Foreman Forest Fire Fighting School Successful Here

About 110 Trainees Participate in Two One-Day Sessions

Plans for a foreman fire fighting school next year are being considered by state and federal agencies and representatives of southern Oregon lumber industry on the basis of the success for the first such school here Thursday and Friday, according to administrators of the school.

Between 105 and 110 trainees, representing more than 30 lumber industry firms, participated in the day-long school at the state forestry department's southwest district headquarters on Table Rock rd. Two one-day sessions were held.

Lack of Foremen

The school is the result of an apparent lack of trained foremen from this area during last September's forest fires. Supervisors were transferred into the area to oversee fire fighting.

Lewis L. Simpson, secretary-manager of Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, said lumber industry representatives and state and federal agencies agreed that trained foremen from this area would be more valuable because of familiarity with topography, burning conditions and other factors affecting fire fighting in a particular locality.

The school includes courses in large fire organization, radio procedures and practice, timekeeping and safety on fire lines as well as demonstrations on fire behavior and use of water.

Fire Control

George Flanagan, vice president and general manager of Elk Lumber company, during the introduction and orientation, told the foremen his first experience with a cooperative fire control program was in Chester, Calif., in 1941.

The program was developed there, he said, after many prospective forest fire fighters refused to sign required forms for fire fighting. Two or three lumber companies cooperated in starting the fire control program there. He noted that when the southern Oregon cooperative program started, about 40 firms were participating.

A program such as the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association cooperating with federal and state agencies reduces fire losses, he said. Timber grows about 2 per cent annually, he pointed out, and through cooperative efforts, fire loss is kept to two-tenths of one cent annually.

Area Protected

Jack Wood, supervisor of Rogue River National forest, said the area protected by fire fighting groups in southern Oregon produces between $30 and $40 million worth of lumber shipped out of the area annually. The area covers about 4,000 square miles, he said.

If the entire area were rolled into one-mile-wide strip, it would reach from New York to San Francisco and north to Portland, he explained.

State and federal agencies, he noted, control between 200 and 300 fires annually, many of them involving small acreage. He said that because of economic reasons, the forest service could not maintain personnel and equipment the year-round to fight fires like those of last September.

Available Manpower.

The forest service, Wood said, "would have been unable to cope with the situation if it had not been for available manpower in southwest Oregon." Even with trained manpower, he added, the need for trained supervisors was apparent last September.

The Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association was discussed at a meeting of bureau of land management foresters in Washington recently, Eugene Peterson, district forester for BLM here, said. Those attending the meeting, he said, indicated such an organization may be tried in the state of Washington.

Lands in southwestern Oregon covered by the bureau of land management include about 400,000 acres, and is the largest single land owner, Peterson pointed out.

Fire Protection

Fire protection for the land costs about $60,000 annually, he said, to state and other federal agencies. It is the same protection rate paid by private companies, Peterson noted.

The timber brings in about $1.5 million annually, he said, which results in lower taxes.

Lyle Byers, of the state forester's office in Salem, and S. T. Moore, fire control officer for the Rogue River National forest, were instructors in the large fire organization class.

Jobs of each overhead position were outlined, showing the relation of each job in the efficiency of the over-all operation. Also outlined was the organization from the fire chief to the man on the fire fighting line.

Proper Orders

Foreman duties in camp to keep men in a group, see that they are properly fed and clothed, and that proper orders are given prior to going onto the line were discussed. Byers and Moore pointed out that it is important that the linemen know what to do when going onto the fire line.

Men in charge of falling trees, heavy equipment and other overhead positions were included in the class.

The radio procedure and practice class chiefly centered around effective use of walkie-talkies and becoming familiar with various type of radios used by fire fighters. The class was taught by Curtis Nesheim, southwest district warden for the state, and H. A. Thomas, district ranger of the Ashland district, Rogue River National forest.

Accurate Records

Lee Port Jr., of Salem, stressed the need for accurate records in timekeeping for men and equipment. He pointed out that accurate records are necessary to avoid confusion and errors in reimbursing man and equipment for serving on the fire line.

George W. Kansky, district ranger at Union Creek, discussed safety on fires, pointing out that one injured man will reduce efficiency and strength of the crew. At least one man accompanies an injured man back to camp, and in many cases two or three are needed. Kansky stressed the need of safety instructions to fighters regarding hazards from falling burning limbs, and use of equipment.

