

Oregon Forests See Near-Record Losses for Second Straight Year

Salem—(U.P.)—Oregon experienced a near record low in forest fires and forest fire losses in 1954 for the second consecutive year, the State Forestry Department said yesterday in a year-end report.

During the year the large scale forest rehabilitation program was continued in Oregon; insect infestations were further controlled and studied; and there was progress in forest research.

The records indicated a total of 593 fires burned over 2297 acres of forest land during the season, compared with 873 fires and 1713 acres burned the previous year. This two-year combination established an all-time low fire record for the state forestry department.

The end of the 1954 planting season last spring saw a total of 3,310,000 forest tree seedlings planted on state lands. This brings the total to 15,000,000 trees since the project was started

in 1949. During the fire-year period 328,000 snags were felled as part of the protection plans. The 1954 fall planting started with some 4,000,000 trees to be placed in the ground during the winter season.

The spruce budworm and bark beetles are still found in epidemic status in certain parts of

Oregon while in others the infestation has disappeared or declined. State and federal planes flew 130 hours and covered 13,000 air miles over 26,000,000 acres of Oregon's forests, mapping infestation areas. Further ground checks were made to determine intensity of budworm infestation was found

on 1,000,000 acres while the bark beetles still persisted on 4,000,000 acres, the latter all in western Oregon. The beetle infestation had declined in all of western Oregon except on the Smith river in the Coast range and the watersheds of the Clackamas and middle fork of the Willamette river. No rein-

festations of the budworm was located in western Oregon or the Cascade range.

Spruce Budworm Hit

Studies in utilization were carried out in Polk county to determine the economic possibility of logging and sniling the thinnings from a young stand of Douglas fir. Work continued in a

study of the habits of small tree seed eating rodents to determine more adequate control methods. Studies were continued to see if methods of pine reforestation in eastern Oregon could be successfully carried out. To date, drought, frost and rodents seem to prevent this.

During the year the state sprayed 67,000 acres of eastern Oregon forests infested by the spruce budworm. It resulted in an insect mortality of 99 per cent. Plans have already been initiated to continue the work on 600,000 acres of epidemic infestation shown by aerial surveys.

An inventory was completed of 142,000 acres of forest lands in Clatsop county and a sustained yield production plan prepared which will produce 40,000,000 board feet of timber a year beginning in 1955 and will increase to 100,000,000 board feet at the end of the first rotation.

Real Estate Case Continued by Court

The case set for hearing last Friday in district court involving a charge of engaging in business as a real estate broker without a license has been continued until Jan. 14, according to court records.

A complaint charges William Robert Mitchell, 56, of 3410 North Pacific highway, with the violation. The complaint is signed by Paul Solin, 4047 South Pacific highway.

Reason for continuance of the case is due to the illness of Irving Allen, attorney for the defendants, officials said. Allen demurred to the complaint, which will be argued at the hearing.

Pederson To Remain In Service 9 Months

Capt. Don Pederson, U.S. Marine Air corps, partner of O. H. Bengtson, Medford attorney, visited here over the holidays.

Pederson had originally expected to be released from the service about Jan. 1 and resume his practice here, but will remain in the service for another nine months.

He is stationed at Santa Ana, Calif., where he is engaged in both flight work and prosecution or defense for court martial tribunals.

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Back Stairs: Traveling Staff 'Bushed'

By MERRIMAN SMITH

White House Writes Washington — (U.P.) — Back stairs at the White House:

The White House traveling staff came back from Augusta thoroughly pooped—and a tough month ahead.

The Eisenhower staff could not recall a period of more interrupted work than the so-called holidays in Georgia.

The President, himself put in much longer working hours

than usual when he is a resident at the Augusta National Golf Club.

What caused the work and the fatigue was having the French Assembly crisis added to the normally heavy program of preparing the presidential messages to the new Congress.

The forthcoming Central American trip of Vice-President Richard M. Nixon will make him one of the most-travelled vice-presidents in American his-

tory.

Mr. Eisenhower, himself, would like to visit many foreign countries, but he does not have the time. Nixon travels as the President's emissary—and in so doing, increases his stature as a world leader. All of which would add to Nixon's political appeal in 1956.

John Eisenhower, the President's son now stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., as an Army major, first went to school in France. John was then six years

old and his father was in Paris with the U. S. Battle Monuments Commission.

Mr. Eisenhower could not agree more with Archy, the famous cockroach of the late Don Marquis. Arch once said: "There is bound to be a certain amount of trouble running any country."

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