

Madras Area Grass Fire Under Control

Madras (UPI) — A forest fire in the central Oregon National grasslands eight miles southeast of here was brought under control Sunday after burning over 940 acres.

The Forest Service at Sisters, Ore., said 60 men were on the blaze Sunday.

Bulldozers and a plane dropping borate battled the blaze after it was reported at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

A blaze near Ukiah in Umatilla county burned over about 125 acres of grass, brush and slash before it was controlled late Saturday. Another fire, which covered about 100 acres of grass and timber land near Monument in eastern Oregon, was controlled Friday night.

MacARTHUR GETS SCROLL

New York (UPI) — Gen. Douglas MacArthur has been presented a scroll by the Reserve Officers Association of the United States in recognition of his "pre-eminent" position as a soldier-statesman.

Ullman Eyes Hearing To Push The Dalles Irrigation Project

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special) — Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.) is hoping to get a congressional hearing in Oregon during the convention-time recess to help move The Dalles irrigation project to enactment this year.

Congressman Ullman's bill to authorize the 3080-acre western division of The Dalles project is momentarily stuck in the House Reclamation subcommittee.

A companion bill sponsored by Sen. Wayne Morris has been cleared by the Senate Interior Committee and is expected to meet no resistance in the Senate.



A. Robert Smith

The Oregon Water Resources Board has advised the Bureau of Reclamation that "excessive pumping has caused serious depletions in the ground water supplies. The state engineer of Oregon has declared The Dalles to be a critical ground water area. Ground water pumping is not a reliable source of water and an existing economy is in jeopardy unless water from a new source of supply is found at the earliest opportunity."

Total estimated cost of the project is \$5,649,000. Project works include a main pumping plant, booster and relief pumping plants, equalizing reservoirs, laterals and drainage and electrical facilities. Water would be pumped from the Columbia River, so that pumping from ground wells can be discontinued.

There is one difference between the Ullman bill and the Senate version. Ullman has tied the irrigation project in with The Dalles dam so as to benefit it with power revenues to help defray project expenses.

The Morse bill did the same thing as introduced, but in committee it was altered to have a power subsidy from the Bonneville system generally.

Project water users would repay \$2,550,000 of the capital costs, and the remaining \$5 per acre would be covered by power revenues, whether it is tied specifically to The Dalles dam or the whole system, as the Bureau of Reclamation prefers.

Ullman's bill is in minor difficulty because it provides for a 10-year development period before the water users would commence their regular 50-year payout period. Preceding the 10-year development period there would be a 3-year construction period.

The House committee has been trying to hold the line on lengthening the payout period beyond 50 years from the completion of irrigation projects.

Second Bill for Oregon
The eastern Oregon lawmaker has hopes of springing the bill loose after Congress returns to work in August, following the national conventions. He said he will make an effort to have committee members visit The Dalles area to observe local conditions.

If Congress should enact this bill, it would be the second irrigation bill in recent years for Oregon that was to benefit from power revenues from dams built by the Corps of Engineers. The Crooked River project was tied directly to The Dalles dam for financial aid.

While Congress moved without any general resistance to either of these proposals, the legislation authorizing a general Columbia basin reclamation account foundered once more. This legislation would have made new irrigation works throughout the Pacific Northwest eligible for financial assistance from a basin account into which power revenues from the Bonneville system would go.

Projects as far from the Columbia river power dams as the Rogue River basin would have become eligible for financial help from such a basin account. But public power forces quietly opposed the basin account, fearing it would force increases in the hydroelectric rates they pay from the federal power system.

Vancouver Lumber Plant Destroyed

Vancouver, B.C. (UPI) — A five-alarm fire, the biggest here in a quarter century, leveled a lumber plant on Vancouver's waterfront Sunday night.

Thirteen firemen were treated in a hospital for smoke exhaustion and others were treated at the scene of the blaze which destroyed the spruce division of the B.C. Forest Products Co.

The fire apparently was caused by a short circuit in a planer and quickly spread to the woodyard. The fire was still burning early today. Officials estimated damage at \$2 million.

