

Better Understanding Provided From Fire Show

Demonstrations, Displays Included At Elk Lumber Site

Southern Oregon residents last Sunday got a better understanding of the amount of equipment and personnel necessary in fighting forest fires at a Fire-ama at Elk Lumber company.

The displays and show, sponsored jointly by federal, state and private industry groups, was held to give the general public a first hand look at tools and methods used in modern-day forest fire suppression.

It was part of an over-all program under way in southern Oregon to provide more adequate training of fire crews and to establish a more coordinated effort in suppression of disastrous forest fires, such as those last Labor Day week end.

Complete Participation
Sam Taylor, of Elk Lumber company, chairman of the event, arranged for almost complete participation by all interested groups and emphasized that only through cooperation was the show a success. He said the event this year was the result of a similar show last year at Elk Lumber company in which other industry representatives were invited to see equipment which Elk Lumber company had purchased to provide fire protection for the plant as well as for use in the forest.

This year the show was repeated on a larger scale with support by state, federal and other members of the industry.

Active Committee Members
One of the most active members of the committee in charge of the Fire-ama, Lewis L. (Doc) Simpson, forester and manager of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, said that if this year's activity was an indication of what could be expected, there probably would be another Fire-ama on a larger scale next year.

More than 100 pieces of mobile fire fighting equipment was included in the display, representing a good idea of the cost involved in reducing fire loss.

Each unit carried a card bearing the agency or company name, nomenclature of the equipment and the approximate cost. The total value of equipment on display was estimated to be more than \$500,000.

Industry men saw on display the most recent tools and equipment used in fire control. Displays were set up by dealers from southern Oregon. Included were hand and power tools, pumps, tankers, fire hose, nozzles and heavier equipment such as crawler tractors, bull dozers and road graders.

Map Display
A map display was used to pinpoint the \$150,000 worth of fixed and mobile radio stations which are part of one of the nation's most complete radio networks devoted to communication in logging and fire suppression activities.

The map technique also was used to give a graphic picture of the fire caches throughout forested areas in southern Oregon available for instant use in fire suppression. Comments of visitors indicated that both map displays were helpful in providing a clearer picture of coverage of combined private and public agencies in providing fast reporting and combatting of fires in remote areas.

Another display was that provided by the Medford station of the weather bureau. Bob Church, meteorologist in charge, set up a field weather station and gave a demonstration and explanation of the part which prompt and accurate reporting of fire-danger weather has in alerting the industry to a standby basis for action.

Afternoon Highlight
One of the highlights of the afternoon demonstration was the air-drop supplies by a forest service plane flown from Portland for Fire-ama. The pilot of the plane was Ed Shultz, veteran forest service flyer assigned to the smoke jumper base at Illinois Valley, near Cave Junction. Other crew members were Tenny Moore and Al Hansen of the Medford forest service office.

The plane is equipped with a 650-horse-power engine and can carry 2,000 pounds of cargo or seven fire fighters. In addition to supply work the plane also is used to fly smoke jumpers over forest fires. It has room for five jumpers plus equipment, which is dropped after jumpers are safely on the ground.

Through an arrangement worked out by Tom Winneford, radio technician for Elk Lumber company, spectators were able to hear the conversation by radio between the ground station set up at the Fire-ama site and the pilot requesting instructions and permission to release the cargo.

One Dry Run
The exercise consisted of one dry run to line up the location and calculated wind-drift, three cargo drops with parachutes,

Two Reforestation Programs In Use In Haystack Burn Area

Two programs of reforestation are being used in the Haystack burn area where 64,000 acres of timber was destroyed in the Klamath National forest last September, John Hall, Oak Knoll district ranger, told the Siskiyou chapter of the Society of American Foresters Friday during a field trip into the area.

Purpose of the field trip was to inspect the Haystack burn salvage program and measures of erosion control.

Two Methods
One reforestation method, Hall explained, includes planting seedlings. The other method is direct seeding, he said. Each method will be used on 10,000 to 15,000 acres.

Hall stated that the greatest drawback to planting seedlings was that it cost between \$60 and \$65 an acre, compared to between \$10 and \$15 per acre in direct seeding. The forest service has finances for about \$50 per acre, he said.

