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California's Mt. Shasta

Mt. Shasta, the awe-inspiring 14,162 foot giant that decorates the center of California's Siskiyou county, means many things to many people.

It is world famous, but for varying reasons. To some it is an enjoyable winter playground, to others an opportunity for commercial gain.

But the mountain is perhaps most widely known for its mystic quality. Religious groups around the globe have incorporated it into their beliefs, as sort of a great white God.

Amid all the clamor, Mt. Shasta stands alone, with Shastina, her second peak, nestled on her western slope.

16 Millions Years Old
Peter Skene Ogden, according to history, "discovered" the mountain in 1827, although legends speak of it many thousands of years into the past. Scientists say it is 16 million years old. Geologists call it a dormant volcano with a boiling hot sulphur spring near the base of the main summit pinnacle.

The awesome beauty and enormity of the mountain captures the attention of authors, artists, nature lovers, photographers, hikers, skiers and religious groups. But most people agree that there is something mysterious about Mt. Shasta. Even people with no interest in the occult aspects of the mountain say that it has a kind of magnetism about it.

One of the principal legends about Mt. Shasta is that it became the refuge of escapees from the sinking continent of Lemuria, or Mu as it is often called, now lying beneath the Pacific ocean.

Inhabitants Migrate Eastward
According to this legend, some inhabitants of Lemuria migrated eastward when the continent began to sink and made their way to Mt. Shasta, which loomed before them to the east, seeming to be a natural haven.

There are said to be descendants of these Lemurians living on or inside the mountain today. Some say they inhabit a self-contained underground city eight miles below the peak. Others say they live on the mountain slopes someplace. There is supposed to be a hidden entrance to the underground city somewhere on the mountain.

Persons who believe in the existence of this underground city say that the Lemurians occasionally come out. Some present-day residents of the city of Mt. Shasta say they can recognize a Lemurian when he shops in town.

An article by Edward Lanser which appeared in the Los Angeles Times of May 22, 1932, had this to say about the Lemurians:

Seen on Various Occasions
"The Lemurians have been seen on various occasions; they have been encountered in the Shasta forest, but only for a brief glimpse, for they possess the uncanny secret knowledge of the Tibetan masters and, if they desire, can blend themselves into their surroundings and vanish."

"At times they came into the neighboring towns - tall, barefoot, noble-looking men, with close-cropped hair, dressed in spotless white robes that resemble in style the enveloping garment worn by the high-caste East Indian women today - to patronize certain stores."

"Indeed, the records reveal that at one time an official visit was made to the city of San Francisco by a

white-robed patriarch from the mystic village. He came on foot with an escort of younger men to bring greetings and assurance of goodwill upon the anniversary of the founding of their sacred retreat in California . . ."

The article goes on to say that these same white-robed men frequently came into stores in the city of Mt. Shasta, making purchases with gold nuggets, usually overpaying. They were said to have large quantities of sulphur, salt and lard and to have shown little interest in "the gay materials and novelties of our modern civilization." Lanser's article also claimed the Lemurians donated some of their gold nuggets to the American Red Cross during World War I.

Statement of Existence
This same 1932 Los Angeles Times article also makes the rather startling statement that the existence of the Lemurians on or in Mt. Shasta was vouched for some years before by Edgar Lucien Larkin, for many years director of the Mt. Lowe observatory in southern California.

"Prof. Larkin, with determined sagacity," the Times article says, "penetrated the Shasta wilderness as far as he could - or dared - and then, cleverly, continued his investigations from a promontory with a powerful long distance telescope."

"What the scientist saw, he reported, was a great temple in the heart of the mystic village - a marvelous work of carved marble and onyx, rivalling in beauty and architectural splendor the magnificence of the temples of Yucatan. He saw a village housing from 600 to 1,000 people; they appeared to be industriously engaged in the

manufacture of articles necessary for their consumption. They were engaged in farming in the sunny slopes and glens surrounding the village - with miraculous results, judging from the astounding vegetation revealed to Prof. Larkin's spy-glass."

Evidently this was not an underground city but one somewhere on the surface of Shasta's slopes.

