FOREST PROPERTY RIGHTS

Sixteen years back I gave up a 62-acre stump ranch, one into which I'd put years of savings from green-chain labor and logging. I let it go for taxes. One reason was that just about everybody who came along felt free to enter and use the place at will and take anything away that was loose or which could be dug up or cut down.

There were sword ferns, for example, the biggest and greenest I've ever seen anywhere. And a number of cascara trees among the giant elders along the river. People went in there regularly and—uh—borrowed the bark. I took care not to show up while they were doing it. Among these here shootin' Tarheels, I'm a yellow coward.

You may not believe this one, but if put to it I can prove it. The summer was that of 1926—or maybe 1927. A lot of highway work was being done between the towns of Alsea and Waltport. My shack and barn were across the river. I did not argue with the occupants. A shotgun stood in a corner. A rifle was hung on the wall, out of reach of the kids. Evidently a shotgun was considered safe for them.

"We jest figgered to camp here while Pa was workin' yonder," Ma explained. "Hope you don't mind. I always hate to see a feller with a natural-lookin' face git into trouble with Pa. It always changes a feller so."

They were good Christian folks. No evil was meant. The custom of the country was being followed. That was to make free with any unoccupied property out in the woods. When another neighbor made free to use my ranch as calf pasture, I did not venture a murmur.

Lost Land

If I had valued the land and what was on it in the light of today's values, I'd have put up a fight for my American citizen's property rights there. But my personal situation was such that I could do nothing to realize on the cascara trees and sword ferns. At the time I had no hope of selling timber from the river or from the second-growth fir up the hill, although some of the latter was swelling into sawtimber size. And there was never a thought that a huckleberry patch held promis of a market or that clumps of young firs that grew in spots could be thinned and the thinnings sold as Christmas trees

Whoever has that 62 acres now is thinking of such market possibilities. It may be that the big alder has already been cut for furniture stock. I'm sure there's a pile of sword ferns shipped regularly to Portland, with huckleberry brush hitched on the shipment. Cascara bark, of course, is worth more money year after year. So are saplings for Santa Claus.

But it is lost land to me. And the losing was largely due to my letting it go to avoid trouble with people who held the old tradition that squatter's rights were equal, at least, to the property rights of an absentee owner, in making profitable use of the land and its products.

The courts of justice, law enforcement officers and legislators often hold to the tradition of the early day of pioneer development. Doubtless there was reason then for the attitude. Only a few years back I bowed to it. Funny business.

Plain Stealing.

Most good Christian folk who live in Pacific Northwest cities and towns still think it is perfectly honest and fair to drive out before Christmas and take their trees from anybody's land without asking permission to do it. Many, far too many, still think nothing of flipping burning cigarets and matches out of a car window on anybody's land, although they know this act is the main cause of forest fires.

How would they feel, I wonder, if a logger should walk by a city home on a hot summer day and toss a lighted cigaret into a living room, through an open window? How would they feel if loggers should stop by and uproot any shrubs they fancied from the front yard?

What's the difference? Stealing is where you find it, without regard to the location and ownership of the property; so it is with vandalism that causes fires, in homes or on forests.

The farm forest owner needs more protection from thieves and vandals than he is getting now. So do all forest owners, both private and public, for that matter. But the farmer is the one who can make the most out of cascara bark, Christmas trees sword ferns, huckleberries, alder wood and other minor forest products. The first thing on this need is a force of public opinion in his behalf.

Marion Forks

By MRS. SCOTT YOUNG

Mrs. Scott Young and Mrs. Vern Morgan spent the greater part of last week in Portland on business. They visited with Robert Young. He is drivin gcat and carryall rebuilding the dike on the Columbia.

Speaking of snow, we have it at Marion Forks and I think it will be the Fourth of July when we will see Mother Earth again. It is only eight feet deep on the level. The Lodge is barely visible from the highway. One way traffic from the Santiam Junction to the Tucker's operation nine miles from here. No traffic is allowed except on business. We are marooned. A total of 69 inches has fallen the last nine days, in fact the government weather records shoy 186 inches has fallen to date.

Howard Tidrick and Floyd Green of Portland braved the storm and came up to work in connection with the new hatchery to be built here. They could not find a place to work so returned with a few pencil marks on their memo book.

Recently Mr. and Mrs. Walter Martin and Mr. and Mrs. L. Heinsohn of Santiam Junction spent the evening here visiting with friends.

The Detroit Ranger and his crew have been feeding deer in this locality and on the Breitenbush.

The Women's Council of the Church of Christ will hold an all day meeting in the basement of the church Wednesday, Feb. 23. The purpose of this meeting is to wrap gauze bandages for India missions.

Mrs. Ernest Brown is back working at the Mill City Bakery.

Homer Thacker and family of Idandha have been in town for a few days.

