

Siskiyou Killings Were Well Investigated



New Forest Research Center To Be Dedicated in Corvallis

HYBRID FIR TREE?—Dr. Kim Ching shows Pearl Tucker how a Douglas fir is being hand-pollinated with California Big Cone spruce to create hybrid fir in a new laboratory, the Oregon Forest Research Center, at Corvallis.

Increased volume of improved timber for Oregon industry may result from studies made by Dr. Ching and other geneticists and scientists at the \$500,000 laboratory.

Corvallis—Can a hybrid Douglas fir tree be developed that will double present tree growth such as hybrid corn has done for agriculture?

Intense geneticists and other scientists are seeking this answer and many more at a scientific laboratory recently completed at Corvallis.

Called the Oregon Forest Research Center, this \$500,000, all wood structure will be formally dedicated Saturday, Nov. 16, when there will be an open house for the general public from 10 to 12 a.m. with dedication ceremonies at 11 a.m.

Forest Research Programs

The structure houses two distinct research programs: forest lands research under Dick Berry, director, and forest products research under John G. Grantham, director, and is the outgrowth of state forest research programs started back in 1941.

Supervising the two separate state programs is R. M. Kallander, administrator of the state's four-year-old forest protection and conservation committee. Revenue to support the extensive research programs aimed at developing more products from wood, and maintaining maximum yield from all of Oregon's forest land, comes from a forest products harvest tax of 4 cents for each thousand feet of logs harvested. In addition, the fund is augmented by money from the state's general fund and from donations from private firms for cooperative research projects.

"It is possible," Grantham, director of the forest products research center said "that as many as 25,000 new jobs may come from this laboratory. We are working to find new products

that can be made from wood and bark, especially from wood leftovers at sawmills and plywood plants."

Already Developed

Already developed by the 13-man staff of technical experts, Grantham said, are means of extracting waxes, tannin and other materials from bark and wood. Research has been going forward on processing residues to make hardboard, particle board and related products. Seasoning, gluing, treating and testing of wood and wood structures to improve service ability and sales values plus work to expand the use of local hardwoods are parts of the program to benefit Oregon forest landowners and workers in forest products industries.

The 16-man staff of technical men engaged in forest lands research has an equally challenging job, according to Dick Berry, director. "Some of our men are working on forest fire studies, especially in fire weather forecasting. Others are working on better insect and disease control. Several are developing improved methods of restocking cutovers and managing young timber stands."

"Genetics opens an exciting and immensely valuable portal," Berry said, "but takes the longest to make a showing. Under the direction of Dr. Kim K. Ching, we are hybridizing the Douglas fir and the California big cone spruce. We may get a hybrid fir with a growth and yield potential like hybrid corn. You never know on these projects."

Speakers Listed

Speakers at the formal dedication include Governor Robert D. Holmes; Freeman Schultz,

who will represent the forest industries; President A. L. Strand of Oregon State college; and Albert Powers, senior member of the state board of forestry will be master of ceremonies. The Forest Research Center, although not connected with Oregon State college carries on a number of cooperative projects with members of the college staff.

Over-all direction of this research work, so vital to the long-range economy of Oregon, rests with the forest protection and conservation committee, which includes Chairman Freeman Schultz, Eliot Jenkins, Fred Brundage, W. F. McCulloch and Dave Epps.

An advisory committee for the forest products research is made up of William Swindells, Nils Hult, R. W. Cowlin, Charles Fox, William West, Fred Sohn, S. J. Robinson, Carl Rasmussen, L. L. Simpson, D. L. Phipps and Governor Holmes, who is an ex-officio member and chairman.

"We can double forest growth under management," Director Berry stated. "There are many facts we hope to learn and pass along to private landowners of our state."

"The aim of forest products research," Director Grantham pointed out, "is, through research, to develop complete utilization of our forest resource. This goal should add at least \$250,000,000 per year to the value of Oregon's forest products without increasing the present rate of timber cut."

Both men stressed they wanted ideas and suggestions from industry for research projects which are timely and have long-range significance and importance.

Jacksonville Schools Schedule Open House

Jacksonville — The Jacksonville schools will hold open house Wednesday, Nov. 13, for parents and friends of students.

Primary grade classrooms will be open at 6:30 p.m. in the new building, and the high school will open at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Lee Harter, high school industrial arts instructor, will lead a discussion concerning homework during the refreshment hour.

Parents also are invited to visit classrooms during the day Wednesday to observe classes in session.