Hall explained that with direct seeding they would have a fairly cheap method of reforesting but because of rodents they are only getting a 30-36 per cent survival rate. Area poisoning to constrict rodents has been used, Hall added, but direct seeding still has not made up the needed difference. Direct seeding has helped, he said, but a 60-70 per cent survival rate is necessary before it would be a satisfactory method.

Estimated Trees
Last September it was estimated that 400,000 to 500,000 trees would have to be planted,

and one free fall drop of a bale of hay.

No smoke jumpers participated in the demonstration since it is contrary to forest policy to risk accidents involving jumpers for public exhibitions.

The demonstration was calculated to give the public a behind-the-scenes showing of one of the most intricate operations in fire suppression operations.

Fire Demonstration
Capping the events of the afternoon was an actual demonstration of forest fire suppression by a crew headed by Britt Ash, district ranger at the forest service station at Butte Falls. Several truck loads of slash and debris were hauled onto the show site for the demonstration and state and federal equipment was used.

The debris was ignited and allowed to burn out of control for about 20 minutes before the hose crew was ordered to control it. The crew, working from a 300 gallon tank truck equipped with a one-inch hose, first surrounded the area with the fog nozzle working into the center of the burn area.

Next, the nozzle-man, Ash, switched to the high pressure hose to bore into the hot spot and force water down to mineral content ground through the burning surface debris. The three-man crew then worked with hand tools to separate the fuel and turn it to allow the nozzle-man an opportunity to wet down sparks.

Mopping-Up Phase
The mopping-up phase was handled quickly and efficiently and demonstrated the importance of well-trained crews in proper control and suppression.

Curtis Nesheim and Doyle Stockman of the state department of forestry, southwest Oregon district, arranged for several displays and in showing state equipment. They also aided in a commentary of the fire demonstration.

Several civic officials who attended praised organizations for bringing more sharply into focus the need for more equipment and trained personnel for use in forest fire suppression, Taylor said.

Among agencies which participated in the show were the Central Point Rural Fire Protection district, Ashland fire department, Medford fire department and the Medford rural fire department. Also on display was the Civil Defense emergency vehicle from Josephine county and the Jackson County Disaster Car.

Boy Scouts directed traffic and the Air Explorer Scouts displayed their emergency trailer.

A post-event meeting will be held June 4 to make recommendations for next year's show and to evaluate results of this year's Fire-ama.

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Hall said. However, because of poor conditions and lack of personnel, only 200,000 to 300,000 trees have been planted. He said about 210 trees are planted per day, which is about three times as low as it should be. In re-planting trees in low elevation areas, he said, seeds dry out.

Hall said that chiefly ponderosa pine is being planted with some Douglas fir. About \$450,000 has been allotted to the Haystack burn area, he said.

Despite rodents, direct seeding is almost the only hope for reforesting the dead forest, he said. The program is based on completion in four years.

First Problem
The first problem after the fire, Hall said, was to make arrangements to have as much of the timber salvaged as possible. He said that after timber dies, fungus deteriorates the tree and it becomes blue stained.

He estimated that sawmills would have until about the end of August to remove salvagable timber before there was any danger of deterioration. Although there has been some staining already, Hall said, no timber has been lost.

Hall pointed out that of 366,000 board feet of timber destroyed in the Haystack fire, up to 14,000,000 board feet of it has been sold to private industry, and 116,000,000 has been sold to the government.

Oregon Purchases
He said that 70 per cent of the timber has been sold to Oregon sawmills. Reason for this, he said, is that California sawmills have been too involved in their own salvaging.

Starting next Sunday, Hall said, he expected that mills would begin removing about 30,000 logs per day. He said it is possible to remove almost all the trees out without spoiling.

Because of recent flash floods, he said, timber is being sold for higher prices than appraised. As a result, he said, many industries are not competing, and added that he expected about eight more firms to purchase timber between now and the end of August.

Hall also explained that recent flash floods have irritated

erosion conditions and that three measures are being used to prevent erosion. One method is constructing small check dams to divert water. Such projects are usually too expensive, Hall said.

Another method, he said, was constructing skid trails for mulching on granite soils. Granite soil, Hall pointed out, is among the worst soil for erosion.

