

# Light Planes Versatile in Lumbering

## Firms Use Craft For Executives; Flying in Parts

By Jim Boyd  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Chest pains shocked a timberman working in the remote Indian village of Pecwan in northern California.

The man, doing a re-survey of timber for the Magnolia Lumber Sales company of Ashland, was suffering a heart attack.

Immediately friends phoned the company's head office in Ashland and then rushed him 40 miles to the nearest landing strip, at Willow Creek, Calif.

The company plane, piloted by Ralph George, of Ashland, met him there, and within 30 minutes he was safely in the Ashland General hospital.

The man, Lowell E. Ager, is now continuing with his survey work.

### Just One Incident

This is just one incident among the many which show how light planes are being used in both public and private timber operations.

Planes in private industry are being used, according to Darrell Davis, secretary-treasurer of Austin King Trucking Inc., because timber cutting, hauling and milling industries are highly competitive and have a comparatively low profit margin.

In this business, as in all business, money saved is money earned. Planes and modern radio communication help keep these companies rolling by providing transportation for key executives and by flying replacement parts to shutdown operations.

Light planes not only help the owner to keep his costs down, they may also help the logger earn his pay. If a logging operation is shut down because of some mechanical breakdown, a logger may get paid for one or two hours more than he works, but he will usually lose most of his day's pay.

### Happened Last Year

Lack of a plane caused this very thing to happen on an Evans creek operation last year. A cat broke down causing a complete shutdown of a whole section of the operation.

Parts were available in Portland. With a plane the parts might have been in Medford in a few hours. Under the normal processes, it took two days.

King Truckers had just this sort of thing happen to a truck in the San Joaquin valley a few months ago.

If the company had depended upon local facilities to repair the truck, King spokesman said, it might have taken several days and cost several hundred dollars more in parts costs and time lost.

With the King plane, mechanics were on the job in three hours and the truck was back on the road in five hours.

### Speeds Operation

To help speed their operation even more King Truckers is planning to buy two old cars to keep parked at the Crescent City and Illinois Valley airports should there ever be a breakdown in that section of their operation.

J. C. Hamaker, owner of the Rogue Valley Flying Service at the Medford airport, estimates that at least



**PREPARE TO LEAVE** — Darrell Davis, right, and Austin King, prepare for a flight in their Cessna 175 Skylark. King uses planes for executive purposes as well as flying replacement parts to equipment.

a dozen timber companies own one or more light planes. Most of the larger companies, he said, have their own private landing strips.

The initial investment for these companies can be as low as \$11,000 which will easily be paid off by a few money saving flights like the one taken by King Trucking.

Bruce L. Blew, another Medford trucker, has also used his plane in connection with logging operations. Blew says that his plane has allowed him to observe slash fires in the fall.

### Inside Fire Lines

Only a few minutes flying time enables him to determine whether all fires are inside fire lines while a jeep survey might take hours.

In normal operation during fire season it also provides assurance that fires will be discovered and controlled quickly and economically. Using their planes in conjunction with the Southern Oregon Tree Farm association radio, some of the owners have found their planes to be an efficient help in fire control.

Still another use is quick aerial observation. Hamaker says that many of his clients are for lumbermen who wish to cruise timber that is listed for sale.

From the air, Hamaker says, the lumberman can determine the species of trees, the thickness of growth, size, and the lay of the land. All of these things will help him determine his bid.

### Executive Convenience

Possibly the greatest use of the light plane in Rogue valley forest industries is for executive convenience.

Drew Lamb a partner and general manager of Magnolia Lumber Sales company of Ashland, is also executive vice president of the Blue River Saw Mills Ltd. in Blue River, British Columbia.

He uses his plane to commute between his scattered holdings. It's 840 miles and three days driving time between here and Blue River, but his 310 Cessna gets him there in four hours and that includes a 15 minute stop for customs inspection.

But private companies aren't the only ones who are adopting the airplane as an aid. The forest service started contracting for aerial tankers two years ago.

