

First Field Performance Test Given Oregon Brand Inspectors

Salem — Having already proven through two previous written tests that they possess the I.Q. of the average American — 90 to 110 — and a good job knowledge — applicants for livestock brand inspector jobs showed Oregon department of agriculture personnel it still takes aspiring inspectors more than a minute per head to decipher the correct brands on assorted cattle.

The occasion was the first field performance test given by the Oregon civil service commission, in cooperation with the department, and which took place in Redmond last week. Similar exams are currently being held for 30 additional applicants in Ontario, Medford, and Corvallis to supplement a list of eligibles for any future openings with the livestock division.

Ten head of cattle, previously closely examined by H. A. Matschiner, supervising livestock officer, and brand inspector aides, were turned loose in a pen and applicants given turns at distinguishing which of Oregon's more than 13,000 registered brands was before them.

Actually, an Oregon brand inspector's work is further complicated with the influx, for example, of some 40,000 additional brands from California; 60,000 assorted designs from Montana; 20,000 from Idaho; and a multitude of other hot iron impressions from other states and Canada.

"Hank" Matschiner, a former state police officer of seven years experience, has been in his present work with the state department of agriculture since 1953. He was assisted in the testing by George L. Ouellette, Civil Service examiner, Portland. Brand inspectors Ray Ego, Ed Ivory, and Bill Radosevich, joined Matschiner in grading the contestants. Ivory, an experienced inspector, personally scrutinized 3,000 cattle in Deschutes and Crook counties during November alone. Redmond Auction Yards, Inc., where the tests were given, move more than 500 cattle each week, with a brand inspector attending every sale.

For legal recognition, Ore-

gon law permits branding on both hips, shoulders, and rib areas. In addition to the brands, those vying for future work with the department were asked to note such other memorabilia as ear notches, flesh blazes, and so forth. Several steers bore more than one imprint from hot irons.

"Because it is possible for cattle to be moved 300 miles in 12 hours, we have problems which didn't face the cattlemen of yesteryears," Matschiner said in explaining the importance of ciphers imprinted into the living hide.

Unless ranchers and farmers record their brands with the department every five years, the ownership expires and the brand is open to be used by someone else.

M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the department's division of animal industry, stated that Oregon's sixth livestock brand book will be issued in 1960. Oregon livestock growers will be notified in July, 1959, and must re-register their brands with the department by Jan. 1, 1960.

Division head for 12½ years, Knickerbocker was a former ranch owner, administrator, and county extension agent. He noted that of his nine livestock officers, seven have been former state police officers and the other two have had extensive law enforcement experience on the county level.

A livestock officer has, generally, had greater experience and training in police work than a brand inspector. A minimum four years, or equivalent investigative experience, is a necessary qualification.

Knickerbocker also observed that a number of states have adopted Oregon's procedures for brand identification.

Oregon's brand inspectors had inspected 590,698 cattle through October of this year and, during the same period, returned 18 sheep, 24 horses and 449 cattle to rightful owners.

The state has about 100 full-time and part-time brand inspectors. Each inspector receives a livestock brand book, published by the department. This book of sig-

neis facilitates checks on all cattle arriving at a salesyard or slaughter plant. The ownership of stock must be proven before animals can be sold or slaughtered. Also, all cattle, horses, mules, and asses must be brand-inspected before shipment out-of-state.

Hot Iron Tips

Brands are read from left to right, from the top down, or from outside in. A definite method of identifying characters has been established. If a letter or symbol is placed backwards from its normal position, its read as a "reverse."

A letter lying horizontally on its face or back is said to be "lazy," while the same letter partially over on its face or back is said to be "tumbling."

In the cattle industry's infant days, ranchers used large, outsized irons that nearly covered an animal's side. When cattle hides began to bring a good price, the smaller, carefully forged stamping iron was ushered in.

Legibility of an insignia depends a great deal on the cowboy applying it. The cipher is applied with a grey-hot iron, about the color of the branding fire ashes. A red-hot metal produces an over-burned brand, often resulting in sores which may become infected, in addition to smudging the print itself.

Though Oregon cowboys may consider it a gross indignity, they are also graded on their confidence — or fearful attitude — toward cattle while brand inspecting.

TAKEN ON TOUR

Ashland — Dr. Paul P. Kies, Pullman, professor emeritus of English, and Dr. Harry L. Cole, associate professor of chemistry, emeritus, were taken on a tour of the Southern Oregon college campus Monday afternoon by Dr. Arthur S. Taylor, chairman of the social science division. Dr. Kies is presently visiting at the Cole residence in Medford. Both are retired from the faculty of the Washington State college.

More than 40,000 board feet of lumber can be saved from one Douglas fir tree growing in California.



Sceptre of the American rangeland knight is the iron with a wooden handle at one end and a wrought iron design on the other. Supervising use of range pyrography is another service carried out by the State Department of Agriculture which will issue Oregon's sixth livestock brand book in 1960. Livestock Officer Bill Radosevich, left, discusses brand irons with Ed Ivory, brand inspector. Both men are members of the department's division of animal industry.

