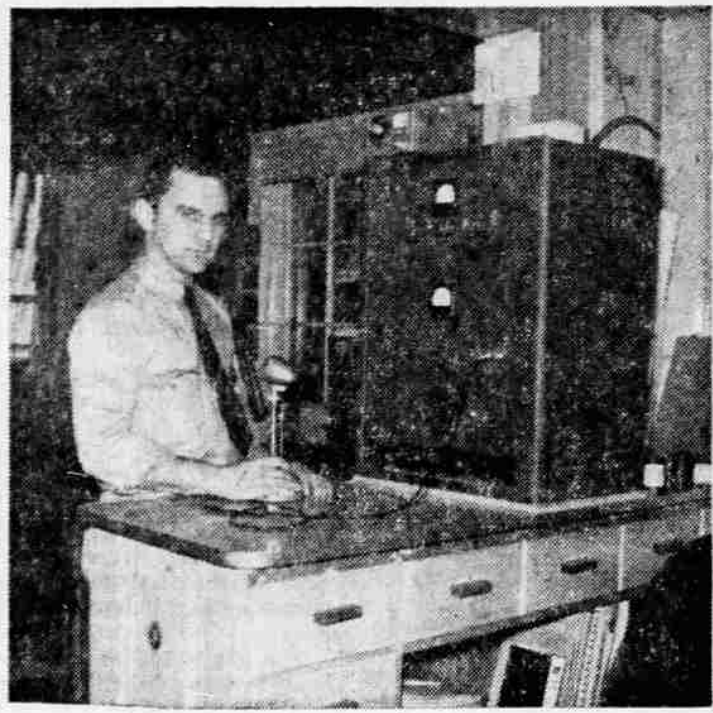


# Radio Assists in Forest Fire Protection

## FCC Report Shows Need For Radio In Forestry Work

By JIM FISHER

With the start of Oregon's official fire season April 1, activities of the state forestry department's Southwest Oregon district begin to pick up. In a few weeks, lookouts will be manning their stations to report fires and wardens will be located at their guard stations throughout Jackson and Josephine counties ready to leave for a fire. At the Medford and Grants Pass headquarters, the efforts of all of these people will be coordinated.



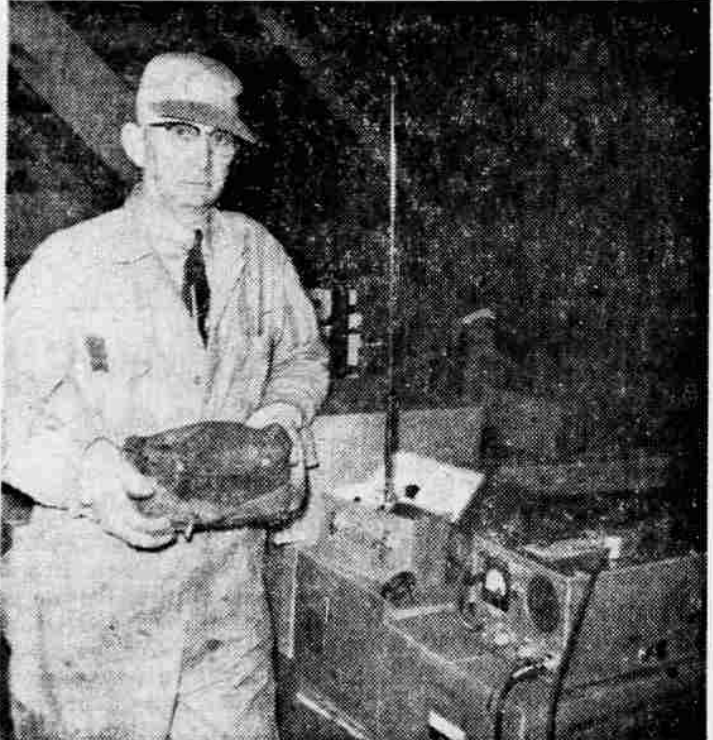
**KEEPS CONTACT**—The 50-watt headquarters set in the state department's office on Table Rock road keeps Dispatcher Walter "Buzz" Moran in contact with the 11 lookouts and 17 forest wardens in the Jackson unit. The Grants Pass headquarters coordinates the work of the rest of the district protection force.



