

Potpourri

Not many women could copy Mrs. Thelma Sims' way of life. During the winter months Mrs. Sims works as a nurse in San Francisco—during the summer she lives on top of a mountain peak in southern Oregon keeping a sharp eye out for forest fires.

When the two of us started out for a Labor day jaunt Monday we didn't know about Mrs. Sims. We just decided to drive up to the top of Soda mountain because we'd never been there before. And when we got up to the top—after some pretty rough driving—there was Mrs. Sims. She looked out from her little glass house 6,100 feet up in the sky, saw the red Ford, put another stick of wood on the fire and some more water in the coffee pot, and came out to greet us. Within the first five minutes she invited us to stay for the noon meal—we added our fried chicken and fresh tomatoes to her supplies and in no time at all were chatting away over a good luncheon.

Mrs. Sims, who is something of a philosopher as well as being a nurse by winter and a forest lookout by summer, says the two lives complement one another just right. "It's hard work taking care of the sick," she said. "It's easy to become depressed and nervous. So I just come up to the mountain top and after the weeks of quiet and rest and watching the mountains and sky, I'm ready by October, to go back to nursing again."

Thelma Sims, along with many other persons, worries about more than just her individual patients, too. She worries about how very expensive it is to be injured or sick in these days—she has seen many families spend their savings, lose their homes and end up deeply in debt because of the cost attendant on recovery from an accident or a long illness. It worries her, too, that many of these are older people who, instead of facing their declining years with peace and security, find themselves not only ill and infirm, but practically penniless as well.

"Old people deserve to feel secure," she said with a sigh. "But it seems like there isn't such a thing as security any more."

We didn't spend all our time talking about problems, though. It is hard to be depressed or worried when there is a view as commanding as that from atop Soda mountain. To the south the forests and valleys lead away to Mt. Shasta, to the west there is Mt. Ashland and Pilot rock, to the north can be seen Mt. Pitt and far away, even Thielsen's spike top can be seen.

This is Mrs. Sims' 13th year at Soda Mountain station and in that time she has come to know the mountains, valleys and rivers to be seen from her little glass and wood house as well as Medford residents know the city's streets and stores. Watching fierce storms brew from little pocket-size clouds, she has come to know the spots where they are most likely to spring from and the path they will take. But this summer has been different, she says. The storms have been more frequent, and they have started in different places and swept through the region in an unfamiliar fashion. This puzzles the veteran watcher-for-smoke, who wishes she knew why the change has come about.

The talk about the weather reminded Potpourri that the week end before while the two of us were driving the Ashland loop trip, we unexpectedly came upon one of the generator operators employed by the Water Resources Development corporation—in other words a "cloud seeder." Pappy, the smarty, guessed right away when he watched the brisk young man unload from a truck a large metal box-like contraption, hook up a battery and assemble a little burner. Sure enough, the young man said it was a cloud-seeding generator. And all the time we had visions of some enormous machine which would hurl great quantities of something or the other—we weren't quite sure what—high into the sky. This innocent looking device doesn't even smoke after it's going good—just quietly burns little pieces of crumbled up briquet which give off silver iodide crystals. The unseen crystals float up into the air and are picked up by the wind currents.

The young man turned out to be Jim Smith, Ashland, ex-GI discharged from the service in the spring and glad for a job which allows him to go up into the hills and just sit and look at the sky and hills and read. Quite different from his job as an MP at a base in Puerto Rico. (This is from memory—we accidentally threw away the paper sack on which we took some notes after talking with Mr. S.)

Because we asked so many questions, the young man gave us his copy of the corporation's manual and we read up on the principles of cloud seeding. Silver iodide crystals have the peculiar chemical property of being able to collect minute particles of water vapor around them at certain temperatures, well below the freezing mark, thus forming a tiny ice crystal—says the book. As the crystal continues to collect these tiny water droplets, it grows in size. When the ice crystal thus formed becomes sufficiently large it begins to fall of its own weight and in falling, gathers more water particles until it becomes a snowflake. If the air is cold enough, it continues as a snowflake—if warmer, it melts and becomes a raindrop.

