

60 Acres of Hilt's Burn of 1925 Is Bulldozed Clear for New Planting



PLANTED IN 1933—Adjoining the recently planted area of the old Hilt's burn in Mill creek is a grove of Jeffrey pine planted in 1933 by men of the Civil Conservation Corps. Several thousand acres were burned in the 1925 fire. The trees, planted 27 years ago, as seen today are about 50 feet tall and 10 inches in diameter. Last year, Boy Scout troops of Yreka helped to prune this area.



YOUNG TREE — One of the 38,400 ponderosa pine trees planted on 60 acres of the old Hilt's burn in Mill creek on the Klamath National forest is dwarfed by a workman's helmet, planted on 60 acres of the old Hilt's burn in Mill creek on the down two feet of roots during the first year. The area had to be scraped clean of all brush and grass because small trees can't compete with the other vegetation for moisture during its first year.

One of the most drastic methods of reforestation used by the forest service is visible from Highway 99 at Siskiyou summit.

A brush cleared area visible from the highway, Klamath National forest officials said, is part of the 1925 Mill creek fire which burned several thousand acres.

About 60 acres of the old burn (also called the Hilt's burn) were planted with ponderosa pine during March and April after the area was cleared of the thick brush last October.

According to Charles Yates, supervisor of the Klamath forest in Yreka, this type of reforestation is the most drastic used by the forest service. The Mill creek burn is one of the first areas in the Klamath forest where it has been tried.

Cleared By Bulldozer
Before planting, the area had to be cleared of the thick brush by bulldozer, scraping down to mineral soil. It was explained that the young tree does not need top soil in which to grow. The brush, piled into wind-rows, contains enough dirt so it will not be a fire hazard and aids in the prevention of erosion.

All vegetation in the site was removed, including the grass, since young trees can't compete for moisture dur-

ing the first year. An exception are any trees growing in the area. These are kept. After the first year, when the trees have put down about two feet of roots, they are in a better condition to compete with other plants, it was explained.

The forest service selected this particular area to replant for several reasons, Frank Tucker, forest ranger of Yreka district, said. It was flat enough so the area could be cleared, it was not producing anything but brush, and timber had once grown there, he said. Some \$8,000 was available this year for the project.

Nursery Stock
The trees, when planted, were two-year-old nursery stock. They were placed in rows eight feet apart. The 60 acres includes some 38,400 trees. After the first and third years, they are counted to determine the percentage of survival.

It was reported that although this method of reforestation is the most expensive, the survival rate is about 85 per cent. If any rain falls in the area shortly after planting, officials reported that they can be sure of a good survival rate.

Nothing steeper than a 40 per cent grade is cleared in this fashion, Tucker said.

Slopes in the area recently replanted were terraced. Although, he added, some other method will have to be found for the much steeper slopes.

Spray Steeper Slopes

In the burn, the forest service has also tried spraying some of the steeper slopes with a brush killing chemical by air, Tucker said. This has proved effective, he added, and does keep erosion at a minimum. In such incidents the grass has grown back quite heavily.

One problem faced by the forest service after planting young trees is the squirrels. The tender young trees are a temptation to the rodents which bite off the top.

"Just plain orneriness," Lyle Hadsel, timber stand improvement foreman for the district, commented. "The squirrels don't even eat the tops after they bite them off!"

Poison grain has been used to some extent in the area to control the rodents, it was reported. The grain, furnished by the fish and wildlife service, is treated so it will not be eaten by birds.

Contrast To Planting

In sharp contrast to the new planting is a grove of Jeffrey pine planted in 1933 by men of the Civil Conservation



REPLANTED AREA—Visible from Highway 99 at the Siskiyou summit is a cleared area across Cottonwood creek in Mill creek. Clearing of some 60 acres of the old Hilt's burn was completed last fall by bulldozer, and 38,400 small ponderosa pine trees were planted during March and April. This method of reforestation, the most drastic used by the U. S. forest service, is quite

expensive, but the tree survival rate is among the highest, about 85 per cent, officials report. The brush was pushed into windrows with sufficient dirt so as not to be a fire hazard. They also aid in the prevention of erosion. Forest service officials added that any trees in the cleared area are retained.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Their Nest Got a Little Water Logged

Of all the ridiculous places they could have selected to build their nest they chose the very worst. Maybe it was their first nest. Anyway, they were goofed. They had built the nest in an empty tin can placed on top of a stump at the edge of a woodland.

They were active, excitable little birds with stubby up-tipped tails. They were members of the beloved family of birds known as the wrens and recognized as the friendliest, as well as the most vivacious, of birdhood. Slightly larger than the common house wren, these, the winter wrens, inhabited woodlots where they ran through brush heaps and chased and ate bugs and worms.