**TESTS RADIO**—Emil Zimmerlee, Equipment Operator for the Southwest Oregon district, tests his radio in his new truck. Nearly 30 mobile radios are placed in pumper trucks, pickups, and cars operating throughout the state-protected lands in Jackson and Josephine counties. Mobile radios provide a flexible fire fighting force since they enable crews to work away from headquarters and still keep in touch with the fire dispatcher.

Radio communication is an important factor that contributes to smooth operation of this fire protection agency and makes possible effective detection, reporting, and control of fires.

Radio communications in fire control has become important only since the end of World War II. Before that time, telephone lines were constructed and maintained by Southwest Oregon district. Operation of telephone systems has always been an expensive one for the service obtained. With the continual improvement of radio communications, telephone lines are being removed.



**RADIOS EXAMINED**—Portable and lookout radios are examined by warehouseman Jack Fortin. Jack holds the "peanut" set as it looks when not in use. In the center of the picture, you can see the same radio ready for use with the box open and the antenna extended. The radio at the right is the type used on lookouts. The small box attached to the side of the lookout radio contains the "buzzer" for use at night.

The importance of radio in the Southwest Oregon district was the subject of a report made recently to the state forester's office. This report will be compiled with other state district reports and presented to the Federal Communications Commission along with reports of other states' forestry agencies.

Placing an actual cash value on any other value of radio communication to fire protection work is difficult. There is no way of estimating the possible personal injuries, fatalities, and additional property damage that might have occurred during any fire had radio not been used to speed up communications. Radio communications have made fire protection forces flexible. Manpower can be dispatched from other work to fires or from one fire to another with a minimum of lost time. Overhead personnel can be quickly notified of fires while going about normal administrative work.

**Importance of Radio Shown**

Specific instances were pointed out in the report showing importance of radio communications. In August, 1950, for example, state crews on a fire in Southern Josephine county were notified by radio the fire had crept close to buildings where 20 people were sleeping. It had been considered safe in that area before the people had gone to bed. A pumper and crew were dispatched from elsewhere on the fire to save the buildings. The people were awakened and moved to a safe place.

In the last five years, state forestry radios have been used also to request aid for injured persons involved in automobile accidents both on main highways and back roads.

During August 1953, and August 1956, radio communications between ground crews and an airplane scouting for fires enabled the quick detection and suppression of lightning fires. For instance, during the three-day period of August 20 to 22, 1956, 95 lightning fires were suppressed in the Southwest Oregon district. The flexible fire crews directed by radio kept 90 of these fires confined to less than a quarter of an acre.

During this same three-day period, a total of 606 radio calls were logged at the Grants Pass and Medford

headquarters. These were messages either received or transmitted from the two stations and did not include messages exchanged between two lookouts, ground crews, or other radios.

Many general contributions of radio were mentioned in the report to the FCC. If radio communications were discontinued, eight of the district's 16 lookouts would be useless. Two forest wardens would also be useless and the other 26 wardens seriously hampered in fire protection duties. Telephone lines could fill in some for radio, but not enough to make a good protecting organization.

Whenever a lightning storm moves into the vicinity of a telephone line, the resulting static generally makes the line useless for communicating. Radio can be used until the storm is almost directly overhead when it is disconnected for safety reasons.

During each day lookouts are manned, check calls are made to make sure all radios are operating. More important, they make sure persons on the lookouts are safe. Fire weather information is also given lookouts to inform them of what to expect.

**Transmissions Totaled**

Research for the FCC report showed the number of transmissions during the actual fire suppression work averaged as follows for the indicated sizes of fires: fires up to 1/4 acre—6; fires from 1/4 to 10 acres—15; over 10 acres—25 and up. Fire records for the Southwest Oregon district for the last five years shows an average of 159 fires per year.

