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Out of the Woods

By JAMES STEVENS

One of a Hundred...

The "hoot owl shift" proved its value in Oregon and Washington woods through the season. On some large operations the starting whistle shrilled at four o'clock in the morning. At times logging stopped at 9:00 a.m. Then some maverick or green horn would break a law or a summer job rule. And from state forestry raffles would carry the order, "Shut down!" And the cost of the order—millions per day!

On the Tillamook Burn alone such orders punched holes in the bank accounts of a hundred gyppo loggers and their crews from April through August in the past year.

One order stopped the trucks of the Stimson Lumber Company operation, the greatest single factor in the rehabilitation of the Big Burn through 18 years of Bunyan-scale logging of fire-killed but sound Douglas firs. The Stimson booms were stocked, so sawing went on, but the loggers were out of work. The shutdowns piled up tremendous costs. So the story ran with other logging outfits, deep into September, from Bellingham to the Humboldt—because one logger in a hundred might be a knothead with fire.

Lessen of the Tillamook...

It is an appalling economic fact to face—a fact which foresters and loggers in all industrial forest regions face—that one maniacal or criminal arsonist, or one careless recreationist, or one irresponsible woodsman, can set giant forces of destruction and economic loss going with one thread of flame, with a single spark.

On fateful August 14, 1953, all but one of the logging operators in Western Oregon were shut down. The one was to be closed at noon. The last log of the morning was being yarded in. Steel rope swiped dead cedar, throwing sparks. Smoke piled up. Death leaped up tree after tree, leaving stark stems with bark of char.

So just one log operator started the Tillamook Fire, while hundreds of other operators' and thousands of woods employees were "playing safe."

Snag Logging... By Aug. 24 the fire had killed big trees on forty thousand acres. Then a dry east wind began to turn on explosive power. Northward on Wolf Creek an arsonist put the flame to a three-hundred-acre spread of slashings. This was the little publicized start of the second half of the blowup in which more than two hundred and seventy thousand acres of trees were killed—after the first forty thousand acres.

Killed, not destroyed. If the Tillamook Fire of 1953 was America's greatest forest fire, then the salvage logging that followed it has been the biggest fire-hazard reduction operation of all timber history.

About eight billion board feet have been logged from the Big Burn. Tillamook Warden Ed Schroeder estimates that the average among the fire-killed trees that have been utilized has scaled 2,670 board feet. He sees this in terms of removal of some three million snags that stood as the worst fire hazard in the way of the state's Tillamook Burn Rehabilitation Project, set going two years ago. Industrial foresters view this Paul Bunyan record as a triumph of private enterprise forestry—which has its taproot in the nation-wide markets for forest products

Forest Products Market Report

Many Willamette Valley mills had to scramble for sawlogs again this past week. Heavy rains have forced loggers to close down summer operations, and winter shows are not yet in production. Prices were mostly steady, with some increases of up to \$4 a thousand in the southern part of the valley.

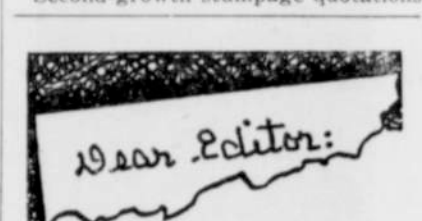
Poles and piling also registered spotty advances of 1 to 3 cents a foot. Most other forest products remained about steady, according to the weekly farm forest products report prepared from data supplied by the State Board of Forestry to the OSC Extension Service.

Douglas Fir Sawlogs:

Demand for Douglas fir sawlogs was strong, particularly in the southern part of the valley. Second-growth logs over 24 feet long and 10 inches in diameter were \$35 to \$38 a thousand board feet for No. 3's and \$42 to \$48 a thousand for No. 2's. Prices made a \$4 advance in the Eugene area. 12 to 24 foot logs were about steady at \$37 to \$46 a thousand, camp run. 8 foot logs 6 inches in diameter were \$15 to \$18 a cord or \$32 to \$40 a thousand.

