

Grants Pass Tree Farm Noted As 'Supermarket' of Products

Grants Pass—Through an intensive forest management program, Harold and Elizabeth Wallmann of Grants Pass have turned their 450-acre Bull Creek Tree Farm into a regular "supermarket" of forest products.

Wallmann ticks off a surprisingly varied list of items which applied forestry has produced on his timberlands. He has sold crops of timber, peeler logs, Christmas trees, poles, piling, posts, hop poles, turkey roost poles, evergreen brush (for floral sprays), fern, decorative cones and boughs, myrtlewood for bowls and vases, and firewood.

To look at his lush stands of vigorously growing timber, however, one would hardly know it had ever felt the axe. The tree farm is growing an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 board feet of new timber each year.

Better Shape Today
"Wallmann's timber is in better shape today than when he started tree farming here 20 years ago," according to Cal Smith, district forester for Industrial Forestry association, tree farm sponsor for the forest industries in the Douglas fir region.

"By going through the timber and taking out diseased or overcrowded trees, snags and those killed by bugs and lightning, he has improved his stands tremendously," Smith said.

The area was certified as a tree farm in the industry-sponsored program by IFA in 1958 in recognition of the couple's outstanding forestry methods. It has served as a forestry demonstration tract

for field meetings of Christmas tree growers and 4-H forestry clubs.

Christmas trees provide a substantial interim income for Wallmann while his big timber trees mature. He harvests from 3,000 to 4,000 a year on his land, plus additional ones which he contracts for from other owners.

Stump Culture
Through "stump culture"—a forestry method of growing a new tree on the stump of one which has just been cut—he is multiplying the productive capacity of his land for this important market.

By scheduling his thinning operations in overcrowded timber stands for the fall of the year, the utilization-conscious tree farmer is often able to get marketable Christmas trees off the tops of suppressed pole-size timber.

"That extra 40 cents to a dollar for the top all adds up," he said.

Through Five Times
Wallmann estimates that he has gone through his timber altogether about five times, thinning it as needed. In doing this, he has pruned something like 10,000 trees ax high and another 3,000 trees

to a height of 20 feet. This pruning will assure production of clear logs when the trees mature.

"I keep cutting on my pole thickets, and they just keep coming on," he commented.

Another big product on Wallmann's forestry shelf is firewood, which he sells to contract cutters. This market provides an outlet for his timber "scraps" and unmerchantable hardwoods. He utilizes white-speck-infected fir, partly rotted logs, and low-grade oaks and madronas in this way, and stacks of cordwood are a common sight throughout the tree farm.

He is hanging on to prized black oaks, however, which he believes will make beautiful coloring stock as soon as a local market for it develops.

Sells Cull Logs
"As standards of utilization have improved," Smith said, "Wallmann has been able to step up his forestry program profitably. For example, within the last two years he has been able to sell cull peeler logs for core stock in plywood, whereas previously industry had been unable to use them."

Smith pointed out that good forestry practices are dependent upon having a market, and that continuing industry strides in utilization of timber "leftovers" is making intensive forest management more and more attractive to forest landowners.

"This tree farm is an example of how a man who has kept abreast of changing developments in industry standards of utilization has been able to realize a profit on low-grade peeler logs and sawlogs," he declared.

Wallmann said he believes alder can be managed profitably just like fir.

Thickets Grow
"I've watched several alder thickets here grow from little saplings into good-sized timber," he observed. "But I don't intend to sell any of it until market conditions assure complete utilization of it."

"What this area needs right now," he added, "is a pulp mill and chipboard operation to round out our local timber market."

The tree farmer's timber sales have enabled him to put in a seven-mile system of access roads which are a key factor in his forest management program. They make it possible for him to salvage wind-thrown or diseased timber, and they also enhance fire protection.

Recognizes Balance
Wallmann recognizes the complex balance of nature which exists in his forest lands, and is careful not to disturb it.

"I won't let anybody shoot a crow, a woodpecker or a hawk in here," he said. "They work these trees for bugs—and about the only enemy the pine beetle has is the woodpecker. Crows have saved my clover fields twice already by stopping hordes of grasshoppers that were moving in."

The Wallmanns came to Grants Pass from California's Yosemite valley some 20 years ago.

"We saw how forest land bounced back and generated new timber after it had been logged down there in Mariposa county," Wallmann said. "When we realized how much better this country is up here for growing timber under management, we started in tree farming."

Oregon Running Short Of Parole Officers

Salem—(UPI)—The state has run short of parole officers, according to Civil Service Commissioner Melvin Cleveland. He said Saturday there are vacancies in Tillamook, Medford, Eugene, Portland, Salem, Newport and Ontario. The job pays \$14,800 a year to start.

77 Drivers Nabbed On Liquor Charges

Salem—(UPI)—State police arrested 77 motorists throughout the state in March on charges of driving while intoxicated. A total of 1,602 arrests were made for violation of the basic rule.

Man Dies After Son-in-Law's Attack

Salem—(UPI)—A 90-year-old salesman died about noon Saturday shortly after his son-in-law, a former mental patient, went berserk and, police said, beat the older man with a cane.

Dead was William G. Miller.

The son-in-law, Daniel G. Keidatz, about 40, was taken under guard to the state hospital. Authorities said he was admitted to the hospital under an emergency commitment for 15 days. At the end of this time, a decision will be made as to whether permanent commitment will be made.

Office Too Drafty, So Woman Quits Job

Salem—(UPI)—A woman bookkeeper who complained that the office was drafty and quit her job after the boss refused to do anything about it had good cause for doing so, according to a referee for the state department of employment.

The referee said the woman caught a cold, and the employer never got around to weatherstripping the office door. She is entitled to unemployment compensation benefits, the referee ruled.

COTTON WORKERS
U. S. cotton mills employ about 500,000 persons.

Thornton Rules on Property Taxes

Salem—(UPI)—The execution of a decree of foreclosure and order of sale under the real property tax foreclosure law does away with any debt for personal property taxes included in the decree and order of sale.

In announcing this opinion, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said Friday that any other interpretation of the law would result in depriving the taxpayer of his realty without giving an appropriate credit toward the tax due.

Dog Takes Nip, Woman Gets \$20

Salem—(UPI)—A woman bitten by a dog on her North Salem property asked damages totaling \$5,010 from the dog's owners. A circuit court jury Friday awarded her \$20.



Station K-BOY
Sundays—9:45 A.M.



LIMBS PRUNED—Its limbs pruned to a height of 20 feet, this fir will produce a log clear of knots when it is harvested. Harold Wallmann, examining the tree here, has pruned about 3,000 more trees in this way on his 450-acre Bull Creek Tree farm near Grants Pass. Wallmann says that 18 years ago, he could touch the top of the tree shown here. It is now 120 feet tall, and contains two merchantable logs 16 inches in diameter. (AFPI Photo)

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Funeral Directors Hold Meeting Here

The district meeting of the Southern District of Oregon Funeral Directors association was held at the Rogue Valley Country club Friday.

Funeral directors from Lakeview, Klamath Falls, Ashland, Medford, Grants Pass, Myrtle Creek and Roseburg attended.

Robert Ganz of Myrtle Creek was elected president, and Joe R. Hosick of Siskiyou Funeral Service, Medford, was elected vice president.

Meetings for the coming year were set for Klamath Falls in September, Grants Pass in November, Ashland in February and April in Medford. The new coroner bill was discussed and several applications for membership were read.

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