APPETIZING

MASTER BREAD
Popular--because it's Good!

AMERICA'S
Most Treasured Documents
NEXT WEEK
Lincoln's Plan for
Abolition of Slavery
In our display window
Mountain States
Power Company
A Self Supporting, Tax Paying
Private Enterprise

Wood's Store
LADIES & CHILDREN'S
DRESSES

MILL CITY
Service Station
C. E. 'Pink' Mason, Prop.
SHELL PRODUCTS
AUTO STORAGE' BATTERIES
ZENITH TIRES
FISHING TACKLE

Need Help on Your
INCOME TAX?
If you had more than one employer in 1948, you may be entitles to refund on social security tax. Consult—
V A L C. W H I T E
Phone 3408 Mill City
Notary Public

Tex's Tavern
A friendly family
atmosphere prevails

OXYGEN ACETYLENE CARBIDE
INDAIR
Salem Welding Supply
Meco & National Apparatus
Lincoln Electrodes & Machines
Everything for Welding
CALL US OR COME IN AND SEE OUR COMPLETE
LINE OF APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES
John P. Seitz, Mgr. 205 Chemeketa St., SALEM
Res. Phone 2-1605 Phone 2-3581

HOW YOU WILL BENEFIT BY READING
the world's daily newspaper—
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. You will find yourself one of the best-informed persons in your community on world affairs when you read this world-wide daily newspaper regularly. You will gain fresh, new viewpoints, a fuller, richer understanding of today's vital news—PLUS help from its exclusive features on homemaking, education, business, theater, music, radio, sports.
Subscribe now to this special "get-acquainted" offer—1 month for $1 (U. S. funds)
The Christian Science Publishing Society PB-5
One, Norway Street, Boston 15, Mass., U. S. A.
Enclosed is $1 for which please send me The Christian Science Monitor for one month.
Name
Street
City Zone State

HELP FILL THE OREGON CROP TRAIN
Use This Coupon for Your Contribution
to the Christian Rural Overseas Program
In some localities it may not be possible to visit every person who might wish to give to CROP. If no neighbor calls on you to accept your contribution, mail it to:
Alva O. Stickelstaff, State CROP Director, 413 Times Bldg., Portland 4, Ore.
I approve the work of the Christian Rural Overseas Program in feeding hungry fellow men abroad, and in rehabilitating disrupted lives.
I contribute herewith $ in cash.
Please distribute my gift through the following agency or church:
☐ Catholic Rural Life; ☐ Church World Service; ☐ Lutheran World Relief, or
Name
Address
City State

Geo. H. Bell
Real Estate & Insurance
STAYTON

Water Systems Sheet Metal
Oil Burners Water Softeners
J U D S O N ' S
Plumbing - Heating
"Service Anywhere"
Tel. 3-1414 279 N. Commercial
Salem, Oregon

BE GOOD
TO YOURSELF
AND ENJOY
THE BENEFITS
OF GOOD HEALTH
We specialize in the treatment of rectal disorders.
No Hospitalization
No Loss of Time
Dr. R. Reynolds Clinic
Naturo-Proctologist
218 N. Liberty, Salem, Ore.

Mill City Cafe
WISE—ECONOMIZE
Eat at the MILL CITY CAFE
Steaks, chops, French fries, chili.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SANDS OF TIME by JIM

WHAT IS A BAKER'S DOZEN? For one thing it's almost a thing of the past. The idea, though, was that you always got what you paid for—with a little something extra thrown in. And, being old-fashioned, like the rare steel engraving shown here, we like the idea of always throwing in something extra—extra care, extra personal interest. We make shoes, sell shoes and repair shoes at our place and we have the most up-to-the-minute machines and materials, but we still must take the time to be sure that everybody is personally satisfied. We try to throw in something extra.

Salem
JIM'S shoes
175 N. HIGH STREET

Ramage's

Mill City State Bank
Mill City, Oregon
A Home Bank, Owned and Managed by Home People.
Established in 1919
All Depositors Insured up to $5000.00 Under the Terms of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Fire and Automotive Insurance
Notary Public.

SANTIAM GARAGE
GENERAL AUTO
AND TRUCK REPAIR
ARC AND ACETYLINE
WELDING
PHONE 3452

CAPITAL
Monumental Works
J. C. JONES, Prop.
MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS NOW
2210 So. Commercial St. Salem
Office Ph. 6887 Res. Ph. 6887

HALLMARK CARDS
Featuring
Unusual Cards
for birthdays,
anniversaries
and birth
congratulations
HALLMARK CARDS
HALLMARK CARDS
HALLMARK CARDS
HALLMARK CARDS
Edward Williams
330 Court SALEM

Trade
Your Old
Furniture for New
We anticipat a brisk trade in used furniture, when the dam gets going. Why not get rid of your old stuff NOW?
Mill City Furniture Co.