

# Area Loggers Help Clean Fish Lake of Snags

## Ranger Wanted To Clean Shore Line for Years

By BOB VROMAN  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Describe to a stranger to southern Oregon a lake high in the Cascades, nestled at the foot of a snow-covered mountain. Tell him about the clear water, the excellent trout fishing and the surrounding forests of lofty fir trees.

But, don't forget to mention something else. Jutting out of the water, and along a good part of the lake's edge, are ugly snags, white with age, a skeleton of the green timber that fringed the lake before the water was raised by a dam almost 50 years ago.

This was Fish lake, near Medford—but not anymore. The scenery at the lake has been greatly enhanced in the last month or so, thanks to the U. S. forest service and a group of independent loggers of Jackson county who furnished manpower, tools and equipment to fell the snags, clean up slash and "corral" floating debris into coves.

**3,000 Snags Felled**

In 1955 and 1956 5,000 snags were felled by the Cliff Green logging operation along the north shore of the lake, from the low water line to the road. The timber was sold as stumpage, bringing a revenue of some \$34,000 to the forest service and helping considerably to improve the looks of the area, according to District Ranger Harold (Red) Thomas, Ashland.

Another sale, made to Emil Unger in 1957, involved cutting of 3,000 snags along the south shore, but, as in the previous sale, high water conditions at the lake would not permit cutting of the worst of the dead timber, and the worthless "bones" below the water line remained.

For years Thomas had been working on the idea of cleaning up the unsightly shoreline, but funds for such a project were not available. In August of this year permission was given by Carroll Brown, supervisor of the Rogue River National forest, to use all of the \$2,000 allotted to this area under the "Operation Outdoors" program for the Fish lake clean up.

**Debris Floating**

Earlier, in the spring, some of the logs and debris floating on the lake had been "boomed" into coves and by August was lying high and dry. While logger Emil Unger, under contract to the forest service, was working with his fork lift Cat at the job of stacking the "junk" for burning, a group of forest service regional officers out of Portland came through on an inspection trip.

They saw what was being done, and what still must be done to clean up the lake and agreed that the \$2,000 would not be nearly enough. The water in the lake this year was drawn down to an all-time low, an excellent opportunity to get the job done. In several days \$4,000 was made available for the project.

Thomas was pleased, but, even with the \$4,000 he knew he would have to make it stretch to do all that he wanted to do. He came up with the idea of getting "professional" loggers to cooperate on the project. Their know-how in this kind of an operation, combined with the use of their tools and equipment added up to the most practical approach to the problem.

**Round Up Men**

Thomas was well aware of the amount of timber a good "gyppo" could put down in a day, and with this in mind he made plans to round up enough men to get the job finished fast—for rains had fallen, the irrigation company had shut off the water, the lake had begun to rise.

Ed Zboralski, headquarters fireman for the USFS, Ashland, was assigned to contact various logging outfits in Jackson county for volunteers.

He explained to the men that they would not be making near the money that they would be at their regular jobs, but they would get a fair hourly wage. The idea was that they were to put out a full day's work at their regular "gyppo" pace, sacrificing a large portion of their regular day's pay. Only in this way could the job be done on the money allotted.

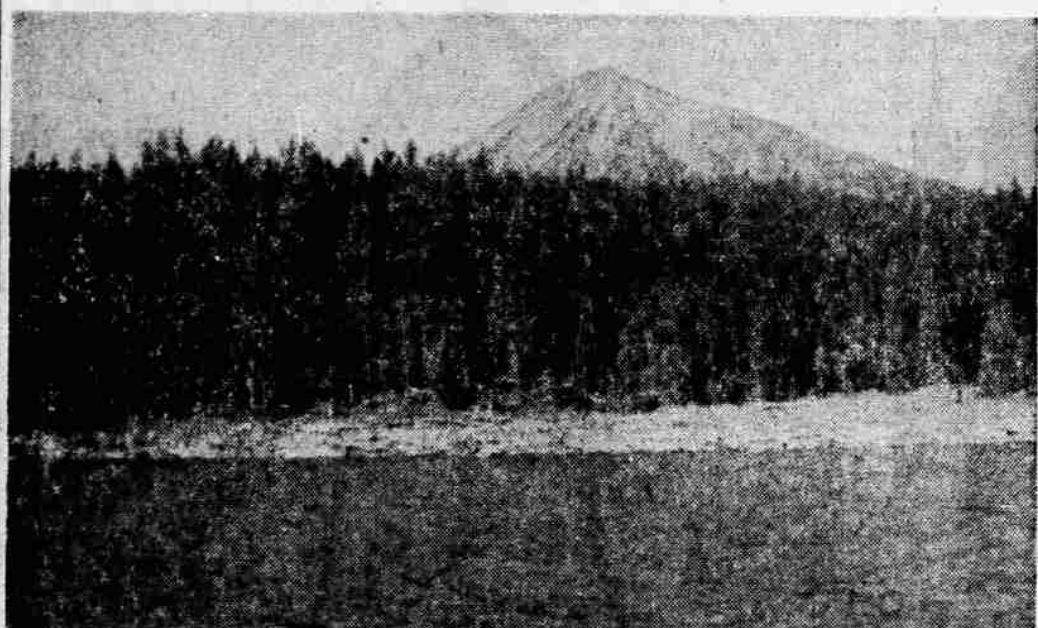
More than 20 men agreed to the proposition, for it seemed, being outdoorsmen themselves, they appreciated what the forest service was trying to do.

