

Wooded Area in Applegate Serves as Classroom

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Mail Tribune Correspondent

Applegate Valley - A wooded spot on the John Black property on Forest creek, where one ordinarily might enjoy just deep solitude, revealed many of nature's secrets recently when 853 eighth grade students of Jackson county schools invaded the area over a three-day period for outdoor classes on conservation.

The young people learned how a fish digs a nest with her tail, deposits her eggs, then covers the nest by use of her tail. They learned how the antelope and elk hoof differ from that of a deer, and how a small fir tree can be clipped here and there to grow into a beautiful Christmas tree.

Not that the Black acreage possesses fish and antelope, but these varied phases come under the head of forest, water, and wild life conservation.

Fourth Annual Tour
This was the fourth annual tour to be held at the Black timber demonstration tract sponsored by Jackson county schools and Oregon state extension service, Jackson county is one of 28 counties of Oregon to participate in forest conservation tours. The tours are notable examples of cooperation by conservation

agencies, the forest industry, tree farmers, and individuals, officials point out.

Nineteen instructors were furnished by the state forestry department, industrial forestry association, U.S. forest service, soil conservation service, bureau of land management, extension service, state game commission, and state tax commission. Elk Lumber company and Timber Products also sent instructors.

Wild flowers of the area bore identification tags. Classes were held on the 10-acre plot on commercial thinning, fire control, seed production and tree planting, Christmas tree culture, tree identification, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, soil-root relationships, and wild life.

Twenty-six teachers and principals accompanied the students over the three-day period.

Weather Stops One Group

Rainy weather predictions prevented attendance by one group, which would have brought attendance to more than 1,000.

The school was coordinated by Earl Jossy, county agent, and Fred Buehling, director of special services from the county school superintendent's office. Buehling is making a film strip of the tour

which will be utilized with pictures of previous tours as a conservation unit to show students in preparation for future tours.

Principals and teachers are presented with an evaluation sheet on which to express views in regard to improving the program next year.

Fire control was explained by Carl Bennett and William Davis, wardens from the state department of forestry office, rotating as class instructors.

Assist Fire Control

Students were told they could assist with fire control by putting out a small fire when discovered or by calling the telephone operator, and when connected with the state forestry dispatcher, giving location and description of the fire. "The forest is yours as much as ours," the instructors said.

Exhibits included a fire truck, two way radio, falling and bucking saws, and tools including double and single bladed axes, Polaski hazel hot, McCloud or raking tool, and shovel.

Reforestation was instructed by Darrel Sall, Pat Clason, Garry Rundell, and Jack Merble from the bureau of land management. Their exhibits consisted of display boards of commercial conifer-



FIRE CONTROL EXPLAINED-Carl Bennett, state forestry warden, talks to students about various tools used for fire control. Some of the tools used by the forestry department are on the ground. The talk was one of seven heard by students who took a recent conservation tour in the Applegate valley.

ous branches, bags of seeds collected from cones, and young trees ready for planting.

Harvesting of cones, drying, and extraction of seeds was described, with other facts given on testing, and sold storage; stratification, or time of dampening before planting; sowing of seed beds, root pruning, and other details of preparing young trees for planting on farms and forest areas.

Ed Kupillas of Elk Lumber company instructed in timber management. He told the class

that the Black property first was purchased by the family in 1908, and had been logged in 1924, 1923, and again in 1945. He said the forest still had not been damaged, and for another 35 years would be yielding timber in existence when the area was settled.

He described the time of transition from old growth trees to the planting and care of young trees.

He explained the sturdier tree growth resulting from pre-commercial thinning, or cutting excess young trees from a stand even before they

are desirable for Christmas trees. Kupillas explained the gathering of nutrients and water from the soil by tree roots and their conversion to tree growth by action of the sun. He showed tree slabs with wider rings indicating quick growth when the tree is allowed more room.

New Phase in Tour

The instructor advised cutting snags and hard wood in the area to allow more room, and described pruning trees to produce knot-free lumber. Study of wild life was a new phase of the tour this

year, and was conducted by Robert Maben, district game agent, and Kenneth Cochran, assistant regional superintendent from Roseburg. Furs of the beaver, gray fox, mink, ring tailed cat, muskrat, and bob cat were exhibited.

Instructors pointed out that dense underbrush causes shortage of food for animals, and that watershed management leaves timber along streams and at high elevations for snow protection, thus benefiting wild life.

Christmas tree growing was discussed by Richard Olson from the state forestry department. He said a slower growth is needed for Christmas trees to produce density of needles and limbs, explaining that each year a whorl (circle of limbs) and leader (top branch) is added. Olson used a machete in demonstrating how to prune lower limbs, and showed how to snip ends of branches to produce thickening of the tree.

Stump Culture Shown
Stump culture also was shown, in which one or more limbs is left when cutting a tree, and one eventually will grow upward, producing another tree. He said the Douglas fir has received three blue ribbons as the state tree and No. 1 Christmas tree and lumber tree of Oregon.

Students were shown a four-foot depth cut of earth at the soil conservation station conducted by John Collier. He explained the layer of moss and leaves, known as duff, under which lays the top soil, the subsoil, and transition zone next to bedrock. He pointed to the root feed-

ing zone with its organisms and openings for air and water, and explained how climate and slope of the ground affects the soil.

