

# Science of Tree Falling Brings Respect

## Hutton Determined To Improve Ability

By RON ABEILL  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

There's a gentleman in Gold Hill who takes his work home with him to study.

Does that sound reasonable? It would, except that Ward Hutton is a tree faller whose work involves Douglas firs weighing up to 15 tons and more.

He doesn't take the trees home, of course. What he takes home is a notebook that he fills during the day with notes and sketches of trees that didn't fall the way he thought they would.

**Only Part of Determination**  
This "homework" is only a part of his overall determination to increase his ability as a faller - an ability that has already won him the respect and admiration of his co-workers and supervisors.

"Ward is one of the best fallers in the country," says his employer, Elmer Milton. Milton has been a logging contractor in Rogue River since 1925 and is currently cutting trees in the Butte Falls area, where Hutton heads up a three-man crew of fallers.

"Ward is constantly on the look for improvement. He has extraordinary control of the fall of trees to avoid breakage," says Howard Mitchell, forester for Timber Products company, Medford. The company currently is buying the trees felled by Hutton.

"One of the jobs of a forester is to watch out for excess breakage," Mitchell continued. "Many fallers do just a passable job and they waste a lot of timber. Often they don't take enough interest in their work, or they're anxious to chop down as many trees as they can in a day. But the work of Ward and his crew is excellent."

What's Ward's attitude towards his work? "I love it," he says. "I can't learn enough about trees."

**Takes Pride in Work**  
And that's the explanation behind a man who has won respect at a job not noted for respectability. He takes pride in his work.

Ward Hutton has blue eyes and a ready grin and he looks a decade younger than his 43 years. As an aircraft worker in San Diego some 13 years ago, he heard about and yearned for the Oregon woods. After the war he came here and he has remained.

"I was green when I got here," he laughed. "That first year I only made \$1,700, working with a hand saw."

"But pretty soon I saw that I could apply production techniques I learned in the aircraft industry to help me. I try to categorize trees, just like they do with fingerprints."

**Makes Sketch**  
Ward pulled a small notebook from his shirt pocket and looked at a sketch. "Here's a tree that didn't fall the way I wanted it to," he said. "So I drew a cross section of the butt and noted the way the tree was leaning and where the branches were."

"Next time I see a similar tree I'll remember this one and make it fall where I want it to."

"That is, if I do my homework tonight," he added.

Ward is married and has three sons and a daughter. He introduced the other two members of his crew, both from Gold Hill: Bruce Williams, 25, and Gene Holderness, 28.

**Hand-Picked Men**  
"I hand-picked both these boys myself," he said. "If I could have found better workers, I would have done it."

Bruce has been with him for five years, and Gene for about two. They're both married.

"Most fallers work by themselves," Ward said, "or they sometimes use a two-man crew. We're the only three-man crew I've heard of."

He explained that with three men they can apply more efficiency to their work.

"Our main object is conservation and saving timber, with safety always in mind," he said.

**Avoiding Breakage**  
Mitchell explained that avoiding breakage is to the best interests of the workers, as well as to the contractors and the lumber companies. Whenever a tree breaks, the broken parts have to be cut away and there is that much timber lost.

"But it's hard to get loggers to understand that," he said.

If a tree is allowed to fall across a boulder or a break in the terrain, if it hits a "windfall" or another fallen tree, or if it hits a tree still



**TAKING A BREAK** - Grouped around the stump of a tree they just felled are (left to right) Ward Hutton, Bruce Williams and Gene Holderness. At far right is Howard Mitchell, forester for Timber Products Company. This tree was "laid down" with such accuracy it suffered no breakage at all. The metal helmets the men are wearing are for protection from falling limbs. Strapped around the necks of the three fallers are plastic goggles. Mitchell said these three fallers are the only ones he's known who wear them. "Maybe we seem like sissies," Hutton said, "but Bruce's goggles probably saved one of his eyes last week when a piece of metal flew off a wedge and hit him."

## West Coast Seeks Flight to Reno

Seattle - West Coast Airlines has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission to operate a new route between Klamath Falls and Reno. A similar request was recently denied the company.

West Coast also asked the board to reconsider a denial of the company's request to operate a new route between Boise and San Francisco-Oakland, via Winnemucca, Nev., Reno and Sacramento.

In connection with the Klamath Falls-Reno proposal, the airline said it felt that if the board had used the CAB examiner's own traffic estimates it would have determined the route profitable.

comply here and they don't believe me."

Also during the off-season, the three of them indulge in work-outs which, as you might expect, have an element of the rough-and-ready about them. "We work out at boxing, judo and weight lifting," Ward said. "It's partly to keep us in shape but mostly because we just enjoy it."