The best method for preventing erosion is the application of grass seed. Some form of vegetation is the answer to the problem, Hall said. Grass seed was provided with all sales of timber.

Fire-Weather Situation
Following dinner at the Klamath River Lodge, R. A. James and Lee Morford, fire control officers on the Klamath National forest, gave a report on the analysis of the fire-weather situation preceding the Haystack fire and strategy used in controlling it.

James explained the fire, which caused about \$22,000,000 worth of damage, was facilitated by a deficiency of moisture in the ground. Yreka had 39 per cent of normal rainfall that year, he said, and most of it came during the winter and not in the summer.

Other weather conditions also were unfavorable, James said. He said that forecasters didn't predict the wind accurately and as a result the forest service often didn't know what strategy to use, especially on ground fires.

Morford said that the forest service was hindered in fighting the Haystack fire because of a manpower shortage. During the same three-day period in which the Haystack fire started, 27 other lightning fires started.

He added that in a 15-day period 65 fires were reported, in which the Haystack fire was the largest. He said the fire burned so fast it was impossible to control. In one area, he said, the fire was averaging about 20 acres every 12 minutes.

Their strategy, Morford explained, was to hold the west side of the fire so it wouldn't spread into the more valuable timber.

Problem of Reducing Highway Deaths Is With Local Cities

San Francisco — (UPI) — Delegates closed the Western regional conference of President Eisenhower's committee for Traffic Safety Friday in agreement that the problem of reducing the annual highway death toll of 38,000 victims rests mainly on local communities and their leaders.

Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth, Iowa, a member of the President's committee, told delegates from 11 western states that they would have to catch up with the East Coast in the battle against needless highway deaths.

Richards to Suggest College Name Change

La Grande — (UPI) — Dr. John R. Richards, chancellor of the state system of higher education, said here Friday he would recommend to the State Board of Higher Education at its June 11 meeting in Portland that names of two schools in the state system be changed.

He said he proposed to change Eastern Oregon College of Education to Eastern Oregon College and Southern Oregon College of Education to Southern Oregon College. Both schools long have been referred to by the shorter names.

Ballston Man Indicted For 1st Degree Murder

Dallas — (UPI) — A Polk county grand jury Friday indicted Bayliss Gilbert Fanning, 37, of Ballston, for first degree murder in the fatal shooting of his wife, Margaret.

Fanning is accused of slaying his 41-year-old wife with a .38 caliber pistol during an argument May 20.

As the two-day conference closed, all 11 states pledged to take steps to improve safety conditions in their areas.

The states and their resolutions included:

Washington: To take immediate action to improve the effectiveness of existing safety councils and utilize citizen groups now in existence.

Utah: To form a special committee of business leaders to spearhead a full safety program and endeavor to arouse support and interest in safety programs and driver education programs.

Nevada: To form a state safety council and to hold a follow-up conference in June; also to campaign for a "realistic speed limit."

California: To support the California Traffic Safety Foundation and to work for better coordination of existing safety groups.

Oregon: To improve present state organizations and to spark progress of its program by taking it to the "grass roots" level.

Arizona: To meet in the immediate future to create a privately sponsored, non-political council to work for a statewide program.

Idaho: To ask the governor to set up a temporary nonpolitical statewide committee to plan for a permanent organization and program.

Third Printing of Oregon Schedule of Events Published

Salem—The third printing of Oregon's Schedule of Events was released this week with several new events appearing for the first time this season.

The National Education Association will hold its national meet in Portland from July 1 through 7 with some 10,000 are expected to attend. From Sept. 16-20, the Veterans of World War I will hold its National Encampment, with some 5,000 expected.

Autumn Events
Of unique interest in August is the International Sourdough Reunion in Portland. Other major August events include the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, Ashland, August 1-September 1; the 11th Annual Mary's Peak Trek, from Corvallis, August 5; a new event, the Oswego Water Festival, Oswego lake, August 24-25 and the Astoria Regatta and Oregon Fisheries Festival, August 30 - September 2.

The Sisters Annual Rodeo, a popular event in the Central Oregon Recreation Area, has changed its dates to June 22-24. The month of June will also see the All-Arabian Horse Show, State Fairgrounds, Salem, on the 23rd and 24th and the first performance of the Mirror Pond Water Pageant, Bend, June 30. Two other performances of the Mirror Pond Pageant will be held on July 4 and 7.