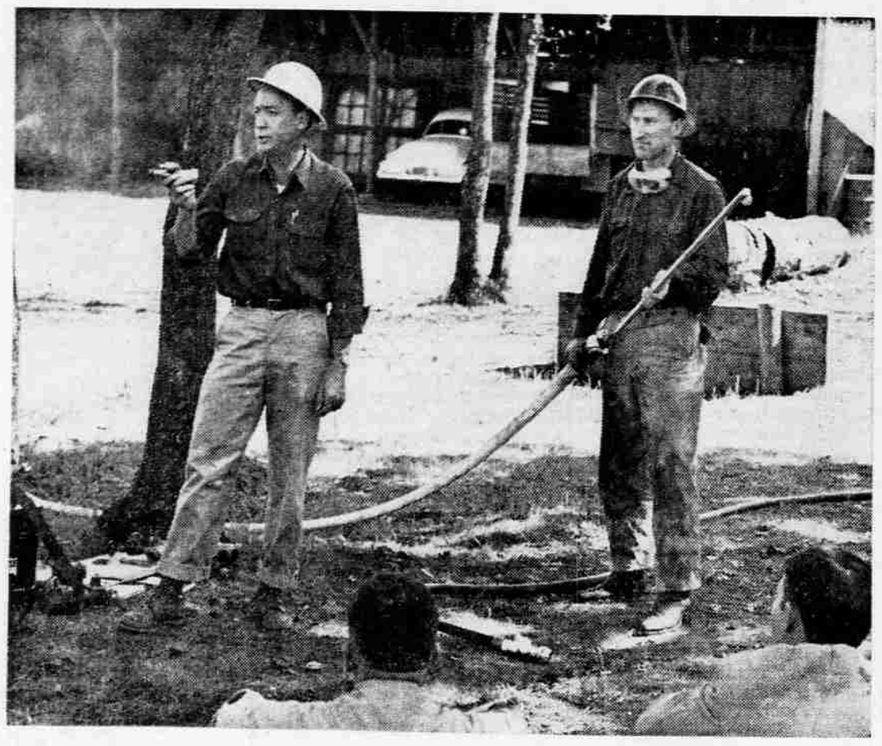
Fire Behavior

William Hughes of the state forester's office in Salem demonstrated fire behavior. Included were how fire reacts when there is no draft, in various degrees of wind, how it climbs hills and an effective means of controlling the fire just over the crest of a hill.

The demonstration was with pine needles on an asbestos covered table.

Britt Ash, district ranger at Butte Falls, Rogue River National forest, and Doyle Stockton, assistant district warden for the state forestry department here, demonstrated use of water on fire, and discussed various type nozzles. The demonstrations showed how to use the least amount of water to the best advantage.

Training films for the school were furnished by the forest service and state forestry department.



NOZZLES EXPLAINED — Various nozzles used in controlling forest fires are explained by Doyle Stockton, left, assistant district warden of the state forestry department's southwest district, and Britt Ash, district ranger at Butte Falls, Rogue River National forest. The demonstration was included in a school for foremen fire fighters at the district headquarters on Table Rock rd. Thursday and Friday.—(Brainerd Photo).

USE OF WATER—Britt Ash, district ranger at Butte Falls for forest service, displays use of water in extinguishing fire in tire at the school for fire fighting foremen last week. Purpose of the water demonstration was to show how to use the least amount of water most effectively.—(Brainerd Photo).

Plans for Fire-ama Here Announced

Plans for a Fire-arma Saturday, May 26, at Elk Lumber company, were advanced last week at a meeting of the Fire-ama committee. Sam Taylor, forest superintendent for Elk Lumber company, is chairman.

The event will be held from noon to 6 p.m. sponsored by corporations to demonstrate fire fighting equipment and to direct public attention to the problem of forest fires.

Proposed activities during the afternoon include extinguishing burning trash piles by different methods, a log birling contest, display of smoke jumper equipment, display by the weather bureau, and maps of lookouts, guard stations and other key points.

The group is considering the possibility of an air-drop of material and a demonstration of various fire suppression methods. A food concession also is planned.

Letters have been mailed to all agencies interested in the event with requests for comments and suggestions concerning the educational program.

Olson-Ross Buys BLM Timber on May Creek

An estimated 4,302,000 board feet of timber on May creek in Jackson county was sold by the bureau of land management to Olson-Ross Lumber company, White City, April 19.