Old-growth sawlog prices in the southern valley rose \$4 to the level of other Willamette areas. No. 3's brought \$40 and No. 2's brought \$50 a thousand. Peelers ranged from \$75 to \$110.

Second-growth stumpage quotations



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HEART ATTACK OR INDIGESTION?

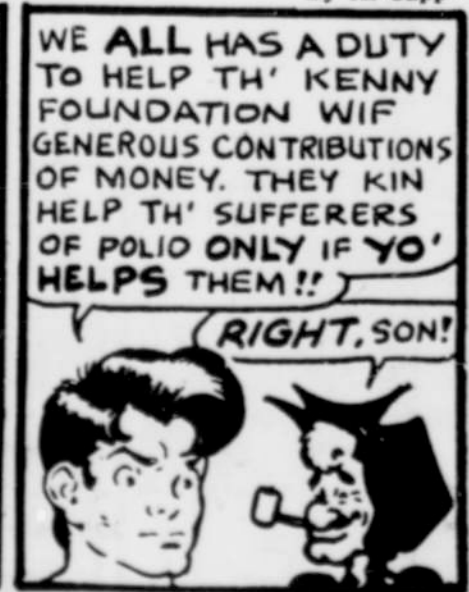
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By Al Capp

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"Here they come—a good watershed area attracts wild folks every time!"

were mostly \$12 to \$20 a thousand, depending on quality, location, volume and other factors.

Pulpwood:

Northern and central valley pulp mills paid \$17 a cord for unpeeled spruce hemlock and true fir. Douglas fir was \$14 to \$17 a cord, with one mill in the central valley quoting \$5.90 a ton.

Poles and Piling:

Long Douglas fir poles and piling were in good demand. Prices were steady to 3 cents per lineal foot higher. Barkie poles ranged from 7 cents a foot for 25 foot poles up to 43 cents for 100 foot lengths. Lists quoted 13 to 18 cents for 40 foot poles and 20 to 26 cents for 50 foot poles. Peeled piling ranged from 25 to 42 cents a foot for 20 to 100 foot lengths.

Hardwood Logs:

Most hardwoods were about steady at \$34.50 to \$37.50 a thousand. Alder, ash, maple, oak and chinquapin were in limited demand at these prices. One Portland manufacturer found maple hard to get at \$40. Cottonwood brought \$24 to \$30 a thousand.

Other Forest Products:

Hop poles continued to bring \$1.25 to \$1.50 each for Douglas fir and \$1.75 to \$2.00 for cedar. Car stakes were in good demand at 40 to 45 cents each. Fern went up 2 cents a bunch to 14 cents.

Boy Scouts Learn--

(Continued from Page 1)

their in-service training program. Portland civil defense had an exhibit at the Pacific International Exposition which included displays, posters, education pamphlets, film slides, and motion pictures. Also in Portland, a two-session course for CD speakers was held.

State civil defense workers are continuing their field trips to CD units throughout the state to see if the assignments given each county for police and fire reserves, mobile first aid teams, medical-hospital teams, welfare teams, and rescue units are within the capabilities of each area. In Forest Grove, the Business and

Les's Tavern
MILL CITY
A FRIENDLY
FAMILY
ATMOSPHERE
PREVALES

Professional Womens club was told that women have to fill at least one-third of the civil defense jobs. Four Toledo business firms have purchased 1000 copies each of four public education booklets. Local director, Harry Jacobsen, said other firms have offered to buy more of the booklets in the series as they are released by the federal government. Yamhill county civil defense is currently distributing education booklets through the schools and chamber of commerce. In Woodburn, commenting upon the need for civil defense in towns of all sizes, the Independent said editorially: . . . it is important that trained medical teams, fire, police, and rescue squads and other emergency groups be available in the hinterland."

In The Dalles, civil defense workers took time out from their recruitment of mobile first aid teams and other services to stage their first practice air raid alert.

ON OTHER HOME FRONTS:

California's CD director, Maj. Gen. Walter M. Robertson, said: "The effectiveness of these preparations (against biological warfare) will depend in great measure on an informed and alert public, speedily co-operating with civil defense, health and agriculture officials."

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