

Huge Fireball Explodes Over Pacific Northwest of Eureka

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Bend - (Special) - A huge, tailless fireball that bored into the earth's atmosphere high over southern Oregon on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 10:20 p.m., exploded in a shower of "lava tears" over the Pacific ocean slightly northwest of Eureka, Calif.

This is the conclusion of the American Meteor society, observers of which have studied reports from scores of persons who traced the big meteor over parts of its course and watched its fiery disintegration over the ocean.

Observations indicate the object, described by some as being as large as a moon at full phase, entered the earth's atmosphere at a steep angle over the Umpqua region, flamed across southern Oregon and exploded over close to the ocean horizon.

Widely Observed
The meteor was widely observed in southern Oregon and northern California. However, a cloud hid the fireball from potential observers in northern Oregon and possibly Nevada.

The flare of the fireball on the clouds led many to believe a brilliant flash of lightning had illuminated the region.

One of the best reports was received from Robert Nichols, FAA flight specialist stationed at the Eureka-Arcata, Calif., airport. The blinding flare of the terminal explosion caused him to face west, just in time to see sparks resembling fiery lava falling from the blast area. Height of the burst was about eight degrees above the horizon.

Obtains Good View
Darrell E. O'Dell of the Roseburg police force also obtained a good view of the fast-moving ball of fire. It was first seen in the southwestern sky, as viewed from Roseburg.

Many observers said the object appeared to plunge into the earth. Some thought it struck the sides of distant hills. A few described the meteor as cigar shaped. Officer O'Dell said the fireball appeared to be the size of a flaming plane viewed from a distance of about 10 miles.

A Grants Pass observer said the object was "about 400 feet in diameter." Reference to the great size of the meteor by Oregon and California observers had led to the belief it was one of the largest and most spectacular fireballs to blaze through western skies in many years.

Hills are Lighted
There is some evidence that a part of the fireball broke away from the main mass and exploded over Oregon prior to the terminal blast off the Oregon coast. Near Wolf Creek in southern Oregon, timbered hills were temporarily lighted.

Police officers and FAA observers in southern Oregon and in California received hundreds of calls. Californians saw the object as far south as San Francisco.

AMS observers surmise that the fireball blazed into visibility some 60 miles above the earth as its surface peeled off in a fiery spray under atmospheric friction.

Data relative to the course of the fireball over Oregon and Washington and its apparent point of explosion off the Eureka coast will be forwarded to Dr. Charles P. Olivier, AMS president.



THRIFTY GROWTH—Timber which became established soon after the 1910 Cathill Burn fire in the Butte Falls area thrived before brush became too dense for a tree seedling to survive. One such growth is visible to the left in the brush field. The timber in the background is the edge of unburned timber in the 1910 fire. Brush is piled in windrows in the foreground.

60 Acres of Cathill Burn Being Replanted to Restore Production

Sixty acres of dense brush, a portion of the Cathill Burn brushfield in the Butte Falls district, Rogue River National forest, was recently prepared for reforestation in an experimental clearing project, according to District Forest Ranger Randall Perkins.

The Cathill Burn brushfield is a familiar sight to residents and visitors of the Butte Falls area. It can be seen as a smooth green carpet stretching for miles along the western slope of the Cascades from Mt. McLoughlin to Blue Rock.

Occasionally the brushfield, light green in summer, white with snow in winter, is broken by dark green patches and stringers of conifer trees.

Made Up of Brush
The carpet is made up of a practically impenetrable thicket of many species of hardwood brush, in most places 10 to 20 feet high. Manzanita and chinquapin predominate but varnishleaf snowbrush, serviceberry, willow, cherry, scrub oak, hazel, snowberry and other species are also present.

Cathill burn resulted from one of the disastrous forest fires that raged across the entire Northwest in 1910. Fragments of the area were reforested soon afterwards.

The Snowshoe plantation of 60 acres planted in 1912 is now a thriving young forest of ponderosa pine trees from a foot to two feet in diameter and about 50 feet tall. Portions of the burned area reforested naturally but about 8,500 acres are still an unproductive brushfield 50 years after the fire. It is the largest potentially productive patch of idle land on the Rogue River National forest.

Attempts Are Made
Over the years various attempts have been made to reforest the Cathill Burn. During the years 1937 to 1940, 19 miles of cleared lanes were bulldozed through the brush, and ponderosa pine seedlings were planted. Foresters then hoped these trees would grow, overtop the brush, and shade it out. Natural revegetation over several generations would then reclaim the area as a productive forest.

The plan was only partially successful. The cleared lanes became game ways. The rabbits, deer, and other rodents ate off many of the new trees while the brush crowded back in from the sides.

A few of the pine trees did get their tops above the brush and are now thriving, but most succumbed to browsing by animals and crowding by brush.

