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Forest Notes

Twenty two U. S. Army engineers employed at the Bonneville Dam and their wives held a no host dinner on the Eagle Creek Forest Camp grounds Saturday night, May 1. After the dinner, dancing was enjoyed on the cement floor to the music of a portable radio. Lieutenant Bonesteel, executive officer at the dam, was in charge.

Progressive Oregonians arrived at Eagle Creek in a special chartered truck Sunday morning, May 2, from Portland. The group was contacted by the ranger at Eagle creek, who explained to them the plans for developing the recreation area at Eagle creek. They then hiked up Eagle creek trail two and one half miles where they had a picnic lunch. Joe Ashby was leader of the party.

A new record of attendance was set yesterday when more than 423 automobiles, each containing an average of four visitors entered the Eagle Creek picnic grounds. C C C boys from Wyeth assisted in handling the traffic during the day and patrolling the Eagle Creek trail. Every picnic table along both sides of Eagle creek was in use.

The first brush fire of the season in the Columbia gorge started Sunday afternoon just east of Beacon rock on the Washington side of the Columbia river. It spread over about two acres before being extinguished by C C C boys from the Beacon Rock CCC camp.

Warm dry winds and low humidity during the past few days has quickly dried out the vegetation along the Columbia river gorge near the highway.

PINE BEETLE INROADS BEING CHECKED

Man's counter attack against the diminutive pine beetle, arch destroyer of pine forests in Oregon and Washington, has made important progress in the past year, according to A. J. Jaenicke, in charge of regional insect control work for the U. S. forest service. Man's efforts have been effectively abetted by nature in providing severe winters and improved moisture conditions in the past two years, Jaenicke said. Credit for progress he attributes to cooperation of timberland owners and administrative agencies with the advice of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Showing the seriousness of the previous situation, the forester stated that in the five years previous to 1936, the western pine beetle had destroyed 15 times as much pine timber as forest fires and approximately as much timber as all pine sawmills cut in Oregon and Washington.

CCC tree troopers under forest service direction in the past year, have halted beetle inroads on more than 1,000,000 acres of privately owned and national forest timber in the Deschutes national forest area near Bend, Oregon; on approximately

Honeyman, Smith Bills In Disfavor

Dissatisfied with the Smith bill and the Honeyman bill for Bonneville legislation, the federal power commission, reporting on these measures to the house rivers and harbors committee, says it either wishes to be relieved of any responsibility in connection with rates charged or else be given control that will be adequate, effective and complete over rates.

This is the latest snarl over Bonneville legislation and more is expected next Monday, when the committee resumes hearings at which will appear Secretary of Interior Ickes and Representative Walter M. Pierce.

Operation of Bonneville and disposal of power is vested in an administrator, appointed by the secretary of interior, in the Smith bill. The Honeyman bill has the army engineers operating Bonneville, but delivering power at switchboard to the administrator.

In both bills the administrator is authorized to prepare rate schedules under which the power is to be sold. These schedules require approval of the federal power commission.

Criticism by the commission is frank.

In the Smith bill, it is pointed out, the administrator is given authority to allocate the cost of electric facilities, navigation and other

50,000 acres in the Ochoco national forest near Prineville, Oregon, and on about 30,000 acres near Bly, Oregon, in the Fremont national forest.

Similar beetle control projects have been completed by the CCC under the Indian Service on more than 100,000 acres of ponderosa pine timber on the Yakima Indian reservation in Washington; on large areas in the Warm Springs Indian reservation northwest of Bend, and on the Klamath reservation north of Klamath Falls in Oregon where work will be completed this month.

Beetle control on approximately 40,000 acres of Deschutes national forest timber southeast of Bend will be completed about May 15, according to Jaenicke.

Jaenicke stated that the general situation is much better today than for several years. Apart from control projects he attributes this change to improvement in moisture conditions and to the unusually cold recent winters. "Beetles which hibernate under the bark of infested trees are killed in large numbers by sub-zero temperatures," Jaenicke said. "It has also been determined that the long period of sub-normal rainfall in the pine region had lowered the vitality of trees and made them more susceptible to beetle attack."

