

National Forest Sales Set Record

Portland — (UPI) — A record volume of 4.8 billion board feet of timber was sold on the National Forests of the Pacific Northwest Region in fiscal 1962, the U.S. Forest Service said today.

Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone said the volume of timber harvested in the same period was 4.2 billion board feet, also a record high.

One fourth of all exports from the United States is farm products.

Average TV receiver contains about 1,500 parts.

Quincy-Columbia Measure May Pass

Washington — (UPI) — Rep. Catherine May (R-Wash.) says the House may accept the Senate version of the Quincy-Columbia Basin repayment contract bill.

The Senate measure contains an additional provision that would have the effect of preventing the production of surplus crops on newly irrigated lands in the Columbia Basin project for 10 years.

The general feeling is that the Senate language would be acceptable to the House, Mrs. May said in a statement.

Odds Against Orbital Metal Falling Onto Human Beings

By JOSEPH L. MYLER

Washington — (UPI) — There is a chance, though not much of one, that a piece of space junk some day will land in your back yard.

There is even a chance that a hunk of metal lately in orbit will come blazing down from space and bash your head in. But the odds against this happening are so great that it would be a pity, space experts feel, for anybody to spend more than a second or so worrying about it.

These experts recently tried

to calculate the chances that rocket scraps, such as those released in space from a Mercury astronaut's flight, might plummet out of orbit at just the right spot on earth at just the right moment to hit a human being.

\$750,000 to \$1

They concluded that \$750,000 to \$1 would be a fair bet against any such occurrence.

Space officials once assumed that nothing could survive the high speed reentry into the atmosphere from orbit unless it was specially designed, like the Mercury space capsules with their heat shields, to withstand the fantastic temperatures generated by air friction.

From time to time bits and pieces of equipment used to launch sub-orbital rocket flights have survived the descent to earth.

Around 1 a.m. on the morning of Feb. 21, 1962, something happened which proved that orbital debris also might become meteorites. At that hour several pieces of metal fell on South Africa.

Leftovers
They were identified as left overs from the Atlas rocket which boosted John H. Glenn Jr. into orbit and then went into orbit itself. It was the first authenticated instance of metal scrap arriving on earth from orbit.

Last April four pieces of stainless steel were found in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. They appeared to be part of the skin of another Atlas. But space officials were not able to discover just when they hit or what rocket flight produced them.

The junk that fell on South Africa included three irregular pieces of sheet metal skin measuring about three by four feet each and weighing a total of three or four pounds. Also in the fall was a 21-inch titanium metal sphere — the rocket's helium pressure bottle — weighing more than 40 pounds.

All fell in open country. The most widely separated of the pieces were 525 miles apart. Officials estimated the scraps came from the empty booster stage of Glenn's Atlas as it broke up on reentering the atmosphere at the beginning of its sixth orbit.

Do Not Know
Experts do not know exactly why these particular pieces survived reentry. The titanium walls of the pressure bottle were fairly heavy. But the pieces of Atlas skin were

only 14 to 15-thousandths of an inch thick.

Scientists believe that practically all of the rocket burned up. The skin fragments which did not were of such size and shape, one authority said, that instead of hurtling through the air and heating up, "they apparently fluttered down like leaves."

Officials in calculating the chances of anybody getting hit by such bits of junk noted that in its trips around the earth a Mercury spacecraft is over water 78 per cent of the time.

A recent official count showed that more than 190 spent rockets, satellites, and miscellaneous flotsam from past launchings are still in orbit around the earth.

Will Come Down
All will come down some day, in one form or another, even if it takes a thousand years or so, as calculated for little Vanguard I. Most of this junk will burn to ashes in its fiery descent through the atmosphere.

It is conceivable that some pieces, however, will come down like meteorites and that a small percentage of these will fall on land rather than in the sea.

But, a space official said, it is 10 times more likely that a natural meteorite will hit a human being than that a man-made space object will.

A woman in Alabama reported several years ago that a meteorite came through the roof of her house, caromed off a number of things, and then fetched her a blow which left a bruise.

But this was not a direct hit. Scientists say no case of a meteorite scoring a direct hit on an inhabitant of the earth has ever been established.

Lafferty Seeks Voter Nomination

Portland — (UPI) — A. W. Lafferty has waited almost 50 years to run for Congress again, so he figures he can wait another two days.

The 87-year-old former Congressman gave up Tuesday night on attempts to get 250 registered voters to nominate him as an independent candidate for the U.S. Senate. Only about 125 attended his convention in Portland.

Lafferty at first announced he would stay at the meeting until 6 a.m. today in hopes of rounding up enough voters. Later he reconsidered and recessed the convention until Thursday night.

In the meantime, he said, he will organize a telephone solicitation committee to contact voters.

Lafferty was a U.S. Representative from Oregon from 1911 to 1913. He passed up the primary elections this year and has been campaigning as an independent whose main plank is protection of the Oregon and California timber lands.

If he is successful in getting his name on the ballot, he will face Democratic incumbent Sen. Wayne Morse and Republican nominee Sig Unander in November.

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Attention Called To State PUC Law

Salem — (UPI) — Jonel C. Hill, Oregon public utility commissioner, said today Oregon log truckers "evidently have forgotten" that a chief purpose in a new Oregon PUC law is to prevent out of state truckers from moving into Oregon timber cuttings at peak periods, causing an oversupply of operators.

Hill noted that an application for an Oregon log hauling permit by Nordean A. Belenski, Longview, Wash., drew no protests from the Oregon industry. Hill gave Belenski a permit allowing him to operate in Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington counties.

By contrast, Hill said, virtually every application filed with him by an Oregon trucker seeking a new permit has been protested by other Oregon truckers.

Tomatoes are the number one truck crop in the U.S.

Four Arrested in Series of Thefts

Newport, Ore. — (UPI) — State police here arrested two men and 17-year-old twin girls Thursday in connection with a series of motel and automobile thefts from Washington to Northern California.

Police identified the men as Orville Ray Dillman, 26, of Waldport and David Henry Johnson, 21, of Tacoma, Wash. About \$1,500 worth of clothing and other items were recovered.

The men were held on charges of burglary and possession of stolen property. Bail was set at \$2,500 apiece. The girls were held by juvenile authorities, who said one is Dillman's wife.

All four suspects were arrested at a motel south of here.

Nickels have been used as money in the U.S. for approximately 90 years.

LONG-LASTING
New York — (UPI) — The Association of American Railroads reports the average railroad freight car traveled a record

1,028,990 (m) miles — about 41 times around the world — before being sidetracked for emergency hot box repairs.

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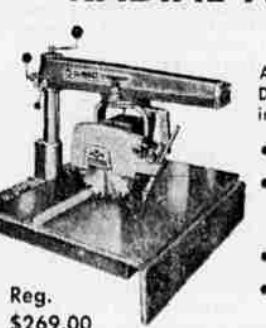
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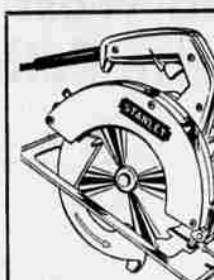
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