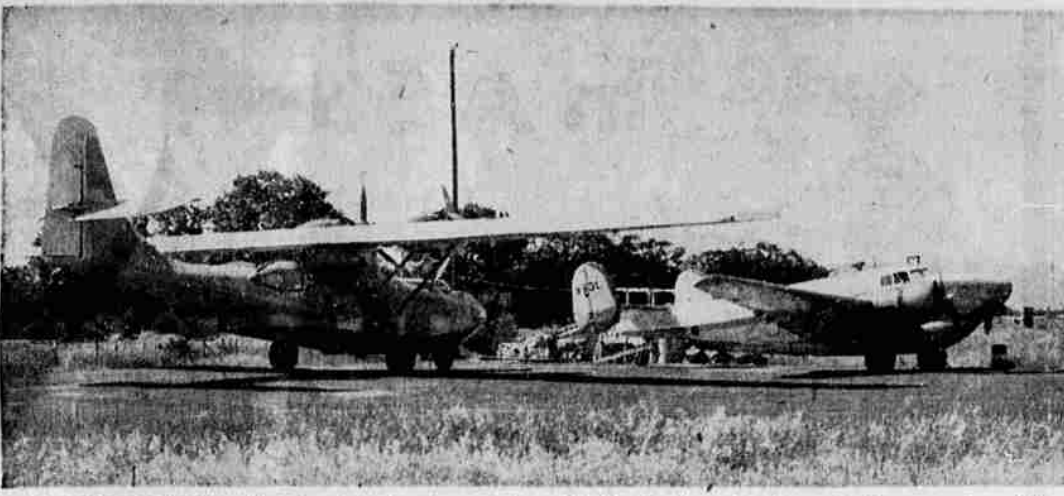


Medford Is Borate Base for Three Forests



READY FOR LOADING—Two borate tanker planes, both former Navy bombers renovated from their World War II usage, are shown ready for loading with borate at the Medford airport. Rosenbalm Aviation, which is under contract

with the forest service for aerial fire suppression, either owns or leases the planes. Each plane holds 1,000 gallons of the slurry.

(Knackstedt Photo)

Forest Service's Aerial Attack Said Value to Timber

By TOM HARLAN
Administrative Assistant
Rogue River National Forest

In a small white house at the south end of the Medford airport lies the heart of the U. S. forest service aerial fire suppression activity. From this office planes are dispatched to drop borate, a chemical fire retardant, on forest fires in southwest Oregon. On the walls are maps of the Rogue River, Siskiyou, and Umpqua National forests for which the Medford borate plant has initial air attack responsibility. Numbered thumbtacks in the map record the fires on which borate has been dropped this season.

The communication system includes a forest service frequency radio, and a ground-to-air radio for contact with the tanker planes. Robert A. Foster, air service manager, is in charge of the borate operation, under the supervision of Robert H. Torheim and Douglas B. Finch, fire control officers of the Rogue River National Forest.

Sodium Calcium Borate
Borate, chemically sodium calcium borate, is a white powder which, when mixed with water, is capable of retarding the spread of fire. It is not considered a cure-all in fire control, but is of great value in keeping down the size of the fire until a ground crew can reach the scene and get the fire under control.

Last year, from the Medford plant, 99 missions were flown on 23 fires with 70,480 total gallons of borate dropped. The great value of the timber saved by using borate cannot be estimated.

Borate can be applied in any of four methods. First is the initial attack application whereby it is used to knock down a small fire before it can spread. This is done frequently in inaccessible country where ground transportation is limited due to lack of roads or rugged terrain.

Support Ground Crews
Second, it is used to support ground crews in actual suppression. It is a tool used to knock down "hot spots" or to lay a fire line to assist the ground crew in gaining control.

Third, it may be laid down to create a safety line from which a backfire can be ignited. The last method is to protect ground crews and equipment by dropping borate from a high altitude so that it blankets the surrounding area.

It may also be used in the mop-up stages of a fire by cooling "hot spots" before they become troublesome.

Reconnaissance Plane
Whenever possible, a reconnaissance plane known as the "bird dog" is used in aerial suppression activities. The forest service officer in this plane is responsible for the coordination of the actual drops with the orders of the fire boss. He also acts as an aerial observer.

Borate is received in 50-pound sacks which are stacked by the mixer. The mixing operation is initiated with the placing of these sacks of borate on a conveyor belt which carries them to the mixing platform.