School News

BONNEVILLE SCHOOL

The third grade had a nice letter from Ronald Beck, describing his trip to San Francisco, his school there, and his visit to the zoo.

Mr. Miller, Multnomah county agent, called at the school Tuesday and presented us with charters for the boys' and girls' 4-H clubs. The clubs are sponsoring a tea for their mothers May 13. Only those members who are in good standing are eligible to entertain.

The eighth grade is now gathering up lost trains of thought and is assembling work for the completion of the year. Class flower, motto, and class colors have been decided upon which have been the same as last year's seventh grade class. They are as follows:

Flower: "Lily of the Valley."
Motto: "There is Only One Road to Success."

Colors: Silver and Blue.
Plans for the eighth grade will be announced next week.

Achievement tests are being given this week to the eighth grade to measure their accomplishments of the year.

Miss Galasheff's first graders last week went to the post office, saw the mail come in, went to the fish hatchery and to the railroad station, then came back to school. The children drew pictures of what they liked best, also wrote stories.

Miss Barnum's second graders are studying Japan as their final project of the year.

Success and failure were the order of the day in the soft ball games with the Corbett teams at Corbett. The girls' team lost their game by a score of 9 to 18 while the boys retaliated by winning theirs by a score of 27 to 0. This makes, with the exception of one game lost to Wilkes, an unbroken line of victories in all events from last fall in league games. We feel proud and happy that we have been this fortunate.

CASCADE LOCKS HIGH SCHOOL

The P. T. A. benefit dance at the high school Saturday night was attended by a big crowd, with about \$17 netted. Proceeds will go toward sending 4-H club members to the summer school at Corvallis. Sir John and his Royal Knights of Portland occupied the orchestra stage.

Preparations for the senior play, "Black Phantoms," are under way. The play will be given Friday night at 8 o'clock in the high school auditorium. Tickets are on sale now.

Miss Theodora Gustafson is ill in the St. Vincent's hospital, Portland.

factors for rate making. In Mrs. Honeyman's bill, responsibility for the allocation is placed with the federal power commission, as was provided in Senator McNary's bill of last year.

Attention is called by the commission to a letter from President Roosevelt dated last September, asking the commission to prepare data on which allocations for ratemaking will be based.

This data is now almost complete, but the proposal for the administrator to make the allocation "would result in unnecessary and unjustified delay."

"It would be necessary for the administrator to prepare rate schedules, and submit them to the commission for consideration, before consideration could be given by the commission to the effect of the proposed rates of the administrator."

All this is time wasting, it is asserted, when the commission already has the information and could determine rates speedily.

With the administrator submitting rates all the commission can do is approve or veto. It cannot modify. "This places the commission in an impossible position as a regulatory agency over the rates," says the report.

"In the opinion of the commission, divided responsibility as to rates is uneconomical and undesirable in many respects. A single agency should be vested with complete authority and responsibility as to the rates to be charged for the electric energy generated at the project and sold to the public."

"Divided responsibility would necessitate duplicate staffs of the administrator and the federal power commission. This would result in unnecessary expense to the federal government, which would be greatly increased should the same plan of rate making here proposed be extended to other federal projects."

Trail Conditions Are Reported

Forest Ranger Albert Wiesendanger reports gorge area trails in the following conditions:

Angel's Rest Trail 1: Length of Trail 2 miles. Open entire distance.

Waukeena Falls Trail: Several slides of rock, has not yet had maintenance but is open entire length to travel.

Larch Mt. Trail: Has lots of rocks on trail and several small slides. Snow from 4 1/2 mile post to Summit. Not yet given maintenance.

Oneonta, Horsetail Falls Trail: Trail open and at present crew of 12 CCC boys are raking off all loose rocks and removing small slides of dirt.