**Fallers Move In**

On Sept. 23, 12 sets of fallers move into the area and soon the mountains echoed



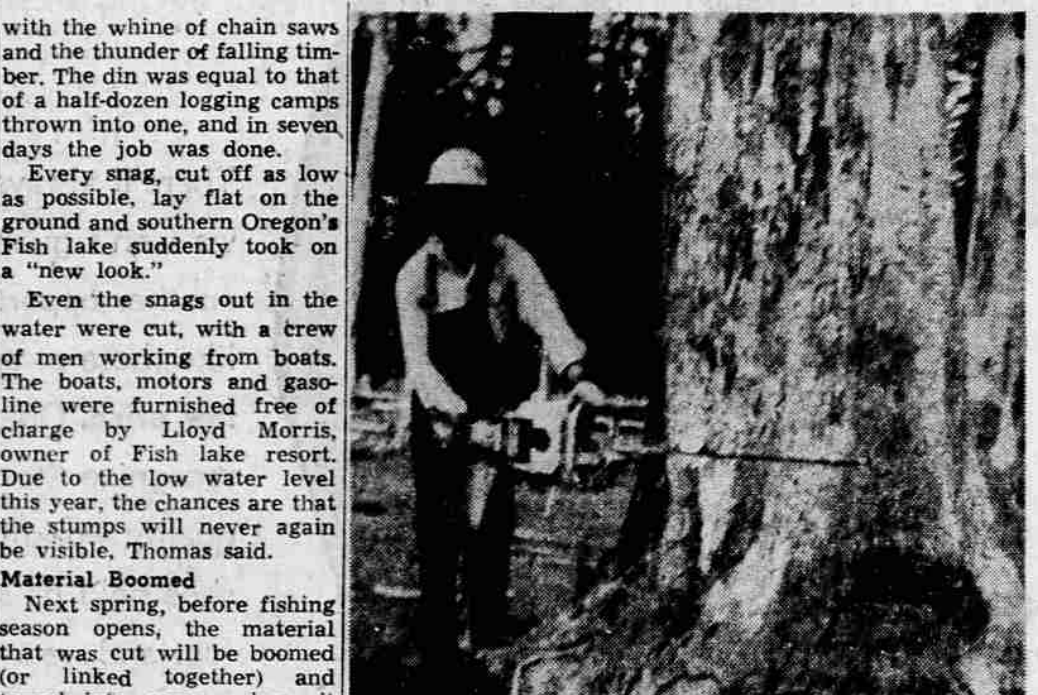
**BOOMED TRASH**—Debris floating on the surface of Fish lake is shown above after it had been pulled into a cove by linking logs together to form a giant "chain." When water rises it will be towed further into shore, where it will stay until the lake again recedes. It will then be stacked and burned.



**DEBRIS STACKED**—Ready for burning, the windrows of "junk" wood along the shore of Fish lake, shown above, are what USFS inspectors saw when they decided that more money should be granted to complete the Fish lake cleanup. Logger Emil Unger, with a fork lift cat, contracted to do the job for the forest service at little or no profit. The picture was taken in August.



**NEW LOOK**—The shoreline of Fish lake, shown above, looks entirely different than it did a month or so ago when dead snags blocked the view of green timber. The snags, having been present for over 50 years, were cut out this fall by the U.S. forest service, with the help of a group of local loggers.



**CUTS SNAG**—Ed Zboralski, headquarters fireman, USFS, Ashland, who was in charge of cutting and booming operations at Fish lake, is shown above cutting down a big snag. Falling dead timber presents hazards not encountered in falling green trees.

Jacksonville, and G. Ward, Central Point.

Although some fishermen will probably miss the familiar snags that served as "guideposts" and mooring places, most people will agree that Fish lake will be a much more scenic recreation spot now that it has at last been cleaned up.

Sugar was first produced in India about 2,000 years ago.

## 'Green Gold' Now Taken From Area Near Poorman's Creek

Jacksonville—Legend has it that there is gold in the vicinity of Poorman's creek where it bisects the Echo Springs Tree Farm of H. A. and Geraldine Hogan near Jacksonville.

Miners once panned this stream in the gold rush days of 1852, and "Hi" Hogan vows that someday he will use his "gold witch" to uncover the vein. But meanwhile, he is finding plenty of renewable "green gold" in his vigorously growing timber stands which blanket the property.

