

# Western Oregon Foresters Alerted To Watch for Wood Rat Damage

Corvallis — Western Oregon foresters have been alerted to watch for wood rat damage in dense young Douglas fir stands by Oregon State college foresters who have found extensive damage in some 20 to 25 year Douglas fir stands in college forests.

Harry I. Nettleton, manager of the OSC forests, said damage is largely confined to the upper third of the tree trunk and branches and is difficult to observe from the ground. No diameter or crown class group was noted as being especially vulnerable.

**Bark Gnawed**  
Bark is gnawed to the sapwood by the dusky-footed rats and used for nest insulation, Nettleton said. No evidence of rat damage has been found in Douglas fir stands of low density, where trees are too far apart for rats to jump from crown to crown.

Some damage to scattered white fir has been discovered.

Rat nests had been observed along creeks in the forest for several years, Nettleton reported but it was not until last summer that a substantial buildup within the 20 to 25 year stands was observed by forestry students working on a combined thinning, pruning and hardwood girdling project. Occasional reports of damage earlier from throughout the area had been attributed to porcupines.

**Started Thinning**  
When the crews started thinning, however, in stands where dominant trees averaged 22 years of age and 40 to 45 feet in height the extent of the damage was so great that a half-acre study plot was established. Forty-three per cent of the first 136 trees removed in the first thinning from the plot had been either partially or completely girdled, Nettleton found.

An ice storm in February 1957 also revealed that many of the tops broken out of trees in the same age class had previously been weakened by older gnawings of the rats.

The light-brown rats are about 7 to 9 inches long with a sparsely-haired tail, 6 to 8 inches long. They are not often seen and are rather difficult to capture.

Control studies have been

started in cooperation with the OSC fish and game department and Don Dickey, Eugene rodent control specialist. Poisoning by Thallium-treated grain and walnuts has been found most effective. Bait is spread around the ground nests and beneath the trees in which nests are found.

Because complete coverage of affected areas is necessary to locate the nests, control costs are relatively high—around \$3 an acre, which includes survey, marking of nests, preparation and spreading of bait.

The nests vary from 3 to 5 feet in diameter and 3 to 4 feet in height. Bark, which had been gnawed from the trees, was found finely shredded in the inner nest. No bark fragments have been found to date in stomach content checks of rats killed, Nettleton said.

### BURNING SENSATION

Bay City, Mich.—(U.P.)—Larry Poissin made the mistake of smoking a cigarette while pouring gasoline into the tank of his stalled automobile Monday. "It was an expensive smoke," Poissin said after flames left the car a total loss.

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



**BECK CHARGES 'WITCH HUNT'**—Teamster Union Pres. Dave Beck (left) chats with Al J. Hayes, chairman of the AFL-CIO Ethical Practices Committee, prior to meeting of the committee in Washington to consider charges that the Teamster Union is dominated by corrupt influences. Beck accused the AFL-CIO of conducting a "medieval inquisition and witch hunt."

## 1,184 Cases Reported To Police in April

City police received a total of 1,184 reports during April and cleared 91 per cent of the cases, according to the police department's monthly report.

Of the total cases reported, 1,076 were closed. In April, 1956, the department cleared 94 per cent of its cases.

There were 84 major offenses reported during the month compared to 62 major offenses a year ago, and 561 miscellaneous offenses compared to 449 miscellaneous offenses a year ago.

Major offenses included robbery, one with none cleared; burglary, nine with five cleared; larceny of more than \$50, nine with one cleared; larceny of less than \$50, 64 with 15 cleared;

and auto theft, one case reported and three cleared. Two of the cases were reported in other months.

### Miscellaneous Offense

Miscellaneous offenses included embezzlement and fraud, six, with three cleared; stolen property, one with one cleared; sex offenses, one with one cleared; offenses against family and children, two with two cleared; liquor laws, three with three cleared; drunkenness, 48 with 48 cleared; disorderly conduct, two with three cleared; vagrancy, four with four cleared; driving while intoxicated, nine with nine cleared; violation of road and driving laws, 97 with 96 cleared; traffic and motor vehicle laws, 328 with 328 cleared; all other offenses, 54 with 15 cleared; and suspicion, six with none cleared.

Miscellaneous public reports during April this year totaled 53 and miscellaneous services rendered totaled 486.

There were 40 motor vehicle accidents during the month, resulting in eight injuries and no fatalities. There were three cases of sudden death and bodies found, and seven cases of caring for sick people.

Miscellaneous services included 49 escorts, 69 open windows, 129 open doors, 12 open safes, 127 night lights out, 41 vacation house checks, 97 bicycle licenses sold, 34 record checks, five fingerprinting and 20 miscellaneous.