**Makes Science of Work**  
Ward explained that he tries to make a science out of falling trees. A tree will twist when it is being cut and the science comes in anticipating and controlling the twist.

"You have to figure the geometry," Ward said. "It's almost like a game of billiards. We can get trees English' off each other and if we have to, bring down two and three at once. We've brought down as many as six at one time, each one knocking another down as it falls."

They prepared two trees for such a "double lay." One was about 60 feet uphill from the other. Using the chain saw, they quickly cleared away a stump and a small hemlock that were in the way. Then they undercut and back cut the tree farther up the hill so that it would come down when struck by the lower tree.

Ward explained that in this situation it wasn't necessary to take them both at once, but he wanted to show how it was done. He took a plumb bob out of his shirt pocket and sighted the lean of the lower tree.

"He's the only faller I've ever seen who uses a plumb bob," Mitchell said. "Most fallers just take a calculated guess at to which way a tree is leaning."

They brought the tree down right where they wanted to and sure enough, it hit the second tree and started it falling. From the time they had started to cut and the time the double crash boomed across the hill, about 10 minutes had elapsed.

"We try to compute everything," he said. "The lean, the wind, the slope, the terrain, and we have to consider where it will be easiest for the tractors to drag the trees out when they're on the ground."

"We make mistakes sometimes," but I guess it can't be helped. The gentleman who helped the trees here in the first place wasn't thinking about us."

"We can only do the best we can, and keep trying to get better."

And that just about sums up the philosophy of Ward Hutton, a tree faller with finesse.

## Seasons of a Bird Watcher

LATE SPRING  
Summer is here. My calendars differ. One says it arrives the 21st, one the 22nd. But the birds say it is here now. Young birds are out of the nest. So far on the home place I have seen one pheasant chick and young jays, meadowlarks, robins, white-breasted nuthatches and house finches. On a trip we saw a half-grown quail, so I think the tiny chicks have been keeping hidden on the home place. The last spring migrant to arrive is usually the nighthawk. I saw the first one this year on May 30th, just about a normal arrival date.

In the late spring we like to get to the higher ground and see what's new up there. On May 25 J. H. and I made a trip to a favorite spot over the top of the Dead Indian grade to look at a certain dead tree-top where on the two previous years we had seen a calliope hummingbird, the smallest of all our birds, with a gleaming reddish or violet neckpiece. There it was for the third year sitting in the very same tree-top darting out after insects or going down to feed on the larkspur that blooms there. While we were watching it a green-tailed towhee came and sang in the very same tree. We took my wife back there the next week and saw both birds again in the same tree. This is the only place where I personally have seen a calliope hummingbird.

We have a custom of getting the local bird watchers together and trying to see how many species we can find in the county on Memorial Day. Since it came on Saturday this year, I didn't think that was a good day for a preacher to take off, so we suggested that people go out Sat., Sun. or Mon., or all three if they had time.

However, we didn't have a meeting to divide up territories and some of our good observers couldn't take part, so we didn't do as well as we might. With the benefit of three days, though, our combined list came to 95. I vote that next year we will organize it better and break the hundred mark. The birds are here if we can just get around to the right places and find them!

Bob Hubbard saw black terns and what he took to be common terns at one of the ponds in the Camp White area. I saw terns that looked more like Forster's at Hoover lakes. Later we enlisted J. H. to arbitrate this dispute and he said they were Forster's (which are actually much commoner than the so-called "common"). However, a couple of weeks later we went back to Hoover lakes and this time we both agreed that what we saw were "common". So now we feel sure that both of these graceful birds are in our area.

I put in a long day on Monday of the Memorial Day week end from 3:30 a.m. to after 9 p.m. My personal week end list came to 81. We particularly enjoyed the trip across from Dead Indian rd. to the Green Springs rd. past Howard Prairie reservoir and Hiatt lake. We found the purple martins again nesting at Hiatt lake, the only place in our county that we know of where they do.

The last bird I added to the week end list was a black phoebe found at the Forest Creek bridge on the River rd. along the Applegate. We had seen a black phoebe at this spot twice earlier. Being in that area on other business again this week I stopped once more and this time I found the nest "glued" to the concrete underneath the bridge. I believe there are young in it. I think both Carl Richardson and Dr. Elmo Stevenson have seen black phoebes in this area before, but they are not listed in the books as being found in Oregon, so I was particularly interested in finding this nest.

Incidentally, this particular road along the Applegate and the spot by this bridge is one of the most favorable places in the county to observe birds. I saw green herons there on earlier visits. This time I saw a pair of gorgeous western tanagers, a large assembly of doves and several other varieties.

There are many fine places to observe birds, however. One of the best is often your own yard and garden. They are building houses all around us where we live, but I seem to be seeing more birds than ever on the home place. We recorded 29 in a single week last week. One was a lazuli bunting which my wife found singing in the willows. A couple of weeks before we found a burrowing owl perched on a mail box on the far side of our church property.