Most of the timber was killed or damaged by the Sykes Creek fire last September. The tract represents one of the major blocks of timber to be offered for sale in the Sykes creek burn and brings to more than 7,000,000 board feet, the amount of timber sold by the BLM in the burn, according to District Forester E. K. Peterson.

Olson-Ross Lumber company's high bids were $28.50 per thousand board feet for Douglas fir, $30 for ponderosa pine, $35 for sugar pine, and $6.85 for incense cedar. One other bidder particiated in the oral auction sale.

Speedy Reforestation

In order to assure speedy reforestation of the lands administered by the BLM in the burned area, the purchaser will be required to plant 188 acres of the area logged with two-year-old ponderosa pine seedlings. A portion of the area previously sold has already been planted by BLM and other areas will be planted by the purchasers as logging progresses.

In a second oral auction sale, A. C. Smith Lumber co., Wolf Creek was successful bidder for an estimated 555,000 board feet of timber on Coyote creek in northern Josephine county. One other bidder competed in the sale. The high bids were Douglas fir, $23.75 per thousand board feet; ponderosa pine, $31.70; sugar pine, $31.40; and incense cedar, $7.80

The next timber sale by the Medford district, BLM, will be May 17 at the Medford city hall. Five tracts totalling approximately 6½ million board feet will be offered for sale by oral auction.

Information regarding the tracts may be secured from the office of the district forester in the city hall.

Fire Department Is Called to Lumber Firm

The Medford fire department dispatched two pumpers about 1:51 p.m. Friday to the Timber Product's Veneer plant to extinguish a fire between two sander dust bin walls.

With the aid of the Timber Product's fire fighting unit the fire was extinguished by removing the roof.

No damage was reported and cause was not determined.

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WINTER SLEEP — This photograph by Bob Roberts of the Bellington, Wash., Herald shows a bear in winter sleep. The bear, whose eyes are film covered, could not be disturbed until the cedar had been felled and rain disturbed his sleep. The picture was taken several years ago.

Reaction of Bear Most Risky Following Winter

By F. J. CLIFFORD

Guessing a bear's reaction is risky business as two Alaskans realized too late. The most risky time is when a bear is awakening from winter sleep.

The bear is not a true hibernator as is the groundhog. Like all hibernators and winter-sleepers, the bear accumulates fat for springtime recovery. When the animal first emerges from the den, the fat is still much the same as when the bear went into semi-hibernation. Reestablishment of digestive processes is painful and slow, as Captain Eddie Rickenbacker and companions found. They captured a sea gull, ate it raw, and suffered distress. Little good was accomplished from eating the gull.

News Releases

As reported in news releases, the Alaskan bear apparently had been nibbling at what new green growth was available and was in his den nursing a stomach ache. Certainly in no mood to be poked. While still asleep in his winter quarters, considerable liberty can be taken with a bear.

When bear meat was considered "good eatin'" and bear oil used in combing hair, it was not too risky to crawl in a den, carefully loop a rope over a bear's head, haul him out, and butcher the animal like a hog.

There is little drain on a hibernator's or winter-sleeper's fat. The metabolism drops too low to use fat. The need of accumulated fat is when digestion is being reestablished, which requires about two weeks.

Overcoat Slipping

With fat gone and the hairy winter overcoat slipping in patches, the bear is lean, alert and dangerous.

The bear shown in the picture was discovered by two loggers west of Bellingham, Wash. The picture was obtained by a reporter from Bellingham. The bear was sleeping in a 12 foot diameter hollow cedar which had been felled. Rain drove him out later.

In proof of a bear's deep winter sleep, a headsawyer from the north Klamath Falls country tells of an incident in sawmill operation when his tailsawyer yelled, "Hey, stop it. You're slicing off bear steaks."

It was true. A small bear had crawled into a fallbucked log, which had been logged out of the snow and dumped in the mill pond where the bear likely drowned.

NAMED ASSISTANT — Alan F. Eames Friday was appointed assistant manager of the Medford branch, First National Bank of Portland. He comes here from Coos Bay, where he was assistant manager. He replaces Ray Sorenson, who plans to become associated with the Oregon Veneer company, Medford.—(The Camera Shop, Coos Bay, Photo).

WEATHER

By United Press

Northern California: Mostly fair Sunday but occasional high cloudiness; fog on coast.

