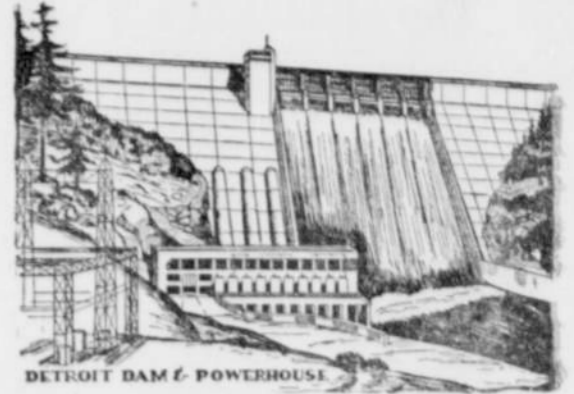




THE MILL CITY ENTERPRISE

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ON THE SCENIC NORTH SANTIAM HIGHWAY — GATEWAY TO THE HEART OF NATURE'S EMPIRE

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"THE STRONGEST BOND OF HUMAN SYMPATHY, OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY RELATION, SHOULD BE ONE UNITING ALL WORKING PEOPLE, OF ALL NATIONS, AND TONGUES, AND KINDREDS."

—Abraham Lincoln, in a letter to New York Workmen's Ass'n. in 1864.

Intimate View Of Fire Given

By JEAN ROBERTS

Smoke hangs low over this community, from the Sardine creek fire which started a week ago. The cause of the fire is still a matter of conjecture.

First it was reported as originating in the Lee Logging. Many thought a wire on a donkey could have shorted and caused the flame. One eye witness, however, reported seeing the conflagration well under way and outside the landing where donkeys are situated.

The intensity of the heat was described with awe by the first individuals on the fire line in the Sardine creek canyon. A mechanic for the Vancouver Plywood company stated that he saw hemlocks, two feet in diameter, snapped off like twigs when struck by the roaring tide of searing flames.

It is reported that nine million feet of timber lay felled and bucked in the steep canyon. The logs almost constituted a cold deck which burned with seething fury. There will be very little timber salvage in this location, many loggers state.

The Sardine creek fire swept through the landing and completely destroyed a new yarder valued at \$60,000. A "loading pot" nearby, loaded with five barrels of gasoline, had only the tops blown from the drums.

A fire pump set in Sardine creek was abandoned the first night. As the heat became more intense and threatening the fire crew left the pump while it was still running and ran for safety. They climbed into a pickup and sped away from the danger zone through smoke and ashes down the narrow roadway. Luckily no fallen snags or rocks blocked their way.

Crews are still being dispatched to the fire area. They work a 12-hour shift. Loggers and timber fallers are needed for falling snags which will burn and scatter sparks for weeks after the main fire has passed. Mill owners have also sent men by rotating their working shifts. Man power also has been recruited as far away as the coast.

State forestry headquarters were set up at Little Sweden and men check in and out each day. Men bring lunches and eat at 10 a.m. The forest service distributes another lunch at 2 p.m.

"Cats" dot the hillsides as they punch roads into terrain so rough that perhaps only a few yards of road is built each day.

Fire trucks loaded with water toil up and down the tortuously steep roads. Fire fighters have practically quenched the west end of the fire on the Marion county side.

