

Cutover Land Owners May List Land Under Law

Salem—(U.P.)—Owners of cutover lands in six western Oregon counties will have an opportunity to list their lands under the forest fee and yield tax law in time for the 1956 tax roll, the State Forestry department said today.

"Public hearings will be held in Douglas, Marion, Yamhill, Clackamas, Washington and Columbia counties early next March to consider classification. Applications to come under the law should be filed with the state forester before Dec. 15.

Five Cents an Acre

Lands coming under the forest tax act pay five cents an acre in lieu of the property tax. The low rate enables owners to retain title to cutover lands until they can grow a new tree crop. When the timber is harvested, the county is paid a 12½ per cent yield tax. This tax reimburses the county for any difference between the five-cent rate and the regular property taxes.

The reforestation act is intended to stimulate ownership of cutover and logged lands through the five cent per acre feature. Currently, about 950,000 acres in 18 counties have been placed under the law.

Classification of the lands must be approved by both the state forestry department and tax commission. The forestry department has urged all owners of cutover lands to investigate the possibilities of classifying their properties under the act.

Sherry Fong Case Rested by State; Ruling Deferred

Portland—(U.P.)—The state rested its case against Sherry Fong last night and Defense Attorney Irwin Goodman immediately moved for a directed verdict of acquittal for his client who is accused of murdering a former Portland high school girl.

Circuit Judge Alfred P. Dobson deferred ruling on the motion and the trial moved into its third week today.

Witness Robert Richards said he was told that Diane Hank had committed suicide because she was jealous of the money, clothes and other possessions of Sherry Fong.

Richards, a special policeman, said his testimony was based on statements to him by Mrs. Fong. He said she told him she discovered Diane's body and also a suicide note, explaining that she didn't reveal the note to police because she didn't like policemen.

Richards said she told him she moved Diane's body so that police would have to hunt for it and have a "sensational case."

Dr. Homer Harris, former state crime lab head, and two other pathologists testified that the high school girl died of barbitol poisoning or a combination of barbitol and alcohol.

Missing Texas Man Found in California

Portland—(U.P.)—Jack Jetton, 49, a Dallas, Tex., insurance salesman who had been reported missing after disembarking from a ship at Astoria Oct. 26 has been located in California, Detective William L. Taylor said he was notified today.

Jetton had returned from an eight month business trip to Korea. Police had been asked to look for him when he failed to keep an appointment with his sister, Mrs. Gerald Collins of Springfield.

World of Geography Notes Golden Anniversary on Job

Washington—Fifty years ago, a young newspaperman named John Oliver La Gorce took a job with a Washington scientific society whose total staff then numbered three.

The organization was the National Geographic Society, 17 years old in 1905. It published a slim scholarly journal that went to a few thousand members, chiefly professionals interested in geography as an abstract science.

Today, the National Geographic Society has a membership of 2,150,000 living in every country on earth. Its staff now numbers some 900 employees. The young man, John Oliver La Gorce, has become the Society's president and the editor of its well-known magazine, whose

subjects embrace the world and living geography in the broadest, popular sense.

In recognition of Dr. La Gorce's golden anniversary with the Society, and of the part that he has played in making its name a household word, the Geographic Board of Trustees honored him at a dinner Nov. 17 at the Chevy Chase Club, Chevy Chase, Md.

Wins Grosvenor Medal

A high point of the occasion was the presentation to Dr. La Gorce of the Board's "Grosvenor Medal." Created in 1949, and first tendered to Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, former president and editor and now chairman of the Society's Board of Trustees, the award represents a full century of service shared by the Grosvenor-La Gorce team in building the National Geographic Society and its magazine.

Dr. Grosvenor presented the medal in behalf of the Board. As the inscription reads, it goes to Dr. La Gorce for "outstanding service to the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge"—a phrase long familiar as the objective of the Society itself.

In recent weeks letters have been pouring into the Society's Washington headquarters expressing congratulations to Dr. La Gorce. Among them were communications from President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and members of the Cabinet.

The President, in a letter before his recent illness, wrote in part: "Please accept my personal congratulations on your fifty years of outstanding service to geography, to education and to science."

Contributed Much

"Through a long career you have contributed much to the expansion of knowledge and the increase of interest in your field, in our country and abroad. With your associates and friends who honor you for these achievements, I join in the hope that your future years will be as happy and productive as those of the past. Sincerely, Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Geographic and scientific organizations in all parts of the world, from the Royal Geographical Society in London and the Association of Japanese Geographers in Tokyo to the Geographic Society of Finland in Helsinki, have added their good wishes. So have District of Columbia Commissioners, governors of the several States, personal friends, and many members of the National Geographic Society.

Some of the letters were read at the commemorative dinner. In one form or another, all paid tribute to the man whose work has been the recording, often with wide-felt effect, of changing life in the last half century.