Radios are used in many ways on fires. Messages are given to crews on their way to fires to give them new information, send them to another fire, or recall them in the case of a false alarm. On large fires, scouts and other overhead personnel use radio to keep abreast of the fire's progress. Lookouts relay messages for fire fighters when they cannot call their headquarters themselves.

cluttered for some time. This interference reached a peak last summer when all state forestry department radios throughout the state were cluttered with a strange noise. A request to the FCC started an investigation that eventually found the cause of the interference—a teletype machine in Dakar on the coast of French West Africa.

**Starts Five Year Program**

This year the state forestry department began a five year program to change from AM to FM radios. This was done at the request of the FCC to improve distribution of frequencies, but it will also provide better service to the forestry department. Three or four districts will be changed each year until the change is completed.

Another new engineering improvement of radio communication undertaken by the forestry department is the use of the "radio buzzer" system. Using this system, which requires a small attachment to the regular radio, a lookout can shut off all voice communication at night and use a radio-controlled buzzer to arouse him for emergency reasons. This provides a smaller drain on radio batteries also. Headquarters sets are equipped with the same units and both stations "call buzz"; one another when the voice communication is shut off.

Training personnel in proper radio procedure is necessary each year. Radio communication classes are held during the regular fire school to acquaint lookouts and wardens with the correct way to use a radio. Radio operators are instructed not to adjust their sets since only trained radio technicians can service them.

Having the equivalent of a 90-party line with all radios on the same frequency requires all messages to be short and confined to business matters only. Communications regarding fire take preference over all other calls except distress calls involving danger to human life. Profane or obscene language is not permitted in radio calls under penalty of a \$10,000 fine.

Messages are further shortened by elimination of personal names and such phrases as "roger", "over", "out", etc. All stations are called by their radio numbers instead of by name. Acknowledgment of calls is made by

**Medford Teachers Confer In Salem**

Two Medford teachers recently took part in week-long meetings with Rex Putman, superintendent of public instruction in Salem, during which the Oregon school curriculum was examined.

Gordon Morris, of McLoughlin Junior high school, attended the mathematics session and Monte Kounz, of Hedrick Junior high school, attended the sessions of science.

**Medford Man Hurt From Auto Crash**

John Edward Walker, 24, of 35 Geneva st., was reported unconscious and suffering from undetermined injuries in Sacred Heart hospital Saturday night after his car left the road early Friday morning, according to city police.

**MECHANIC KILLED**

Portland—(AP)—A 49-year-old Gresham mechanic, Lester Gene Poe, was killed Friday night when his car went out of control on a curve and overturned.

Memphis, Tenn.—(AP)—J. L. Rutledge told the sheriff's burglary-theft squad Saturday that a chimney was stolen brick by brick from a vacant tenant house on his farm.

## Unusual Items Set for Auction at Gym Benefit Sale

Many unusual items from famous people will be for sale at the auction at St. Mary's gym Saturday, April 19, according to committee members in charge.

Mrs. O. J. Halboth is general chairman of the event, which is to raise funds to pave the playground of St. Mary's school. Bill Romback will be auctioneer.

Among gifts donated for the sale are sheet music and recordings from Jan Peerce, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Pat Boone, Arthur Ferrante and Claremar Turner.

Original illustrations were contributed by Thornton Utz and Ted Key of Saturday Evening Post. Books were given by Werner Von Braun, Esther Williams and Cardinal Spellman. Donors of pictures and other gifts include Mrs. Richard Nixon, Ida Lupino, Greer Garson, Roy Rogers and Phil Silvers.

**Collect Gifts**

The unusual articles were received through efforts of Mrs. R. Randolph and her committee. Other items are being contributed by local people.

In addition to the auction, a rummage sale directed by Mrs. A. W. Adams, will be held in the school annex beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

A snack bar with Paul Newcombe in charge will be in operation all day.

**Car Safety Check Planned For City**

Bicycle safety requires not only education of children but education of parents about dangerous riding habits and the need of obeying traffic laws, according to Mrs. Owen A. Kunkel, president of the Jackson county Parent Teachers' association, to the Medford Safety council meeting Friday noon.

She told the group safety is a matter of education in all forms. The Jackson county PTA is currently engaged in promoting bicycle safety through the PTA, she said.

