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Out of the Woods

By JIM STEVENS

TWO 'DIRT FORESTERS'

Tom Wade is a dairy farmer. In 1925 he bought 40 acres of upland near his farm. He paid $1000 fo the land; $500 for the timber on it. It was second-growth Douglas fir but the stand was good. The 40 was part of a quarter-section homestead claim which Wade's father had sold for $300 about 50 years earlier.

Between 1925 and 1942 Mr. Wade sold $978 worth of fuel wood, poles and posts from this 40, in small jags that didn't even dent the stand. His total tax bill on the woodland for the 117 years was $119.

Then Mr. Wade was offered $2000 for the timber on 17 acres of this tract. This stand was 70-year-old fir, tall and straight, ideal for long piling. Tom Wade made his deal through his farm forest co-op, which arranged a sale by scale rather than by lump sum. For long piling, 90 to 135 feet, payment was 9 cents a lineal foot; for shorter sticks, 7 and 5 cents a foot. The owner did not touch a hand to the logging.

No noe had known exactly how much piling was on the 17 acres. The harvest amounted to much more than $2000. It returned $7183 to Tom Wade in cash. He still had, at last report, the 17 acres and its young trees, plus the timber on the other 23 acres.

A Family Training Project.

Our second dirt forester is a small farmer named Joe Greer. Some time back he bought a 40 in the hills north of town. This land had been logged in 1902. It carried a thick forest of Douglas fir. Joe started to clear it for farming.

A Soil Conservation Service man came along and told Joe that this hill land, while good for growing trees, was not nearly as good as valley land for growing hay and grain. He told Joe it would be a small gold mine if he left it in timber but improved it by thinning. He advised Joe on how to go about the thinning and how to sell what he cut as piling, poles and tie timber.

Greer had no means to hire help but he had a family. Mrs. Greer thought she could cut her weight down by 10 pounds in a summer of work in the timber. The children were enthused. So they started. Mrs. Greer helped Joe with the falling and limbing. Jimmy, age 7, and Edward age 5, did some of the limbing and peeling. Etta Mae, age 9, took care of Baby Ray, a year old, and kept the water jug full. She ran errands too, such as fetching the saw oil and wedges.

Joe Lost Weight.

Three months later, when the rains came, the Greers had sold $1200 worth of piling, tie timber and firewood. Their longest piling was 69 feet, from a tree 34 years old. The family had earned $400 a month and still had two summers of work like it to get the whole forty in shape. They left the best trees standing to grow into long piling and sawtimber. In fact, you can hardly tell that any cutting has been done, looking from some distance, the forest is that thick still. The remaining trees are fattening up fast, says the SCS.

The family had fun working in the woodlot, but there was one drawback. Mrs. Greer said that for her there had been no thinning. Instead, the summer had added 10 pounds to her weight. "Joe was thinned, along with the timber, though," she said. "He lost 10 pounds while I gained. The forester calls this increment. Those boys sure do sling the words!"

SUBSTITUTE CLERK P. O. EXAM

Federal civil service announces an examination for appointment to the position of substitute clerk post office service for Idanha Detroit, Mill City, Lyons and Mehama. All applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 50 and reside within delivery of the office which exmined, or be bona fide patrons of such office.

The age limits may be waived for veterans and under certain conditions for war service indefinite employees.

No specific experience or education is required, but applicants must take a written examination, which includes a Sorting Test, General Test, and a Following Instructions Test.

Further information on this examination and the necessary application forms must be obtained from the Postmaster, Post Office.

This examination will be held at the Stayton High School on October 29, 1949, at 8:30 A. M.

GARDEN CLUB TO MEET

The Mill City Garden Club will meet Oct. 227 at the Albert Toman home. The topic will be bulbs and the discussion will be led by Mrs. W. R. Olmstead.

Added to published lists of club prize winners at the Santiam Grange fair are Mrs. Charles Dolezal, with one second place, and Mrs. James Swan, with a first, secon and third award.