The mountains are wonderful at this season, too. I'm anxious to get up into the high timber in the early morning and hear the hermit thrushes sing.-T.M.

**DISCONTINUE MEETINGS**  
Central Point - Meyers-Holland American Legion post here will discontinue meetings through the summer, Commander Bert Smith announced following an executive committee meeting last week. The post will not hold a regular meeting again until the second Thursday in September, he reported.

Iced tea is believed to be of American origin.

## ILLINOIS VALLEY Recreation Program Set

Cave Junction - The annual summer recreational program, which will begin June 22, will include a variety of sports and games for youngsters and adults.

There will be both softball and hardball leagues, golf, archery, tennis and of course swimming will again be a major part of the program.

The PeeWee baseball will be for ages 9 through 12 and for 13-year-olds whose birthday is after June 15. The play will be on the high school athletic field where each boy will receive instruction to play any position. After the preliminaries, a league is to be formed to start a regular schedule the first part of July.

The Cub baseball will be for 13-15 years old with 16-year-olds whose birthdays are after June 15. The play will be at Spitz field, and a league will be formed following an instruction period when the boys will be taught the fundamentals of the game. The Cubs are also to have a team ready for inter-city games with Ashland, Grants Pass and Central Point.

Swimming will start on July 6 for a run of five weeks, with Mrs. Louis Aller in charge, assisted by Coach Eldon Burham and some high school students.

Mrs. Aller will handle the instruction and classes will be held at the Lucky Clover motel swimming pool.

There will be two divisions in tennis. On Tuesday and Thursday there will be instruction classes for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 15. Fundamentals will be taught and matches will be played as the pupils advance.

The second division will include adults and will meet at 7 p.m. either at the high school or at Dr. Versteeg's home. It is hoped to have an elimination tournament for both the advanced players and the beginners.

There are nine teams lined up to take part in the adult softball play. Play began Monday, June 15, which is ahead of the regular summer program, but this was necessary in order to play all the games scheduled within the time limits of the program.

Sponsors of the softball teams are Explorer Scouts, Medoland dairy, Cabax mill, Forest Green lumber co., Lions club, Selma, Smokejumpers, American Legion and Moore Timber. Games will be at the high school field with double headers on Monday and Thursday evenings. The games will start at 7 p.m.

Archery, with suitable instructors, will also be held under the lights on the high school field on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m.

Golf is being tentatively scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Ranch Area links on Caves highway, with instruction available for all ages. A tournament is being planned with details to be announced later.

The basketball program will be played at the Versteeg courts and will include mainly high school boys. The play will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Fridays. The teen age dances will be every Friday from 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The county school board, at an executive session Wednesday night, named Wes Peters as the new Illinois Valley High school principal. Peters, who has been teaching in the county school system for the past 11 years, has been serving as vice-principal for the past four years.

Principal Wes Peters, holder of a masters degree from the University of Oregon, began his teaching career in the Valley at the Kerby Grade school, then was transferred to the high school where he has taught general mathematics, science, world geography, the driver's training course, boy's physical education and has served as coach in basketball and track.

Sandra, Gloria and Lynden, The Hare Trio, have been engaged to appear all summer with the Barnstormers in the Little Theater performances at Grants Pass city park, as one of the specialty Oleo

## Barker Named to KMED Position

The appointment of Harry Barker as commercial manager for radio station KMED was announced yesterday by Ray Johnson, KMED general manager. Barker, of 1524 Lenora st., Medford, had been acting commercial manager since April 20.

Barker's background in retailing in Medford, as well as in other areas of the country, is proving an asset to himself and his advertisers, Johnson said.

Barker has been employed by KMED since October, 1958. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a bachelor of science degree. He has had executive training with the R. H. Macy Corporation and has served as a department manager in stores in Kansas City, San Francisco and Medford.

He is on the board of directors of the Medford Kiwanis club and was twice nominated for the junior chamber's "young man of the year" award. He is married and has three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hathaway were honored at a dinner at the Todelope cafe, marking his retirement after 17 years with the forest service.

H. C. Obe, forest supervisor, as principal speaker, highlighted the events in Hathaway's career with the forest service in his address to the assembled group. Following his talk, Obe presented the Hathaways with a retirement gift, an automatic electric coffee maker.

The city council met with the city budget committee last Tuesday evening to complete the proposed budget needed for the fiscal year 1959-1960.

A formal notice has been posted informing the legal voters of the city of a budget meeting which will be held in the city offices at 8 p.m. Monday, June 22, for the purpose of discussing the budget.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Hussey left recently by plane for Anchorage, Alaska, where they will be guests of son's family, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Hussey Jr., and four children. Elwood, Jr. is a master sergeant in finance in the U. S. Army.