When it comes to knowing how to manage mixed Douglas fir and pine timber, the Jacksonville tree farmer has got plenty of savvy. Timber stands on his 360-acre tree farm are one of the finest examples of thinning in Jackson County, and his tree-length logging is an up-to-snuff forestry technique.

**Lands Certified**

So says Cal Smith, forester for Industrial Forestry association tree farm sponsor in the Douglas fir region. IFA certified Hogan's lands in the industry-operated program to grow timber as a crop on privately owned, taxpaying forest lands in December last year after the forester had inspected the area and reviewed its management program.

Hogan yards the whole tree out of the woods and bucks it into logs at a central landing. Slash is thus concentrated where it may be easily disposed of instead of being left scattered as an extra fire hazard in the woods.

The Jacksonville tree farmer is also utilizing much of the left-over tops and limbs for fuelwood.

"Hi is a careful student of market conditions, and he constantly earns top dollar for his forest products," Smith said. "He is demonstrating how a prudent man can earn his living entirely from tree farming while actually improving his timber stands."

**Move to Land in 1949**

Hogan, his wife and their four children settled on their timber-tiered property in 1949. He has been thinning the timber since that time, but doing it so carefully that he still has approximately 100 acres or so that have not yet been selectively cut.

Although he has harvested some 2,000,000 board feet of timber, his open park-like stands seem hardly to have been touched. Most of the trees on the property are from



**EXAMINE GALLERIES**—Galleries created by beetles under the bark of a ponderosa pine tree are examined by H. A. Hogan, left, and Cal Smith, forester for Industrial Forestry association, on Hogan's tree farm near Jacksonville. Hogan is yarding infested trees to central landing area in tree length, salvaging the beetle-killed timber. (AFPI Photo)



**CONTINUED NEXT WEEK**

Santa Monica, Calif. (UPI)—The drawn out divorce case of actor Glenn Ford and actress Eleanor Powell is due to come up in court next Thursday. The case was continued last week when attorneys for the couple informed the court that a property and temporary alimony settlement was nearing completion. It was the 14th time a date was set for the hearing since the couple separated last April.

**SEARCH GERMAN SHIP**

Cherbourg, France (UPI)—French officials searched the German freighter Bilabo, intercepted by two French navy destroyers in the English channel, and escorted here. Informed sources said the freighter was suspected of carrying a consignment of arms to North Africa for the Algerian rebels.



**PEELED BY HAND**—Pole-sized timber which he peeled by hand is shown by H. A. Hogan, left, to Cal Smith of the Industrial Forestry association. The trees, some of them more than 100 feet long, will be purchased for a better price as power poles than as sawlogs, Hogan said. He watches the market for his forest products closely. (AFPI Photo)



**CLOSE TO GROUND**—Timber is harvested close to the ground on a 360-acre tree farm of H. A. Hogan, Jacksonville. Here he shows 11-inch stump on pocket rule. Outstanding thinning program and careful logging practices such as this have made Hogan's Echo Springs Tree Farm a showplace of good forestry in the county. (AFPI Photo)

## Speaker for Area Aging Conference Named by Group

Donald Sutcliff, regional representative from the health, education and welfare department for the White House Conference on Aging, will speak at the closing session of the Southern Oregon regional conference on aging at the First Methodist church Saturday, Nov. 14.

His topic will concern the purpose and plan of the congressional act which instigated the state and district meeting to obtain "grass roots" information on the needs of elderly people.

Sutcliff also will serve as a resource person on the employment and income workshop panel, which is one of several groups meeting that morning under the direction of Col. C. L. Williams of Ashland.

**Other Speakers**

Other speakers on the employment panel include Dale Simpson, Grants Pass, Julius Guntion, Klamath Falls, and John Patton, Medford, all representing state employment offices; and Ed Jacobson, Medford, and Wilber Womer, Klamath Falls, both of the social security administration. They will discuss job opportunities for older residents, the effects of enforced retirement policies, and discrimination against workers 35 and 40 years old.

Mrs. Bertha Haskins, vocational committee of Altrusa club, Medford, will explain the club's vocational grants available to older women who need retraining to help them find employment. Mrs. N. A. Gerritsen, social studies chairman of the local branch of the American University Women, will outline the projected AAUW survey of employers policies toward the older worker.

**All-Day Conference**

The conference will start at 9:30 a.m. next Saturday and will continue throughout the day. No registration fee is planned, and the public is invited.

Reservations for the luncheon, which will be served by the church women, should be made with the conference committee as soon as possible, according to Frank Glonning, chairman of the conference. Reservations may be made by telephoning Mrs. C. D. Thatcher, SPring 2-5108; John Gribble, SPring 2-5932; Mrs. Elsa Walker, SPring 2-4318; or Mrs. Williams at MURdock 2-9331.

Portland (UPI)—Edwin E. Marsh, executive secretary of the National Wool Growers association, says the current lamb price situation should be investigated.

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