

Instruction in Fire Suppression Featured

36 Loggers, Other Industry Men Take Part in Course

By JIM FISHER
Instruction in the locating, behavior, and suppression of small forest fires was given to 36 logging operators and foresters at the fourth annual foremen's fire school recently at Pleasant Creek guard station north of the town of Rogue River.

Cooperating in the presentation of this year's program were the Rogue River National forest and the Siskiyou National forest of the U. S. forest service, the Southwest Oregon district of the Oregon state forestry department, and the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association. The Medford district of the bureau of land management assisted in planning the school.

This year's schedule offered training in fire control to acquaint loggers and foresters in problems of small fire control, such as would be found during a period of numerous lightning fires. Previous years' schedules have included subjects helpful in the directing of industry crews on large project fires.

Explains Day's Program

District Warden Curtis Nesheim of the Oregon state forestry department explained the day's program and the objectives of the training in the opening minutes of the school this year. The group was then divided into two classes for separate instruction.

Clifford Fink, district ranger at Cave Junction, forest service, and Howard Brock, assistant district warden at Grants Pass, Oregon state forestry department, instructed one group on map reading. Basic information was given to train men in reading legal descriptions from a map.

At the same time, S. T. (Tenney) Moore, fire control officer of the Rogue River National forest, Medford, explained fire behavior to men already experienced in map reading.

Uses Case Studies

Using case studies of fires which offered special problems to firefighters, Moore showed how such conditions as weather, topography, and available fuel can cause a forest fire to "blow-up" or suddenly spread with intense force. These conditions can often cause a fire to react contrary to normal behavior, he stated. As foremen on small fires that are potential large fires, loggers and foresters must learn to watch for these symptoms of erratic fire behavior, Moore added.

Using diagrams of his case studies, Moore was able to chart the fire's movements and the reactions of the firefighters. In some instances, poor judgment or lack of experience with "blow-up" conditions cost firefighters their lives.

During the rest of the morning, men were rotated in small groups to three classes. Instruction in the field location of fires was given by Doyle Stockton, assistant district warden at Medford, state forestry department.

Explains Landmarks

Stockton explained the use of landmarks, section corner markers, streams, roads, and a given azimuth from the lookout's fire-finder in locating a fire. He also showed the detection system of the forest service and the state forestry department and explained how fires are reported by the lookouts.

Fires can be located by using the simplest means of smelling for smoke to the most technical requiring airplanes to direct men to a fire.

Pacing instruction was presented by Bob Krell, assistant district ranger at Prospect for the forest service. Test courses were run to determine each man's individual pace. A problem course was paced following this to test the accuracy of the men.

Use of Compass

Randall Perkins, assistant district ranger at Butte Falls, for the forest service, and Jim Fisher, technical assistant at Medford, state forestry department, were instructors in the use of the compass.

Two types of compasses were shown. The state forestry department uses the cruiser compass common in forestry work. The forest service has changed to the Silva compass for its fire location work. This compass is manufactured in Sweden and



FIRE BEHAVIOR—(Tenney) Moore of the Rogue River National forest instructed the loggers and foresters on fire behavior. The men learned the conditions common to "blow-up" fires.



SEPARATING FUELS—Labor Foreman Bert Cook of the state forestry department demonstrated the procedure in separating heavy fuels from a going fire in the small fire suppression class. Later, the trainees joined the instructors in the "dry mop-up" of the fire using only dirt.



SPARK EXTINGUISHED—The last spark is extinguished by a logger during the foremen fire school. This year's school emphasized the control of small fires without the use of equipment or water. Previous schools have been concerned more with control of larger fires.

is easy to use once its operation has been explained.

At noon a steak dinner prepared by Frank Helm and Bill Davis of the state forestry department was served.

Afternoon Class

The first afternoon class was a test of the compass and pacing knowledge gained by the trainees. A number of azimuths and distances were given to the men by Howard Brock and Clifford Fink. Starting at seven stations, the men used their compass and paced to three marked fires where they reported by radio to control stations on the condition of their fire.

Final class of the school was small fire suppression and fire reports. Bud Twombly, district forest service ranger at Union Creek, instructed the group on what information both protection agencies want for completion of fire reports.

An actual fire was started and a crew composed of state forestry personnel, John Moe, Cave Junction; Paul Matteson, Grants Pass; and Bert Cook, Medford, demonstrated the techniques of small fire control.

Small Fire Control

Under normal conditions, water will not be available to use on small lightning fires. Therefore, the school demonstration of small fire control was done without water being used. The three-man crew separated the fuels and used dirt to smother and cool the fire.