She said the local policy falls in line with one of the four major aims of the National congress of the PTA. Mrs. Kunkel also told the group of other safety activities of the state and national units of the PTA.

**Foreign Service Man To Speak Here**

Peter Rutter, foreign service officer with the American embassy in Accra, Republic of Ghana, will speak to the roundtable meeting of the chamber of commerce on Monday noon in the Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel, a spokesman said.

**Contracts Given On Voltage Line**

Portland—(AP)—Bonneville Power Administration said Saturday it had awarded contracts totaling \$427,713 to Parker Schram company of Portland for construction of schedules I and III of the Santiam-Alvey section of the McNary-Alvey 2870,000 volt transmission line No. 1.

The two schedules call for construction of 43.3 miles of high voltage transmission line with completion 180 days after notice to proceed. Scheduled for initial operation at 230,000 volts next October, the line will help meet the increasing power requirements of southwest Oregon with power from McNary dam.

## News About Books From the Library

"More books were published in this country last year than in any other year in our history except 1910," reported the New Yorker Magazine recently.

The exact figures are 13,142 titles in 1957 and 13,470 titles in 1910." The magazine editor continued with a query as to why a country that has almost doubled in population, and made even greater gains in wealth and literacy, doesn't publish at least twice as many books these days as it did 47 years ago.

We can report, at any rate, that at least twice as many books are available to readers of Jackson county today than were in its public library 47 years ago. It was in 1910 that a small collection of books gathered and circulated on a rental basis by a local women's club became the Medford Public library. No record as to the exact number of titles or volumes is available for this year, but it was not until 1925 that the number of library volumes grew to approximately one half the 42,000 owned in 1957.

The query uppermost in the minds of your library staff is how many of the 13,000-odd new titles published during the year will it be able to furnish its readers, and which ones among them will please most. During the past two weeks 91 new titles were added to the adult section and 24 to the children's department.

Of the 140 volumes placed in the library during this period, 108 were purchased, and 32 were the gifts of library friends, including Carl Bjordahl, Mrs. R. M. Mayer, O. J. Gorman, Miss Anna Livingston, W. K. Marks, Clinton S. James, Mrs. Horace Thompson, Charles A. Yong, Mrs. Lucille Boenig and Noveta D. Brandon.

**SPACE:** The World in Space, Marshack; Man-Made Moons, Adler; Space Travel, Gatland.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:** Electronics for Everyone, Upton; The Age of Television, Bogart; Marine Life, Pacific Tidal Regions, Ryan; Once Round the Sun, Fraser; Stick and Rudder, Lange-wiesche-Brandt.

**BUSINESS AND POLITICS:** Techniques for Marketing New Products, Banning; Making the Most of Your Estate, MacNeill; Power and Diplomacy, Acheson; Masters of Deceit, Hooder; Ideas, People and Peace, Bowles.

**SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT:** The Omnibus of Fun, Eisenberg; Modern Bowling Techniques, McMahon; Rocky Marciano's Book of Boxing and Bodybuilding, Marciano; The Clubwoman's Entertainment Book, Brings.

**TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE:** Kicking Canvas, Best; Spain, Wolgensinger; Inside Russia Today, Gunther; An Introduction to Japan, Webb; People of the Reeds, Maxwell; An Epitaph for Dixie, Ashmore.

**HISTORY:** Method and Theory in American Archaeology, Willey; A History of the United States Air Force, 1907-

1957, Goldberg; A history of the English-speaking Peoples, vol. 4: The Great Democracies, Churchill.

**BIOGRAPHY:** The Titans, Maurois; I Was a Savage, Modupe, Naked to Mine Enemies, Ferguson; The Wizard of Berkeley, Block.

**HOUSE AND GARDEN:** Complete Book or House Plants, Grabe; A B C of Driftwood for Flower Arrangers, Schaffer; The Old Shrub Roses, Thomas; The Gladiolus Today, Fogg.

**REFERENCE:** Encyclopedia Britannica, 1958; Early American pressed glass, Lee; The Musician's Guide; American Book-prices Current; A Catalogue of the World's Most Popular Coins, Reinfeld.

