

The Human Race



the harvest of second-growth, the ten acres were bearing a dense stand of trees, averaging about 40 feet in height, with the strongest growing about two feet taller per year. Good farm forestry dictated that thinnings begin in cuttings for posts and poles. Mr. Barnes believes that with right spacing between the stand that is left an average of an inch in girth can be added to its trees in a year. He has done this with trees on another part of his woodland.

Horse Thief Valley.
John Barnes learned farm woodland management by hard experience. Today the young farmer can profit by that experience and by experience of hundreds of others. Some of the experience is valuable as horrible examples.

In our forest region are many out-of-the-way locations in which the people have been given bad reputations. One of these is popularly called Horse Thief Valley.

Around 70 years ago this valley was a hideout for horse and cattle rustlers. Perhaps it was part of the game of outlaws, but for one reason or another in any period of dry weather Horse Thief Valley was clouded with smoke. This was the condition on through the 1920's and through the depression. Then the people had changed from rustling to distilling whisky illegally. Now the back-country strip of valley is a spot of ruin in the forest.

There is little or no tree growth on most of the valley's acres. Seedlings and seed trees went up in smoke year after year until there were no more. It is a land of bitter earth, stones, fireweed, salal and other brush and of brier patches that only bears can break through.

Ill Fares the Land.
Horse Thief Valley has acres on which the blackberry and other cover is so dense, in root systems underground as in vegetation above, that growth from tree seeds has no chance. Even burning followed by hand-planting of seedlings would be a great gamble. There are south and west slopes on which heat and drought kill tree starts. On other site dry, freezing winds and the swelling and cracking of the frozen ground are the little tree killers. Horse Thief Valley has a population of tree seed and seedling eaters in its wild life — in its mountain beavers, white-footed mice and other rodents.

On good or fair sites quality of farm forest soil that has not been abused by repeated burnings and where seed sources stant, it is hard to keep down the growth of new crops of Douglas fir, Western hemlock and other tree species of the region. John Barnes' example is one that is to be met at every turn of farm roads in western Washington. The Horse Thief Valleys are comparatively rare spots. But they do exist, and where they do they are bad indeed—black sores on the soil.

Lyons

The meeting of the Women's Society of Christian Service was held at the community clubhouse with Mrs. Wallace Power, Mrs. Floyd Bassett and Mrs. Anna Johnson as hostesses. The regular business meeting was presided over by Mrs. Laurence Walworth. Many plans were made, and it was voted to have the interior of the clubhouse and kitchen repainted. Following the business meeting Mrs. Phillips of Albany and Mrs. Wallace of Albany had charge of a plastic demonstration. At the close of the meeting dainty refreshments were served to Mesdames Charles Power, Hugh Johnston, Ray Mohler, Loren Chamberlain, Willard Hartnell, Walter Bevier, Clyde McRae, Glen Julian, Laurence Walworth, Eugene Royce, Clyde Brassler, Wood Oliver,

W. H. Johnson, Mrs. Daisy Johnston, Mrs. Catherine Julian, Mrs. Minnie Smith, Mrs. Alice Huber, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Wallace, the Rev and Mrs. O. A. Jewell, Mrs. Floyd Bassett, Mrs. Wallace Power and Mrs. Anna Johnson.

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Out of the Woods

By JIM STEVENS

TALE OF TEN ACRES

In 1920 John Barnes (real farmer but not his real name), added ten acres to the pasture land for his dairy herd by clearing off the second-growth Douglas fir. The oldest tree had 40 annual rings. The yield was a giant pile of sawlogs and cordwood. Burning followed the harvest, and then the ground between the stump

was seeded to grass. For five years the cows and calves grazed over the ten acres.

Little Douglas firs kept popping up under the hoofs of the cattle, who found the grass to be lean pickings. At last Mr. Barnes gave up the grass and allowed the land to go back to trees. It was a number of years, however, before the struggling forest of Douglas fir third-growth was fenced for its protection.

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