COUNTRIES CONDEMNED
Brussels (UPI) — The Executive Board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has condemned the governments of Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The ICTU called upon all member governments of the Organization of American States to break off diplomatic relations with the Dominicans.

URGE SCHOOL FUNDING
Strasbourg, France (UPI) — The European Parliamentary Assembly has voted in favor of early establishment of an all-European university.

Weather Zones Blamed For Strange Crop Pattern

Corvallis — If you want Willamette Valley fruit growers to beat a path to your door, develop a good apricot variety that blossoms 10 days later than today's known varieties.

This suggestion comes from C. O. Rawlings, Oregon State college extension horticulture specialist, who points out that weather zones determine where different fruits can be grown. And, often a few days or a few miles make the difference.

Oregon has thousands of acres of soil suitable for fruit trees, but the fruit itself is so sensitive to weather than good soil alone won't guarantee a crop.

For example, apricot trees will thrive in the Willamette Valley, but the blossoms come on while the weather is still too rainy in the spring. If they blossomed just 10 days later the fruit could develop, and apricots could be grown in the valley.

Such factors as winter temperature, rainfall, hail, summer heat, spring frost, and season length, all affect fruit growing. So researchers are continually searching for varieties more tolerant of weather conditions, Rawlings noted.

Hood River is famous for apples and pears, while 21 miles east The Dalles is known for sweet cherries.

What makes the difference? Climate is the big factor, Rawlings reports. Summer temperatures climb too high at The Dalles for apples and pears. But cherries do better in the warmer temperatures.

Dry climate at The Dalles during blossoming favors cherry set. The Dalles averages 12 to 15 inches of rain annually; Hood River, 30 inches.

In the eastern part of the state, Baker's cold winters frequently kill peach trees. But 35 miles east in the Snake River canyon is a large and successful peach orchard.

Madras' cold winters keep orchardists from growing peaches there; close by in the Deschutes canyon, this fruit thrives.

Cold winters and a short growing season seriously handicap tree fruits at Enterprise. Only 25 miles away in the Imnaha Valley, peaches, pears and other fruits flourish.

In fact, old-timers tell of wheat farmers and their families who "vacationed" in the nearby Imnaha Valley, harvesting and canning their fruit supply. Unfavorable weather can affect fruit at any of several horticulturist explained. If trees survive winter temperatures, spring frosts still can kill flower buds before they open, when they're open; or fruit after it sets.

Some orchardists — especially pear growers near Medford — counteract frost with oil burning heaters which they light in the orchards when nights get too cold.

The way bees react to cold, windy, and rainy weather also can affect the fruit crop. If it's too cold, the workers can't go out to pollinate the fruit. They have to stay home and keep the hive warm for the queen bee. Unlike walnuts and filberts whose pollen is carried by the wind, apples, pears, sweet and sour cherries, peaches and plums all rely on bees or other insects to pollinate them.

Once a tree's pollinated, there's still a chance the orchard grower won't get a crop. Too low temperatures can keep the pollen from growing fast enough for fertilization. Rain gets still another crack at the fruit by encouraging diseases such as brown rot in stone fruits (peaches, cherries, apricots and plums) and apple scab in apples and pears.

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WARDS JULY CALENDAR OF VALUES

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Friday, JULY 8th

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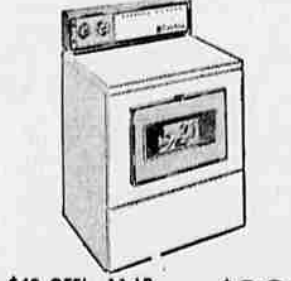
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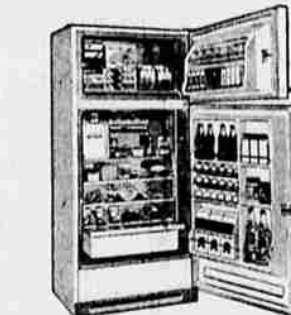
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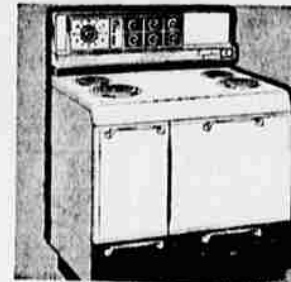
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