The last station on the tour was given to tree identification, and was instructed by members of the U.S. forest service from the Ashland ranger district, including Jack James, Norma Eveleth, Al Ellsars and George Wooding.

The instructors showed identification by cones, branches and bark of trees growing in the state. These included Douglas fir, grand

or white fir, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Port Orford cedar, lodge pole pine, sugar pine, white pine, blue spruce, and myrtle wood. Juniper, growing in the arid regions of eastern Oregon, was described as the "camel" of all trees.

Additional instructors included Bert Wilcox, extension agent; Cal Smith of the Industrial Forestry association; C. R. Ross, extension farm forestry specialist, and Gordon Stevens, Wes Stanfield, timber appraisers of the state tax commission and Wes Graham of Timber Products.

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City Planners Recommend Zone Change for Apartment

The Medford planning commission Thursday night voted to recommend to the city council that a change of zone be granted to permit construction of a two-story apartment house at 1215 West Main st.

The application for the zone change from single and two family to multiple family was presented by D. R. Stoll, 3297 Britt ave., owner of the property.

The applicant said he proposed to erect an apartment complex containing between 20 and 24 units at an estimated cost of more than \$200,000. A swimming pool and recreation hall are also planned for the project. Off-street parking would be provided for tenants.

Other Action by Group
In other action, the commission voted to:

—Postpone action on a request for a change of zone from single family to limited commercial for property located on the south side of Barnett rd. immediately east of Bear creek.

—Recommend against a change of zone for property located on the west side of Kenyon st. north of Garfield st. The applicant, Vernon Rasmussen, 308 Garfield st., had proposed to construct 12 one-bedroom residences on the property. He indicated he may appeal the commission's decision to the city council.

—Recommend approval of a request for a variance to the sign provisions for limited commercial districts to permit Standard Oil company to erect a new sign at its station at 600 East Jackson st. in place of one already there. The signs are approximately the same size, but the old ones was lighted by spotlights, and the new one will have interior lighting.

—Recommend approval of a variance to the zoning ordi-

nance to permit construction of six new trailer spaces at the East 12th st. Mobile Home park.

—Recommend approval of a request for a variance to set back requirements for property located in the Medford Shopping Center to permit construction of a building on the property line between the Shopping Center and the Pacific Power and Light company substation on Biddle rd.

—Recommend approval of a request for a change of zone from single family to multiple family for property located on the south side of Grandview ave. east of Crater Lake ave. The applicant proposes to erect a two-story apartment building containing 24 units.

Recommend Approval

—Recommend approval of a request for a variance to setback requirements for property located at 1021 West 10th st. to permit remodeling of the front exterior of the residence there.

—Continue until the next regular meeting in June a request for a change of zone from multiple family to commercial for property located

on the west side of Franquette st. north of Earhart st.

—Recommend approval of a request for a change of zone from single family to single and two family for property located on the southwest corner of Crater Lake ave. and East Jackson st. The owner of the property proposed to sell to a buyer who would build a four-plex dwelling on the property.

Request Is Approved

—Recommend approval of a request to vacate an east-west alley extending from Hawthorne st. to Genessee st. subject to a utility easement.

—Approve a request to construct a 48 by 26 foot carport at the Chapel in the Trees mortuary in Siskiyou Memorial park.

—Grant final approval of the Brookhurst Villa subdivision, Unit No. 2, subject to a survey of the unit.

—Recommend approval of a request to operate a small engine repair shop as a home occupation at 847 Palm st. All commissioners were present at the 2½-hour meeting except Wayne Strubbe. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Elwood Hedberg.

19 Troops Take Part In Annual Camporee

Boy Scouts of the Big Pines district conducted a series of contests and watched a water-skiing demonstration during their annual camporee last week end in spite of rain and winds which lashed Emigrant lake into three foot waves.

Nineteen troops and 54 patrols from Medford, Ashland, Central Point and Eagle Point were represented plus more than 50 adults and senior Explorers at the Emigrant site.

Scouts packed two miles into the camp Friday evening and set up camp on the lake's slopes.

Saturday and Sunday started with a fishing contest and a resulting fish fry. Saturday afternoon scouting skills were demonstrated. Contests including mapping, first aid, pioneering, physical fitness and various stunts and skits.

Caretaker J. E. Hutchinson and Jackson County Parks and Recreation Director Neil Ledward made arrangements for the camporee and several emergency trips up the hill, scouts reported.

The Rogue Aqua Ski club, Medford, put on a ski show. Bill Williams and skier Howard Brooks lectured and demonstrated boat safety and ski signals.

Berry Bigham, Medford, was camporee safety officer. Only four accident and three sick Scouts were reported. Winner of this year's safety trophy was Troop 41. Troops 108, 48, 7, 112 and 105 were runner-ups.

The Rev. David Coulter, associate minister of the Ashland First Methodist church, gave the Sunday sermon.

The Panther patrol of Troop 105 scored the highest for overall camporee activities with 420 points of a possible 440. Runners up were Eagle Patrol of Troop 13; Wolf Patrol, Troop 41; Aztec Patrol, Troop 108.

The groups were graded on arrival, campsite and shelter, fire area, food cooking and serving, sanitation, beds, general neatness of camp and personal general participation. How the campsite was left and adventure trail or special events.

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