

Tucker Says Tide Has Turned; Problem of Meeting Cat Demand

E. M. Tucker, president of Tucker Sno-Cat corporation, said yesterday the tide has turned for his enterprise.

"I've spent years trying to sell Sno-Cats. Now the problem is making them fast enough to meet the demand," he declared.

The unique over-the-snow vehicle, perfected by Tucker after half a lifetime of experimenting and testing different designs, is rapidly turning into the major form of over-snow travel throughout the world. About 450 of the machines, in a number of different models, have been made since Tucker started his enterprise. He is now assisted by his sons in the management of the business, which is world-wide.

Small Plant

The vehicles are manufactured in a comparatively small plant located on the Pacific highway south of Medford. For years the machines were turned out, one or two at a time, on a hand-assembly basis. But as the advantages of its design became better and better known, the orders came in faster and faster, and now the big problem is expanding to meet the demand.

The French Antarctic expedition is using two of his machines, the U. S. has several there, the Navy recently ordered eight Sno-Cats, the Japanese government has ordered two for immediate delivery and 12 more for later delivery, and in the past few weeks the Tucker company has received inquiries from the governments of Finland, Italy, Formosa, Holland and Greece.

Unique Pontoon

The Sno-Cat feature which makes it unique is the "pontoon" around which runs the endless chain which drives the machine. It is hollow and light, giving the Sno-Cat probably the best ratio of weight to power of any snow vehicle now in operation.

A recent article in the New York Herald Tribune was devoted to the Sno-Cat, and the uses to which it has been put in the east. It starts out: "As far as Eastern ski areas are concerned, the Sno-Cat seems to be secondary in importance only to snow."