The foremen training program was initiated in the spring of 1956 following bad fires in 1955. During 1955, a period of dry weather had ended with a lightning storm that caused several project fires for both the forest service and the state forestry department. At a meeting of the two protection agencies, the bureau of land management, and the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, then headed by the

Conservation Week Climaxed in Public Schools With Trip to National Forest

By MONTE KOUNZ
Hedrick Science Instructor
Conservation Week in the Medford public schools was climaxed for Medford youngsters when a bright yellow school bus pulled up to load 42 students from Medford High, McLoughlin and Hedrick Junior Highs. The participants were dressed in rough mountain clothes, hiking boots, and carried cameras, notebooks, and lunches.

John Gribble, Jackson county conservation week chairman, arranged through the cooperation of the forest service and Howard Hopkins, forester in timber management, to organize the day's outing.

As our bus headed out of town and into the woods, we could not help but think of Paul Bunyan for this was his type of country. The tales of Paul Bunyan were invented by the "lumberjacks" when they were logging off the great virgin forest. At that time it was generally believed that those forests were so vast that the timber in them could never be exhausted.

But to a considerable extent it has been. Relatively little of the magnificent original forests of Paul Bunyan's time still stand. For that matter, there remains only about one-eighth of the virgin timber that, in colonial times, covered nearly half of the United States, and over 90 per cent of that is in the western states.

Alarming Rate

Natural resources, besides timber, have been likewise reduced to an alarming extent. Fertile soil, water, and the necessary minerals are being used up—some of them at an increasing rate. Wild plants and animals are becoming fewer and fewer. Some kinds have already become extinct.

These and many other examples of our diminishing natural resources convinced us of an unpleasant truth; unless effective conservation is practiced, disaster is certain.

Near Prospect, we saw evidence that civilization is responsible for man's problem of increased erosion. Erosion takes place almost wholly on bare ground. The denser the plant cover, the less erosion.

As civilization spreads into Oregon, various essential activities resulted in laying bare large areas of land. Consequently the rate and the extension of erosion have increased with the spread and increase of population. Ranger Bob Krell pointed out that there are three ways in which large areas have been stripped of their protective coverings of vegetation. These are deforestation, farming, and over-grazing.

Forests Hold Soil

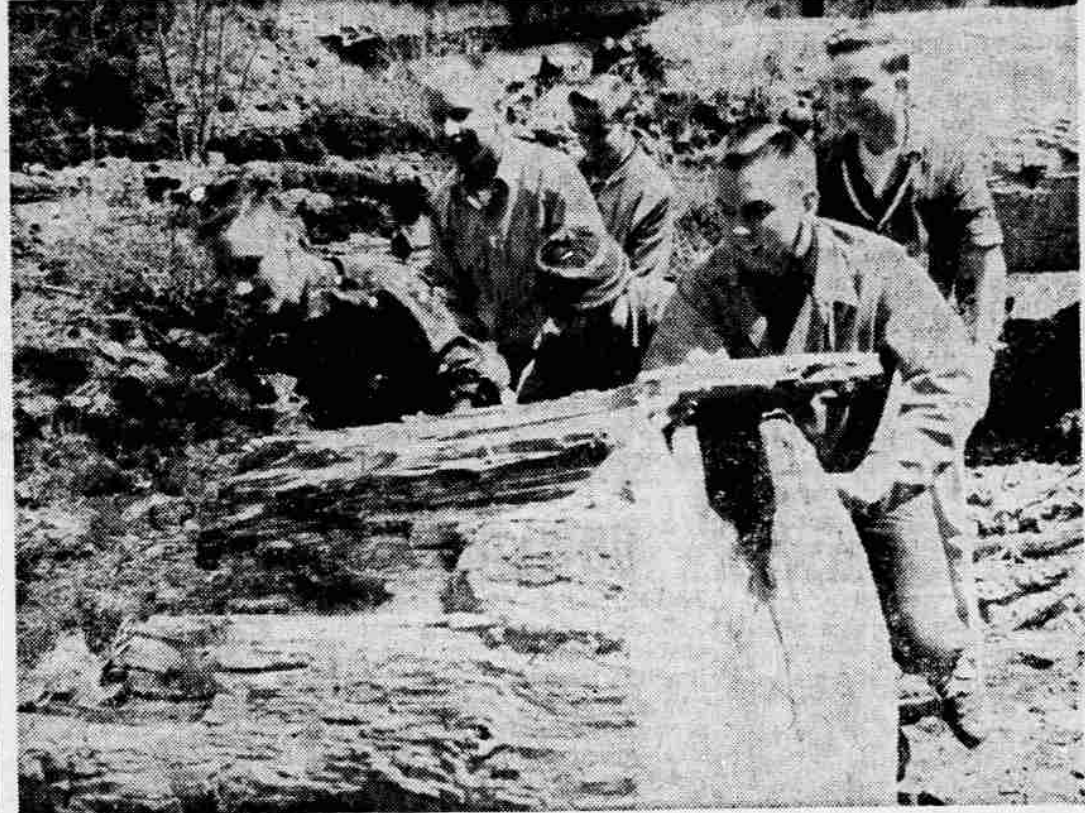
Cutting forests could deprive great areas of the protection against erosion forests give. In any heavily wooded area, there is little wind erosion since trees greatly reduce the force of the wind. In forests there is almost no water erosion from either run-off or falling raindrops. The rainfall runs in slow, tiny streams down the tree trunks. The water that drips from branches onto the forest floor falls upon a deep mat of humus, which soaks up water, hence most of the rainfall sinks into the ground and the rest runs into the streams and rivers slowly.

