

Land in National Forest Reseeded For Cover Growth

Washington (Science Service) - When the forest fire is out, that is when the fighters prepare for the long-term battle.

Right now, the 14,200 acres of burned out land on the Los Angeles National forest are being re-seeded in hopes of "tying down" the soil and preventing a disaster such as the one in 1934 when fire's aftermath - flood - took a toll of human life.

Perennial rye, black mustard and soft chess grass are being sown by airplane right into the ashes. U.S. forest service experts hope to get quick stabilization of the soil before the heavy winter rains begin. Under the right conditions - gentle rains being the most essential - the mustard seed will sprout and cover the burn within six to eight weeks.

Serious Problem
Debris is one of the most serious and costly problems faced by communities near the burned out forest, Warren Murphy of the forest service's flood control program told Science Service.

Most of the burned out forest region is tributary to the large flood control dams in the area, he explained. This means that rain will carry down loose soil, boulders, rocks and plant material, filling space needed to contain overflow waters during flood season.

Back in 1934, on New Year's day, this same problem of debris blocking flood control areas contributed to a flood in which more than 30 persons died. However, the scientists and conservationists believe they know how to handle the flood problem now, Murphy indicated.

Minimum Cost
The debris that collects will have to be excavated at a minimum cost of \$3.50 per cubic yard, Mr. Murphy said. Since there will be an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 cubic yards of debris per square mile of burned watershed, the excavation may cost as much as \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000. (Approximately 22 square miles of watershed were burned in the Los Angeles National Forest fire.)

Most of the cost of the fire's aftermath will be paid for by local authorities, Murphy said. Aided by surveys made before the fire was under control by the Forest Service and the Corps of Engineers, work is now underway to lessen the land damage that lingers long after a forest fire.

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Agriculture Interim Committee Hears Problems of Area Farmers

Problems presented to the state legislature's interim committee on agriculture here Tuesday night ranged from need for more research money for the pear decline problem, to the property tax burden, to a need for new Rogue valley crops.

Paul Culbertson, Medford area pear grower, told the committee that pear growers here ask that \$17,800 be allocated by the state emergency board to continue pear decline research from June 30, 1960 to July 1, 1961. The money would carry the research budget until the state legislature meets and can consider a further appropriation, Culbertson explained. The present fund runs out June 30, 1960, he added.

Amounts
Jackson County Fruit Growers' League members now voluntarily assess themselves on a per box basis which represents 85 per cent of the research fund. Oregon State college pays the remainder.

During a two-year period the League has contributed \$28,000 and OSC \$6,000 through its horticulture department funds, Dean Price, head of the OSC experiment station, explained.

Culbertson said cause of the pear decline is yet unknown, but the trees are dying and the number has been increasing since 1956. Prof. Henry Hartman, of the OSC horticulture department, heads the decline study.

Major Concern
Pear decline is of major concern to all pear production areas, Culbertson said, in Oregon and Washington. California faces a similar problem with its oranges, he added. Washington has had the problem since 1952, has studied it longer, using more money and come up with fewer results, he commented.

Fruit industry representatives from all areas faced with the decline problem come to Medford to consult with Hartman, he added.

Under the committee questioning, Price said the decline problem receives one of the top priorities in the \$3 million a year OSC research allocation. Horticulture in the state now receives more research money than its income would indicate it deserves, he said. However, it has more continually serious problems, he pointed out.

Pear decline is rated lower than the barley virus problem in the Willamette valley which wiped out an entire crop, it was stated.

Taxes
Henry Conger, who called himself "a plain dirt farmer," complained about taxes paid by the farmer. Questioned by Robert Duncan, speaker of the house of representatives, Conger could not tell how the various state and federal agricultural services should be cut to save tax money.

One of the main purposes of the interim committee is to study means of eliminating duplicated and unneeded agricultural services.

Victor Birdseye, dairyman, urged more research in forage crops using the valley's different soils for testing. As increasing population cuts down on available farm acreage the beef growers and dairymen will have to put more animals on limited acreage, he said.

Field chopping pasture or forage grasses taken to the stock is a growing development in other areas, he added.

H. H. White, Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station superintendent, said at least 15 forage test plots, each representing a different type of soil and topography have been set out at various valley farms by station personnel. Talent alfalfa, used in Greece,

Valiant Enters Small Car Field

New York (UPI) - The Valiant, Chrysler corporation's luxurious economy car, will sell for \$14 more than Chevrolet's Corvair and \$71 more than Ford's Falcon, the corporation revealed Tuesday.

Harry E. Chesebrough, general manager of the Plymouth-De Soto-Valiant division, said that the Valiant will be available in six models in a four-door sedan and station wagon series. Prices on the four-door sedans range from \$1,874 on the low-priced V-100 series to \$1,946 on the V-200 series.