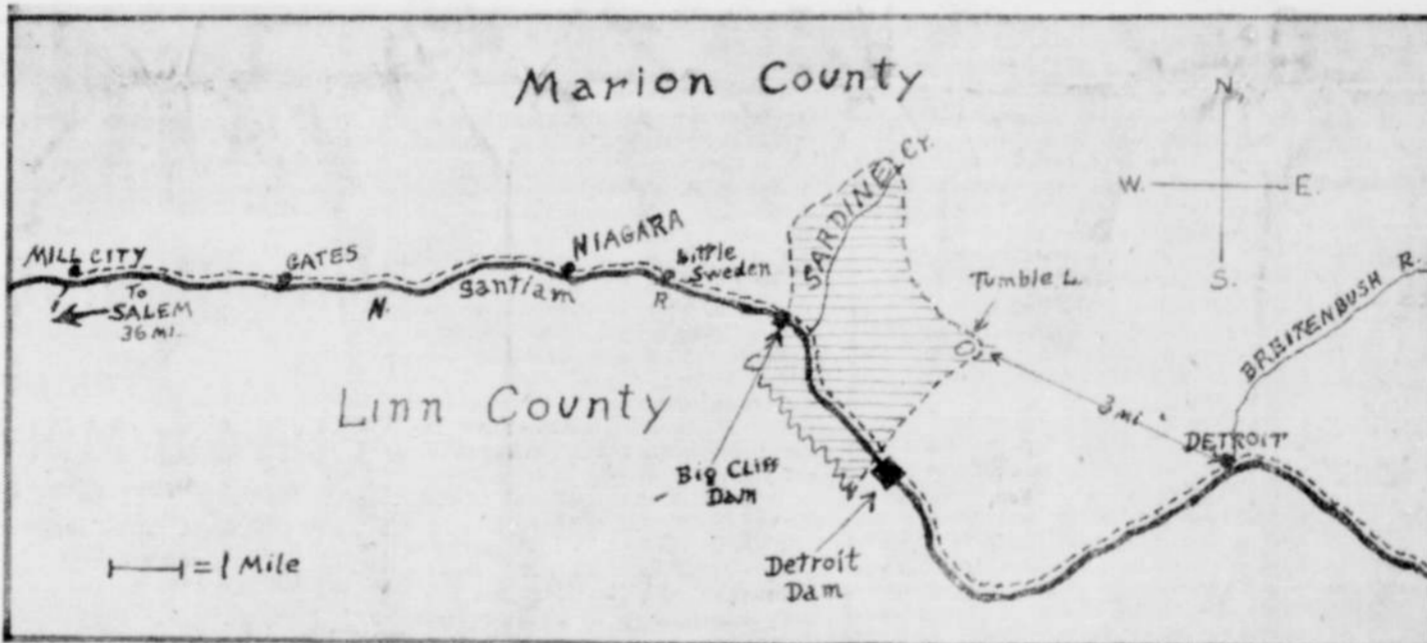
Mr. and Mrs. Ercell Wilson and Reems Shehee who returned in trucks from eastern Oregon, reported a narrow escape from the fire near the Detroit dam. Disregarding highway warning notices they started driving (Continued on Page 4)

Coming Events . . .

- MONDAY—**
 - American Legion Auxiliary 3d Mon. Lions club meeting.
 - A.F. & A.M. No. 180 stated meeting third Monday.
 - O.E.S. meeting, 2d Monday month.
- TUESDAY—**
 - Boy Scouts at City park, 7 p.m.
 - Chamber of Commerce 2 & 4 noon luncheon.
 - Lions Auxiliary 4th Tuesday
 - Women's club 8 p.m. 1st, 3rd Tues.
 - 129-J School Board meeting 2d Tues
- WEDNESDAY—**
 - Santiam Eagles and auxiliary 8 p.m. at Mill City fire hall.
 - Santiam Rebekah 166—1st and 3rd Wed. at 8 p.m.
 - City council first Wed. 7:30 p.m.
- THURSDAY—**
 - Theta Rho Club for Girls, meets 2d and 4th Thursdays.
 - Gates PTA 1st Thursday 8 p.m.
 - American Legion 2d and 4th Thurs.
 - Garden club fourth Thursday.
 - Firemen Auxiliary meets 3d Thurs.
- FRIDAY—**
 - I.O.O.F. meeting.
 - Mill City IWA meeting last Friday
 - Farmers Union meeting at Mehama
 - Woman's club, 2nd



Scene of Spreading Forest Fire in Santiam Canyon



The photo above records a scene similar to that which set the stage for the road and river crossing of the Sardine creek fire last Thursday night. Downstream from this Whitman creek scene hot ashes and fiery splinters sailed through the air and ignited patches of timber on the south bank of the North Santiam river. The Corps of Engineer's headquarters for Detroit

dam is located a quarter of a mile from this site of destruction. The shaded portion of a sketch of the Sardine creek area reproduced below represents approximately the locale and size of the fire, Friday, August 24. From this relatively modest area, the blaze quickly spread itself over an estimated 9,000-acre area. (Photo and sketch courtesy of The Statesman)

Rain Storm Tames Wild Canyon Fire

Hot, Dry Winds Pose New Threat

First, light moisture in the form of mist from overcast skies filtered down, Monday night, then, seemingly encouraged with result, the clouds rumbled ominously and released a steady patter of rain early Tuesday over thirsty forest lands in the North Santiam canyon and the entire Willamette valley as well. The climax of the rain storm came, Wednesday morning when storm clouds spat claps of thunder and lightning and splattered large raindrops in rushing torrents upon our fire stricken canyon.