Timber Carnival
Other major events in July are World's Championship Timber Carnival, Albany, July 2-4; Miss Oregon Pageant, Seaside, July 20-22; Chief Joseph Days, Joseph, July 27-29, and Santiam Bean Festival, Stayton, July 31-August 4.

The Oregon schedule is climaxed by two events, the Portland Rose Festival, June 6-10, and Pendleton Round-Up, September 12-15.

For a copy of travel information, residents may write Room E, travel division, Oregon state highway department, Salem, Oregon.

The cells of the yeast plant are so small that if 3,000 of them were laid in a straight line they would measure only about one inch.

School Safety Patrol Honored at Banquet

Nearly 200 persons, among them about 120 school safety patrol boys and girls, attended the sixth annual dinner in honor of the school patrols Friday evening at Hedrick Junior High school.

The youngsters, students at the five city elementary schools and St. Mary's and Oak Grove schools, all have given time during the past year guarding street crossings near their schools, and supervising their classmates for their own protection.

Given Pencils
Each was presented with an automatic school patrol pencil, plus a signed citation, for their work. Mayor Earl Miller presented the pencils to a representative of each school.

The city and the schools are "partners in safety," the mayor told the group and he urged the students to continue to participate in safety work, to learn safety procedures, to know the laws, to be conscious of the danger potential in today's society, and to pass on this information to their classmates.

The speaker was Miss Venita Howard, informational representative of the state traffic safety division, who was introduced by Elliott Becken, assistant school superintendent and master of ceremonies, who pointed out it was appropriate to give a feminine speaker due to the fact that so many girls are entering school safety patrol work.

Stresses Cooperation
Miss Howard, representing both Gov. Elmo Smith and Secretary of State Earl Newby, discussed the need for cooperation from family, school and government in safety work.

Steps she recommended for increasing safety are an increase in safety consciousness and education, in increased and tightened law enforcement, in highway construction, and in revised licensing procedures.

"Too often," Miss Howard said, "people expect the schools to do it all." She emphasized the family's role in teaching safety and in setting a good example.

She related the safety patrol program to the overall safety effort, telling of its importance,

and congratulating the patrol boys and girls for their voluntary efforts on behalf of their friends and neighbors. The training fits in with the need for traffic experts, she said, experts on the highways and behind the wheels of cars.

There is no need to be proud of the present record of the state in safety, she pointed out, when there are 65,000 accidents each year which cause 414 deaths, 50,000 injuries, and \$48,000,000 in property damage.

"I hope our young people can do better than this when they grow up," she said.

Past and present officers of the Medford Safety council and city officials were introduced at the meeting, as were school faculty safety patrol supervisors. A string octet from the Medford high school provided dinner music.

The Safety council sponsored the dinner, with the cooperation of the Elks lodge, the Crater and Medford Lions clubs, and the Rotary, Kiwanis and Active clubs.

Klamath Man Dies of Injuries in Tacoma

Tacoma — (UPI) — Donald Frackie, 22, Klamath Falls, Ore., died in a local hospital Friday night about 10 hours after he was wounded in a hunting accident near Montesano, Wash.

Frackie, 22, a former resident of Montesano who moved to Oregon about a year ago, was struck by a bullet fired from a rifle carried by Bradley Howard, 19, according to the Grays Harbor county sheriff's office in Montesano.

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Guests Flee Hotel In Portland Fire

Portland — (UPI) — Thirty guests were forced to flee their rooms in the New Ryan hotel here early Saturday when a two-alarm fire swept the structure.

One fireman was overcome by the dense smoke and a small boy was carried unconscious from the burning building by a Canadian Navy shore patrol officer.

Firemen removed at least 20 persons from upper windows of the three-story building by extension ladders. They said a 3 a.m. check disclosed the building free of guests. Two other hotels adjacent to the New Ryan were ordered evacuated by firemen but guests were permitted to return at 3 a.m.

The Cart Wheel, a restaurant and tavern on the street level of the hotel, which is across the street from Portland city hall, was believed the source of the fire. The establishment was described as a total loss.

WEATHER
By United Press
Northern California: Fair Sunday except fog and low clouds on north coast morning. Little change in temperature.

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