

Today's Square Dance Is Modernized Form

Construction Highlights Season for National Forest Service in Region

39-Foot Tower Is Built Under Old Cinnabar Lookout

Construction of a new tower under a lookout house, a new type lookout house and work on improving recreation facilities highlighted the season in the Rogue River National forest.

A new 39-foot tower was built under the lookout house at Cinnabar mountain which required raising the house three feet from the top of the old tower. T. C. (Buck) Flory of Medford, contractor, used treated timber in the new tower, and jacked the house up during the construction.

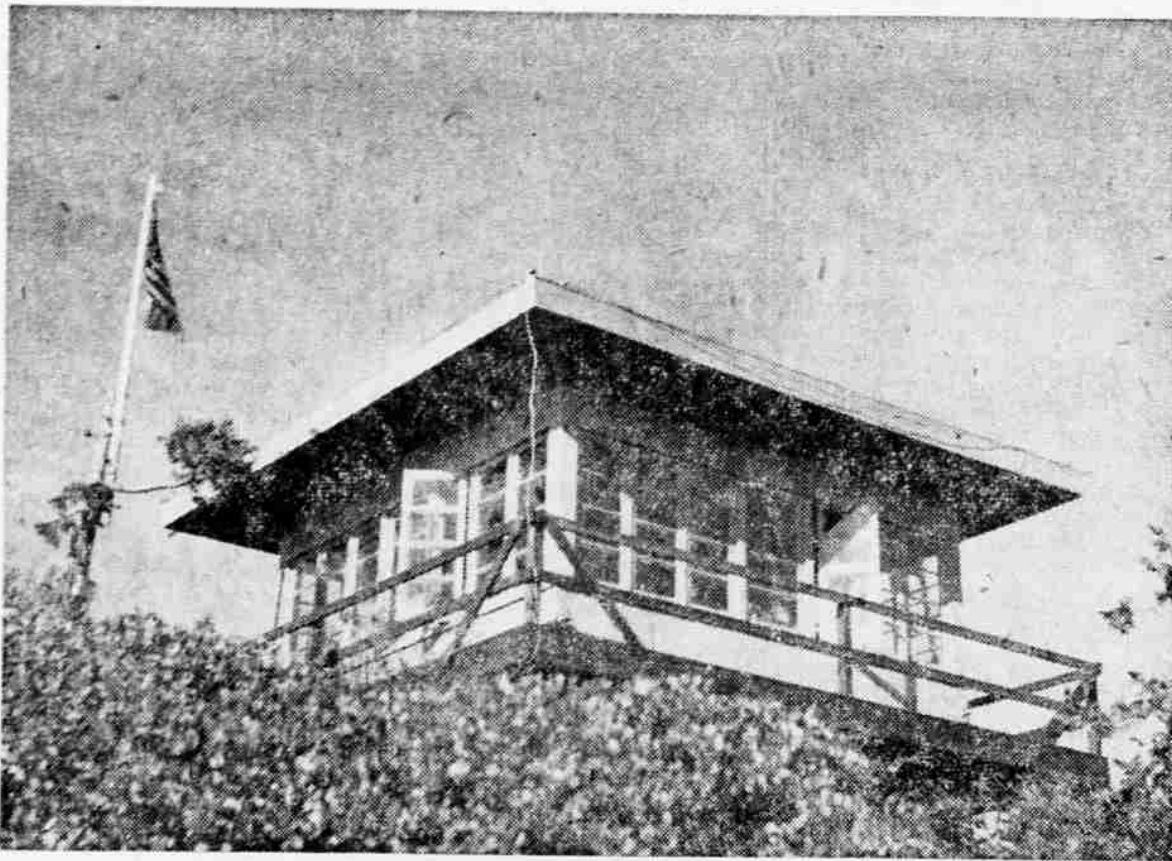
The new ground lookout at Halls point in the Union Creek district, about six miles northwest of Prospect, is a flat-roof type structure with a three-foot overhang.

Forest service officials said the new type structure will eliminate conventional shutters, which are raised during the fire season to reduce glare from the sky. The three-foot overhang in the new building will reduce the glare. Shutters will be of a light-weight type to protect windows during the winter.

The roof is reinforced to provide strength for supporting heavy amounts of snow, officials said. They indicated that the snow depth may be lessened on a flat-roof type structure by the wind blowing across the top.

Construction of a new dwelling at Butte Falls Ranger station is expected to be completed in December. Contractor for the work is the Rogue Valley Construction company of Medford.

