

# OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

## TREE FARM HARVEST

The standing timber hummed and droned with power saws. The big

trees fell with crashing thunder. Down the hill they lay in packed windrows. These single hand sawyers bucked the trees onto logs and knotters chopped the limbs away.

"Too much wood in treetops, big boughs, dead snags, broken and crooked small trees, are still logging leftovers," Forester Gene Rogers said. "Look up the slope in the standing timber," he went on, swinging a hand that way. "You see small stumps in the big trees there, with tractor trails and brush piles. The usable small hemlocks and other under-story trees have been felled, and snaked out. Now they won't be smash-

ed by the big operation that's to come. Roads have been cleared through windfalls, also. We call that pre-logging. There are machines made for it, little ones."

He waved a big brown hand down the slope. "Now look on out and away, down on the cutovers of the log harvests of 20 to 30 years ago. Salvage logging going on Hemlock trees were left then. Now we can sell hemlock lumber and there's a market for hemlock as pulpwood. And we also have crews with light machines cleaning after the main operation that goes on now. This leaves a cleaner stubble field, one in good shape for natural reseeding and for protection from fire."

### Big Timber Thresher.

"Foresters like to think of timber in terms of wheat or corn. It takes a tree crop longer to grow and ripen, of course. But it is a harvest with both timber and wheat," the forester continued. "The tree logs are run through the sawmill as the wheat heads and stems go through the threshing machine.

"Just as wheat is made into flour, bread and other food products, so is lumber worked up and applied in houses an other building construction. Then, ideally, we grow new food crops on wheat land and new building crops on tree land.

"The ideal is hard to achieve, of course. Floods may erode the wheat land and fires burn out the life of the tree land. Poor land management in both cases can become a road to ruin.

"There is a good forestry management plan in effect here, on this tree farm. There is another on the lands of the national forest. Foresters are in control of state lands, too. There are state laws that provide for reseeding on small forest ownerships, on farms and the like. But all this is not enough. The foresters need the support, the help of everybody; most of all to stop forest fires.

**Threshing Leftovers.**  
"There are leftovers in the sawmill as from the threshing of wheat. The latter leaves chaff. Sawing lumber leaves sawdust. Much of the slabs, trimmings and edgings are slashed into fuelwood. The rest is the straw of the mill. It is ground up by a mechanical monster called the hog and mixed with sawdust for fuel uses or used as fuel alone.

"The smaller sawmills in the area have to burn most of their leftovers. Forest products engineers are developing new marketable items that may be made from the logging leftovers of today and the straw and chaff of the lumber mills. Alcohol can be made from sawdust, sugar can too, and a yeast that will fatten cattle.

"Other new products are from Douglas fir bark. There are 5000 wood products in everyday use and more are coming on the market every day. This is what pays for forestry. Public forestry is paid for by taxes, of course, but taxes come in the first place from production and sales.

"Lumber is the thing, though," said Forester Rogers. "The sawlog is still the main product of logging

here in the Cascades as in all other forest regions. The pulp log, the plywood peeler log, the fuel log, and all the other grades are on the side. Building lumber comes from sawlogs and building is to logging and tree-growing what bread-baking is to wheat harvesting and growing. There is the meal ticket of the forester and his work on the land."

### ATTEND LODGE CONVENTION

A Bohemian Lodge convention in Portland Sunday was well represented from the Mill City organization. The occasion also was the 35th anniversary of the Portland group. A program was presented and dinner

served. The Mill City lodge's orchestra played. From Mill City lodge attending were its president, Charles Dolzal, and Mrs. Dolzal, Hattie Fencil, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carey and Phil. Anna Crook and Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Picek, Don and Vera, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Podrabsky and Ernest Jr., Miss Arlene Kuhlman, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Drapela and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rada, of Salem.

Shopping in Salem Monday were Mrs. Glenn Estinger, T. J. Stocks and Bert Allen.

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