This is exactly the way nature makes a raindrop, except that nature starts with a particle of dust, soil particles or salt. Scientists say that in the natural process ice crystals form only in extremely cold temperatures, whereas the silver iodide will do the job when nature fails, thus they tend to induce a greater percentage of precipitation.

However, the book stresses that silver iodide alone will not produce precipitation—you cannot make rain with a silver iodide generator, you can only increase what precipitation will fall naturally. Generator operators such as young Smith are sent out when the experts studying the weather believe that conditions are right. Some believe that use of the silver iodide in the summer time tends to prevent the formation of hail, so ruinous to crops.

Most of the generators, about 55 throughout northern California and southern Oregon, and 10 in the Rogue valley, are at permanent locations, and the firm also has five mobile operators in this district. These cover areas, like Mt. Ashland and Soda mountain, where it is not practical to establish permanent generators, we were told during a conversation with Gerald Smith at the airport office of the firm.

A few years ago a lot of people were all excited about cloud seeding. But now, with satellites zooming around over head and men shooting rockets at the moon, cloud seeding is just routine stuff.—O.S.

Callers Sponsor Dance Workshop

A six-week square and round dance workshop will start at the Bellview Grange in Ashland tomorrow night, according to Floyd Workman and Byron (Buzz) Dibble, square dance callers of Medford.

The workshop will be open for all interested square dancers, and both square and round dancing will be featured.

The men will call for the square dancing at the Grange hall starting about 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Potluck refreshments will be served, and all square dancers are invited.

Agriculture Group To Meet on Friday

Salem—UP—The State Agriculture Department's advisory committee will meet here Friday to consider the budget proposed for livestock identification work in the next biennium.

Robert Lister, Prineville, is chairman of the committee.

Prospect Guild Sponsors Store

Prospect-The annual Country Store sponsored by St. Martha's guild of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal, will be held Friday, September 5, beginning at 10 a.m.

To be sold during the event will be baked foods, farm produce, and other home made items. A rummage sale will also be held.

Skein, prosperous capital city of Telemark Province in Norway, celebrates its 600th anniversary in 1958.

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Miss Sue DeVoe, who won the women's division of the 30th annual Southern Oregon Golf tournament, received her trophy from G. T. Hauperl, tournament chairman. The tournament, played each year on the Rogue Valley Country club course, ended Monday afternoon. Miss

DeVoe, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene DeVoe, 2200 Woodlawn drive, defeated Mrs. Raymond Scott of Portland 6 and 5 in the championship flight. Miss DeVoe will return to the University of Oregon campus this month for her senior year. (Knackstedt photo)

Horizon Club Earns Sum For Special School

Members of Amici Horizon club, Camp Fire Girls, earned \$80 at a recent luncheon and style show which was presented to the Special Education school at Talent. The show was held August 23 at Rogue Valley Country club.

Honored guest at the show was Miss Marilyn van Derbur of Denver, Miss America for 1958. Miss van Derbur spoke for the guests, telling of some of her experiences this past year. She is now in the east and will assist at the selection of her successor Saturday at Atlantic City.

Theme of the show was "Desk, Dresses and Dates." The clothing was furnished by Mann's of Medford and Town and Country, Eagle Point. Commentators were Sharon Roberts and Lana McGraw, Sue Ann Rutherford was pianist.

Modeling for Mann's store were Mrs. Howard Blue, Mrs. D. E. Farnham, Mrs. R. E. Farnham, Mrs. R. E. Simmons, Edna Gray, Linda Luman, Christine Prentice, Jeannie Dorian, Sheryl and Christy Gerety, Wendy and Michael McGraw and Ned Naumes.

Models for Town and Country were Mrs. Maxine Beryman, Mrs. Robert Caster, Mrs. Douglas Gordenier, Martha Anstead, Sandra Elrod and Molly Gregg.

A Camp Fire costume was



A gay, one-piece pajama by Tommies in blazer-striped cotton jersey is colorful for dorm wear. It is a carefree lounge or sleep style for back-to-school.