With the coming of the precious rain, the arduous work of more than 1000 fire fighters bore fruit. Fire trails presented stout barriers to the relentless advance of the Sardine creek fire on all fronts. Federal and state foresters caution, however, that should hot, dry weather and high winds resume their rule in the northwest then the Sardine creek fire reasonably could threaten again on a large scale forest lands and nearby canyon communities.

Rain Cools and Washes Air

Visible effect of some .51 of an inch of rain is the absence of wood smoke and ashes in the atmosphere. In their place there are filmy wisps of fog and a clean, fresh smell. The canyon route is open again, but travelers will note a new hard surface has been applied between the sites of Detroit and Big Cliff dams. Those who fled the Detroit area during the height of the Sardine creek fire have in large measure returned. Some 100 fire fighters are busy scooping out fire trails and felling snags which are potential torches. State authorities have lifted the ban against all logging and have re-instated the rule of no logging if the humidity reading falls below 30.

Sardine creek fire blackened some 9,000 acres of forest land during its onslaught. Some 1,200 men were battling the fire without too much success when it was at its peak. Last Thursday night the Sardine creek fire displayed unusual viciousness by skipping across the North Santiam highway and river into Linn county. Fortunately the angry blaze did not consume 9,000 acres of saw timber, but instead swept through large areas of comparative waste.

Sunday Was Worst Day of Fire

Sunday was the most discouraging day of the Sardine creek fire. Haggard and serious faced fire fighters shuffled back and forth from the fire lines for food, supplies and a bit of needed rest. No one expressed the hope that the fire could be corralled by human effort alone. Everyone felt only rain could tame the Sardine creek fire. Observation from the air was thwarted by the dense smoke that boiled up and choked the atmosphere above the blazing timberlands. All too often fire fighters recounted seeing and hearing the fire roar up first one ravine and then down another like an enraged wild animal.

All forms of transportation were used in the fire fighting effort. A 'copter was used for observation of the course of the fire and for emergency supply work. Pack trains were loaded heavily with supplies and sent trudging into the rough and rugged forest area where the fire raged. Jeeps and trucks of many types, loaded with men and supplies, braved the few so-called roads leading to the various sectors of the sprawling fire. One such jeep failed in its duty and killed one fire fighter.

Winds Whipped Flames About

One of the greatest difficulties encountered in battling the canyon fire was its habit of taking to the tree tops. Winds, whipped by the heat of the fire itself, carried embers from tree to tree. Snags, full of explosive pitch, burst into massive torches that led the fire on and on.

Included in the fire area was timber sold by the state to Vancouver Plywood company for \$465,000.

Marion county's civil defense teams were put to the test Thursday night when a call for help came in from the Detroit area. The civil defense units and equipment remained in the Detroit area until the tense situation eased because of the rain storm.

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon has asked President Truman for emergency aid for Oregon because of the destruction visited upon it in recent weeks by this and dozens of other very serious forest fires. Some 53 days of drought produced acute water shortage problems in many areas of the state. Power generation, no doubt, will be curtailed because of the drought. Bonneville administration has already issued warnings regarding the impending shortage.

Observers tonight point out that the Sardine creek fire near Big Cliff dam is still far from being out. Tongues of flame lick at trees and brush in the area located between Detroit and Big Cliff dams on the south bank of the river.

Rock Creek Voters Air Precinct Wish

Those who live in the Marion Forks area are rugged stock and take their politics straight, but it does irk them somewhat that they must travel oftentimes 20 to 30 miles to the polling places near Gates. Some 51 of these good citizens have petitioned the Linn County court for a more convenient voting place.

The signers of the precinct-change petition all live in the very large precinct of Rock Creek and must vote in the Gates school house.

Because of the increase in population in the upper North Santiam canyon area, particularly in the Detroit and Idanha communities the importance of a centralized polling place is increased.

The Linn Co. court has taken the petition of the Rock Creek voters under advisement.

Just Arrived . . .

- A SON—To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Klecker, Mill City, August 30, at Salem General hospital.
- A DAUGHTER—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert De Clue, Lyons, Route 1, August 29, at Salem Memorial hospital.
- A SON—To Mr. and Mrs. Stafford, Gates, August 24, at Salem Memorial hospital.
- To Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Enlow, Mill City, August 24, at Salem General hospital.