VARIETY TREE

Red Wing, Minn.—Alfred Swanson can pick any one of 25 varieties from a single apple tree in his backyard. Swanson's tree was planted in 1911, and over the years he grafted cuttings from branches of other trees to provide the varieties. Swanson's apples have won many prizes at the Minnesota state fair.

Argentina's two oldest cities, San Juan and Mendoza, were founded in 1561 and 1562 by the colonists who came in from Chile.

Attempted Robbery Of Train Resulted In Four Deaths

A brief announcement in many of the state's newspapers mentioned that the state supreme court Wednesday upheld a Jackson county circuit court refusal to dismiss five indictments pending against Hugh D'Autremont.

The comparatively modest headlines with this story are in sharp contrast with the bold black banners topping the murder trial stories on Hugh, Ray and Roy D'Autremont nearly 30 years ago. The trio was sentenced to the state penitentiary for life for the killing of train crew members during the attempted robbery of a Southern Pacific mail car in a Siskiyou tunnel south of Ashland Oct. 11, 1923.

Roy D'Autremont is now reported to be in the state mental hospital. Ray is in the state penitentiary and has never appealed for a parole.

The trials of Hugh and his two brothers were among the last to be held in the old courthouse in Jacksonville before the county seat was shifted to Medford in 1928.

Famous Murder Case

The D'Autremont story quickly became one of the most famous murder cases in history. Periodicals of the day quickly hopped on the tale of the three brothers, their attempted hold-up of the passenger-mail train, the resulting four murders and the trio's conviction.

As one detective magazine of the day wrote, "On an October day in 1923, murder—grim and terrifying, lurked high in the rugged Siskiyou mountains."

On that October day in 1923 the crew aboard Southern Pacific train 13 on the Portland to San Francisco run had no idea of pending events. They were Sidney Bates, veteran engineer, Marvin Seng, fireman, and Caryl O. Johnson, brakeman, taking a free ride. Elwyn E. Dougherty, postal clerk, and Conductor J. O. Marrett.

Entered Tunnel

The three day-coaches had just entered the tunnel when those on the other cars heard the roar of an explosion. Even the experienced railroad men on the train thought the locomotive had exploded. E. O. Joers, medical student and passenger, rushed down the tracks to aid any injured persons. Bending over Brakeman Johnson, he discovered he had been shot four times in the stomach. Engineer Bates and Fireman Seng had each been shot through the head and Postal Clerk Dougherty had been blown up.

The U. S. Post Office Inspection service then swung into action and rushed such men to the scene as Postal Inspector Charles Ruddiford, S. P. Kane, Pacific Northwest division, and Postal Inspectors Arnold O. Brunner and George E. Houghen in Ashland at the time.

Special agents of the Southern Pacific railroad system also arrived from Seattle and Portland. A crack investigator and chief of the railroad captured agents, Dan O'Connell, captioned this crew.

Find Revolver

Swarming over the scene of the tragedy, the investigators found a .45 caliber Colt revolver with the serial number filed off, just outside of north end of the tunnel. On the hillside near the track at the other end of the tunnel they found a DuPont blasting machine, a length of insulated wire, a pair of greasy overalls, six footpads made of gunnysacks soaked with creosote and fuse wires running along the track at the south end of the tunnel.

Investigators determined too much of a charge was used. Instead of trapping the train in the tunnel as probably was intended, a number of cars were wrecked and the train caught fire.

Then started a painstaking full-scale investigation and search which eventually covered years of constant effort and reached around the world. First step was to call in Edward Oscar Heinrich, professor of chemistry at the University of California, widely known scientific detective.

Worked In Camp

Through his research the professor determined that one of the bandits was brown-haired, left handed and 26 years old. He was estimated to be 5 feet, 8 inches tall, heavy set and neat. Since the overalls found had pitch on them Professor Heinrich decided the man must have worked in a lumber camp.

Microscopic examination of the faded registry receipt found in a pocket of the overalls produced another clue. It was stamped with a Eugene postmark and dated Sept. 14, 1923. A check with the post office revealed it was for a registered letter from Roy D'Autremont to Vern D'Autremont at Lakewood, N. M.

Further clues turned up when

a search of two abandoned camps not far from the tunnel revealed cooking utensils, a knapsack, like one found near the blasting machine, black travelling bag with an American Railroad express tag on it, and sheet-iron straps.

Tracking Mail

Tracking the registered letter further, investigators discovered Vern D'Autremont was an elderly barber who had three sons—twins Ray and Roy, 26 year old, and Hugh, 18. All three had worked in logging camps at Silverton, Ore., they learned from the father. He had not seen them since late September.