These tankers are used to

drop a fire suppressing borate mixture. Last year three of these planes flew 99 missions over 23 fires, according to Bob Torheim, fire control officer for the Rogue River National Forest.

A typical example happened at the first of the summer. The forest service received a report that a 140-acre fire was burning its way up a side hill through felled and bucked timber.

A forest service crew was sent to the borate mixing shed at the Medford airport.

**Fly Toward Fire**

A forest service crew was sent to the borate mixing shed at the Medford airport. Soon W. E. Rosenbalm Jr., was flying toward the fire in a plane loaded with 1,000 gallons of what looks like thin oatmeal mush.

The fire was finally suppressed with a second and third borate drop, totaling 3,000 gallons.

The forest service is making use of light aircraft for reconnaissance and cargo transportation in addition to the borate work. It also uses helicopters occasionally for specialized work.

During the Ashland fire last year, Torheim said that helicopters were used to ferry men from the bottom to the top of steep ridges.

**Lay Fire Hose**

In addition helicopters have also been used to fight fire and lay 1 1/2 inch fire hose. The forest service has experimented with helicopters carrying 35 gallon tanks of water. This fire fighting method, known as "helitack," is used on small fires.

Torheim warned, however, that the airplane and the new borate techniques are not the ultimate solution to the fire problem. Borate is designed to work best in grassland since it deprives the fire of the fuel that it needs by covering it with a non-burnable material much the same way that a crew of men deprive a fire of fuel by cutting a fire break.

The same is probably true in private industry. Many logging operations would probably find that a plane was fun to have, but not very useful to their operation.

The use of the light plane in southern Oregon is growing, however, and it seems that it will continue to be one of the many new tools that today's modern logger has to use.

## Retiring Manager Suggests Study of One Government

Grants Pass — Retiring Grants Pass City Manager Hugh McKinley told the Grants Pass Lions club that one consolidated organization could provide both city and county services.

"I'm not proposing a consolidation and I'm not even sure it's a good idea, but I do think it's worth study. I would like to see some group take it up and look into it thoroughly," McKinley said.

People in the city and outside it are separated only by an imaginary line, McKinley said.

Both city police and fire departments and other services are limited to city boundaries when they don't really have to be, the city manager said. He also contrasted the addition of wings to the county courthouse and the "obsolete" Grants Pass city hall.

McKinley, who will become city manager of Eugene in a few weeks, pointed to projects yet needed such as expansion of the water and sewer systems, an indoor swimming pool, more off-street parking and wider streets.

Consulting engineers made surveys for the water and sewer system about two months ago. McKinley noted that a bond issue of approximately \$340,000 will be needed to expand the water treatment plant and water system and another bond issue to pay part of the expansion costs for the present sewage treatment plant.

The federal government will pay about one-third of the estimated \$270,000 cost of the latter project.

An increase of about 8 percent in water service charges will make it possible for water department revenues to retire the water bonds, McKinley said. The bond issue for the sewage treatment plant could be financed, he said, by raising sewer service charges from the present 50 cents a month to about \$1.45.

The city manager noted that Grants Pass is in good financial condition with no big debt and tax levies are low for a city its size.

## City Firemen Are Called Out 58 Times in August

Medford's city fire department responded to 58 alarms during August and the rural fire department responded to 11, according to Fire Chief Gordon Barker's monthly report.

Of the 58 alarms reported in the city, five of them were dwelling fires, 21 for grass or trash fires and two for vehicle fires.

City equipment was out on alarms for a total of more than 21 hours.

Of the 11 alarms reported to the rural fire department, four were for dwelling fires, five for grass or trash fires and two were false alarms.

### Out Nine Hours

Rural equipment was out on alarms for nearly nine hours.

Fire Chief Barker also reported that all 2 1/2 and 1 1/2 inch fire hose was tested during the month and eight new "Scott Air Paks" were put in service, two each on four trucks.

Fire Marshal Truman Nelson made 60 inspections during August, including 24 in business occupancies. He issued 108 orders or recommendations for the removal of fire hazards and 100 hazards were actually removed.