Summer Range Use In Forest Explained to Cattlemen

Last year the summer ranger on the Rogue River national forest gave forage to 6,200 domestic animals which were covered by 84 different range permits. S. T. Moore, fire control officer for the U. S. Forestry Service told the annual meeting of the Jackson County Stockmen's association Thursday in Central Point.

The U. S. Forest Service spent approximately \$10,000 on the ranges for improvement and revegetation. This money was used for 11 miles of fencing, three cattleguards, 190 acres of reseeding to grass, 200 acres of weed eradication and competing vegetation.

In addition, the range inventory continued at a cost of 5,800, Moore said. This means that now 70 per cent of the entire Rogue River national forest is covered by the basic range inventory. About 240,000 acres remains to be covered. This should be done the next year, the U. S. Forest Service man said. Adding it all up approximately \$16,000 has been spent on the ranges this year.

"This sounds like a lot of money and we think it is a good beginning, but it is not near enough to do the job that has to be done," Moore told the cattlemen.

"The officers of your association have asked me what they can do to assist the Forest Service in increasing the capacity of the National Forest ranges," the forester said.

Responsibility Described
"I look at it about like this: The Forest Service has the responsibility for managing the basic range. The livestock industry has the responsibility for the management of the stock," Moore said. "It's a partnership proposition and I'm sure that by working together out on the range, working together between individual stockmen and stock associations and our district rangers right out on the ground we can improve the condition of the forest ranges and insure a permanent industry based on good land use practices."

The Rogue River national forest is managed on the multiple use basis, the forester explained. This means that more than one type of use may be managed on any general area, he said. On some cases all five of the recognized uses appear in a general area.

One of the long-established and important uses is the grazing of domestic livestock. This summer range is important to the livestock industry, to the general public and to the Forest Service.

Timber harvest is another important use of the national forest, Moore said. During the last fiscal year, the total receipts from the Rogue River

Youngster's Wallet Finally Returned

La Grande —UPI— It took 5½ months and 45 miles but 13-year-old Jess McMillan got his wallet and \$2 back Wednesday.

Jess lost the wallet on July 2 while attending a 4-H camp at Starkey, Ore. He was walking in Meadow Brook and laid the wallet on a rock.

He forgot about it and when he went back after it, the wallet was gone.

He was called into the principal's office at La Grande junior high school on Wednesday where Ken Severns of Summerville, Ore., presented the wallet and a soggy \$2 to the boy.

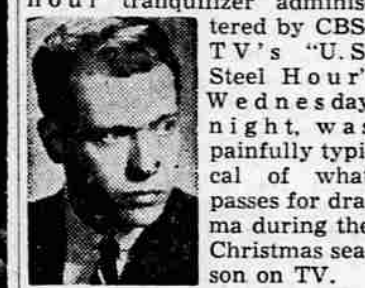
Severns said he had picked up the wallet along the banks of the Grande Ronde river — 45 miles from where McMillan had left it.

Dakota is an Indian word (Sioux) meaning an alliance of friends.

'Red Rose for Christmas' Said Painfully Typical Of Holiday TV Drama

By WILLIAM EWALD

New York —UPI—"One Red Rose for Christmas," a one hour tranquilizer administered by CBS-TV's "U.S. Steel Hour" Wednesday night, was painfully typical of what passes for drama during the Christmas season on TV.



William Ewald What television spoons out at this time of year is great smoothing doses of everything-will-come-out-all-rightness. It is a kind of super Tiny-Timism in which small children and small animals and adults with small problems fumble around for awhile, but then come together in one grand emotional

potage while buttered snow falls softly outside the window.

"One Red Rose for Christmas" was, as I said, typical. It posed no real problem nor real emotional conflict. It simply presented a nun who was unable to forgive an orphan who had indirectly caused the death of the nun's sister. In the end, of course, the little girl was forgiven. End of hour. End of play—its problems solved in the main by the simple passage of time.

Hayes Under Contract

Helen Hayes starred in the play and managed, for the most part to keep her grab-bag of tricks under control. She was guilty only occasionally of licking her lips, closing her eyes while looking heavenward, clasping and unclasping her hands, patting the arms of other players—one of her favorite devices, fluttering her voice, letting her breath run out at the end of a phrase, and inserting calculated catches into her delivery. These hardly flawed her performance at all.

However, the following did mar her performance: One hand to the brow (resignation), one hand covering the eyes (please, I must think), one hand covering the face (horror), two hands to the

School Announces Yule Program

The annual Talent school Christmas program will be presented at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 22, in the school gymnasium. All parents are invited to attend.

School will be dismissed Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 2:00 p.m. and will not reopen until Jan. 5.

face (despair). Ruth White, Ruth McDevitt and Joseph Sweeney, in minor roles were quite satisfactory. Patty Duke, a child performer, seems to have been watching too many old Shirley Temple movies.

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