As soon as the forest has been depleted, rapid erosion of the exposed humus and rich topsoil begins. Extensive sheet and gully erosion soon becomes evident. With no trees and no humus to delay the runoff of heavy rainfall the water rushes at once into the river bed. Floods are frequently the result.

Whenever fire has burned up a forest, erosion takes place faster than if the trees have been cut down. There are two reasons for this: the covering of humus has been destroyed, and the pores in the soil have become clogged with ashes. When they are closed, little water can sink into the soil, and consequently floods are more likely.

Aware of Conservation
Our field study warned Oregon and its people to be aware of conservation. Conservation is not a special week but is a continual yearly program. In this battlefield we witnessed Oregon's plan.

We saw conservation by managing the forests as crops. Many lumbering industries harvest only the mature trees. In logging, they use methods that preserve young trees and



ROLL DEAD LOG—Junior high school students from McLoughlin and Hedrick Junior High schools, Medford, roll a dead log during a tour of Rogue River National forest and other properties in the mountains. The tour was conducted in connection with Conservation week, which was observed in the county earlier this month.

help prevent forests fires.

The national and state governments are using the same methods in national and state forests and parks.

By establishing and maintaining forests reserves, they are being maintained by the state government and also by some lumber, paper, and other commercial companies. In these a considerable variety of forest crops are being raised profitably.

Areas that have been burned or cut over, as well as abandoned and other land that will not grow farm crops are being sown again for forest trees. In the Cascade region mature trees are left as seed blocks to reforest the land. In addition, millions of young trees are being planted by the state each year.

A major emphasis is that of finding effective means of combating insect enemies and fungus disease of trees. One such means is spraying forests with insecticides to help combat diseases pests. The forest service constantly combats blister rust by the removal of the Reibe host plants.

Another conservation measure is that of increasing the use of lumber substitutes and wood substitutes. The chief substitutes for lumber are veneers, plywood, and pressed wood, as well as plastics. These are being used to an increasing extent in the manufacture of certain building materials, furniture, and the many common articles formerly made by lumber in an attempt to help conserve our major resource.

This was Oregon's conservation plan as we saw it.

It was this realization that made our conservation trip a success. We had our lunch on a beautiful and sparkling clear because of conservation. We walked in the forest and saw a new crop of lumber growing from small trees and growing for the future.

Ranger Bob Krell of the Prospect district was our guide and explained our conservation problems and showed us the growing rewards of sound planning.

Arthur Scott (biology), Dale Bates (physical science) and the writer of the Medford school faculty assisted as naturalists.

Reservists Start Active Duty Monday

Capt. Ota D. Binegar Jr., an employee of the Oregon State Tax commission, Medford, and 1st Lt. Frederick G. Lagergren, employed by Purucker's, will report to Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Monday for two week's active duty with the Air Force reserve.

Capt. Binegar is assigned to the training section of the squadron staff of the local reserve unit and Lt. Lagergren is the recruiting and information service for the 9417th air reserve squadron in Medford.

Tours are available for reservists at Kingsley field, keeping travel time to a minimum and permitting personnel to be with their families on week ends, T/Sgt. Buford Johnson, local unit advisor, pointed out.

The Medford unit meets each Thursday at 216 East Main st. at 8 p.m.



SLASH CLEARING—Students from Medford High, Hedrick and McLoughlin Junior High schools view a slash clearing area near Union Creek on a recent trip in connection with Conservation Week. Forty-two students took the trip, which was arranged through Howard Hopkins of the Rogue River National forest.

Salvation Army Week to Be Observed in Valley

National Salvation Army week will be observed in Medford May 17 through 24. Senior Capt. William Ricken of the local Corps announced Friday at a luncheon meeting of the advisory board.

He explained that through the observance of this week persons will become aware of the other services of the Army program as they are now of the food, lodging and clothing programs.

The captain mentioned the religious and youth programs conducted locally and services to unwed mothers carried on nationally by the Corps.

Services Expanded

In reporting on the local Corps program, Captain Rick-

son said that the local services had been greatly expanded during the past two years. He mentioned the large increase in the number of men, fed and lodged during this period and added that it was a trend throughout the state.