All for it
The other side of this little family, the little male, was all for it when his wife selected the tin can. Perhaps he thought the can was ideal, or maybe he didn't have good sense either, or maybe he was being tolerant of his wife. He selected the finest small sticks and grass stems he could find, carrying them to the old tin can and singing while his spouse arranged the furnishings.

He knocked himself nearly out, hunting the softest feathers for the lining of the nest. And all the time he violently jerked his stubby tail and sang incessantly. What he lacked in good judgment, he made up for in enthusiasm.

There was tangible evidence that some boys during the late winter, had placed the tin can on the stump and shot at it with a .22 rifle. They had hit the can once; there were two holes through the sides, about two inches from the bottom. The boys had left it there on the old stump.

Our little friends filled the can nearly full with material for their nest, and in the cozy feather-lined cavity, Mrs. Wren laid four tiny eggs.

Papa Wren flitted his stubby tail and scrambled back and forth through the brush piles. He sang almost constantly, putting his entire weight in every note.

Long before the eggs hatched, rains came, sweeping across the woodlands and drenching the thickets. The water filled the bottom of the nest-can. Mrs. Wren must have wondered why the flood never ran off; neither did she know why it never reached flood stage. She didn't know

the bullet holes kept the water at a safe level, and she didn't know why the cellar of her home was water-logged.

However, in spite of the dampness, the eggs hatched. The babies, with wet feet right from the start, developed normally. They had a moist beginning, but with the hardness of youth they survived.

But Mr. and Mrs. Wren must have learned a lesson, for when it was time to build a nest and raise another family, they used their heads and built in the hollow end of a dead tree-limb. It must have been comforting to Mrs. Wren when the rain poured down that no water flooded the basement.

(Released by the Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

A Tribute To Our Graduates!

Each Spring when Nature bedecks her flowers in their gayest and loveliest raiment, she gives us still another wondrous crop: youth that is blossoming into young-man-and-womanhood. These are our graduates, those sturdy and irrepressible boys and girls to whom all the great world is just unfolding. With diplomas in their hands and high hopes in their hearts, they step up or out of their educational environment and become a little maturer toward the old yet ever young process of living. Ah, Alma Mater, how we shall miss your cloistered halls, our patient teachers and our host of friends! Greet life with your head high and a song in your soul, dear Graduates. You have done well in your classrooms. You will do well on whatever roadway of life you choose to travel. This is our prayer. You are the hope of America! God bless every one of you!

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We Salute Our Town!

Corps. The trees in this older plantation are now about 50 feet tall and 10 inches in diameter. Last year the Boy Scout troops of Yreka helped to prune this area.

The Yreka district completed its spring planting program recently. Other areas planted were 655 acres of the 1955 Haystack burn; 53 acres seeded in the Sterling moun-

tain burn of 1955, and 38 acres planted in the Sulphur Ranch fire of last year. Forest service officials reported that 401,291 small trees were planted on the Haystack

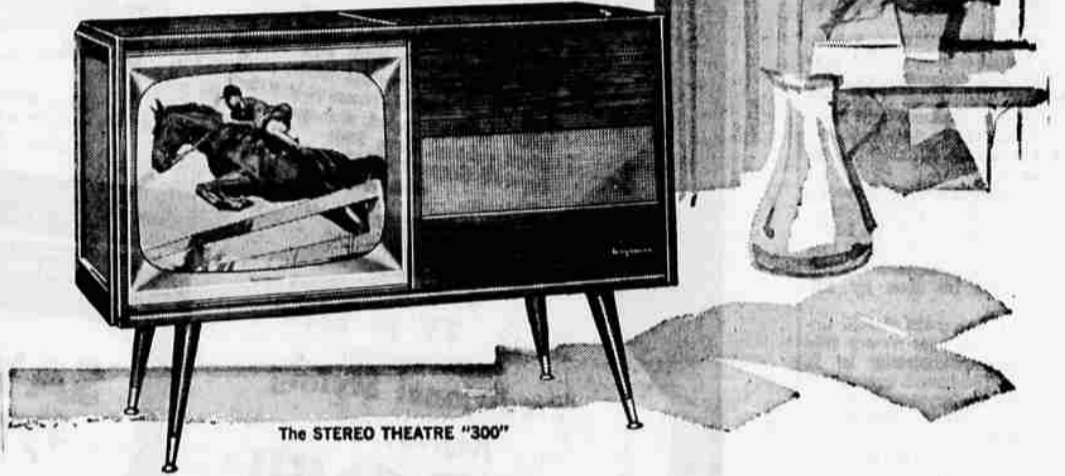
burn. Since the fire 7,559 acres have been planted and 1,071 acres seeded. The Sulphur Ranch burn was planted with 25,505 small trees.

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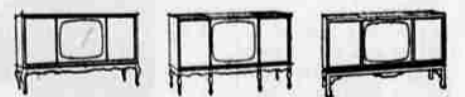
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