High School News Notes

By NELLIE RAWLINGS

The school year is almost over, and it is time once again for next year's club officers. The Girls' League elections were held Wednesday, and the following girls came out on top: President, Joyce Gregory; vice president, Bev De Borde; secretary, Mike Carter; treasurer, Dianna Getchell. Katherine Gott was elected Girl of the Year, and the pin will be presented to her permanently at the Mother-Daughter Tea, during Girls' League week.

Nellie Rawlings

The results of the Boys' League elections were announced: President, Dick McLaughlin; vice president, Mike Stearns; secretary, Larry Perkins; treasurer, Jay Mullen; sergeant at arms, Larry Cranston.

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This week end was senior visitation at most colleges. Many students planning on attending college next year visited the campuses and were made familiar with the college, and also entertained at parties, dances, etc.

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A dance, "Drag Race Drag," was held at the YMCA Friday night. Music for the dance was provided by the Bob Ayres Band.

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The concert band presented an assembly program Thursday morning for all students.

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Six weeks test were taken this week. There is only one six weeks period of school left, and teachers are preparing final tests and students are dreading them.

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The sunny weather has brought out all sorts of spring clothes, of which the widely-advertised bermuda shorts take top notice. Since the recent escapade, a few boys are seen every day wearing the famed apparel.

Seniors were given the results of their Iowa tests of education development, which were taken earlier in the year. The over-all picture gave advisors an idea of how well the school compares with other schools in the nation. Medford ranked among the top of the schools tested.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, a newspaper editor, a women's page editor and two newspaper writers. These consult with clergymen of all faiths and denominations. All letters are held in complete confidence.

LUCY — He doesn't really want to quit:

DAN — She undermines my confidence.

• • •

LUCY—For more than five years my husband, Daniel, has been complaining about his job and arguing with me that he wants to make a change. The first time he brought that up we had a long and emotional discussion, and I finally agreed that I would cheerfully go along with him and take all the chances entailed, although we had just bought a heavily mortgaged home and had two children who were little more than infants.

No sooner had I agreed with him that he should quit than he went to see his boss about it and got talked out of his resolution in a very few minutes. Within three months my husband was complaining again. A few weeks ago he came to me and told me that he had decided to leave his job. I asked him what other plans he had and he admitted that he had none, that he would simply take his chances.

I ventured to suggest that he should have another talk with his boss and tell him frankly what his complaints were. At this, he blew up and accused me of having worn him down to the point where he could not contend with his boss. He said I was to blame for the fact that he surrendered to his boss five years ago, when he had gone to him to resign.

This was too much for me, and I told him that he was continually undermining my security by threatening to leave his job, but that he was doing nothing constructive to create an alternative way of earning a livelihood. This enraged him, and he has gone around the house glaring at me and refusing to talk to me ever since.

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DAN — When my wife goes along with my decision to quit my job, it is as if she were agreeing to commit suicide. She certainly shows no confidence in me. She evidently does not think it is possible for me to do well on another job or to find another job. I blamed her for my surrender five years ago despite the fact that she had "agreed" that I quit. I blame her because she had argued with me for days and days to convince me that my decision would be the ruin of our children. When I finally went to the boss and he argued against my decision, I was too weak for him.

• • •

THE COUNCIL: Lucy has to learn to carry her "insecurity" a little better. Dan has trying problems in his relations with his boss and he needs an outlet for his sense of complaint. When he tells his wife that he plans to quit, he wants expressions of sympathy and confidence from her.

Dan obviously has both a keen sense of responsibility and a pronounced lack of self-confidence. When his wife explores the gloomy side of the picture, she is but underlining the picture that haunts him. She would be wiser to approve of his decision in principle while urging patience to time the resignation to his best advantage.

Dan would find his relations with his boss less irksome if he did not feel desperately dependant on his job. Lucy could best help him by changing her role in these family discussions. She should not try to belittle the extent of his office problems or to argue with him. He will do nothing rash; the reason he is so enraged at his wife's arguments is his own inner fears, and he needs propping up of self-confidence.

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Gone Fishin' . . .

The coming of warm weather in the Rogue Valley means fun for lots of people . . . it's time to go fishing. Of course, some people would rather go water skiing . . . and some would rather go to the beach.

But along with thoughts of outdoor recreation here in the Rogue Valley, spring-time also means home repairing and remodeling for many of us.

If your home needs a new roof . . . if you're thinking of a new room . . . if you have any home face-lifting project in mind . . .

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