Nesmith Point Trail at Warrendale: Crew of CCC boys working this trail and putting it in order. Snow at 4 mile post.

McCord Creek Trail: Trail open to Falls distance 1/2 mile. Beyond bridge trail has slid out and balance of 3 miles of trail is impassible. State crews will clean and repair this trail some time this month.

Tanner Creek Trail: Open to Falls. Has some slides on it and has not yet been given maintenance.

Eagle Creek Trail: Open for travel. Crew of 15 CCC boys now clearing out all slides and putting trail in first class order. Snow at 9 mile post and on to Wahtum Lake.

Wahtum Lake: Snow about 4 1/2 feet deep at Wahtum Lake and Lake froze over.

Road leading in to Wahtum Lake via Hood River, Green Point, etc. will be closed until June 5. A section of this road washed out last winter near an irrigation ditch project and can not be replaced until late in May or June 5. North Lake, Rainy Lake, Mud Lake, Wahtum Lake all reached by this road so inform fishermen it's closed on account of snow conditions and need of road repair.

Herman Creek Trail: Trail has several slides, not yet given maintenance. Snow at 9 mile post, and from there on in to Wahtum Lake.

Owing to so much snow this past winter and heavy rains in Columbia Gorge area all trails will require considerable maintenance work to put them in order.

District Ranger Weeman is putting maintenance crews on all these trails as fast as he can secure available CCC workers from the Wyeth camp.

PENN LEAVES

Walter Penn left Monday night on the Portland Rose for the Rocky mountains. Asthma from which he has been suffering for some time forced him to go into higher altitudes.

VISITS FAMILY

Jim Merrill, proprietor of Merrill's tavern in Cascade Locks, arrived Wednesday from Soap Lake, Wash. for a short visit with his family.

The National Republican clubhouse in Washington, D. C., a four-story edifice bought for \$150,000 in 1929, has been offered for sale.

Inland Chief Arrives in Portland

The craft that will attract most attention of Columbia river men this week is one of the smallest here, the 190-foot Diesel-driven barge Inland Chief, Seattle-built for Columbia river operation.

She arrived at Portland's Terminal No. 4 late Monday night after coming up from Astoria in 10 1/2 hours, and yesterday tied up in the slip between piers 1 and 2 for guaging of her 13 gasoline and Diesel oil tanks.

For months there have been those in Portland who doubted the feasibility of the boat designed and built by Inland Navigation company for upper Columbia river navigation, but a lot of doubt was swept away yesterday by river men who visited the trim chaff.

They believe that her performance will prove she is a step forward in Columbia river navigation.

The Inland Chief is 38 feet wide, grosses 908 tons, net 821 tons, is powered by two 600-horsepower Diesel motors which drive twin screws and has three streamlined rudders.

Her hull is honeycombed with bulkheads separating the various oil tanks, while a house capable of carrying 800 tons of bulk wheat is mounted on the deck.

Above the house, at the rear, rise the pilot house and flying bridge. Crew's quarters aft are declared to be the equal of any anywhere.

But the point that interests river men most is the report by those who have ridden the boat that she "handles like a clock." She is capable, they say, of 12 knots, can turn almost within her own length, and is almost nonsinkable all of which are necessary to the successful life of any boat on the rock-strewn upper river.

For several days the boat will remain at Terminal No. 4 while George E. Gronvold, vice-president of the company and designer of the boat, determines the exact liquid capacity of each tank.

"We expect to start operations within a week," said F. K. Dent, secretary-treasurer of the company. Gus Kobrow, architect; R. S. Whaley, president; and Jack L. Hyneman, manager of the company all were present yesterday.

Captain, pilot, mate and crew members will be selected this week. Mr. Gronvold had charge of the boat on the voyage from Seattle.

The boat will carry oil and gasoline to Bonneville dam and pump it through the dam into barges on the upstream side until the locks are opened for commercial traffic late this year.

Plans have been drawn for 12 to 15 125-foot barges to be towed by the boat.

Chronicle want-ads for results

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