"We are fortunate that we are able to keep up with the demand," the captain said.

Plans for a new Citadel were told during the advisory board meeting, explaining that the Corps was interested in obtaining the Old Armory building and part of the property on which it stands. It was mentioned that the building could be renovated and an addition to the east side of the building constructed for auditorium or multi-purpose room.

Murray Gardiner, chairman of the advisory board, presided at the meeting.

Shady Cove Lions Elect New Officers

Shady Cove-Harry Goode was elected president of the Shady Cove-Trail Lions club last week at a dinner at Rogue River lodge. He succeeds Wendel Stocker.

Earl Sheppard was elected first vice-president; Paul Bulkin, second vice-president; Don Harnon, secretary-treasurer; Everett Elrod, tail twister; Carl Jantzer, lion tamer; and Floyd Kelley, Athel Dudley and Delbert Spain, directors.

Outgoing officers, besides Stocker, are Goode, first vice-president; Harnon, secretary-treasurer; Don Harper, tail twister; Erwin Howe, Lion tamer; and directors, Kelley, Paul Davis and Frank Fagale.

Out-of-town guests included Ab Gressett, Jack Preston, Dan Dwyer, Lynn Buckley, Dave Irving and Earl Richardson.

Irving, a member of Crater Lions, is a candidate for district governor. Election will be at the state convention in Portland June 18-20.

The Shady Cove-Trail group will hold its annual breakfast June 14 at the Shady Cove fire hall.

SPECIALIST DIES

Hanover, N. H.—(UPI)—Dr. Richard B. McCormack, a specialist in Latin American affairs, died Thursday at his home here. He was 39. McCormack was professor of history at Dartmouth College.

Oil Paintings Are Among Displays at Center Open House

Oil paintings and wood carvings made by retired men and women at the Senior Activities center, 601 East Jackson st., will be exhibited during center open house today from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Several of the works are scenes of pioneer life in Oregon or on the Oregon trail. Exhibitors have learned the skills at center classes.

Today's event opens local observance of National Senior Citizens week. Teachers, hostesses, class members and officers of the Rogue Valley Council on Aging and the 50 Plus club will welcome the public during the afternoon. Coffee and other refreshments will be served.

Reception Committee

Frank Glonning, chairman, will head the reception committee to welcome city and county officials who plan to visit the center en route to dedication ceremonies at the Siskiyou Stockade at 3 p.m. Robert Haworth, new city park and recreation director, will be a special guest.

Assisting Glonning will be Dr. Frank Roberts, recreation chairman and Walter Hatch, 50 Plus club president. Mrs. Fred Rankin will represent the Council on Aging. From 1:30 to 3 p.m. Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Hatch will pour and Mrs. Jud Greenman and Mrs. A. C. Thatcher will have charge of the guest book. Members of the Arm Chair Travel group will serve refreshments and act as guides.

From 3 to 4 p.m. the oil painting and woodcarving classes will be hosts. Miss Margaret Osenbruge and Mrs. Martha Gregory will pour and Miss Gladys Eaton and Mrs. Elsa Walker will have the guest book. Mrs. Nettie Williams is oil painting instructor, and Glenn Van Winkle, wood carving instructor.

Dancing Classes

The dancing, orchestra and shuffleboard classes will be hosts from 4 to 5 p.m. with Mrs. Mary Frederick and Mrs. Rilla Norris pouring and Mrs. Pearl Spackman at the guest book. James Forbes is dancing teacher; Edward Root, orchestra; and Bill Jones, shuffleboard.

Root, violinist, and Mrs. Maude Arnold, pianist, will play.

An old-time orchestra, Woody Murphy's Jackson Crick Fifty-Niners, will open festivities. Some of the players are more than 70 years of age and are expected to be in costume.

Literature regarding the work of the council will be available and those interested may register for classes and council membership.

Interested persons are asked to bring at least one senior citizen who has not yet taken advantage of the center's opportunities.

69 German Measles Cases Reported

Communicable diseases reported to the Jackson County Health department for the week ending May 15 included 69 cases of German measles. Thirty-two were from Medford; 29, from Central Point; 5, Phoenix; 2, Ashland; and 1, Camp White.

Twelve cases of red measles were reported from Medford and 12 from Central Point.

Others reported included pneumonia, 3 each in Medford and Camp White, 2 in Ashland and 1 each in Rogue River and Central Point; 1 scarlet fever in Phoenix; 1 pink eye in Medford; 1 infectious mononucleosis in Central Point; and 3 strep throat in Medford.

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Jackson county's sales total this year, through April 30, was \$397,007, compared with \$285,718 in 1958.

Large gains in the sale of United States savings bonds were reported in April in Jackson county over the same month a year ago.

County sales for E and H bonds totaled \$98,329 last month, compared to \$69,052 in April, 1958.

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