According to the book "The Mt. Shasta Story," by A. F. Eichorn, Sr., published in 1937, some observers doubted that Professor Larkin ever made the statements attributed to him. Others, however, are reported to have said that the professor did "accidentally" discover the Lemurians.

The Lemurian legend has been the subject of numerous books and newspaper articles. Perhaps one of the earliest books on the subject was "A Dweller on Two Planets," written in 1186 by Frederick Spencer Oliver, who is said to have discovered evidence of a strange race in the Mt. Shasta area, following which he said he felt a strange feeling come over him that prompted him to write down a manuscript by a being named Phylas the Thibetan.

One of the more recent articles to come out of the Lemurian legend, according to Eichorn's "The Mt. Shasta Story," was an article in the Oct. 30, 1955 San Francisco Examiner (originating from the Siskiyou Daily News at Yreka) reporting the discovery at the 11,000 foot level of a gigantic footprint with three toes.

Another legend mentioned in Eichorn's book deals with bells. The book quotes a journal entitled "California Bell Legends: A Survey" reporting that the in-

habitants of a city called Yaktayvia underneath the mountain created bells with a sound so mighty that it was able to move vast masses of rock within the mountain and hollow out room for the city.

Still another Mt. Shasta legend concerns the "Little People." An article by Eugene H. Drake of Los Angeles, for instance, reports that the writer encountered during 1951 and 1952 large numbers of tiny beings who had the ability to appear or disappear at will.

The Mt. Shasta area today is occupied by a number of groups with various beliefs about the mountain - among them the "I Am" group, Rosicrucians and others.

Following are the results of interviews with a number of individuals connected with these organizations:

Lemurians She Knows
Mrs. Mildred Coleman, a Rosicrucian, tells of the Lemurians that she knows live in the mountain. They come to town, but remain incognito. She tells of the Ascended Masters who have a mammoth temple under the mountain at the 12,000 foot level. The mountain is referred to as God's Mountain - one of His shrines. The temple was hewn out by spiritual labor.

She says Lemuria is due to rise and the ocean will come in. The coast range will be leveled. Safety for the people lies within a ten mile radius of the mountain.

Miss Ruth Light joined the "I Am" religious activity in 1932. She tells of the founder of the organization, Guy W. Ballard, being sent to the Mt. Shasta area by a mining concern 30 years ago, and of his encountering St. Germaine at a mountain spring one day while he was hiking on the trails of McCloud River valley, seeking peace and inspiration.

An electric current went through his body when St. Germaine spoke and gave to him a cup of the Water of Life. This was born the "I Am" Activity. This group refers to rebirth, rather than reincarnation as do the Rosicrucians of this vicinity. To conquer self is the group's goal as well as to project light, to bless, to heal and to prosper. The annual "I Am" pageant, staged in the huge outdoor amphitheater in Mt. Shasta, draws visitors from all over the world.

Extra Sensory Perception
The Great White Brotherhood believes in extra-sensory-perception and metaphysics. Its members declare that there is no death and lose all fear of it, feeling that there is a survival of human entity after death of the body. They too have a great affinity to the mysterious power of Mt. Shasta.

Whatever their tastes, beliefs or traditions, all these organizations embrace the mysticism of the mountain and it's Lemurians or whatever inhabitants are there.

Appear As Earth People
According to one source, Lemurians appear as earth people. To another source, they are seven feet tall with extra large heads and long arms, with a marble like skin covered bump in the middle of their foreheads, a third eye which enables them to sense the presence of earth people long before the earth people know they are around, and do disappear at will.

In every book written about tribes of Indians living in the area around Mt. Shasta, mentioned always is the mystic, strange atmosphere of the mountains.

In all the religious organizations that have sprung up in the region of the great white mountain, mysterious powers are attributed to it. Lights are seen on its towering sides, bells ring, strange occurrences which can't be explained take place. Some persons make yearly pilgrimages and many others have moved to the area to make their homes in its shadows.

Forest Service District Ranger Has Work Throughout Year

By MAUDE ZIEGLER
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Applegate Valley - What does today's district ranger do the year around? How does a ranger district operate?

Offhand one might think of a district as including office, public camp grounds, logging, fighting fires, and sending out lookouts.