The borate and water solution known as "slurry" is mixed by dumping the contents of the sacks into the hopper of one of the two jet mixers. These machines are so called because of the jets which increase the pressure of the water flow at the point of mixing. The water which is piped to the mixer in a 1½-inch hose is forced through a ¾-inch channel within the mixer at the point where the powder is funneled from the hopper.

Pumped to Storage
In this manner the solution is mixed when it reaches the mixing tank. From this tank, it is pumped into two storage tanks which have a 2,000-gallon capacity each. The proper consistency is reached by mixing 75 sacks per 1,000 gallons of water. When needed, the slurry is pumped into the planes by a portable pump.

A new 500-gallon batch mixer, which is expected to arrive soon, will materially speed up the mixing time. It is composed of a power-driven mixer which rests inside a 500-gallon tank. The water will be measured automatically by another 500-gallon tank. The sacks of borate will be brought up on a tramway and will be automatically put on the mixer. The crewmen will then empty the bags into the tank where the solution will be mixed.

The mixing crew is supervised by Cecil Taunton, mixer-master, and consists of Terry Whitford, Hank Maser, Jerry Brazier, and John Neils.



MIXING BORATE—Crews are shown above mixing borate "slurry" at the Medford airport. The slurry is pumped from a small mixing tank to two 2,000-gallon storage tanks. New equipment which is expected soon will include a larger mixer, another borate storage tank, and a water storage tank.

(Knackstedt Photo)



TEST RUN—A PV-2, former Navy plane, long. Dropping borate on a forest fire helps retard the fire spreading as quickly as ground crews can move in and get it under control.

(Knackstedt Photo)

Planners Suggest Renaming Street; Slate Hearing

The Medford city planning commission voted unanimously Thursday night to recommend that a section of Crestbrook rd. be renamed Greenwood st. The commission also called for a public hearing on the name.

Naming of the street had hung in the balance for several months and names ranging all the way from Marantha st. to Langford's Folly were considered. Ned Langford is the city's planning consultant who suggested the street be renamed in the first place.

The section of Crestbrook rd. that is proposed for renaming lies between Ellendale and Highland drs. The east end of this section of Crestbrook rd. is approximately one-half block up Ellendale dr., from the west end of the rest of Crestbrook, which also intersects with Ellendale dr.

The reason for the renaming is that a subdivision is being proposed for that area across from the west end of the main part of Crestbrook rd., and a street in this subdivision will intersect Ellendale dr., directly across from where Crestbrook now runs into Ellendale.

Rather than give a different name to this new street, which will be a natural continuation of Crestbrook rd., when completed, Langford felt—and the commission agreed with him—that the new street should be named Crestbrook and the other section of Crestbrook to the north of the subdivision should be named something else.

The commission picked Greenwood st. as the something else.

Bids Planned on Gas Pipe Line

San Francisco—Contractors here are contemplating bids for the installation of a 36-inch natural gas pipeline from Alberta, Canada, to the bay area.

Bids are to be opened soon, and contracts are expected to be awarded in time to allow construction to get under way in early October. The line will be one of the largest in the U.S.

Extending the line from Canada to the Oregon-California line will be Pacific Gas Transmission company.

Two Horses From Area Place at State Fair

Two horses, one from Grants Pass and another from Williams, were among the winners at the Oregon State Fair.

The two horses, both senior champions in the 3-year-old stallion class, were Paul B. Adams' Wanabi, an Arabian from Grants Pass, and Zoe Bauerfiend's Silver Star Marks Lindy, a Welsh pony from Williams.

Ontario, Ore.—Rep. Al Ullman, (D-Ore.), opened his campaign for reelection Friday and praised the proposed \$5 million Bully Creek Dam as an important milestone in the productive development of Oregon water resources.

Pilgrimage Set To Winnemucca

Crescent City—The second annual pilgrimage to Winnemucca, Nev., is scheduled to leave here early Thursday, Sept. 22, to promote the proposed "Winnemucca to the Sea" highway, and firmly establish the route from Winnemucca to Crescent City via Grants Pass and Medford.

The caravan of two buses and two trucks will arrive in Grants Pass at 11 a.m., followed by brief ceremonies, then on to Medford. Between Grants Pass and Medford, the caravan will visit Rogue River, Gold Hill and Central Point.