He described Roy as left-handed, being 5 feet, 8 inches tall.

His son, Ray, he said, was once convicted for IWW criminal syndicalism during World War I. Ray was said by his acquaintance to have a mind inflamed against society after staying a year at the Oregon state reformatory at Monroe, Ore. He was reported to have a strong influence on the other two.

A check at a camp near Silverton revealed the trio had worked there until Aug. 31 and quit. While there they had lived in a cabin and had a large wooden box reinforced with sheet-iron straps.

Spent Time Shooting

Fellow loggers reported the box contained guns, and the trio had spent considerable time

shooting in the woods. Marks on the trees and empty shot-gun and rifle shells proved this.

The human blood-hounds then traced the three men from Silverton to Eugene to Ashland. The D'Autremonts had bought a car in Portland. A hardware store was located near the hotel in which they stayed where they had brought the utensils found in the burned camps. The storekeeper's descriptions checked. In Eugene the trio bought the knapsacks. Then garages and gas stations were checked along the route from Eugene to Ashland until one was found in which the car had been repaired. The attendant gave a description which checked with that of Hugh.

Then started an even more detailed facet of the search for the fugitives. Investigators conducted thorough interviews with all those who knew the three brothers. Using this information they compiled wanted bulletins designed to cover every detail of the brothers' lives.

They learned that Hugh was a devoted athlete, they obtained description of the watches worn by the twins, data on the dental work of the trio, their handwriting and prescription of the glasses worn by the twins.

First Circulars

During May, 1926, the first batch of circulars were sent out. Before the case ended some 2,265,000 copies were mailed and were translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, German and Dutch.

These circulars were also placed in rooming houses, apartment houses, lumber camps, employment offices and with dentists, jewelers, pawnbrokers, opticians, optometrists.

However, two people recognized the wanted men, and one was partly blind.

A returning soldier from over-

seas reported to a postal inspector in San Francisco that Hugh was in the U. S. Army at Manila, P. I., using the name of James C. Price. A wire to Army authorities asked them to arrest Hugh if he should try to obtain a discharge. The next year, Inspector Fred Smith checked the suspect and his Army records. When arrested the fugitive readily admitted he was Hugh. However, he insisted he did not know where his brothers were. He was returned to San Francisco on March 17, 1927.

Sent To Jacksonville

On March 25, Hugh was sent to Jacksonville under heavy guard. He was charged with a hold up and four murders. However, it took two trials before the guilty verdict was finally returned. The trial had opened on May 2. A juror died nine days later. The second trial started June 6 and wound up in 17 days. The jury took less than an hour to deliberate and returned a verdict of guilty of first degree murder.

Meanwhile, Albert Collingsworth, a cripple with one eye, read the story in his hometown paper at Portsmouth, Ohio. He told his wife he was sure he had worked with the twins. He said one was blonde and the other had black hair. The information was passed on to a friend who reported the suspicions to Special Agent L. C. Schilder of the FBI stationed in Columbus, Ohio.

Both twins were taken without a shot being fired in Steubenville, Ohio. They arrived in Jacksonville the same day as Hugh received his life sentence.

The twins pleaded innocent at first and the trial was set for Aug. 29. Five days later they changed their pleas and were sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary with their younger brother.

Changes Suggested in County Agricultural Conservation Program

The Jackson county agricultural conservation program for 1958 will be almost the same as this year, according to a decision by the committee at a program meeting last week.

A few changes were suggested. One of these is to utilize land along stream-banks in the county for planting timber to prevent erosion.

It was also suggested that payment for seed-bed preparation be omitted.

It was pointed out that the 1958 program money is now being used for this year's program. If all of this money is used only about \$32,000 could be used in next year's operation, committee members pointed out.

It was voted to continue the 50 per cent payment for the seed going into grass seeding and 50 per cent for liming payment, plus nitrogen and phosphorus for soil test needs. County Extension Agent W. B. Tucker said. This does not include the payment for use of potash, he added. Only about 6 per cent of the soil tests made in the county to date show a shortage of that element in the soil.

In contrast, Tucker said, 74 7/10 per cent of the land tested during a three year period showed that more lime is required. This represents 6,247 acres of a total of 8,355 acres tested.

During the past 12 months, 94 farms in the county representing a total of 2,283 acres have had soil samplings made. An estimated 65 7/10 per cent of 1,500 acres showed more lime was required.

Main Practices

Main practices to be carried out next year in the agriculture conservation program for the county include seeding land to grass crops, liming, land-leveling and drainage, development of ready water supply by reservoirs or sumps, and forestry practice.

