

Fire Control Methods Taught at School

50-Acre Blaze Under Control

North Bend, Wash. — Firefighters Saturday brought a 50-acre blaze in Snoqualmie National forest under control and were conducting mop-up operations, the Forest Service reported.

Three tanker planes joined the battle against the fire, spraying water over the blaze. The Forest Service said it was believed this was the first time tanker planes were used west of the Cascades.

It took three days to bring the fire under control. A forest service spokesman said very rugged country made the firefighting operations difficult. In addition, the spokesman explained, the fire occurred over an area that had been burned out in 1931 or 1938 and snags left from the older fire increased the difficulty.

About 80 men fought the blaze. Half of them were loggers from this area and the rest were Forest Service employees.

Head Scarves Cause Lice Spread

Portland — Health authorities Saturday blamed childish habits of trading head scarves and hats among school children, elementary and high school, for a fast-spreading outbreak of head lice in Portland.

Dr. F. Sydney Hansen, county health officer, said it was the first time in 15 years that the county has had to deal with a head lice infestation in the schools.

Dr. Phyllis Davis of the county health staff said "it's spreading. That doesn't sound good, but it's true." She said she was discouraged at progress made against the problem because the imminent summer vacation would mean no supervision of neglected cases.

Dr. Hansen said "When school starts again in the fall, I'm afraid it's going to be worse."

The health office in April checked 300 cases and Dr. Hansen commented, "I would not say we have been seeing them all by a good deal."

Mrs. Minear Takes Part in Program

Mrs. Robert Minear, Jacksonville-Phoenix rd., appeared on the program of the annual state convention of the Oregon Association for Retarded Children in Portland this weekend, according to the Jackson County Tuberculosis and Health association.

Mrs. Minear is chairman of the local program for parents of mentally retarded children, sponsored by the association. Program for the convention is built around the theme that retarded children can be helped and is to include several people prominent in the mental health field. Mrs. Minear has been asked to assist on a panel discussing local community work.



HAND LINE—Hand line location and construction gave the loggers a work-out. Other classes taught included fire behavior, use of water, cat-line construction, and dry mop-up.



LINE LOCATION — Applegate District Ranger Vern Taylor spoke to the Medford group of logging industry personnel on line location and construction. All classes at both schools were held in the field this year.



DEMONSTRATION—Dry mop-up was demonstrated by Medford Unit Forest Warden Bert Cook. He extinguished a demonstration fire by separating the fuel and mixing it with dirt. This type of fire fighting is necessary when water is not available.

65 Loggers Attend Classes Held Near Here, Grants Pass

By JIM FISHER

Fire control methods were the lesson for the day for loggers and other persons attending the third annual foreman's school at Medford and Grants Pass last week.

More than 40 loggers attending the Medford advanced session were given field training at a prepared site south of the Old Military rd. Wednesday. Approximately 25 loggers attended the advanced session held in the Grants Pass area near Merlin Thursday.

The idea for training logging industry personnel as foremen of fire crews originated following the bad fire season of 1955. In September of that year, many project fires were being fought by the two protection agencies of southern Oregon, the Oregon state forestry department and the United States forest service. Both agencies noticed the lack of trained foremen to guide logging and mill crews in fighting fire.

Idea Was Born

Shortly after the 1955 fire season had ended, the Oregon state forestry department and the U. S. forest service met with representatives of the bureau of land management and the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association. At that time the idea of a cooperative training program for key industrial personnel was born. Details of the first foreman's fire school were worked out at a meeting of the same people in March, 1956.

More than on hundred loggers attended the first foreman's fire school in Medford, April, 1956. This was a one-day session in the basic methods of fire control.

In 1957, the program was enlarged to include both a basic course and advanced course at Medford and a basic course at Grants Pass. Approximately 150 loggers attended at least one of the three one-day sessions.

Planned Each Year
The foreman's fire school will be held each year as long as interest is found in the program. New subjects will be covered each year to avoid repetition, but some review will be held at each school.

Many private loggers attend the schools, but if a company wants to send some of their employees to the school, they sign an agreement stating that they will pay their man's wages for the day spent at the school. In return, the state forestry department and the forest service agree to prepare the program, furnish the instructors, and serve a hot noon meal. Cost of the meals and furnishing of instructors at Medford is shared by the Southwest Oregon District of the state forestry department and the Rogue River national forest of the forest service. At Grants Pass, the same state forestry department district shares the items with the Siskiyou national forest of the forest service.

The foreman's fire school held in 1956 is believed to have been the first school of its kind ever held. Since that time, other districts of the state forestry department have held similar schools in other parts of Oregon.