Reservations for persons in the Medford area wishing to join may be made at the chamber of commerce there, 328 South Central ave. Cost of transportation, meals, sleeping accommodations and refreshments during the four-day adventure has been set at \$25 for Medford businessmen.

Chamber officials said that those interested reserve space on the caravan immediately. The return trip will be made Sunday, Sept. 25.

At Winnemucca, the participants will pass out pebbles from the Pacific coast and other souvenirs to persons set to share the benefits of the proposed highway.

Additional information may be obtained at the Medford chamber office.

Vogel Named to Head Chamber

Ashland—Floyd C. Vogel was recently named president of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce to succeed the late Ben T. Lombard.

Also elected were Richard Isaacs, vice president, and a new member, Paul Antony. Vogel was formerly the vice president of the group.

A resolution was passed praising Lombard's work during his term. The board will write a letter to Mrs. Lombard and a contribution will be made to the Trinity Episcopal church in the past president's memory.

Also decided was action to ask the state liquor control commission to grant a dispenser's license to the Mark Antony hotel. The board will start regular membership meetings Tuesday, Oct. 4, following the summer recess.

Marv Owens To Use Jeep for Campaign

Salem—Rep. Marv Owens of St. Helens, the Democratic Congressional candidate who just got out of the Army, is going to campaign from a Jeep.

Salem headquarters for the former private's drive will open next week.

His 1st district opponent, Republican Walter Norblad of Stayton, will open his campaign headquarters here Monday.

"Plasma," a word now beginning to appear in the news of physics, is regarded by scientists as a "fourth state of matter."

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Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

By WALTER TOWNSEND

For nearly 10 years, two Gold Star Mothers have been coming to the Domiciliary each Wednesday and helping a great many men all day. These two women, Mrs. Margaret Eakin and Mrs. Mary Parker, never fail.

Mrs. Margaret Eakin of Medford had a boy who did not come back from the war. He was killed.

Mrs. Eakin herself was born and raised in Chicago. In her family were three boys and two girls. She is a Gold Star Mother, since one of the boys was killed. A dear price to pay. But Mrs. Eakin is smiling nearly all the time.

Mrs. Mary Parker, also of Medford, had a boy who was a soldier in war, and he did not come back. He was killed.

Mary Parker, who is a widow now, was born and reared in Paradise, Calif. "I'm an angel," she said with a laugh. She had two girls and two boys. Both boys are dead. One of them killed in war, which makes her a Gold Star Mother.

One of her sons died as the result of his injuries in the war, after spending a year in the hospital. His death occurred in a veterans' hospital at Vancouver, Wash., Aug. 16, 1950.

Since that time, about 10 years ago, Mrs. Parker has been helping the sons of other people who live here. She has been coming each week to the Domiciliary to do what she can to provide recreation for disabled men.

The son of Mrs. Margaret Eakin was killed in 1950 in Austria while serving in the armed forces. Mrs. Eakin for past five years has been coming to the Domiciliary once a week.

Also she is a welcome visitor on many other occasions, as she is a VAVS representative of White City, and is frequently here on other special events.

Her chief interest is her devotion to duty among the disabled men. She forever seeks new methods and means to bring them recreation and aid.

This is exacting work, and her selected co-worker is of course, Gold Star Mother Mrs. Mary Parker. The combination being, two Gold Star Mothers working as a team! All agree that it is a success.

As Mrs. Eakin and Mrs. Parker work together, the men in wheelchairs especially have come to depend upon them. These two Gold Star Mothers run errands for them, and listen with sympathy to the daily problems of the men.

Every Wednesday morning, the members in wheelchairs

feel almost bereft until Mrs. Eakin and Mrs. Parker have made their appearance on the scene. It is the "small" things that seem to count for so much. Only the Gold Star Mothers can seem to understand. So the men wait silently for their arrival.

These Gold Star Mothers provide for the men many activities of recreation that they can participate in. The wheelchair members have come to depend on this. Some take part in games. Others want to talk. They tell the two dedicated women many things of the battlefield. The women understand. The disabled member begins to feel better in every way.

All ages assemble on Wednesdays. They come in wheelchairs all day. For eight hours, many of these men play cards, such as pinchbeck, cribbage, solitaire. Others play indoor horseshoes. Now and then a dart game entertains some of the members in the big room. While there are others with no desire to play. They want to talk. The Gold Star Mothers create situations suitable for all of them.