The latter category includes the encouragement of tree farms, care and management of forest tree reproduction, Tucker explained. Open drains as well as tiled drains are needed on farm land in the county and should be encouraged, he said.

A tremendous amount of moisture occurs during the winter months and varying soil types restrict the free flow underground of surplus waters, he said. Open or tile drains can aid in leading the water off more rapidly. This problem is expected to be intensified with the completion of the Talent irrigation project.

Eighteen people attended last week's meeting in the county extension office. Representing the various governmental service include E. M. Denny, Farm Home administration; Carol Brown, forest service; Bob Lonzway, Soil Conservation service field man; Harry Martin, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation program; and county ACP committee members Charles White

of Rogue River, Ray Vogel of Central Point, and Otto Niedermeyer of Jacksonville. Ray Vogel acted as chairman of the meeting, since Otto Niedermeyer, Jacksonville, chairman of the county ACP committee was unable to attend. Tucker represented the county extension office.

Ashland Land Suit Settled, SOC Says

Ashland — A total of \$5,500 has been agreed upon for property needed by Southern Oregon college in Ashland adjacent to the college campus, college officials have reported.

The suit involving the state vs. Lawrence and Pearl Lovaas, and Gail S. and Mildred Brewer was settled out of court Thursday, it was reported. The Brewsters had entered into agreement for purchase of the property from Lawrence and Pearl Lovaas. The land in question involves a house and lot.

According to the complaint filed in Jackson county circuit court the defendants had wanted \$6,500 for the property and the state had offered \$5,000.

Another condemnation suit involving land needed by Southern Oregon college in its expansion program is expected to be filed soon against Lora Childress, of Ashland, for a house and lot on Melody lane, according to Dr. Elmo Stevenson, Southern Oregon college president. The house and lot is in the center of the science building site, Dr. Stevenson said.

Vacation of a portion of Melody lane for the college expansion in return for an easement across college property at the head of Melody lane is expected to be considered by the Ashland city council soon, Dr. Stevenson said.

Meetings Scheduled To Explain Manor

Five meetings have been scheduled this month to explain the aims and purposes of Rogue Valley Manor, Medford retirement home, in west coast cities, it was announced Saturday.

M. N. Hogan, president, and Walter Higgins, executive secretary of the non-profit corporation working on the home, will meet in churches with persons interested. The schedule includes the following dates:

Nov. 15 First Methodist church, Corvallis; Nov. 19, First Presbyterian church, Portland; Nov. 20, St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal church, Portland; Nov. 25, First Methodist church, Bend; and Nov. 29, St. Mark's Episcopal church, Palo Alto, Calif.

About one-half of the Presidents of the U. S. have been college graduates.

This Week's HISTORY MYSTERY



Identify This Coin and Its Significance

CLUE: In 1845, among the clusters of log cabins on the banks of the Willamette, two men who had come West from Maine and Massachusetts used this coin to determine the fate of old Stumptown.

name "Portland Penny." The "Portland Penny" was the coin tossed by Pettygrove and Lovejoy to decide upon a new name for "Stumptown." Pettygrove wanted it named after Portland, Maine, and Lovejoy wanted it named after Boston, Massachusetts. Pettygrove won the toss, thus the name "Portland Penny."

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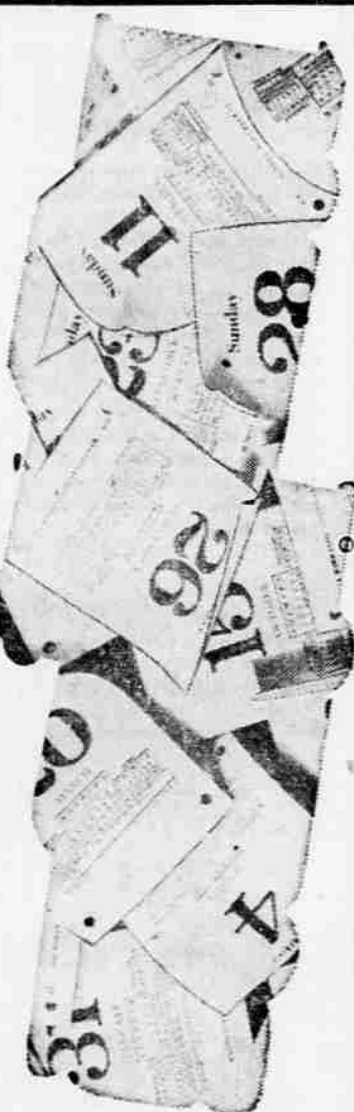
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