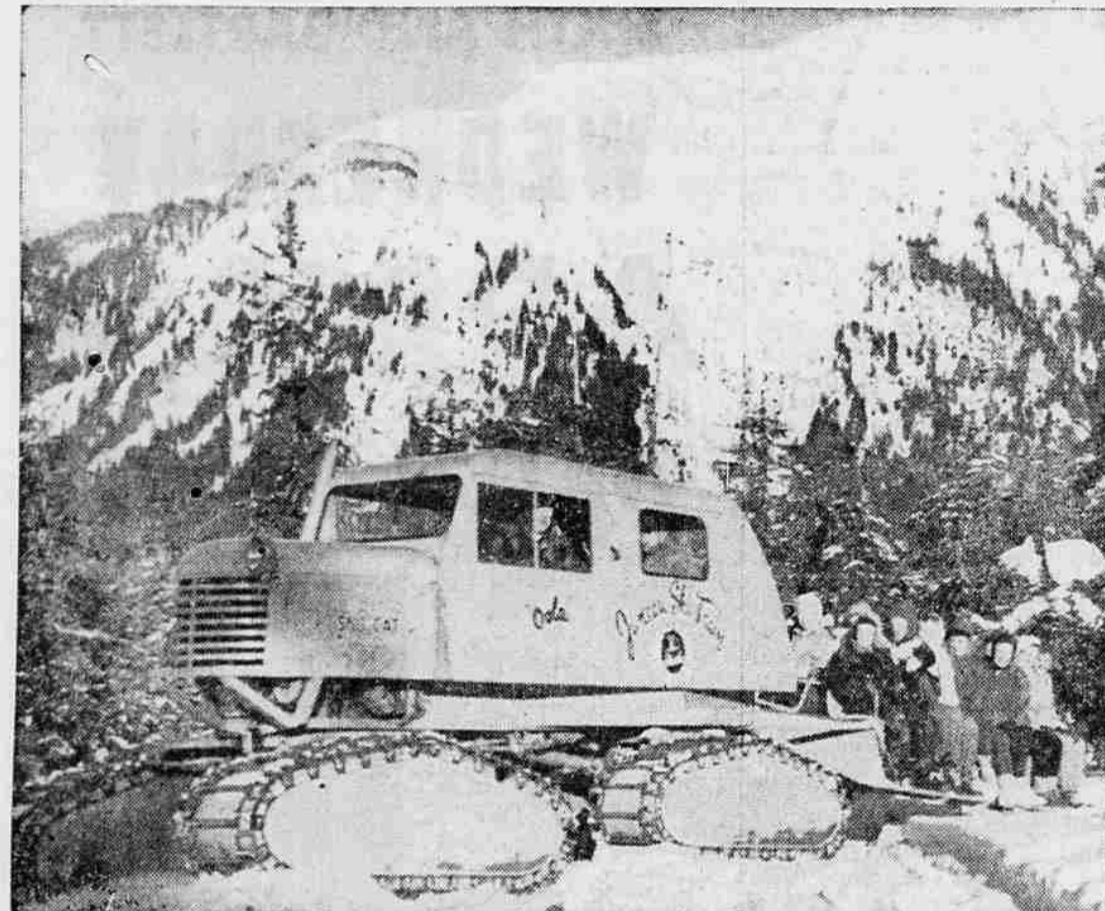
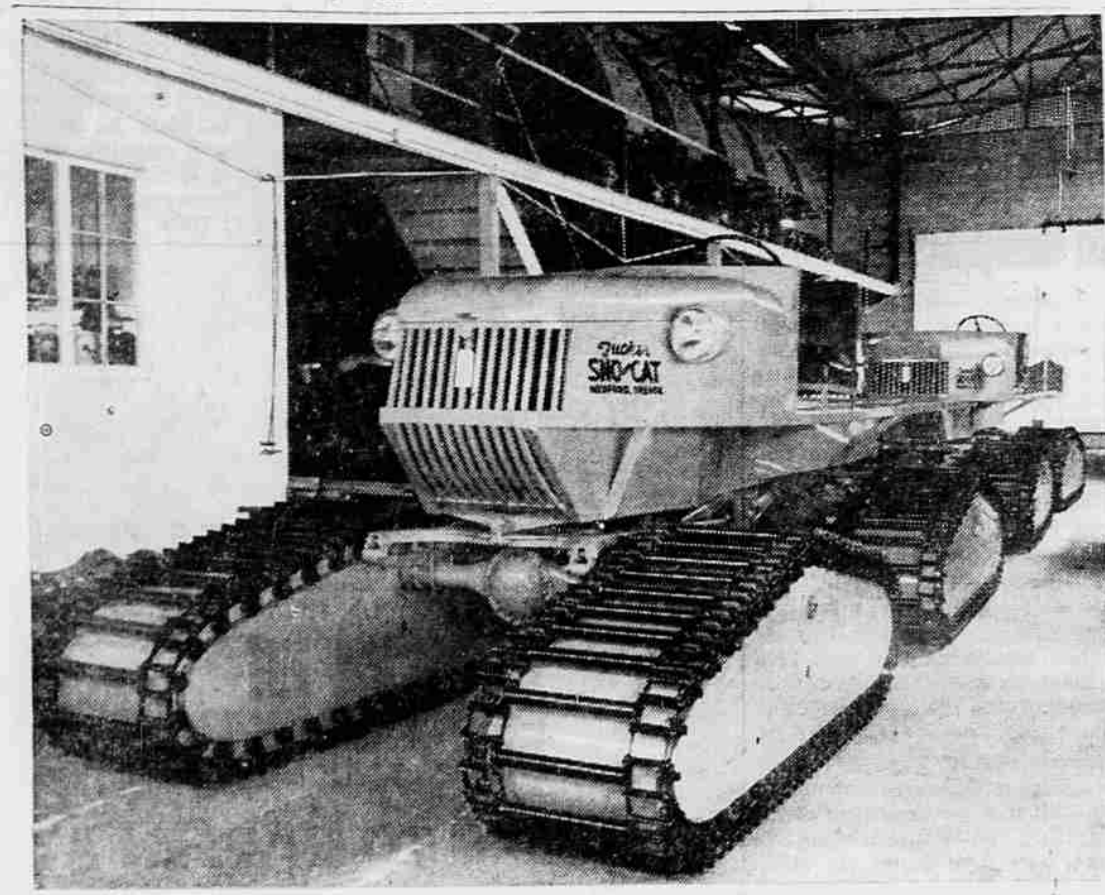
The article goes on to describe how the big vehicles are seen in almost all the Eastern ski resorts, and how they are used to pull skiers up slopes, to smooth off skiing areas after

fresh snow, to roll down ski trails, to "harrow" fields of ice to permit skiing, and a dozen other chores.

Eastern distributor of the Sno-Cats is David A. Gregg, of Nashua, N.H., a lumberman who became interested in the vehicles after seeing a picture of one in the National Geographic magazine. The Herald Tribune article tells how he bought one and

shipped it east with a load of lumber.

He warned his unloading crews to "be careful of the snow cat" that he was sending. "Since they couldn't hear any noise in the boxcar when it arrived, they were afraid it was dead, and after seeing the size of the crate it was in they rather hoped that it was," the H-T story said.