A. E. Fitzgerald of Klamath Falls has been awarded a contract for construction of a timber sale officer's residence and lookout tower at F. Klamath. Forest service officials said the lookout tower will be elevated, and will provide a lookout for forest service land to the West



NEW LOOKOUT—This new flat-top lookout structure recently was finished on Halls Point in the Union Creek district of the Rogue River National forest. The three-foot overhang eliminates heavy shutters, which are

used on older lookouts to reduce glare from the sun. Lightweight shutters will be used in the winter to prevent windows from breaking.

in the mountain region.

Several new projects have been initiated under "Operation Outdoors," the forest service's project for improving recreational facilities in national forests.

New roads have been completed at Fish Lake Forest camp and resort, and at Aspen Point and Rainbow Forest camps at Lake of the Woods. Tract survey and planning work is being done for Farewell Bend Natural Bridge and Woodruff Meadows Forest camps in the Union Creek district, at Fish Lake in the Ashland district, and at Rainbow, Aspen and East Side camps at Lake of the Woods.

Rogue River National forest officials reported a favorable fire record this year. A total of 27 fires, 22 of them man-caused, were reported covering a total of one acre.

Contributing to the low number of fires was the absence of severe lightning storms. The average number of fires per year over the past five years has been 72.

Timber resource reinventory work is being completed in the Union Creek district, forest service officials noted. It also is being done in the north portion of the Butte Falls district.

The reinventory will be the basis for the recalculation of sustained yield capacity. From it will be derived the corrected allowable cut of timber.

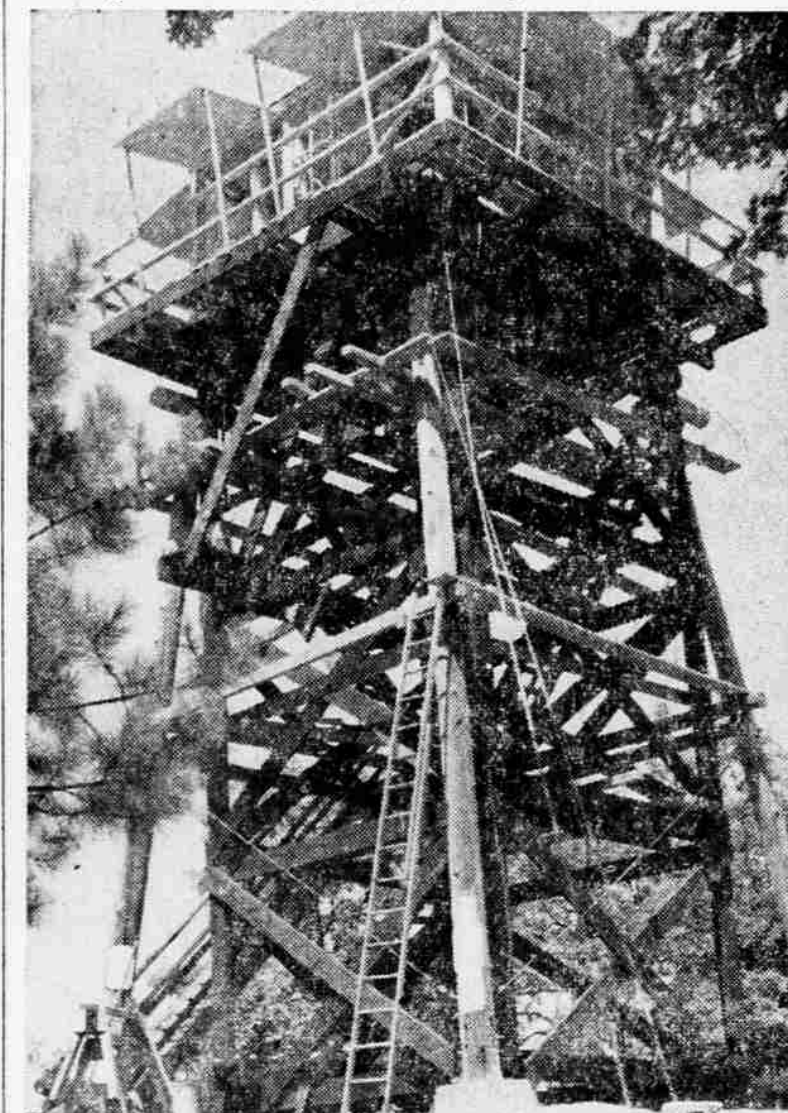
During the reinventory work,

130 permanent sample plots were located and measured, and future remeasurements of the same trees used in the reinventory will provide information on growth and mortality. Reinventory data will be placed on punched cards and calculations will be by International Business Machines.