Mill City Team Starts Football

Mill City high school plays an impressive eight-game schedule for 1951. Four games will be at home and two of these home games will be league games, according to Burton Boroughs, athletic coach.

Mill City high has the nucleus for a good team since, 14 lettermen are returning. The lettermen are: ends—Delmar Skillings, Dick Downer, Bob Baltimore, and Richard Verbeck; tackles—Dick Williams and Gary Peterson; guard—Vernon Christensen; center Dennis Marttala; and backfield—Phillip Goble, Alfred Ward, Lyle Fleetwood, LeRoy Podrabsky, Bill Hoffman, and Dick Kanoff.

The first game of the season is with Lebanon's "B" squad, Thursday night, September 20, in Mill City. With a lighted athletic field an added feature this year it is hoped that capacity crowds will turn out for all home games. Game time will be 8 p.m. for all home games. Season tickets will be honored.

Boroughs announced that the first football practice schedule is Tuesday afternoon, 4 p.m., September 4. Football equipment will be issued at 10 a.m. Tuesday also. Footballers can purchase all needed accessories, such as shoes, socks and supporters, at the Santiam War Surplus store in Mill City.

(Continued on Page 8)

Hoeyes Honored By Golden Wedding Tea

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hoeye were honored at a golden wedding tea, Wednesday afternoon during the Mill City Garden club annual flower show in the Presbyterian church recreation room. "Golden Wedding" was the theme for the flower show. Mrs. Hoeye is the only garden club member who has celebrated this fifty year event.

One corner of the Presbyterian recreation hall was given over to the tea service. The tea table was nicely decorated with a lace cloth and golden tapers. Mrs. Lee Owen was in charge of this committee and Mrs. Jennie Davis, Mrs. Fred Duffy, and Mrs. C. M. Cline, in their long dresses in the styles of long ago, presided. The golden wedding cake was made by Mrs. James Swan and was beautifully decorated by Mrs. Ernest Podrabsky. The cake was cut and served by Mrs. Swan.

Regardless of the long dry summer weather there were many lovely flowers, arrangements and potted plants for Mill City's flower show. Mrs. Byron Bradshaw, Albany director of the Santiam district of federation garden clubs, and Mrs. Ward Inglis, Stayton garden club president, judged the Mill City exhibits and awarded the tri-colors to Mrs. "Pink" Mason for her beautiful all-white arrangement of dahlias. These (Continued on Page 8)

Kelly's Hold Pat In State Softball

Just as The Enterprise was going to press it was learned that Kelly Lumber softball team lost both of its games in Corvallis tonight. Kelly's lost to Hermiston 2-1. Corvallis defeated Kelly's in their second game, 3-2. Eugene won the tournament.

Through two convincing victories, the Kelly Lumber softball team has advanced to the semi-finals of the Oregon state softball tournament. In the first game, the local team edged Redmond four to three with Ron Davidson on the mound. Bud Shaw twirled Kelly's to a five to one victory over Grants Pass.

Tonight's games, which were at first scheduled for play at Eugene, later were switched to the Corvallis city softball field. The first game began at 6:30 and pitted Kelly's against Bowers Market of Hermiston. The second of Thursday night's games matched Coppings Big Bucks of Eugene and Wilson Motors of Corvallis, followed by a playoff game for third place by the two losers and, finally, the winners of the first two games playing off for the championship.

Saturday the champions will represent Oregon in the Northwest regional softball tournament slated in Portland.

Kelly's have insured Mill City 4th place in the state softball tourney, even if they do not win tonight.

Yellow Jackets Cause Freakish 'Cat' Accident

Vern Nydegger of Lyons was hospitalized, Tuesday with severe lacerations of his leg. He sustained the injury during a freak accident. Nydegger was driving a "cat" leveling some ground for a piling yard for Art Andersen at Fox Valley when he unearthed a yellow jacket nest. In jumping from the "cat" he caught his pants leg in the drive of the machine. Andersen went to his aid but both men were badly stung. They were taken to the Salem Memorial hospital by ambulance. Andersen was severely stung about the face, neck, and shoulders. He was released from the hospital that evening after treatment. Nydegger remains in the hospital and possibility will need plastic surgery.