Last week, for the first time, these two Gold Star Mothers took 10 of the wheelchair men on a bus trip. Great difficulty in loading and unloading had at last been overcome, by the building of a new portable ramp.

The trip was a success! Indeed, so much so, arrangements are now being made to transport all of the disabled members to a picnic, for the first time.

"There always has to be a first time, you know," Mrs. Eakin said smiling.

Mrs. Parker was again consulted. Darts and horseshoe games were mentioned again. They often work magic with some men. Sometimes a withdrawn individual is persuaded to take an active interest and participate, when he loses himself in darts or horseshoe games.

"There is no explanation for it," Mrs. Eakin said, "they just do."

Mrs. Mary Parker said she had found, after years at the work, that the men must have courage imparted to them from another human being. This human being must be strong in mind and have faith, as well as the physical strength to move under her own locomotion. The men respect these qualities.

Mrs. Parker, good-looking, graying, is known to her friends at the Domiciliary, as a woman of tireless effort, and boundless energy. "I don't know where my strength to do long hours comes from," she said, "it's

Precinct Leaders Hold Meeting

Republican precinct area leaders met recently at the home of Mrs. C. L. Hopkins, Old Military rd., Medford, to discuss final plans for the approaching campaign.

Art Berrier, Salem, who is coordinating precinct activity for the state central committee, discussed block organization and other responsibilities of district committeemen.

"Every election is won—or lost—in a precinct," he declared and went on to emphasize that registration for the November election must be completed by Oct. 8.

The Central Point-Jacksonville area will meet Monday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. A. Eugene Orr, Old Military rd. Mrs. C. L. Hopkins, area leader, will conduct the meeting.

Materials, instructions and candidate information will be distributed at this time. All Republican precinct committeemen from Precincts 64 through 72, including 67A, 70A, 71A, and 71B, plus 87 and 87A, will be represented.

Attending the meeting Wednesday were Prospect area leader D. H. Barber; Nell Vonderhellen, Eagle Point; McLeod Maurice, Gold Hill-Rogue River; and Verne Shangle, Medford.

just an attitude of mind, I guess."

Her objective is to help some other woman's son who came back from war. This simple desire has inspired her during the years—nearly 10 now—she has worked with the men here.

Mrs. Parker said, "The men enjoy personal contact and to know that we are their friend. I come because I am interested in the men. That is the main reason," she said with feeling.

Mrs. Eakin said, "These men are lonesome. They like to visit with Mrs. Parker and me."

She was asked about the games. "Of course, we both direct games for them, which they seem to enjoy. That is work! The planning and use of 'games' require constant attention."

Both the Gold Star Mothers summarized their experiences to some degree. Mrs. Eakin, who is in charge, stands neat and expectantly smiling a greeting. No one could ever believe she could say a serious word. Still she said, "The volunteer herself must have a feeling and understanding for these men and their problems. The men themselves, instantly recognize this quality."

On the other hand these two American Gold Star Mothers, admitted that they did find a strength themselves imparted to them from the members.

Every Fifth Wednesday, the American Gold Star Mothers conduct games in the domiciliary theater, at which event several hundred men are awarded packages of cigarettes.

Wednesday night was such a night!

Mr. and Mrs. Rex M. Cogins and Victor Eakin called. Mary Parker and Margaret Eakin—both as usual—helped on the floor.

Frank Clayton and Harry Hagan took their posts. Ben Anderson was there to assist these ladies with the cigarettes. These men are also volunteers and members of the domiciliary.

They wished to assist the Gold Star Mothers and helped make this event the success it was.

Grants Pass Manager To Take Eugene Post

Eugene—Mayor Edwin E. Cone announced Thursday that Hugh McKinley, 41, has been hired as Eugene City Manager. He is expected to take office Oct. 1.

McKinley is present city manager of Grants Pass. He has been city manager at Sutherlin and assistant city manager at Corvallis.

A graduate of Reed College in Portland, McKinley is married and has three children.

Leadership Class Planned at SOC

Educators from the four counties in District 6 of the Oregon Education association will attend a leadership training school at Southern Oregon college Saturday, Sept. 17.

John Mast, vice president of the Jackson County Teachers' association, said the school will start at 8:30 a.m. and is open to officers and standing committee chairmen of the various local associations in the district.

The four counties in the district are Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake.

The program will include a report on the coming legislative session by Cecil Posey, executive secretary of the OEA.

Committee chairmen will also attend two workshops in the morning and afternoon.

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