Jacksonville. Tentatively identified as a veteran, authorization was said to have been given to send Rawles to Portland for treatment there. The Mercy Flights ambulance plane was ready to fly him north when word came through that he was ineligible for veteran hospitalization in Portland. He was taken to Sacred Heart hospital by Conger-Morris ambulance early this afternoon.

Patrol Blames 2 Fires On Firecracker Use

State forest patrolmen said that firecrackers were the cause of a four-acre fire yesterday evening at Hillcrest and North Phoenix roads and a spot fire near the patrol headquarters on Table Rock road.

A grass fire behind the Myron Root company box storage shed, 46 South Fir street, about 1 p. m. yesterday, resulted in no damage, city firemen said. Firemen were called to the Pearl Bowl cafe, 213 West Main street, about 1:45 p. m. yesterday, when grease burned under a gas range.

Portland, Ore., June 27—(U.P.) Roy T. Bishop, 69, one of the leaders of Oregon's wool industry, died here Saturday.

BAKER GETS CONVENTION
Portland, Ore., June 27—(U.P.) The 1950 convention of the Oregon young republicans will be held at Baker September 3-4.

was announced by Verne McCallum, new Oregon chairman, today.

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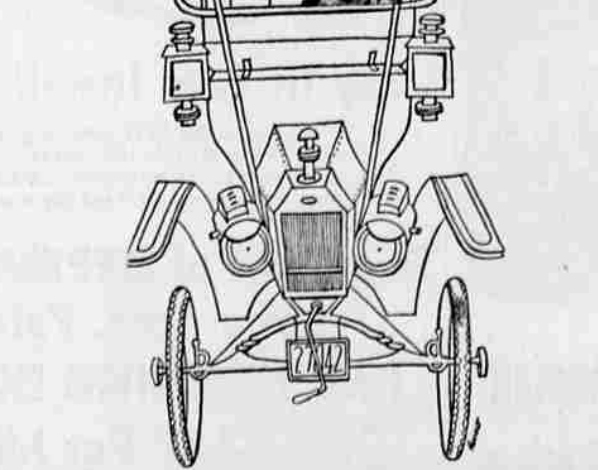
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