

SNO-CATS PURCHASED BY PT&T

Drivers Trained For Maintenance In Winter Weather

High Relay Stations Need Unique Vehicles

"Operation Sno-Cat" was held at Crater Lake National park recently as the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company conducted a training course for 18 employees in the handling of the famous Tucker Sno-Cat over-snow vehicles.

The neat-blizzard weather during the outing was ideal for the occasion, as three of the big vehicles, manufactured in Medford, were put through their paces. The Sno-Cats, weighing two tons, were purchased recently for winter maintenance work.

The P&T men taking the training were from Portland, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, Central Point, Talent and Ashland. Local Men

The Rogue Valley men included three from Medford, Walt Black, transmissionman, 1066 Elendale dr.; W. J. Williams, transmissionman, route 2, box 429, and Marvin Happel, garage mechanic, 1002 West Fourteenth st.

Others were O. P. Van Aucken, transmissionman, route 1, box 261, Central Point; Cal O. Webber, chief transmissionman, route 1, box 581, Talent, and Chuck Risley, garage mechanic, route 1, box 501-C, Ashland.

On their shoulders will be the responsibility of inspecting and maintaining the company's new microwave relay station now be-



GET SNO-CAT TRAINING — A training session for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company employees in this area was conducted at Crater Lake recently to acquaint them with operation of a Tucker Sno-Cat, which will be used to maintain microwave relay stations in nearby mountains. Marvin Happel (in cab) revs up the 100-horsepower motor as (left to right) Chuck Risley, Cal Webber, Walt Black, W. J. Williams and O. P. Van Aucken listen. The men were given instructions in driving the world-famous over-snow vehicles which are manufactured in Medford.—(PT&T photo)

ing built at Siskiyou Summit, south of Medford.

Nine Stations

It is one link in a chain of nine such stations between Portland and the California border. This chain, for relaying television programs and telephone con-

versations through the air, will connect with similar systems north and east to Seattle and Eastern Washington, and south to San Francisco.

Keeping the systems in good working order will be of prime importance, and the men responsible for their maintenance might well be called "Microwave Minute Men."

During the winter months, access to the 5,050-foot Siskiyou summit site is difficult because of road conditions and snow. While work on the project is being rushed to its Aug. 1 completion date, prior to the political-conventions in San Francisco men and material will daily be making the arduous ascent to the mountain top.

Used For Snow

Under ordinary weather conditions jeeps and power wagons will be used for the climb. But when snow lies deep on the roadway, the Snowcat will be put to use.

The same holds true when the system is in operation. Inspection trips will be made to all nine such stations in Oregon, 52 weeks of the year, in all kinds of weather.

That's why the telephone company obtained three of the Sno-Cats — the first ever used by the company in Oregon — and spent a day acquainting 18 of its employees with the weather conditions they will meet in operating the tractor-treaded vehicles.

Mobile Phones

For reasons of safety all vehicles employed in maintenance of the microwave network are equipped with mobile telephones. When trips are made to the stations under adverse weather conditions, men driving in the vehicles will be required to report their progress and location every 30 minutes by phone.

If contact is lost and not re-established with the vehicle in a reasonable period of time, telephone company officials will start rescue operations with the assumption help is needed.

Further precautions have been taken in installing living quarters at the relay station at Siskiyou summit. Eating and sleeping facilities have been provided there, along with a supply of food to last a week.

Similar provisions have been made at stations located on Harness mountain south of Eugene, and King mountain south of Roseburg. Sno-Cats will be used when needed to reach those stations.

Work on Schedule

Telephone company officials report that work at Siskiyou Summit and also at Baldy Mountain, about 11 miles southeast of Medford, is going along on schedule.

Construction has been completed at Siskiyou of a concrete-block building and the 27½-foot tower to hold four antennae horns. Western Electric company employees are now on



FUND RAISING PROJECT — Members of the Eagle Point Future Farmers of America have installed a "mechanical cow" as a fund raising project. The machine was installed through cooperation with the Milk Producers' league. Club officers (standing left to right) are Dick Wallace, sentinel; Ron Hanson, treasurer; Gale Friend, president; David Woolfolk, secretary; and (kneeling) Tom Collette, reporter; and Robert Hayse, vice-president. Also pictured are Nat Eitel, instructor of agriculture at Eagle Point high school; Bob Blumling, Del Mongold and W. E. Davies, directors of the league.

