



OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

KNOTS ARE STRONG

The man with the rifle turned like a wildcat toward the rotten bulk of the Douglas fir windfall. Joe Boone read murder in the maniacal eyes and in the grip of clawlike hands on rifle stock and barrel. Now he knew that he must reveal himself and take the one fighting chance that he had for his life.

His right hand tightened on a knot, a solid remnant of a big bough that had grown from the windfall when

it was a standing tree. The hard, tought knot was loose in the rotten debris of the once giant tree trunk. Joe tensed, then he drove all the speed and force of his body into an upward thrust of his left arm and in a swing and throw of the knot with his right arm and hand.

There was a little luck for Joe Boone. In that instant the man with the gun was looking a trifle to Joe's right for the sound that had caught his attention. He had to look again and turn toward the new sound. He glimpsed the jagged whirl of the knot toward him. He dodged — too late. The knot struck him between the eyes a tick of time before he squeezed the trigger. The rifle was falling as is spat hot lead. And its owner fell as a stone falls.

"Knots are tough," said Joe Boone rising in a cold sweat of relief. "Knots are strong."

And truer words were never spoken by any man.

Knot Are Worth Money.
Back in 1861 Ezra Hallock and Luther Tuthill sold a considerable number of knots. They had been running an "upright and circular" sawmill in Ellendale, Ore., for seven years and operating the first Oregon fir planer. Like most pioneer mills, the Ellendale outfit could not handle the large old growth. It took the small trees. Little of the cut was left over. The products of the sawmill and planer were sold on a run of the mill basis. Some of it was full of strong, durable knots.

But all was good service lumber. The proof stands today in the Oregon Brunk home, a home that has been lived in at Salem since 1861. I have a clear photograph of the attic.

Four of the 2x6 rafters were evidently cut in succession from the same log and happened to be put up in the roof construction in the same

order. The one at the front of the picture has a knot that fills a fourth of the rafter's width. The next takes more than a third of the width, the next and last rafter widths are well-nigh spanned by the round knots.

There stands Oregon's oldest continuously occupied house. And there the big, bad knots boldly stare back at the building inspectors.

Saying, "We've been holding our part of this roof up for 87 years, and we're good for another 87 if they keep us dry. What's the kick n us knot s, anyway?"

'We Gotta Sell Knots.'

What is raising such a disturbance in behalf of knots is the foresters who have knots on the brain — knots on their minds, that is. The specialists in farm forestry are particularly preoccupied with the marketing of logs and lumber in which knots are common. A log from second-growth farm timber soon shows knots in the heartwood when it is sliced at the mill. These, of course, are from the earlier growth, the remnants of branches that died and fell away. Smaller log, more knots.

When you have young, strong wood in which the knots are small and tight, on the average, a 2x4 from such a log will serve better for all purposes that call for all-round wood strength, toughness and long life than many a clear 2x4 from an ancient big tree.

The latter, like other "show" grades of lumber, is invaluable for specific uses. Lumber for hard use, working lumber, "service" grades, is invaluable for such uses as those illustrated in the rafters of Oregon's Brunk home.

Knots are the work clothes of everyday trees. They are all right. See them in the car stakes that secure tons of lumber on speeding freight trains. See them in old houses, giving enduring service. Then think of the fact that knots have to be sold to make a go of it in farm forestry and to secure good utilization in the natural forests and on industrial tree farms.

Church Activities

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Prelude; call to worship; doxology; invocation; gloria; psalter selection; hymn of praise; scripture; prayer; notices; offering; music by choir; sermon; hymn; postlude.
Feb. 20—"When All is Lost, Sing."
Feb. 27—"Wanted: a Fighting Man."

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Services Every Lord's Day
Bible School 9:45
Morning Worship 11:00
Young People's Meeting 6:30
Evening Worship 7:30
Tom Courtney, Pastor

CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS
Sunday, 10 a.m. at Odd Fellows Hall

FREE METHODIST CHURCH
"The Church of the Light and Life Hour"
Sunday school 10:00
Morning Worship 11:00
Young People's Service 7:00
Evening Worship 7:30
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:30
Donald Hinkle, Pastor North Side

COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Wayne W. Watkins, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00
Morning Worship 11:00
Evangelistic Service 7:45
Wed. Bible Study 7:45

GATES COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Morning Worship 11:00
Christian Endeavor 6:30
Evening Worship 7:30
Walter Smith, Pastor.

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GIRL SCOUT HONOR COURT HELD IN UPPER CANYON

The Girl Scout Troop No. 58 of Idanha and Detroit held court of honor Monday night in Idanha Hall before an audience of about 125.

The program began with Mrs. Mildred Ray playing a march while 24 Girl Scouts and their leaders, Mrs. White, Mrs. Vickers and Mrs. Pederson, marched in.

Led by the Girl Scouts, all joined in singing "America, the Beautiful." Next came the flag salute.

Marla Vickers and Alice Fryer presented Mrs. White a corsage for her services as a leader.

Phyllis Ketchum, Della Hansen and Evelyn Wilson were presented their Brownie wings. They, with Sharon Foster, Mildred Burdeen, Lou Anne Manning, Evelyn Bowers and Loretto Nygaard, were also awarded tenderfoot badges.

Second class badges were awarded Edna Golden, Joyce Watkin, Evelyn Bower, Sally Fletcher, Karol Harper, Roberta Booker, Charlott McKeever and Jacqueline Edwards.

Alice Fryer was awarded first class badge and Marlene White was presented a proficiency badge. Both have earned 15 badges in home making. Marlene has been scouting five years and was given a five year badge.

Fifteen girls were given membership badges and the Pansy Crest was given 13.

The program closed with the singing of the Girl Scout hymn and "America."

Marking the 37th anniversary of Girl Scouting, the Legion Auxiliary, sponsoring organization, with Mrs. Chester Storey officiating, presented the girls an enormous birthday cake, beautifully decorated. The cake and other refreshments were served by

the girls. Joyce Watkin and Edna Golden arranged the centerpiece of rosebuds.

The Detroit Tavern is extending its bar 20 feet. So all you guys with big feet, step up.

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