Aerial Spraying
Later aerial spraying with herbicides was tried. It also was only partially successful, killing some species, only the top branches of other species and leaving some to flourish. Further, it didn't disturb the thick carpet of duff and dry leaves that prevented tree seeds from finding a seed bed of mineral soil.

Trials with various types of specialized machines for brushfield clearing were conducted. Although proven effective elsewhere, the brush was too dense and tough for either a brushcutter or a root puller pulled by tractor.

The most effective tool for clearing the brush found to date is the bulldozer brush-rake mounted in front of a large tractor. The Caterpillar Tractor company has cooperated with the forest service in some of these trials and has demonstrated that the brush can be removed, and when cleared away, good forest soil is uncovered.

On the 60 acres recently treated, the soil resembles a plowed field between the long rows of piled brush.

Fir Trees Being Planted
Little white fir trees are being planted in the cleared areas, under the direction of Donald A. Peralta, project forester. White fir is a fast growing productive tree at this high elevation. A small portion of the area will be planted with white fir seed as an experiment. Although seedling has a lesser chance of success than planting, it is advantageous in that it can be used in the absence of available planting stock.

According to Perkins, it is hoped that the 60 acres being reforested this year will be only the beginning of a continuous program to fully reclaim the Cathill Burn.

The cost is high, running \$80 to \$70 per acre for clearing and planting, but he says it is well justified by the highly productive capacity of the soil.

He questions whether in a community dependent to a large measure on timber processing such productive land as this can be left idle. Converting Cathill Burn to productive forest is a means of increasing the growth, sustained yield capacity, and allowable cut of timber in the Rogue basin.



FOREST SOIL—Forest soil capable of producing good timber growth is exposed when dense brush is stripped off in the Cathill Burn area near Butte Falls in the Rogue River National forest. The forest service plans to reforest about 60 acres of the dense brushfield to bring it back into production.

1,508 Visit Museum in January, Report Shows

Jacksonville—A total of 1,508 persons visited the Jacksonville museum last month to boost the total attendance since July 10, 1950, to 407,597. The January tally represented an increase of some 317 visitors compared to January, 1960.

Museum guests were from 31 states, as well as from Canada, Colombia, South America, England, Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands, Israel, and India.

Gifts and loans to the collector's place included a large, framed picture of Capt. William Kelly, along with his cap, sash, and epaulets. Rodney Keating, his grandson, now living in Ashland, presented the items in view of the forthcoming Civil War Centennial observance.

Other gifts included a 1865 newspaper from the Rev. Marie H. Headlee, a spice grinder from Florence M. Gifford, and a manikin from Mrs. Ralph Dippel, all of Medford. Glenn Simpson, Ashland, donated a picture of an early covered bridge over Bear creek. A small Bible that reportedly had been used by its owner during imprisonment at Andersonville, Camp Sumter, S.C., in 1864, was received from Mrs. Helen V. Roberts, of Jacksonville.

West Coast Has New Record Year

West Coast Airlines completed 1960 with new all-time records in total passenger, on-line, and interline revenues, according to its annual report.

Medford WCA officials reported that 1960 local sales amounted to \$82,080, compared to \$47,790 for the previous year, a 71.7 per cent increase. The total number of passengers dropped 5.3 per cent from 1959's 7,701 to 1960's 7,292.

Net sales for the company, including those from other airlines reached a record \$6,269,256, a 33.58 per cent increase over 1959. On-line sales, including station and travel agency sales, were up 31.5 per cent and interline revenue increased almost 41 per cent.

West Coast carried a record total of 389,781 revenue passengers, a 14.22 per cent increase, plus another record \$2,805,669 revenue passenger miles, almost a 30 per cent increase over 1959.

Savings Bond Sales Show Decline Here

Sales in Jackson county of Series E and H savings bonds amounted to \$86,249 during January, compared to the January, 1960, total of \$107,683, according to the treasury department.

Throughout Oregon, U.S. savings bonds sales amounted to \$4,090,862 last month, a decrease from a \$4,504,057 total in January, 1960.

County savings bonds spokesmen pointed out that 1960 is the 20th anniversary of savings bond sales. Not only have savings bonds played an important role in federal financing, but they have become one of America's greatest savings institutions, they said.

Today, individual citizens hold more than \$49 billion in savings bonds, they added.

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Copco Employees Honored at Dinner

Two recently-retired employees of California Oregon Power company were honored recently at a buffet dinner at the Jackson hotel.

Guests were E. R. (Rollo) Yocom, who retired Dec. 31, after serving 37 years as a Copco journeyman - lineman, and J. W. (Joe) Johnson, who retired Jan. 31. Johnson first entered company service in 1927, left Copco for a short period, then has been continuously associated with the firm during the past 21 years as a journeyman-lineman and, more recently, as a foreman.

The two were presented gifts "representing the affection and esteem of their fellow employees," according to company officials. Some 16 other previously-retired employees were also present and introduced.

W. H. Ward was general chairman of the program that drew about 114 Copco employees.

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