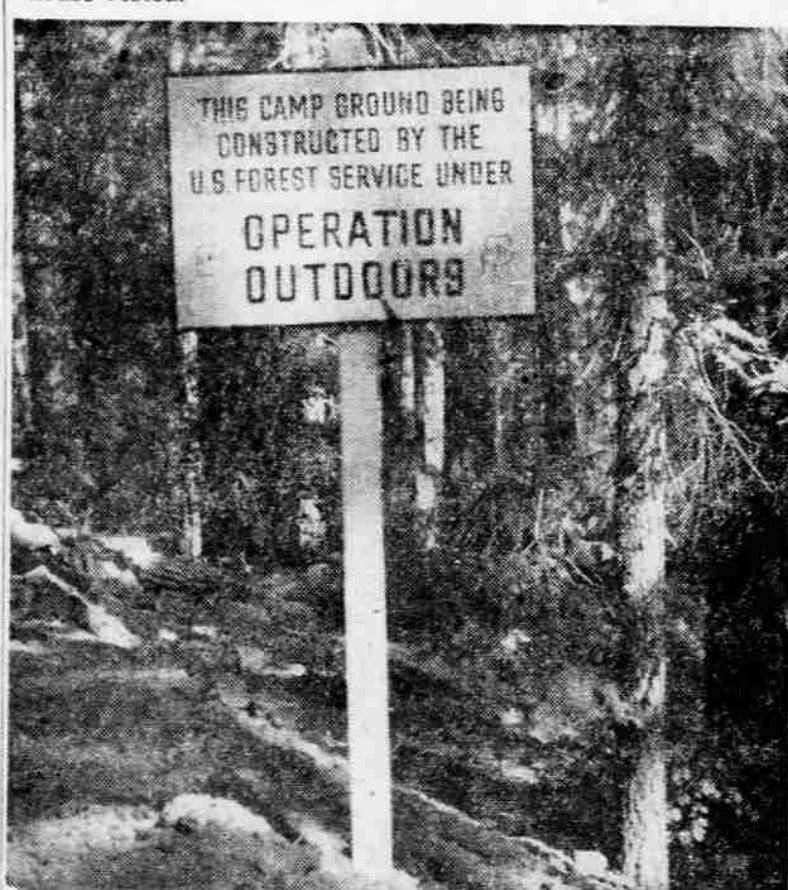
Planting on national forest cutover lands got under way with the fall rains, forest service officials noted. Before snow becomes too deep, the service expects to have 870 acres planted with 440,000 two-year-old seedlings.



TEMPORARY LOOKOUT—A new lookout house on Halls Point, about six miles northwest of Prospect in the Union Creek Ranger district, has replaced this temporary structure. Gee Brown is the lookout.



NEW TOWER—Shown above is the new tower constructed under the lookout house on Cinnabar mountain. The house itself was raised three feet above the top of the old tower. The light-colored pole in the center is one of the poles on which the house rested.



IMPROVE FACILITY—This is one of the signs installed by the forest service indicating where work is being done to improve and enlarge recreational facilities in the Rogue River National forest. Improvement work during the past season included construction of a new road to the Fish Lake campground area.

Revival Resulted From Changes in Figures, Style

When the square dance caller today asks couples to "square 'em up," he is inviting dancers to a revived form of entertainment which has carried only a portion of the past to the present day.

For there is a great difference between square dancing today and the form which was popular a generation or so ago. Some of the basic calls have been retained, and in some areas, even the old-style dancing is done during an evening.

But the majority of today's square dancing is a "modernization" which has resulted in a revival of square dancing throughout the country. Basic steps and figures have been added, and the style of dancing changed to provide a smooth-flowing movement of entertainment.

Major Change

Modernized square dancing started about 10 years ago when a caller in California decided something should be done to preserve what was becoming a thing of the past. He initiated one major change into square dancing which has been one of the major factors in reviving and preserving it.

That was eliminating the old "visiting couple" type dance, and bringing all four couples into the square dance figure.

In the "visiting couple" dances, one couple would do the figure with another couple, and so on around the square, while the other two couples remained idle. Each couple would do the same thing with each other couple. Since two couples were idle throughout the dance, except perhaps at the start and finish, square dancing began to lose its popularity.