Actually, a ranger district does a quarter of a million dollar business annually. The total budget for Star Ranger station last year was \$260,000. This is equal to a medium sized business concern in southern Oregon.

The ranger is dealing with human and abstract qualities. He is interested in people and knows a sensitivity to people who work with him and to the public.

Coordinates Services
He coordinates a vast network of services, making sure that each complements the other, and that all work together in harmony.

In an interview with staff members at Star Ranger station, it was pointed out that where jobs are concerned, the ranger must get the right man for the job at hand and see that he has training for that job.

"You wouldn't use an engineer in a forester's position," a staff member said. "We are very conscious of the training program that goes on all the time. Five hundred man days of training were under way last year. Some of it was formal in the nature of schools; the need for learning and development never ceases."

The men are expected to seek self development, and all promotions are competitive. A man is never promoted for the length of years he has served, it was said.

Works in Harmony
In seeing that each phase of the forest service works in harmony, it was pointed out that "there is no need to have an engineer design a road if there has been no timber sale in the area."

The district ranger is a public relations man. Through the use of press releases, "show-me" trips, and talks to groups he

keeps the public informed on what goes on in the district. He receives complaints from forest users, and if complaints are justified he corrects the fault, and if not justified, he explains why such action was taken.

He must treat all people fairly. He also must answer congressional inquiries.

The ranger is responsible for organization of the district. During the winter months he takes a look at the work load for the next year. He makes an analysis of number of men needed for planned jobs and means of getting men to fill those jobs.

Write Description

For this he makes out a form stating how much work is to be done, how many hours it takes, and if the project is not under a "canned" job description, he writes a job description. He considers the number of men available, and if more men are needed, he

includes in his report the type of men needed to fit this job.

Forms for non-professional jobs go to the Medford supervisor's office, and if the work is professional the form goes to the regional forester's office in Portland.

A specific case prepared this winter was the work load analysis made of the position of resources assistant, now held by Robert Snoich. It was found that this position held too many functions, showing a total of 5.76 man years of work being done by five people. A need was apparent of obtaining another man to consume the remaining fraction of man years. The report on this detail prepared by the ranger consumed a small writing tablet, as well as many hours of work.

Organizational Chart

An organizational chart was compiled, request was made for a position classification, and a fiscal year financial plan to take care

of the position was prepared. The report was sent to the regional office, and the position will not be fulfilled until July 1.

The job analysis took the ranger five man days to complete. Establishing a promotion or filling a position requires a similar procedure.

The ranger is responsible for personnel management of the 75 summertime employees. Twenty-five are kept on the staff during the winter. The morale of the staff is dependent on the ranger. It was noted that the morale and accomplished work in the Star Ranger district are completed according to standards and more. The fire record for last summer was cited, showing several fires, but with acreage burned held at a minimum.

The ranger corrects his staff members and commends and gives promotions when work is well done.

Financial Management

Financial management of

the district is the responsibility of the ranger. He submits requests for money and plans expenditure of money appropriated by congress. He sees that jobs do not exceed the allotted money. He handles 80 different accounts of household budgeting. An example of this budgeting is seen in the report of 260 miles of trail to maintain at a cost of \$5,500. The money is not sufficient, but the job is completed and above standard most of the time.

Other details of a ranger's duties include reading, checking, and signing of all reports and correspondence going out of the district office during the course of the year. Last January alone had 18 separate reports. The ranger reads all memos within the department where they refer to policy. The office secretary types from one to two dozen memos daily through the year.

The ranger is obligated by law to manage the five renewable resources under multiple use and sustained yield concept; these include forage, recreation, wild life, wood, and water. The law says no one resource has priority over another.

Welfare of Personnel

The safety, health and welfare of all persons on the district are under the ranger's supervision. Proper tools are supplied, and their use is taught in training and safety meetings.

As a part of the safety program, a standard and advanced Red Cross first aid course was given to 20 men this winter with Douglas Finch as the instructor. All persons are supplied with poison oak preventive, and are given prompt care by a physician in case of accidents.

The ranger has an inspection and control program, keeping abreast of what his assistants are doing. He makes unexpected visits to lookouts and rides trails to see that work is done to standard. He checks timber sale administration to see that contract requirements are being met.