BRING THE KIDS TO I.O.O.F. HALL
8:30 DEC. 20
Entertainment
SANTA CLAUS
TREE, PRESENTS
Medford Lodge No. 83

Rock Identification Class Starts Monday
A class in field identification of rocks and minerals will begin Monday at 8 p.m. at the Medford senior high school, it was announced yesterday. R. A. Mitchell, local chemist, will be instructor.
About 14 persons are enrolled in the class, and six more will be accepted. Anyone interested is welcome to enroll, he said.
About 18 sessions are planned.

Say —
Merry Christmas...
to the **BOY** or **GIRL** of the Family with a . . .

Y.M. C.A. MEMBERSHIP

522 West 6th St. Phone 2-6295

HERTZ
RENT-A-CAR
SYSTEM
LICENSEE

Daily's U-Drive
Medford Airport

Bids for Recapping Tires of County Vehicles Opened

Bids for recapping tires of county vehicles and for purchase of furniture in the county clerk's office were opened today. Six firms bid on the recapping job. In an unprecedented action, the court accepted the three lowest bids, and will split the business between the firms — with four months of service from each during the year.

Various Amounts

The successful bids, which were broken down into amounts for passenger, truck and graduate tire recapping, totaled \$4,540.35 from OK Rubber Welders, \$4,911 from Hawkinston Tire Service, and \$5,522.72 from Peck Brothers. These bids are based on a year's service, and in effect will total about one-quarter of the amounts listed.

The Court

The court indicated they plan to study the results of the different methods of recapping and repairing to decide which is the most economical long-range method. A top cap, rather than a full cap, will be tried this year, they said.

Other Firms

Other firms bidding were Medford Tire Service, Older Tire and Wheel Exchange, and Firestone stores, the court reported. Medford Stationery store was awarded a \$3,605.61 contract for new furniture. The store's bid of \$4,097.73 was reduced by alternative, and elimination of one item. The court also purchased a \$275 safe for district court, purchased on the recommendation of the county clerk and the court.

The new furniture was ordered to be delivered at the same time the clerk's office is moving into the new annex.

Other furniture bidders were Office Stationery and Supply company; Jewett Office Supply, and Medford Office Equipment company, and Remington Rand agency.

COME TO THE
Christmas Tree LIGHTING
and Hear the
Marian Choir
of St. Mary's School
Monday Night at 8 p.m.
at
MARY'S CASA
• TREATS FOR THE LITTLE ONES •
We heartily wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!
GET YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
DINNER! OPEN at 2 P.M.
537 MARY ST.—For Reservations Dial 2-5349

Success of Pilot Education Program Told in Magazine

An article on the pilot school project for mentally retarded pupils in Jackson county appears in the December issue of Oregon Education magazine.

Authors of "That They May Learn!" are Una B. Inch, assistant to the county school superintendent; Karl Hayes, pilot school instructor; and Mrs. Frances Klein, in charge of special education for Ashland schools. Results Good

Results of the school, which was one of several established throughout the state in a two-year experiment, have "more than compensated us for the special effort involved," the three report.

"It required the cooperation of several school districts involved, the rural school board, the county school superintendent and the parents of the children," they said.

The class was limited to 8 to 12 year-olds and classes began in the Phoenix Community church with Hayes as instructor. It was formed "to try to determine if special methods might open the door of learning to retarded children."

Schedule Same

Daily schedule for the 12 children (screened from 26 applicants) was the same as for the regular school. The milieu of each child was studied, including mental age, chronological age, IQ, social maturity and physical development.

Youngsters took an important part in all phases of the school, including time schedules, and a main part of their training centered on learning community organization.

"This first activity welded together the uncooperative, the belligerent, and the withdrawn into a group of helping classmates working together on a common project," the article continues.

Find Own Place

"Negatively slowly gave way to a sincere desire to try and to realization that there was a definite place for each in their community."

Other topics of the study program included language arts program of reading, writing and spelling; social living projects; arithmetic and science.

The class moved to the Phoenix Elementary school in the fall of 1954, which eventually brought signs of adjustment to regular classes.

Pre-vocational experiences were added to the school later and the pupils were taken on field trips to various local industries.

"Measuring progress in basic school subjects . . . has been difficult," according to the writers, but using available ratings, significant progress was noted in all but two pupils, and they had marked independence of action.

Gives Evaluation

According to Mrs. Klein, the Phoenix school may be evaluated in part as follows:

"The pilot class has served to awaken and stimulate new interests and cooperation of public school teachers through the county. . . . School personnel and parents are happy to realize that at last our too-long-neglected slow learners will have a chance to receive that kind of educational opportunities which will build for them attitudes, concepts and skills which will aid them to fit in successfully with the community. . . ."

Through continued legislative support, special class work is being carried on in the state another two years. Jackson county has two classes, older children attending at Phoenix and the younger pupils at Talent.