Four Couples Active

Now, however, instead of just one couple doing a figure, and progressing around the square individually, two couples do the figure. This brings all four couples into the dance, and no one couple is standing idle waiting for its turn to dance.

There have been many other changes in square dancing, all of them to help the dancer enjoy dancing more.

Seldom today are square dances held in the "old country barn" with dancers costumed in calico and overalls; seldom also are dancers engaged in a frolicking elbow swing, or



BEGINNERS—A series of beginners square dance classes is starting at Square Corral by Doug Fosbury. Persons interested may still enter the 15-week course, which will be held

each Wednesday night at the Camp White building just off Highway 62. The above picture was taken during the first of three preliminary sessions.



POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT—Square dancing has become popular with thousands of people throughout the country in the past few years, and is increasing in popularity in southern Oregon. Above, Ray Hagemann of

Rogue River calls for a dance at Take It Easy Lodge on Savage Creek near Rogue River. Callers today use public address systems and recordings by professional square dance bands.

the intricate clog step, as depicted by some.

Good Floor Necessary

Regular dance halls with "slow" floors are used by a majority of square dance groups in southern Oregon. A good floor is necessary since the modern dance is smooth, and dancers keep in time with the music by a walk, or "shuffle" step by sliding their feet on the floor.

There is no special dress suggested for square dancing today. Dance instructors advise low-heeled shoes and some type full skirt for women, and stress that being comfortable is important. Western style dress has been retained by many dancers, both in men's and women's costume.

Public address systems and recordings for callers have been among the greatest factors in providing a variety of square dances, and in the revival of square dancing itself.

Public Address System

A generation or so ago, the caller mingled with the dancers, shouted the call, waited for the figure to be done, then shouted another figure. Today, the caller, usually on a platform at one end of the dance hall, uses a public address system. He watches the dancers, and can adjust the patter calling to the dancers.

The caller today depends largely on recordings by professional square dance bands. At many large dances, like the recent state festival, a professional square dance band is retained to provide music.

Callers may know as many as 100 to 150 dances, and opportunities for learning more are almost unlimited. Between 10 and 15 new square dance figures are written each month, giving both the caller and dancer something new all the time.

Patter, Singing Calls

New dances include both patter and singing calls. A patter call is a figure called to any hoedown-type music and the call itself is done in a rhythmic chant. The singing call is a square dance figure written to the tune of a popular song, such as "Poor Boy," "This Ole House," or "Marianne."

The majority of new dances are a combination of basic square dance figures, some of which have been retained

through the revival. Quite often, a new figure is developed, worked into several dances, and later becomes a basic step.

During the past 10 or 12 years, there have been several figures which have become basic, such as the "allemande left," "waggin' wheel," and "cross trail through." Figures like "allemande left," "grand right and left," "do-pa-so," and "docey do," are carry-overs to the more modern trend.

Combination of Figures

The combinations of figures are so written that the dancer is comfortable while dancing. They are written with both entertainment and relaxation in mind. Square dancers are encouraged to relax and not take dancing as serious as they would work or square dancing loses its recreational purpose.

Members of the Rogue Valley Square Dance Callers association conduct classes to teach basic figures to beginners. One such class started recently at Take It Easy lodge on Savage creek near Rogue River by Ray Hagemann. Another class for beginners is starting at the Square Corral at Camp White by Doug Fosbury, who plans to conduct a 15-week course. Another beginners class is planned at the Square Corral in the near future.

Upon completion of a beginners class, students have a knowledge of basic figures sufficient to dance at any square dance.

The Rogue Valley Square Dance Callers association, which includes callers from Grants Pass, Medford, and surrounding area, was organized from the previous Southern Oregon Square Dance Club association. The latter group included clubs from Coos Bay to Klamath Falls.

There are at least 11 clubs in this area which have regularly scheduled dances, and another club is in the formation stage at the Square Corral. The clubs are indirectly in contact with activities of the state federation through the callers association, which is an active member of the state group.

The state federation was organized about a year and a half ago, and held its first festival at Roseburg recently. More than 1,400 dancers representing almost all the 81 groups affiliated with the state federation attended the festival, along with 51 callers.

At the national convention in St. Louis this year, an estimated 12,000 dancers from 40 states, England, Canada, Hawaii and Viet-Nam were present, along with 555 callers.

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