**OTHER NONFICTION:** The Challenge of Children; Watch for the Morning; White; Christ Be With Me, Bowie; How to Stop Drinking, Breen; How to Be a Father, Gilbreth.

**SERIOUS FICTION:** Tolstoy's tales of courage and conflict, Tolstoy; The Confession, Soldati; The Sergeant, Murphy; The Roots of Heaven, Gary; The Hireling, Hartley; Exile and the Kingdom, Camus; The Care of Devils, Press; The Mother, Kavinoky; The Ten Thousand Things, Dermouth.

**HISTORICAL ROMANCE:** The Young Caesar, Warner; Day of Battle, Van de Water; Victoria and Albert, Stephens; The Revolutionary, Schoer; The Castle of Fratta, Nivo; Blake's Reach, Gaskin; Moses, Prince of Egypt, Fast.

**LIGHT ROMANCE:** Lynn Dene, writer, O'Moore; Two by two, Gellhorn; The Home-sick Heart, Gaddis.

**SCIENCE FICTION:** From the Earth to the Moon and a Trip Around It, Verne; The Midwich Cuckoos, Wyndham.

**ADVENTURE STORIES:** Gold in the Sky, Catto; The Iron Heel, London; The Mark of the Warrior, Scott; The Gods Are Angry, Noyce.

**WESTERN STORIES:** Hoof Trails and Wagon Tracks, Western Writers of America; His Brother's Guns, Lee; Edit With Lead, Grooms.

**MYSTERIES:** The Finishing Stroke, Queen; The Doomsters, Miller; Singing in the Shrouds, Marsh; Four, Five and Six by Tey, Mackintosh; The Juryman, MacKenzie; The Case of the Demure Defendant (and other novels), by Gardner; Beware the Curves (and other novels), by Fair; Horror on the Ruby X (and other novels), Crane; Dead Man's Folly (and other novels), Christie; The Woman in the Woods, Blackstock.

**OTHER FICTION:** The invincibles, Vaughan; A Dangerous Woman and Other Stories, Farrell.

**TEEN-AGE:** The Americans, Coy; John Elliot, The Man Who Loved the Indians, Beals; Guide to Career Information, New York Life Insurance Company; How to Understand and Animal Talk, Brown; A Business of Their Own, Dobler; Wild Animals of the Far West, Stoutenburg; Susan, Be Smooth! Giles.

## Mumps Total 60 Cases In County

Sixty cases of mumps were reported in Jackson county during the week ending April 11, according to the Jackson county health department.

Ashland reported 31, Medford 16, Central Point 11 and Sams Valley two. Nine cases of chicken pox were reported; six in Ashland, two in Medford and one in Talent, according to the report.

Infectious hepatitis cases numbered one which was reported in Jacksonville. Measles cases numbered eight with five in Central Point, two in Ashland and one in Rogue River.

Others reported were Impetigo, Gold Hill two and Central Point one; step throat, Ashland one and Medford one; pink eye, Central Point one; whooping cough, Medford three; and German measles, Central Point two and Ashland one.

## Dynamite Attempt Brings Prison

Idaho Falls—(AP)—Two Idaho Falls men who were charged with assault with intent to commit murder in the attempt to blow up a young mother with dynamite today awaited transportation to the state prison to begin serving 14 year sentences.

Charles M. Feely, 18, and Monte D. Moore, 21. Both waived the usual waiting period and were immediately sentenced Friday by District Judge Henry S. Martin.

The youths were charged in connection with the dynamite bombing of the car Mrs. Roene Gasser, 24, was driving so that Moore would collect a \$10,000 double indemnity life insurance policy.

To cover up the attempted murder, several other explosions were set off around Idaho Falls.

## Spokane Lumber Mill To Resume Operation

Spokane—(AP)—The Long Lake Lumber company mill here will resume operations Monday, William J. Burns, general manager, said Saturday.

Burns said 150 men would be employed at the plant on a one-shift operation. The mill shut down six months ago for extensive modernization.

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