The station wagons will go into production within the next two weeks and prices for the six and nine passenger models will be announced later.

WIFE-BUMPER JAILED
Milwaukee, Wis. (UPI) - Howard H. Robinson was sentenced to 30 days in jail Monday for bumping his wife three times with a car after arguing with her at a tavern.

was developed on the experiment station here, he noted. C. C. Hoover, Camp White area hog-raiser, asked more research on protein providing grasses, a two-price system for wheat, elimination of the overlap of the Soil Conservation Service and extension service and combining 4-H and FFA.

He felt that the state brucellosis control act is working well for the area and Oregon. Walter Jones, land appraiser, Joe Murphy, pear grower and shipper, and John Niedermeyer, Jacksonville farmer, also agreed that more crops should be developed for the valley. Jones suggested more study of agricultural economies to obtain the highest use for the land.

Murphy thought more money should be available for the experiment station, and a pomologist, fruit specialist. He suggested bringing fruit packers into the canning business and development of such sidelines as baby-food processing. Niedermeyer said the experiment station should concentrate on developing new ways to use present crops and bring out new crops. Too much time is spent on increased yield studies, he said.

New Land
The majority of those testi-

fying emphasized new lands coming under irrigation from the Talent project made new and better use of farm land essential.

Fruit growers basically do not object to horticulturists advising home owners on landscaping and backyard garden problems if the agricultural industry does not have to suffer, Dave Lowry, pear grower and shipper, stated.

Questioned by the interim committee, Lowry said he understood home extension was being studied as a possible non essential service and perhaps other services should be cut. However, he

did not make any definite recommendations for cuts. Sen. Edwin D. Durno, Jackson county, said a sub-committee on higher education, of which he was a member, considered cutting the home extension budget. He said they received letters from all over the state.

Want New Services
Duncan summed up the general attitude by remarking that everyone wants to add services, nobody wants others cut, but complain about high taxes.

Lester Adams, Applegate stockman and manager of Oregon Milk Producers asked for a "bird-dog" committee representative who would contact the less successful farmers, learn their problems and attitudes and tell them of the interim committee hearings before they are held in this area.

Leaders Present
"People appearing here tonight are the agricultural leaders, the highly successful men of our community. You will not get a complete picture until less successful farmers are heard from. Many of these do not belong to farm organizations and will not appear unless personally reminded," Adams explained.

Interim committee members

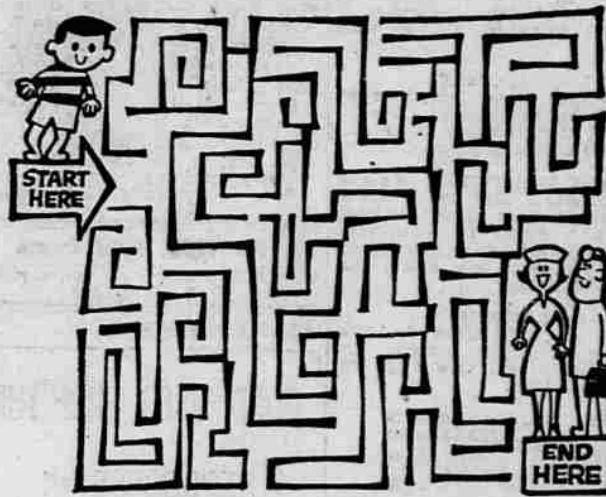
They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo



hearing the testimony were and Representatives Arthur Senators Francis Ziegler, Ben-Ireland, Washington county; ton county chairman; Robert Joe Rogers, Polk county; Don ert Straub, Lane county; McKinnis, Union county; and Lloyd Key, Umatilla county; Roy Fitzwater, Lina county.

HOW SMART ARE YOU?

Little Johnny is on his way to our local clinic for a checkup. Can you help him get there?



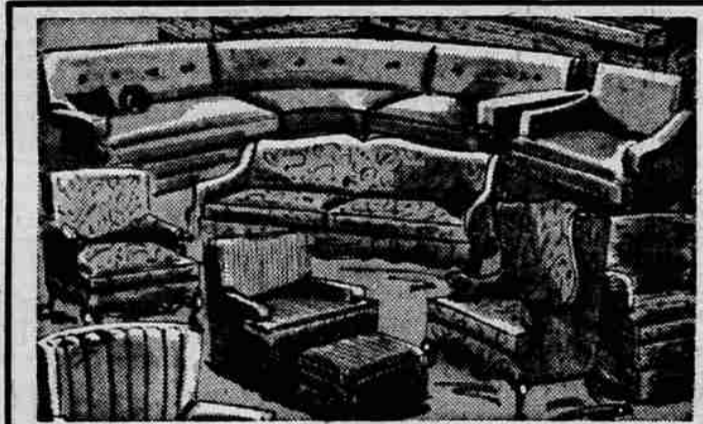
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