Freight Car Lack No Longer Exists

Salem—(U.P.)—The freight car shortage emergency no longer exists, State Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel said today.

A declaration of car shortage emergency based upon the supply of freight cars available on the Portland division of the Southern Pacific was issued last June 1. Heltzel, noting that "it now appears that the supply of freight cars presently available on said division is reasonably adequate," said that the declaration of car shortage emergency is rescinded.

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Attorney To Appeal Gal Wrestling Ruling

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Goodwin represented Jerry Hunter, a woman wrestler arrested in Oregon City for participating in a wrestling exhibition. Goodwin indicated he intended to use the case to test the constitutionality of the new law, passed by the 1955 legislature.

He contended that the law is class legislation and therefore unconstitutional. It forbids women from acting as a wrestler, a promoter or manager of wrestling exhibitions.

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SCIENCE AT WORK

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York—(U.P.)—When 62 babies were born at St. Thomas' hospital were taken home by parents, 57, or 92 per cent had staphylococci in their noses. Worse, 55 of the 62 had staphylococci which had learned how to deal with penicillin most successfully.

When the mothers entered the hospital to have their babies, only 17 of the 62 carried staphylococci in their noses, and only one of these 17 colonies of the dreadful little "bugs" was able to resist the deadly chemical embraces (deadly for bacteria) of penicillin. But when the mothers left the hospital, 30 of the 62 harbored staphylococci in their noses, and 15 of the 30 were strains "resistant" to penicillin.

There, in concentrated form, you have one of the most difficult problems of medical science. It may well be unsolvable. On one hand you have penicillin and other antibiotics which have the miraculous power of wiping out staphylococci and other disease-causing bacteria like crazy. But on the other hand, you have the startling ability of all these bacteria to change themselves chemically in such a way that they can resist any of the antibiotics.

Cross-Infection

If the day ever comes when all disease-causing bacteria have become resistant to all the antibiotics, medical science will be back just where it was before the antibiotics were discovered—there will be no sure-fire way of wiping out disease-causing bacteria and thus curing, prac-

tically overnight, the diseases they cause.

So the problem is a matter of prime and urgent interest to science and should be to laymen. We couldn't live without our bacteria. There are innumerable varieties. Most are helpful in one way or another; only a relatively few sicken us and kill us. But they all get around, whether helpful, harmless, or harmful, with the utmost freedom.

Even in the antiseptic atmosphere of even the very best hospitals. Now St. Thomas' of London is one of the world's most scientific hospitals. It has a famous medical school, and practically from the advent of penicillin it has been keenly aware that disease-causing bacteria become resistant and has been trying to deal with the riddle of hospital "cross infection."

That is why the study of 62 women who had their babies in St. Thomas' was of so much interest to scientists. The study was made by Dr. Mary Barber, a bacteriologist as well as a medical doctor, who has been devoted to the problem for years.

Two Ways

Of the 31 nurses in the maternity ward—the nurses who attended the 62 babies, 17, or 55 per cent, had staphylococci in their noses. Fourteen of those strains were penicillin-resistant. Dr. Baker felt that "in most cases the babies had acquired their organisms (staphylococci) from the nurses rather than the mothers."

Some of the resistant strains were potential pyogenes—that is, puss-causing and, therefore,

infectious. Yet there was not one case of serious infection. She also examined the staphylococci in 100 other hospital patients who were ill of staphylococci infection. Fifty-nine of these strains were resistant to penicillin, 30 to streptomycin, 26 to oxytetracycline, and three to chloramphenicol.

She saw two ways of "attacking" the problem. One was the keep "clean" surgical cases in "a clean ward." By "clean," she meant isolating patients completely free of staphylococci from patients who harbored even latent ones. The other way was "the intelligent use of antibiotics." With most of them, she said in her report in The Lancet, "local treatment for long periods is one of the best ways of rendering an organism resistant."

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Astoria Newspaper Receives UP Scroll

Astoria—(U.P.)—A scroll, commemorating more than 40 years of United Press service to the Astorian Budget, was presented to Publisher Robert B. Chessman today.

The presentation was made by John W. Kerr, United Press Portland bureau manager, on behalf of Frank H. Bartholomew, president of United Press, and Fred J. Green, UP Pacific division manager.

The scroll, signed by Bartholomew, states that the Evening Astorian Budget has been a part of the world-wide news distribution system of the United Press continuously since March 25, 1912.

Banker Named Head Of Portland Group

Portland—(U.P.)—Banker Carvel Linden today was elected as new chairman of the Exposition-Recreation Commission here.

Linden, vice-president of the U. S. National Bank of Portland, succeeds James H. Polhemus who resigned last week. Thaddeus Bruno, appointed to the commission last week, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Linden, upon taking the chair, suggested that a vote on a site selection for Portland's new center be taken Dec. 21, but Bruno asked that the date be left open until he has a chance to view studies on site selection.

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