Ranger Neil Suttell has five assistants at Star Ranger station to whom he delegates much of the technical work of the Applegate district.

Head Departments

George Berscheid is in charge of timber management; Jack Fitch, business management; Robert Reid, engineering; Robert

Snoich, resources; Robert Webb, fire control.

Each of the assistants is responsible for keeping the ranger informed on progress of work either by progress reports or memos. The ranger in turn must report to the Rogue River National Forest supervisor four times a year on progress being made. This is called an accountability report consisting of 10 pages. The supervisor then reports to the regional forester's office in Portland.

In addition to these assistants there are three professional (graduate) foresters on the staff. They are Walter Bennett, Joe Genre, and Kenneth Meyer.

There are three engineering technicians. They are Logan Evans, Kenneth Perreard, and Donald Wyatt. The four forestry technicians are Jack Crump, Joe Jewell, Donald Moulton, and Pete Purrier.

Fire Control Technician

Fire control technician is Ben Twiss, and the super-

visory fire control aide is Francis (Pete) Gregory.

The three fire control aides are Dave Hopfer, Buford Wells, and Hal Von Stein. John Henderson is a forestry aide.

Mrs. John Henderson is office secretary. All of the personnel are full time civil service employees.

During the winter the ranger annually makes an appraisal of the previous year's work, and plans the training program for the coming year. In winter, the men are engaged in scaling, maintenance of buildings, construction of camp grounds, timber sale appraisal, and road designing.

The ranger's assistants are delegated the authority to make decisions in accordance with regulations, but the responsibility and accountability for work progress and policy decision rests with the ranger.

Example of Decisions

As an example of these decisions is the question of putting a logged clear-cut on a hillside visible from a

recreation road. The ranger decides that the clear-cut is permissible if it is small or is screened from view.

Another decision may come in the probability of two road sites, each acceptable from a financial standpoint. The ranger discards one location because it would mar a recreation site. Such decisions are made the year around, and many are in the planning stage now.

Winter weather this year has permitted the ranger to visit many of the mountain areas to be considered for projects. In other cases, reports may be received from foresters who have been in the area.

Depend on Financial

Plans made now are dependent upon available financing, and reports on this are not forthcoming until the beginning of the fiscal year July 1. If the money is not available the ranger reshapes his plans.

The spring work schedule, including maintenance

and tree planting, begins in March.

Snow surveys in late winter occupy some of the personnel for a time, and are made for the soil conservation service, one of the federal agencies with which the forest service cooperates. Measurement of snow depth and water content each year permits a forecast of the summer's water supply.

Snow Measurements were made this winter by Joe Genre and Dave Hopfer, who made the trips this year without snowshoes. In years of normal snowfall the Tucker Sno-Cat is used to reach the courses.

Shows Great Interest

The public shows great interest in all branches of the forest service. One indication of this is the number of people who stop at the log scaling station at Little Applegate. Some inquire as to the meaning of "scaling," so to make the nature of the work apparent to motorists, the sign at the station has been changed to read "log measuring" instead of "scaling."

Many inquire about fishing and hunting and seek knowledge on plants, trees, rocks and flowers. Some ask, "What do we do if we find a fire?"

Star Ranger station personnel say that these questions are gratifying, and they encourage people to ask questions. The ranger is in demand in public speaking, particularly at schools.

Available For Fires

Men and equipment are available for house fires even in the winter.

A good many people working in the district are making forestry work their careers.

In order to qualify as a district ranger one must have four years of college, including technical forestry subjects and related social sciences. He needs to have 4 to 10 years of experience in some branch of the field.

After college, Ranger Suttell started in fire control as a lookout, next becoming a fire patrolman and forestry aide. He served as an engineer for private industry for a time, then went into timber management work, which included engineering, fire control, conservation, and study of wild life. Eight years after college graduation he was promoted to the position of district ranger and was sent to the Applegate.



Star Ranger station Ranger Neil Suttell is shown above along Sturgis Ford rd. which was reseeded as part of the forest service's road bank stabilization seeding program



Inspecting rangeland in the Applegate district of Rogue River National Forest are, left to right, Mike Merrickle, Ed Finley, Ranger Neil Suttell and Bruce Merrickle.