Otis Hussey and family of Ashland are staying at his parent's home during their absence.

An estimated 140 guests were served at the Lion's club outdoor breakfast Sunday morning, one of the Centennial events in the valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Tryon are home from Albany where they were attending the state convention of the Veterans of World War I.

The Bob Martins made a trip to Portland Tuesday to bring their daughter, Norma, home from Multnomah Bible school.

Mrs. Raymond Heidenreich and Mrs. Harry Smith attended the Rose Show in Medford Tuesday of last week. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith also visited the Grants Pass Rose Show on Sunday.

A reunion was effected last week, after a 34 year separation.

## New Car Stickers Available in Area

A new car window sticker promoting the area has been received from the printers by the Jackson County Centennial association, according to Ernie Hod, coordinator.

The stickers are orange with a black stage coach drawn by four horses silhouetted on it, Hod explained. In the top right corner are the words, "Oregon Centennial," in black with the white letters, "Rogue Valley," across the stage coach.

The stickers, which sell for 10 cents each, are available at the Centennial headquarters south of Medford and at the welcome stockade at the Siskiyou summit during the week end.

Hood said that the Centennial guide book to the wonders of Rogue River Valley are now available locally. He said that the guide books are free and contain information on scenic drives, historic sites, Centennial events in the county, major tourist attractions, map tours, and recreation.

Art work in the book was done by Hood and Paul Parson and compiled by him and the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of Ron Gandee.

An even dozen domiciliary veterans were named in awards of the Hospitalized Veterans Writers project, Manager Henry C. Herzog, who presented checks aggregating \$82 to six of the winners, has announced.

The awards included eight books, a correspondence school course, and two subscriptions to the Atlantic Monthly magazine.

Sir Hollingsworth, correspondent at Camp White for the Medford Mail Tribune, was named as "correspondent of the year" in the Hospital Newspaper Award, which went to the publication Dominians.

Earl J. Sweeney received top honors by winning \$40 prize money with Walter L. Townsend runner up with \$25 in two divisions.

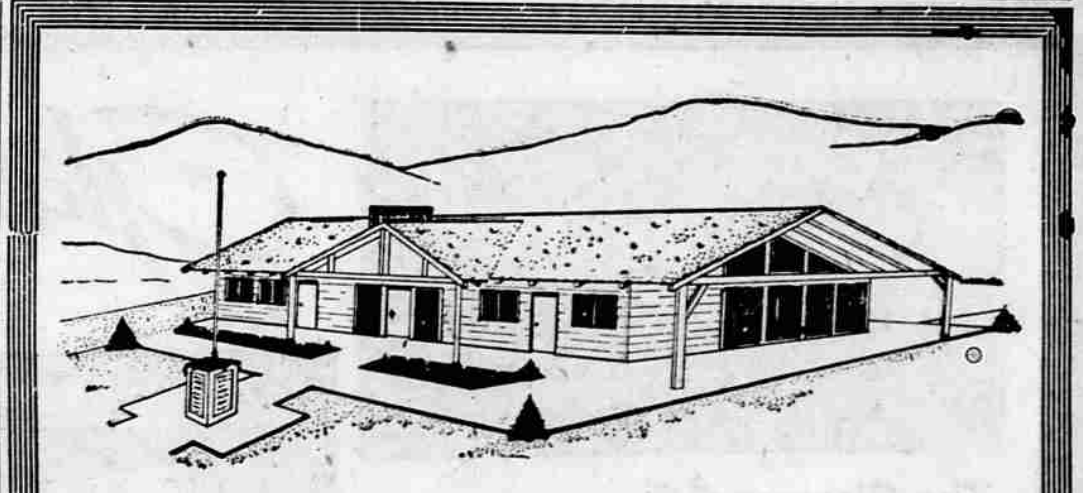
Other winners were Forrick E. Powers, Walter V. Grow, David Frisch, Cyril McLean, John A. Cress, Edward L. Robinson, George A. Eick, Claude Woods and James Jiljan.

Enid Holmes, chief librarian, who sponsored the undertaking through the Writers club, said the record this year was outstanding with 10 places in 14 categories, and third place among all contestants throughout the country.

More than 82 per cent of all 1957-model cars in the United States had eight cylinders.

## Card of Thanks

Mrs. Herman J. Gier and family wish to express their deepest gratitude for all sympathies and personal kindnesses extended by their many friends during their recent bereavement.



July 1st. Is Our Goal For Completion Of Hillcrest Chapel

- Wallpaper Is On
- Carpet Is Down
- Church Pews Due in 2 Weeks
- Air Conditioning Is Working to Eliminate Summer Heat.

Bill Driscoll your host today, 1 to 5 p.m.

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