Nelson also issued 882 fire permits. He noted also in his report that firemen were conducted through all packing houses and cold storage plants on familiarization tours. He added these tours are carried out as part of pre-fire planning.

## Three Petitions Filed for Posts

Jacksonville—Three petitions for the Jacksonville city elections for the Jacksonville city elections had been filed by Saturday morning, according to Mrs. Jean Hewlett, city recorder.

Filing for the mayor's position is incumbent E. O. Graham. Desiring council positions are Mrs. Ruth Downe Walker and C. Lind McBeth. A total of three positions are up for election.

Mrs. Hewlett said the deadline for filing petitions for either mayor or councilman is Oct. 8.

Those wishing to register for the November election must do so also by Oct. 8, the recorder continued. She noted that registering is now being done at the Jacksonville library between noon and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturdays. Persons may also register Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m.

## 41st Division Observes Birthday

The 41st Infantry division, Oregon and Washington National Guard to which the Medford unit belongs, will be 43 years old Sunday.

The Medford unit is Company E, Second Battle Group, 188th Infantry.

The division was a replacement division with the AEF in World War I and set a combat record "among the foremost" in the Pacific theater.

During the first World War, the division saw action at Chateau-Thierry, Aisne-Marne and St. Mihiel. The division helped stop the Japanese attack short of Port Moresby in the early New Guinea action. This group also saw action at Palawan, Philippine Islands, at Zamboanga, Pasanoca, Capisan, and Basilan Island in the Philippines. The division saw occupation duty on the island of Honshu in northern Japan.

Currently, the 41st Infantry division is under the "Pentomic" concept and includes in its equipment all the latest weapons of modern warfare, its officers reported.

**Chest Pains Bring Temporary Freedom**

St. Louis — A man being questioned by police about a theft complained of chest pains.

He told police he had a history of heart trouble and then slumped to the floor.

One officer dashed to call an ambulance; another left to get some damp towels after getting no reaction to smelling salts.

The suspect recovered quickly. He leaped out of a window and escaped. A couple of hours later, though, he was back in custody.



**INTERNATIONAL TEEN-AGERS** — Two foreign exchange students attending Medford High school this year are shown recently comparing articles they brought from home. Exhibiting a Japanese "Chochin" lantern is (left) Hisayuko (Don) Kondo, 18-year-old youth from Kobe, Japan. Gillian (Jill) DuCroz, 17, is holding a book describing London and other sights near her home town, Tonbridge. The students will attend school this year as seniors under the auspices of the American Field Service. They arrived late last month, and are currently

residing with the L. C. McLoughlin family, 3384 Jacksonville highway, and the Dr. Fred C. Lorish family, 830 Minnesota st., both Medford. Considering the usual difficulties encountered by students the first day of school, the teen-agers seemed to adapt well. They are now becoming busy in academic and extra-curricular school activities to further their understanding of the United States before returning home next summer. They are among more than 1,000 students from countries throughout the world living with American families this year.

## Students from Japan, England Attend Medford HS This Year

By JIM FRAKE  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

"Perfect fun!" "Great!"

With those words, a girl from England and a boy from Japan described their feelings after the recent Medford-Arcata football game—the beginning of their school year in the United States.

Attending Medford High school as seniors are Gillian (Jill) DuCroz, 17, from Tonbridge, England, and Hisayuko (Don) Kondo, 18, from Kobe, Japan. They are residing with Mr. and Mrs. L. C. McLoughlin and Dr. and Mrs. Fred C. Lorish, both Medford families.

The students are in the U.S. for the school year through the American Field Service and local sponsors—Crater Lions and Medford Rotary clubs. They arrived late last month and will return to their countries following completion of the school year.

**First Opportunity**

This was the first opportunity that Miss DuCroz had to view American football. She reported the game was "very different" from the English rugby. The student participated in the half-time festivities with the school pep club.

Football champions were not new to Don, whose high school in Japan has been the country-wide champion for the past several years. The youth noted their pep club consisted of all boys since he attended an all-boy school.