Birds prefer to face into a high wind during a storm while all animals, except the buffalo, turn tail.

Concert Tickets On Sale

Tickets are now on sale for a concert to be given Sunday, September 7, at Hedrick Junior High school by Thoralf Norheim, O.P., Norwegian pianist. Tickets may be secured at Purucker Piano house, or from members of Rogue River council, Knights of Columbus. Concert time is 8 p.m.

Father Norheim has appeared in many concerts both in Europe and this country. In addition, his playing has been broadcast by Scandinavian stations, in Paris and over the British Broadcasting network. Critics in many cities have praised his playing.

Father Norheim was born in Telemark, Norway, in 1912, and was given his first music lessons by his father, a gifted local organist. Later he went to Oslo and continued his studies under three great Norwegian musicians, Halfdan Cleve, Nils Larsen and Rolf Brandt Rantau.

It was a turning point in his life when he joined the Catholic church in December, 1937. Following the war in 1945 he went to Paris and entered the Dominican Order. He was ordained in 1950. Following another two years of theological studies in France he returned to Norway in 1952 and was attached to the Dominican monastery in Oslo.

modeled by Kitty Tingleaf, and a Horizon club costume by Stephanie Hertager. Mrs. Frank Hopewell was advisor for the models.

Prizes were furnished by Hudson's pharmacy, Luman's Super market, Goguey's Chevron service and the Shady Cove sawmill.



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THE WEST'S LARGEST CREDIT

Family Returns From Park Trip

Mr. and Mrs. Ansley E. Hutchinson and daughter, Miss Peggyann Hutchinson, all 912 South Holly street, returning to the valley Tuesday following a 17-day vacation trip to Glacier National Park, Mont.

The two women drove from Medford to Calgary and Medicine Hat, Alberta. At the park they were met by Mr. Hutchinson.

During their stay in the Flathead and Swan Lake areas they visited relatives and friends. Mr. Hutchinson was forest ranger with the U. S. Forest Service in the area from 1920 until 1935. This was their first trip to the area since that time.

Relatives visited included a brother and sister-in-law of Mr. Hutchinson, Supervisory Ranger and Mrs. J. Roy Hutchinson, Lake McDonald Ranger station, and a cousin

and her husband, Supervisory Ranger and Mrs. Adolph Opalka, Polebridge Ranger Station.

From the park the family drove to Anaconda, Mont., where they visited a sister and brother-in-law of Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hewitt.

The Hutchinsons returned to the valley following a side trip to Hat Point, Oregon, a view point of Hell's Canyon of the Snake river.

Film Actor's Home Ransacked by Thieves

London—UP—Thieves ransacked the home of British film star Michael Wilding on Wednesday night and stole \$28,000 in jewelry, furs and other articles.

The distance of the moon from the earth varies between 221,000 and 252,000 miles.

Calendar

Thursday
8 p.m.—Eagle Point Jaycees, home of Mrs. Bert E. Simmons on South B st., Eagle Point.

Friday
1 p.m.—Griffin Creek Home Extension unit, home of Mrs. Glen V. Allen, 981 South Stage rd.

1 p.m.—Gettogether club, Girls Community club.

1 p.m.—Fifty Plus club, Pythian hall.

2 p.m.—Bethel 14, International Order of Job's Daughters, style show at Masonic temple.

Anaheim, Calif.—UP—Walt Disney said Wednesday his Disneyland Amusement park still is being visited by nearly four times as many adults as small fry.

Feast of Tishri To Be Saturday

Scottish Rite Masons will celebrate the Feast of Tishri Saturday, September 13, at 8 p.m. in the Masonic temple. All Scottish Rite Masons and their invited Blue lodge guests are invited. This event is the celebration of the bountiful harvest, and is observed by all Scottish Rite Masons in the southern jurisdiction.

The program will be under the direction of Knute H. Lindgren, master of Medford Lodge of Perfection. Guest speaker for the occasion will be Walter L. Lansing, grand master of Masons in Oregon.

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