



Forester Explains Organization Work

Lewis L. (Doc) Simpson, forester of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm Association, spoke on the activities of that organization at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Roundtable yesterday noon at the Jackson hotel. This is the first year in the history of Oregon, according to Simpson, that lightning fires have exceeded man-made fires in Jackson county. He said the reason of the "fortunate" fire season was due to efforts of loggers, sportsmen and the general public. Simpson pointed out there were 202 fires reported in southern Oregon this year, of which 11 were caused by logging operators. Total acres burned were 550, he added. The fire season of the Rogue River National forest ended with 88 fires, 76 of which were lightning fires, burning a total of 14 acres, Simpson said. He also reported that insects and tree diseases destroy more timber annually than fires. However, he added, the spruce bug has been controlled in southern Oregon. Simpson stated that now 80 per cent of forest land in the county is under forest management.

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS Ranger-Naturalist

"We're heading for the High Sierra for deer hunting. Settle a hot argument, Ranger. What is the best tent to take?" writes D. R. P. He adds: "Thanks, and keep up your wonderful how-to-camp series. We've pasted up every one. Why not put 'em out in a book?" What I have to say about cold weather tents, D. R. P., is not going to settle any argument. As with practically anything connected with the Big Open Spaces, there is no "best." Conditions vary and so does the weather. At best, any piece of outdoor equipment must be a compromise—an attempt to get most of the best, and least of the worst. Because you are heading into high country, presumably with pack horses, your bulk and weight are factors. You must expect high wind. That calls for a strong tent—heavy canvas and good ropes. The chances are it's going to be frosty around the edges—in fact, well below freezing. That calls for good heating. But wherever you go hunting in the Sierras, you should have ample fuel. Frankly, the most popular tent among deer hunters today is the wall type. You know, with a four-foot high wall all around, and the two sides sloping up to the ridgepole. This has a maximum of indoor space and it's no trick to heat it with a folding sheet-iron stove. Closed, this tent can be very cozy providing you don't mind the thick over-cozy air. The wall tent's drawbacks are: it's heavy and bulky; the fire in a small stove burns out quickly—leaves the inside of the tent as cold as a witch's smile unless constantly replenished; and you feel confined—losing the feeling of the outdoors. Baker Tent Choice As for my choice—and I think you'll find most old hands agreeing—it's the Baker tent, also known as the shed tent. The front is completely open; the sides closed, the roof slopes back to a two-foot high wall to give more room. Usually a flap carries across the front to provide shelter for the cooking when it rains or snows. This flap can be closed down while you're away hunting. Or, when a big fire is blazing away out front, the flap is thrown back over the tent. You might not think so, but these open-front tents can be far more comfortable in cold weather than a closed-up wall tent; the air is always fresh; strangely enough, they require less bedding; they are easier to erect; they are less bulky and weigh less—a factor, as you know, when packing into the wilderness; and, as a rule, they cost a lot less. While timber cruising in New Hampshire one winter, I lived in one for a month when the weather often carried 20 below Zero and I had only one blanket. (Of course, I folded it into something of an envelope sleeping bag with both sides under me and the end tucked in under too.) To be sure, we kept the fire going all night—but because it was a big fire it only needed replenishing twice. The beauty about this Baker tent is that you get the pleasure after supper of having a big fire going when it is cold and it gives you the feeling of being out in the wilderness. To get the most from the fire, use a green baglog, and when you can, build your fire with birch which won't throw sparks and set the flame with jackpine or white pine. (Avoid spruce and cedar which spark something fierce—have to look out for your tent, you know.) Heat Will Reflect Before rolling in for the night, build up your fire so it is about five feet long—the heat will reflect nicely into your tent and bounce off the wall onto your bed. Then pile up some wood handy so that you can toss it on without having to get entirely out of your blankets. Sleep with your feet to the fire. I've listed these precautions before—but because you'll be up in the high country during the fall, I'd like to repeat—your life may depend upon it. Always have the open side of your tent facing away from the prevailing winds or snow-bearing winds. Keep the tent tightly stretched—then it not only sheds water better but will stand up to severe winds. A loose tent generally goes down in a hurry and if winds were to get into the front, brother, the tent is almost sure to go down—and perhaps be torn wide open. Use strong poles that are long enough for the job and be sure your ground stakes are sturdy enough to hold the tent in place despite the severity of the storm. Never underestimate the size of your stakes; it is always better to have them too large than too small. Finally, before you take to the woods, be sure there are no worn places which may give way in a strong wind. The best of camping to you, D. R. P., and I hope you come back with some sweet meat for your larder. (Copyright, 1956, by Eugene Burns) Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate



Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best questions on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week, new questions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your questions to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 375, Sausalito, Calif.

New Fire Truck Fulfills Requirements

Ashland — Pumping requirements for Ashland's new fire truck were fulfilled Wednesday afternoon when the equipment pumped at full capacity for two hours under 150-pound pressure, two-thirds capacity for half an hour at 200 pounds pressure, and one-half capacity for one-half hour at 250 pounds pressure. Attending the demonstration were Ed Margueling, representative of the Oregon Insurance Rating bureau who supervised the tests; Chief Gordon Barker and assistant Earl Harrison of the Medford fire department; City Manager Hugh McKinley of Grants Pass; Chief H. Grable and assistant E. E. Everton of the Grants Pass fire department; Moe Manikiski and Jack Culver, representatives of the American La France company that built the truck; Mayor Richard Neill, Elmer Bisseg, Chief Charles Davis, Kip Osborn, Ronnie Wallace and Bob Reinhold, all of Ashland. Testing was done at the lower city reservoir, the truck operating for three hours consecutively. Sixty gallons of gas were used by the 1,000 gallon pumper that pumped 60,000 gallons of water per hour.

HEAR Governor ELMO SMITH



KBES-TV Tuesday 6:45 p.m.

"Know your Governor" The Governor will be interviewed by local residents. Be sure you hear his views on matters important to Oregon and Oregonians. Governor Smith is Giving Leadership of Action "Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never be content with a half truth when the whole can be won." —from the "Front Cover" Prayer. The measure of a man is in the fairness of his dealings with others and in his ability to give leadership to other men toward a better way of life. The words quoted above are the measure of Elmo Smith. He is an inspiration to all who meet him. He is a new kind of Governor for Oregon. Our state can ill afford to renounce the leadership that he has brought us in Elmo Smith. Let your vote keep this man who stands for all the people of Oregon. Keep ELMO SMITH Governor "A governor the people of Oregon like and trust" P.A. Ad. Kay Elmo Smith Gov. Comm. R.A. (Dick) Reilman. Circa. 153 So. Liberty, Salem, Oregon

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TONIGHT... HEAR U.S. SENATOR WAYNE MORSE discuss these questions on Foreign Policy 1. Are we winning the cold war? 2. Are we losing friends all over the world? 3. Are we maintaining our position of world leadership? 4. Do we have only Atomic Destruction to offer? Wayne Morse gives positive answers to these vital questions. KYJC 7:15 P.M. Tuesday YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE WAYNE MORSE STANDS

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