## Study of Snake River Temperature Slated

Corvallis — Water temperature conditions in the Snake river and changes in temperature brought by dam construction that may influence fish life, will be studied during the next two years by an Oregon State college oceanographer.

Dr. Wayne V. Burt will do the work under a \$22,000 grant from the U.S. fish and wildlife service, department of interior.

The wildlife service is interested in pinpointing water temperature conditions in the river because movements of fish, disease problems of fish, and efficiency of proposed hatchery operations are all influenced by temperature, according to Burt.

His study will concentrate on the stretch of river that forms the boundary between Oregon and Idaho, extending from above Weiser, Idaho to Lewiston-Clarkston.

## 59 Countries Help Hungarian Citizens

Geneva, Switzerland — (U.P.)—The peoples of 59 countries have given more than \$30 million to the Red Cross to help the Hungarians, it was reported today.

Justice Emil Sandstrom of Sweden, chairman of the League of Red Cross societies, said the United States, with nearly \$6 million made the largest country gift. Little Liechtenstein gave the most per capita, \$64,000, or \$4.50 for each of its 14,000 citizens.

Wednesday, May 8, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

## U. S., Poland May Sign Aid Agreement

Washington—(U.P.)—The United States and Poland plan to sign a \$100 million aid agreement soon after Congress completes action on legislation authorizing use of more surplus American farm products for foreign aid.

Officials said today they hope the agreement can be completed in 10-14 days.

Canada is unhappy about the prospective agreement because it provides for heavy deliveries of American wheat to Poland at bargain prices. Canada, bulging with a big wheat surplus, feels the U.S.-Polish agreement will cut into a wheat market the Canadians have helped supply in the past.

The planned \$100 million agreement is only a third of the \$300 million originally asked by Poland in long negotiations that began here Feb. 26. However, Poland is now reportedly satisfied.

Informed sources indicated one reason for Poland's current satisfaction is the likelihood that the agreement will include an informal invitation for the Poles to return for further negotiations for more help if all goes well.

The signing is awaiting final congressional action on a bill authorizing use of an extra \$1 billion for sale of surplus farm commodities for foreign currencies. Of the approximately \$100 million slated for Poland, about \$80 million will be in the form of farm surpluses, chiefly wheat and cotton.

## Water Quality Info Compiled at OSC

Corvallis — New information about water quality in various regions of Oregon has been compiled by the Oregon State college engineering experiment station and will be published this summer.

The new information fills out and gives statewide coverage to the first water quality index published in June, 1956. Eastern, northeastern and central Oregon received particular attention in the new work.

The water quality index has special value for various groups. Industry uses the information in appraising new plant sites, cities for water treatment plant planning, farm groups for irrigation programs, engineers for various phases of construction work, and recreation and wildlife groups for planning purposes.

Water quality checks include physical tests for such characteristics as odor, color, turbidity and salinity; bacteriological and biological information; chemical tests for acidity, alkalinity, hardness, fluoride and chloride; and mineral analyses.

## Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Tallahassee, Fla.—State Rep. John Orr, on why he opposed passage of a bill to outlaw indecent literature: "If this bill had been in effect when some of the great classics were written they would never have been created. It would even pull the Holy Bible from our book shelves."

Chicago — Navy Chief of Operations Adm. Arleigh Burke, on Russian naval power: "The Russian fleet is getting better and the Soviets build ships as well as we do. However, the Russian's seamanship is not as good as ours."

Minot, N.D.—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, to wheat farmers who, he said, are gradually making more money annually: "You are not out of the woods but things are looking up. You hear most of what is bad and little of what is good."

Washington—Rep. Albert Thomas (D-Tex.) on why he and other congressmen rejected President Eisenhower's request for funds to launch the new federal flood insurance program: "The taxpayers can't stand this right now."

Austin, Tex.—East Texas Legislator Joe A. Chapman, denying he threatened to cut university funds unless a Negro girl was removed from the cast of a student opera: "That was not mentioned at all."

Castaic, Calif.—(U.P.)—Eight members of the Ken Harris orchestra stood by helplessly Tuesday as flames destroyed their trailer and all their instruments. Bass player Bill Thresto sang "I've Got Plenty of Nothing" while firemen fought the blaze.

Chicago — (U.P.)—American Airlines announced today that a survey of its stewardesses shows they prefer to buy their hats in Chicago, their suits in New York, dresses in Dallas, shoes in California and jewelry in Mexico.

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(Or, give her any one of these enduring gifts.)

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Item-of-the-month

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Brews to exact strength and flavor you desire. Coffee kept at ideal drinking temperature.

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Two-edged shaving comb designed especially for needs of women. Beautiful plastic case.

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Light, handy, with big-mixer features. Multi-speed control. Full size beater. Smart colors.

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