SNO-CATS—The Tucker Sno-Cat, manufactured in Medford, has gained a world-wide reputation in recent years, and is now in use in every continent of the world, including Antarctica. E. M. Tucker, inventor of the vehicle and president of the company making them, says his problem now is in keeping up with the demand. Two versions of the vehicle are shown in the pictures above. At the top are two cableless Sno-Cats purchased for the French Antarctic expedition as part of the

International Geophysical Year exploration of that continent. The French wished to develop their own type of cabs. Reports from Antarctica say the 'Cats are living up to expectations. The lower photo shows a regular model as is used in ski resorts around the world for a number of purposes. The picture shows one towing a sled full of winter sports enthusiasts. Other models have two pontoons and skis in front, as well as other variations

Government Agents Inspect Area Basin For Flood Control

Representatives of several government agencies arrived in Medford yesterday to make a first-hand inspection of the Rogue river basin for the Department of Interior.

Included in the group are Arthur M. Piper, chairman of the Pacific Northwest Field committee; Neal Butterfield, chief of the Columbia River Recreation Survey branch of the National Park service; N. B. Bennett, Jr., chief of project development division, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.; W. H. Stewart, Portland, corps of engineers; John Bennet, assistant director

of the secretary of interior's technical review staff, Washington, D.C.; W. P. Dugan, Denver, Colo.

Others Listed

Lester Bagley, assistant director of fish and wildlife service, Washington, D.C.; Joseph Barnaby, assistant regional director, fish and wildlife service; O. M. Browne, regional development engineer, Boise, Ida., bureau of reclamation; and Lee McAllister, Salem, area engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation.

It was reported that the group inspected the Grants Pass-Applegate area and the Lower Rogue

river Monday, and was in Grants Pass again yesterday.

They are accompanied by Thomas J. Williams, superintendent of Crater Lake National park.

The survey is the result of an order issued Saturday by Interior Secretary Douglas McKay that an immediate review and re-analysis be made of all available studies and data on the Rogue basin because of recent damaging floods.

Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday 10 a.m. Monday for Monday other days 5:30 previous day

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Army Seen Temporary Winner in Battle on Nike Missile System

Washington—(U.P.)—The Army today appeared to have won at least a temporary victory in its battle with the Air Force for continued expansion of its multi-billion dollar Nike missile system.

Still unresolved, however, was the basic question of which—the Army or Air Force—ultimately will have the primary mission of anti-aircraft defense of the United States.

To Call Officials

In an attempt to get an answer to this question, a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee announced today it will call Defense Department officials to explain why the Army is developing one type of anti-aircraft missile system and the Air Force another.

While the subcommittee aired the simmering interservice controversy, Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson moved to speed development of offensive ballistic missiles.

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Army Presents Case

The Army Tuesday presented at a secret session of the subcommittee its case for the Nike missile system and the Air Force its case for the Talos missile system.

Subcommittee members were obviously impressed at the Army's presentation, with its futuristic picture of anti-aircraft missiles armed with atomic warheads and "anti-missile" missiles.

The subcommittee refrained from making a formal decision until after the Defense Department presentation. But Sen. Francis Case (R-S.D.) for one, said he could see no reason for abandoning Nike at this point.

Tax Liens Filed Against Entertainers

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—The Internal Revenue service yesterday filed tax liens against several top Hollywood entertainers including Rita Hayworth and Judy Garland.

The liens included Miss Hayworth, \$7541 for 1951; Miss Garland and her husband, Sid Luft, \$20,891 for 1952 and 1953; Ethel Barrymore, \$12,142 for 1951 and 1954; and Mickey Rooney, \$3295 for 1954.

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Man Claimed To Be 110 Succumbs at Hillsboro

Hillsboro—(U.P.)—James Rockwell, who claimed to be 110 years old, died yesterday at a local hospital.

Rockwell, who never married and had no local known relatives, said he was born May 1, 1845, in New York, coming to Oregon in 1901.

He always referred to himself as a soldier of fortune.

CAKE AND ICE CREAM?
Chicago—(U.P.)—Mrs. Emma Simpson assured a neighbor not to worry about the menu when she gives a party in honor of Mrs. Simpson's 101st birthday Thursday.

"I like to eat almost anything," Mrs. Simpson said.

Worshippers Injured As Ceiling Collapses

New York—(U.P.)—A section of ceiling collapsed in a Bronx synagogue during a pass-over service yesterday, injuring three women, two of them seriously.

Four women were seated in a balcony of the Mesivta Zichron Moshe Synagogue and 25 to 30 men on the main floor of the temple. A layman was reading part of the traditional pass-over service when heavy chunks of ornamental plaster began falling from the ceiling onto the balcony, knocking the women to the floor and pulling more of the ceiling onto them.

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