



WEDDING RITES—Bill Skiles, 31, was born in a truck so it seems natural that he should stand in the back of a Jeep high on a bluff overlooking Newport Beach, Calif. The best man is Pete Henderson and the matron of honor is Mrs. Kenneth Brown. They will spend their honeymoon on a camping trip in Colorado. (UPI)

Two-Year Study Under Way To Find Method of Testing Poles

CORVALLIS—A \$20 billion investment in 100 million wood poles carrying telephone and power transmission lines throughout the United States today represents a continuing maintenance challenge to industry and wood scientists.

Oregon State University's Forest Research Laboratory is now conducting a two-year study aimed at finding easy and economical methods of inspecting poles now in use and treating those which are unsound. Robert D. Graham, associate professor of wood products, is in charge.

The challenges facing industry and wood scientists are how to treat poles before installation in the ground for longer life; how to determine whether poles in use are free from decay; and how to extend the life of poles that contain decay.

The average life of poles is about 30 years. Since the replacement cost is high, industry has a great interest in extending the useful life of each pole.

Cost to Industry
The average cost to industry when a pole is replaced runs from about \$100 for a 40-foot pole to \$750 for a 70-foot pole. Occasionally, replacement costs for a single pole may exceed \$1,000.

The current OSU study is being financed by Oregon industry under a \$20,000 grant. Co-operating with the Forest Research Laboratory are Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific Power and Light company, Portland General Electric company and the Northwest Public Power association. Consumers Power Inc., Corvallis, also has an interest in the study.

In Oregon, there are an estimated 1 million poles. Most poles in the Pacific Northwest are made from western red cedar and Douglas fir. Studies of these poles in use have shown little deterioration of the preservative-treated zone in the species.

Work on Identification
Wood scientists at OSU have been working to identify the decay fungi which destroy poles. Fungi lack the ability to manufacture their own food. The fungi must rely on breaking down the cell walls of wood into substances which can be used as food. This produces the brown and white rot so familiar to decayed wood.

Also under study is the pattern of decay in Northwest woods. The scientists also want

to find a simple method of detecting decay in poles already in use. Seriously decayed poles can be discovered by sounding and by boring into the pole.

Up to now, most methods of determining decay quickly and accurately in the wood poles have been confined to the use of boring devices. Ultra sonic energy and various chemical methods to reveal the internal condition of poles are now being studied at Oregon State. Researchers hope to eventually produce a simple device which

Zenter Band Will Be With Mathis

ASHLAND—"An Evening With Johnny Mathis," sponsored by Southern Oregon college will be presented at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Hedrick Junior high school, Medford.

Si Zenter, one of the top trombonists in the field of music and his 25 piece band, will accompany Mathis.

Mathis, a well-known popular singer, has recorded 15 best selling albums, each surpassing the 500,000 mark. His single record sales have passed the 6 million mark with several totaling more than 1,000,000 copies.

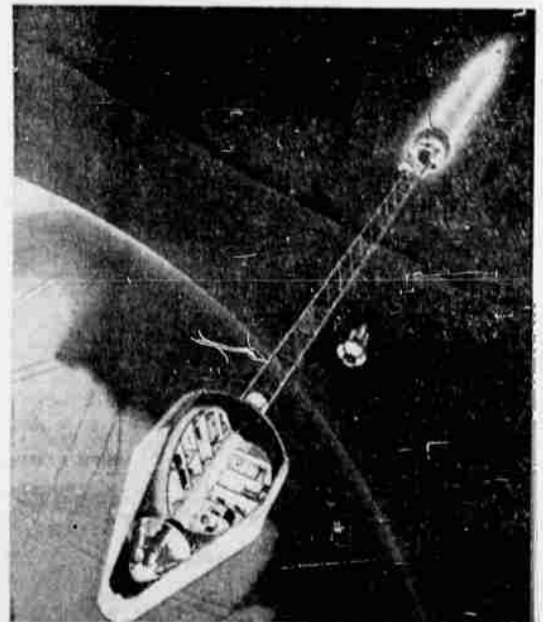
His receptive audience range from teenagers to night club patrons.

Zenter has background of band experience with such people as Les Brown, Harry James and the late Jimmy Dorsey. His hand sound has captured the imagination of young and old as evidenced by the constant booking he receives in the nation's top spots, including a recent record breaking engagement at the Roosevelt hotel, New York City.

Tickets may be purchased at Britt student center at Southern Oregon college, Purucker's in Medford; and the Melody House in Grants Pass.

PIGEON PROTECTION
LONDON (UPI)—Joseph Fink, an American inventor, was quoted by the Daily Mirror today as saying he came here to sell a new chemical that will keep pigeons away from public places.

"It's very humane," Fink said. "Just tickle their toes until they go away. At least, it does with American pigeons."



FOR MANNED TRIPS—This is an artist's drawing of a multi-purpose planetary spacecraft for manned interplanetary trips. The craft would employ electrical propulsion to reduce booster requirements. The vehicle would be 33 feet in diameter and 200 feet long when retracted—500 feet when fully extended upon separation from the booster. The minimum crew would be five astronauts. (UPI)

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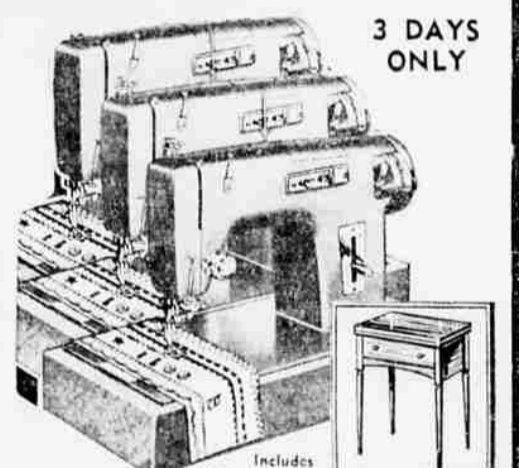
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