WON'T PARTICIPATE

Athens, Greece — (U.P.)—Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis said Friday night Greece will not participate in the forthcoming Balkan Pact council of ministers unless Turkey satisfies demands arising from the dispute over Cyprus.



RECEIVES CALENDAR — Medford Mayor Earl Miller is presented the first 1956 Boy Scout calendar by Cub Scout Reed Harris of pack 5, Fred Lorish of troop 3, and Larry Hill of post 8. The calendars are distributed through the Milk Producer's league, represented by Dick Westerberg, league manager. The 1956 calendar is the first in 40 years which has been dedicated to a scoutmaster. More than 2,000 will be presented to business firms, school rooms and Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in Jackson county.

Elderly Trail Couple Travel Cascades In Summertime Back-Packing Journeys

It is unusual enough to travel the high Cascade Crest trail that begins near the Canadian border and leads south through Washington, Oregon and California.

It is even more unusual to make the trek on foot, but to attempt the long hike over some of the west's roughest terrain after one has reached the age of 70, is something of a phenomenon.

Three Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Watson, of Trail, began making pack trips three years ago. This summer they took a 225 mile walk in the Glacier Peak Primitive area of the Cascade mountains in Washington and continued south on the crest trail to Stevens pass.

They intend to start hiking south again next summer from where they were forced to quit this year because of bad weather, and eventually to traverse the full length of the trail to where it ends in California. Watson is 72; his wife, 70.

"It's just a matter of what you really want to do," Mrs. Watson states. "The one sure way to get old is to think old. And this can happen at any age."

On their first extended hiking trips the Watsons experimented with burros as pack animals but decided that the disadvantages outweighed the advantages. They abandoned the idea in favor of back-packing.

The weight of their packs is, of course, one of the most important problems with which they are faced. They eliminate everything but the essentials from their pack list.

Carry Camp Gear
They carry sleeping bags, a lightweight aluminum camp set of cooking utensils from which they have discarded the pot lids, a small wire grill to aid in cooking over camp fires and a frying pan with the handle cut off.

Since summer rain and even snow are not uncommon on the

high trails they carry a piece of parachute silk treated twice with water proofing and a 9 by 12-foot plastic painter's drop cloth to be used as a tent with their alpenstocks for support. The improvised shelter weighs only 3½ pounds.

Food From Farm

Much of the dried food they use on their trips comes from their own farm located near Trail. To save on the weight of bacon the Watsons fry it first at home and pack it with only a little of the fat in plastic containers. They carry a food supply sufficient for a two week period in the woods.

To provide elements lacking in mountain drinking water, which is largely melted snow, they supplement their diet with iodine and calcium pills.

Few Tools

For tools, they carry a short handled hoe, a hatchet and a child's finishing pole. The hoe is considered invaluable. They use it to cut steps in snow, level areas for sleeping and cooking, digging holes for refuse and clearing away brush. The little fishing pole provides many trout meals to supplement their diet.

Watson tries to keep the weight of his pack down to 50 pounds and that of his wife to 30 or 35.

Mrs. Watson admits that she gets tired climbing the steep trails but adds, "Not as tired as I get in my own house." The difference is that on the trail a brief rest brings a feeling of complete refreshment.

Warned of Accidents

People warn them of all the things that could happen and tell them they are crazy to take such chances but they say they are never so healthy or happy as when they are out in the big woods. As for accidents, one of the neighbors who was most pessimistic about their trip this year fell and broke her leg while chasing a chicken off of her back porch.

The Watsons have two sons and two grandchildren. They have always lived an outdoor life but children and daily chores kept them tied down until three years ago. At the present time they are visiting relatives in California but as soon as springtime comes to the high mountains they plan to take the Crest trail south.

BIG STEAL

London — (U.P.)—Thieves stole jewelry valued at \$28,000 from the apartment of American crooner Vic Damone and his movie star wife Pier Angeli Friday night, police reported Saturday.

HERNDOBLE'S
fine furniture
125 EAST MAIN ST., ASHLAND, ORE.

TELEPHONE 8771

GIFTWARE — LAMPS — MAPLE DEPT. — MIRRORS — PICTURES
DRAPES — HASSOCKS — COSCO STOOLS AND CARTS
OPEN EVENINGS 'TIL 9 P.M.

THE
HOLLAND HOTEL

JOYCE and KEN HAMNER

Extend to you the Season's Greetings, and invite you to spend Christmas with us . . .
Sunday, December 25th.

DINING ROOM
will be open from
11:00 a.m. till 9 p.m.

LOUNGE
Will Be Open From 11:00 a.m. Till 2:30 a.m.

YOUR CHEF: JOHN CROTTY