The teen-ager observed there were "so many spectators" at the game, and "no room" remaining. In Japan, he commented, there are "not so many" people. The uniforms used by the Japanese players are more "simple," according to Kondo.

**Unofficial Estimate**

An unofficial estimate of the number of foreign exchange students in the U.S. this year shows some 1,000 from Japan, 1,000 from Europe, plus other students tallying some 1,850 visitors in all.

After having been in Medford for some time now, the students have begun to formulate their observations and ideas about American life—their peoples and their activities.

Young Kondo felt that American teen-agers are quite different from those in Japan. He was surprised to see, for example, so many young people driving automobiles. He noted other things new including drive-in movies and drive-in restaurants.

Jill said her English friends all think of Americans as reserved and serious, while she

finds people here more informal and friendly. Among other things, the students have eaten their first ice cream and "gone bowling." A field trip to the Jacksonville museum also has been included on their itinerary.

**Attended Scout Camp**

Don attended a recent Boy Scout camp at the Lake of the Woods with his American "brother," Fred Jr. During the Scouting session he learned to water ski and participated in the many skills and competitive sports offered by the Scouts. His activities at home include sports such as judo and basketball.

The Japanese youth said last week he was an advocate of "diplomacy among students," and was interested in telling local teen-agers what students in Japan do and think. He said he was interested also in learning about Americans. He is now pursuing a career in journalism.

Subjects being studied this year at Medford High school include English, public speaking, U.S. history, physical education, typing and mechanical drawing for Don. Jill will study English, college chemistry, public speaking, American problems, U.S. history, typing, and home nursing.

For young Kondo his courses of study at home have included five years of English, math, biology, Japanese, Bible, chemistry, music, art, social studies and world and Japanese history. He graduated from his secondary school in July.

**'Majoring' in Sciences**

Miss DuCroz has "majored" in the sciences—chemistry, physics, and mathematics—plus study in English literature, Divinity, and French. She will be a senior when she returns next summer.

The students explained school in their countries are divided in three semesters lasting from September to December, January to March, and April to June. Jill is attending a private boarding school in England, and Don attends a school combined with a junior high school and a university. One of the major differences between America and Japan, according to Kondo, is the population in the cities and schools.

In all, there are some 2,300 pupils in the combined junior - senior - university school. Because of this, he points out, there is so much competition in academic endeavor there is no time for extra-curricular activities in and out of school. He said there were some 900,000 people in Kobe. In contrast,

## Diseases Fewer In Jackson County

Communicable diseases were down chiefly to one case for each town reporting, according to the weekly report of the Jackson county public health office.

For the week ending Sept. 18, one case of mumps was reported in Medford. One case each of influenza was noted in Shady Cove and Medford. It also reported one case each of whooping cough and German measles. Medford reported one case of reactivated tuberculosis.

Central Point reported four cases of measles.

not subjected to "current affairs" or the study of international happenings as pupils are locally.

Miss DuCroz concluded that "her" people would respect anyone who made "any attempt to get an understanding" to ease world tension. The English student plans to attend higher education in Scotland, perhaps continuing in the scientific fields.

**Student Observations**

Major observations made by the visitors regarding the American high school student included the English do far more reading, but the Americans work and study harder. Since the foreign students have one-month vacations at Christmas and Easter, they have shorter summer vacations. Because of this, students in England and Japan do not have summer-time jobs. Instead, many students participate in the live theater and sports, the exchange students said.

Activities while in the U.S. for the duet have also included viewing a play at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, Ashland; visiting local "variety" drug stores; and seeing a shower for the first time.

The Japanese representative said Japanese teen-agers meet at "fruit parlors" resembling the traditional American ice cream parlors. These "hang outs" would not doubt replace the U.S. drive-in restaurants in youth popularity.

Both students were warmly accepted when school started last week, and are looking forward to a beneficial year, both for themselves and the country they represent, and to their American classmates.

Surely, the students will be advancing their goals of "diplomacy among students."

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