Opens Meeting
This year the advanced session at Medford was held on the Fick rd. beyond the intersection of Ross lane and the Old Military rd. Mel McGrew, Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association president, opened the meeting in behalf of L. L. (Doc) Simpson, who could not attend because of illness. "Doc" Simpson is secretary of SOCTFA and represented the association during the organization of the foreman's fire school program.

District Warden Curtis Nesheim of the state forestry department explained the day's schedule. Fire behavior was the subject of the first class with State Training Officer Ron Smith of Salem serving as instructor. He reviewed the "fire triangle" of heat, air, and fuel needed to have fire. He then spent the rest of his time explaining how to spot symptoms of a fire "blow-up" the term used to describe the action of a fire when it suddenly explodes and spreads. Clouds, the fire's noise, wind, and topography can all be used to help predict this condition of a forest fire.

Line Location
Line location and construction were the next two class



TEACHES WATER USE—Use of water was taught by Rex Resler, Union creek district ranger for the forest service. Both limited use and unlimited use of water was shown. Logger crews then extinguished a fire using the methods they had learned.



USE OF WATER—Fast-moving fires gave the class on use of water a realistic appearance. Both pumpers and pumps were demonstrated by forest service personnel.

subjects. Vern Taylor, district ranger at Star ranger station, explained how to decide on the actual location of a fire trail. A simulated fire was laid out using string as the fire's perimeter. After a trip around the fire, the loggers used Vern's suggestions and built an actual trail around the fire with hand tools.

Cat-line construction was the next subject with Lyle Byers, fire protection analyst from Salem, serving as instructor. He explained that all cat-line on fires must be built with holding the line and mopping-up the fire in mind. Disadvantages of using a cat on a fire include the fact that cats cannot operate on steep, rocky, or swampy ground; they cannot work too close to a fire; they often bury fuel and make mop-up of the fire difficult; and they are not too maneuverable on a fire.

Byers listed the advantages of using a cat as being good for building fire trail through slash created by logging, building a wide trail, often can make a fire trail into a road for pumpers, and they release fire crews for use elsewhere on the fire.

Travel Time Lengthy
Since travel time for a cat is lengthy, they should be transported to the fire during the night if possible and be ready to be used early in the day.

A cat operator should have a man working with him to help locate the proposed fire trail. The two men should have pre-arranged signals to use in communicating over the noise of the cat. Byers stressed the fact that the cat operator should strive for length of fire trail built, rather than quality of fire trail.

At noon, the loggers and instructors ate a steak dinner prepared by Frank Helm, forest warden at the state forestry department's McLeod guard station.

Following lunch, the loggers examined a cat line built to point out good and bad practices in fire trail construction.

Use of Water
Next on the program was a class in use of water with Union Creek District Ranger Rex Resler as instructor. He showed different nozzles, nozzle tips, and other pumping equipment. A demonstration on use of water was held with the fire fighters using as little water as possible. Actual fires were set for this demonstration and the following one in which loggers used hoses leading from a forest service pumper to extinguish a fire.

Unlimited use of water was then demonstrated using water pumped from a water-hole. A pump was set up at the edge of the water-hole and water pumped through hoses to the demonstration fires.

Dry mop-up, or extinguishing a fire without water, was the last class for the loggers. State forestry department Assistant District Wardens Doyle

Stockton of Medford and Howard Brock of Grants Pass conducted the class.

Burning material buried an hour previously was uncovered and showed signs of having enough heat to re-ignite. An exposed cross-section of a rotten stump showed how fire could travel through a root and ignite material outside of a fire trail although the visible fire had been extinguished.

Medford Unit Forest Warden Bert Cook and Grants Pass Unit Forest Warden Paul Matson demonstrated dry mop-up. This was done by separating heavy fuels, using dirt to cool fuels, and digging out stumps. A crew of loggers then completed the mop-up of the demonstration fire.

Summary of School

A summary of the foreman's fire school was given by Butte Falls District Ranger Ralph Weise and District Warden Curtis Nesheim. Both men expressed the fact that the school would be held next year with new subjects being taught.

On Thursday, the same program was held near Merlin for loggers in Josephine county. The same state forestry personnel participated, but the Siskiyou national forest furnished the forest service instructors. These instructors included W. H. Marchant, teaching line location and construction, and George Morry, teaching use of water.

Should southern Oregon experience another fire season similar to the one of 1955, fire protection agencies will find a valuable source of trained and qualified crew foremen in the number of private industry personnel that have attended the foreman's fire training schools.

The torch of the Statue of Liberty goes on at the hour of the official sunset and goes off at the hour of official sunrise.

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C. R. ADAMSON, Manager

Lt. Col. Johnson Gets Appointment

Lt. Col. John E. Johnson (U.S. Army, ret.), 1409 Euclid ave., Medford, has received notification of his appointment as superintendent of the United States National cemetery at Baltimore, Md.

Colonel Johnson said that he and his wife and four children would leave Medford on May 13. He is to report at Baltimore on May 19.

The colonel, who had 25 years service in the Army, has been with the Oregon State Employment service office for the past four months. The Johnsons had lived here a year. A son, Robert, 17, has attended Medford High school, a daughter, Dianne, 15, has been enrolled at Hedrick Junior High school, and another son, Gary, 10, is a student at Roosevelt school annex. The Johnsons' other daughter is Kaylene, 5.

Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay is the largest man-made island in the U. S.

"NATURE'S LOVING PROXY, THE WATCHFUL, MOTHER"
— (Author's Name Below) —
Babies are little tots who need much loving care. Fortunately, God gives us Mothers to watch over them.

Mother's problems are difficult, but we can solve some of them. We supply special foods for baby's dietary needs, sterilizing utensils to prevent germ invasions, helpful baby-aids that insure more comfort and vitamin concentrates for extra energy.

Most important of all, Mothers can now have less fear should any attacking virus threaten baby's health. In our pharmacy are the wonderful antibiotics physicians prescribe, that often overnight bring back baby's health.

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HEATH'S Medical Center PHARMACY
33 North Central
*Quotation by Bulwar-Lytton (1805-1873)
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Plane Searched For Bomb Plant

San Francisco — A United Air Lines plane was searched and taken out of service at San Francisco International Airport early Saturday after a caller in Seattle said a bomb was aboard.

Forty-five passengers and their luggage were removed and transferred to another plane for the flight to Los Angeles.

A search of the first plane and the luggage disclosed no bomb.

The search was initiated by a call to an unidentified Seattle radio station disc jockey who notified authorities there, Sheriff's Sgt. Roy Starbeck said.

Pay TV is being tested in Oklahoma. The results may show whether the future of the movies industry lies in the theatre or the home.

Studies of seaside vegetation indicate that the level of the ocean has risen about one foot in the last hundred years.

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Warehousemen's Strkie Ties Up Retail Trade

Seattle — King County shoppers Saturday anxiously waited for signs of a break in the eight-day old warehousemen's strike which Friday spread from the food

industry to virtually all other retail products but drugs.

The Distributors Association took action Friday to lock out members from the striking union, Local 117 of the Warehouse Drivers and Helpers, from 60 warehouses throughout the area.

W. L. Williams, secretary-treasurer of the union, estimated 1,000 members were directly affected by the shutdown and 1,500 related employees were also out of work temporarily.

Scarcity Seen
Meanwhile Saturday shoppers streamed through the aisles of supermarkets, with their pushcarts piled high. Fresh fruits and vegetables, the commodities most immediately made scarce by the strike, were expected to be virtually non-existent in markets by Monday.

Representatives of the industry and the union began negotiating again in earnest Friday in the hope of reaching a week-end settlement. Although Arnold Schoenacker, labor relations representative for the struck warehousemen, said some progress had been made, it was not known this morning whether the gap between the two sides was closing substantially.

Poison Oak?
Try a Bottle of ZEMACOL

You must be satisfied or your money cheerfully refunded. Get a bottle today at WESTERN THRIFT

Kindergarten Visits Medford Library

Members of Mrs. Lester Harris' kindergarten visited the children's room of the Medford Public library last week, where they were entertained by Mrs. Cynthia McKay, acting head of the junior department. The morning kindergarten, with 22 members, made their visit Wednesday; the afternoon kindergarten attended Thursday.

Boys and girls in the morning class are Douglas Bennett, Vincent De Manley, Bobby Mayer, Bobby Lowrey, Nancy Tomjack, Merleanne Perkins, Tommy Shafer, Mike Watkins, Jimmy Redden, Sara Wolf, Valerie Miller, Janet Schulz, Kelly Ouellette, David Dellenback, Eric Landis, Mark Townes, JoAnne Edin, Hank Hudson, Ricky Hamilton, Dan Heyerman, and David McFadden.

Visitors from the afternoon kindergarten were Steven Chamberlain, Janice Greer, Neil Hogue, Cheryl Givler, Andy Dispenziere, Johnny Hatch, Gary McDougall, Debbie Hogue, Vince Mathews, Shannon Smith, Brad Clark, Tom Freeman, George Heffner, Kathy Neuch, Dale Burton, Vicki Ragland, Michael Higgins.

\$37,000 in Tubing Ordered By PGE

Portland — Enough copper tubing to stretch halfway to Oregon's capital city of Salem from Portland — some 20 miles — has been ordered by Portland General Electric company for installation in a condenser at the utility's east Portland steam generation plant. The one-inch tubing, according to purchasing agent Fred Hodge, will cost some \$37,000.