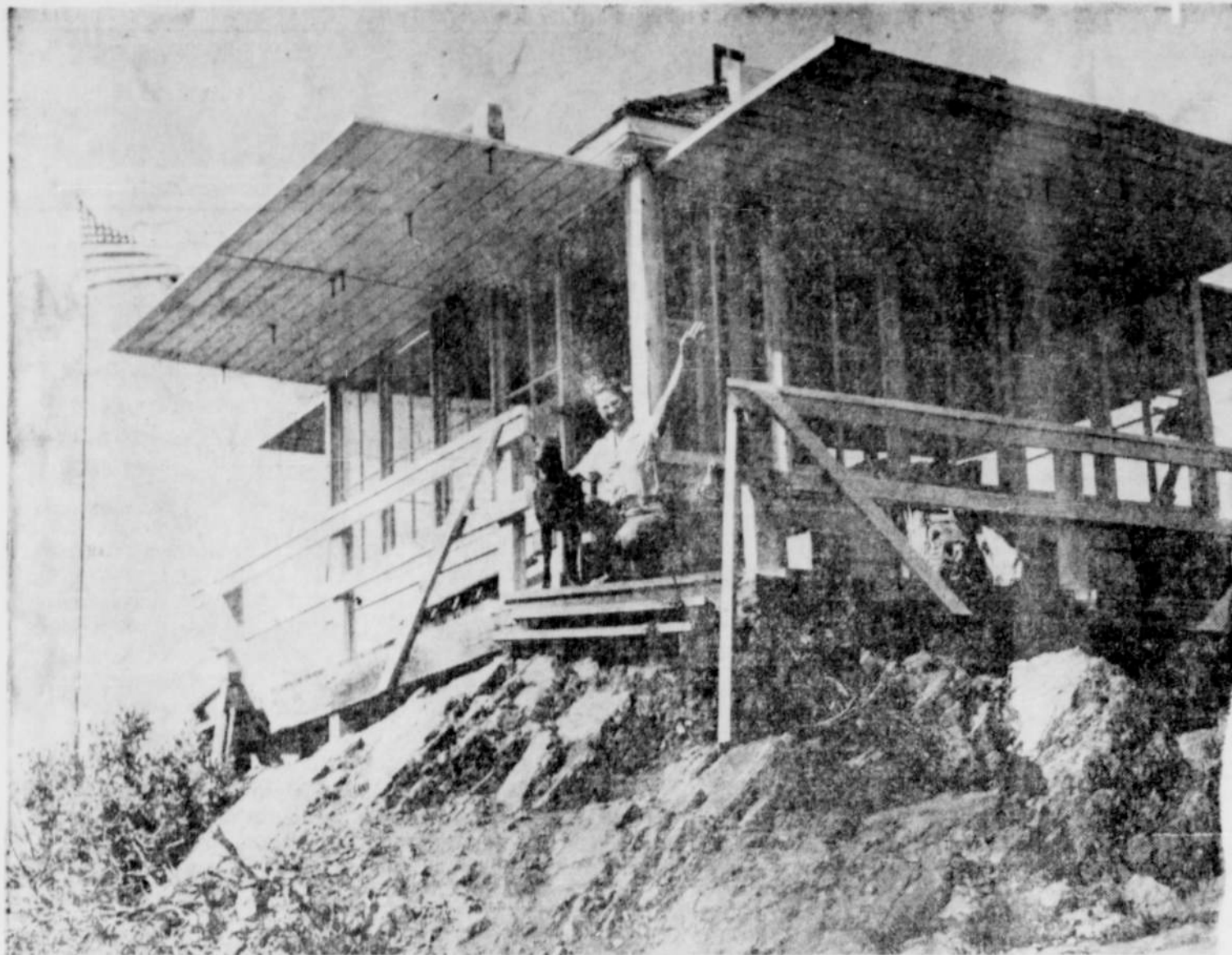


SPORTS PAGE



Woman Mans Fire Lookout In Cascades Above Detroit

By CHARLES IRELAND
Valley Editor, The Statesman

"It's a lonely life, but I like it," says Clara Young, the only woman in the Detroit area who mans a forest fire lookout post all alone.

Mrs. Young probably won't see a newspaper nor a human being at close range for the rest of July. And maybe well into August. She's settled down for the summer in a little house that's perched high above the floor of the North Santiam canyon.

Motorists might catch a wee glimpse of her tower if they look due south as they glide along the highway past the new Detroit ranger station. With powerful binoculars, they might even spot Mrs. Young or Courageous, the doberman pinscher who shares her lonely watch.

A month ago Mrs. Young climbed a steep, two-mile trail to the top of Stahlman Point and started her fifth season as a fire lookout.

"She's one of our best," said S. T. (Tennessee) Moore, chief ranger of the 300,000-acre Detroit district of the Willamette National Forest.

How did Mrs. Young get into this unusual avocation? She grew up admiring the forests of her native Minnesota. And when she married a college professor, who also liked outdoor life, it seemed a good way to spend the summers.

For three seasons they staffed larger posts together. After her husband switched to year-around work, Mrs. Young decided to keep the family tradition going alone.

* * *

Her season starts in June and normally ends in September. A five-mule train packs in her bedding, food, cooking utensils and a few personal items. The forester who leads the mule train aims to make the rounds of the 16 lookout posts and guard stations every three weeks.

But if it's a little longer, Mrs. Young doesn't worry. She's in contact with the ranger station by both telephone and two-way radio.

* * *

Her day starts about 5:30 when she wakes up, walks a half mile to a clear mountain spring and totes back three gallons of water—a day's supply.

Then, if fuel for her wood stove is low, she bucks a fallen tree and chops some kindling. Breakfast may be cereal (with condensed milk), fruit or pancakes. Her larder is long on fruit, juices, soup and vegetables. Nearly everything, of course, is canned.

Roll-call, via radio, comes at 7 a.m., and her day is officially started. Every half hour she picks up her powerful field glasses for five minutes and methodically scans the approximately 25,000 acres of forest land within visibility.

* * *

Adjacent lookouts (the nearest is four miles away) scan their domains on alternate quarter hours. Since territories overlap, this means that all of the forest theoretically gets a once-over every 15 minutes.

Actually, Mrs. Young and Forester Moore agree, the tall timber is under near-constant daytime surveillance. Especially when humidity drops below the critical point.

While Mrs. Young and other fire lookouts rarely leave their posts during a season, they nominally work an eight-hour day and a 40-hour week. Their duty hours are geared to periods when fire danger is acute due to weather or logging operations.

* * *

If Sunday presents no apparent fire danger, it is not a day of duty. Conditions frequently make another off day possible during the week. If not, lookouts are paid overtime above 40 hours.

Starting pay, Forester Moore reported, is \$51 a week. A veteran like Mrs. Young may make up to \$300 a month during the peak danger season, overtime included.

Yearly turnover runs high among the lookouts with few returning for a second season. Husband-and-wife teams are popular at the Detroit district's six guard stations, which require two persons.

* * *

Moore said Mrs. Young is the only woman who has manned a lookout station for an entire season. During World War II, members of the Chemeketas, Salem outdoor club, handled lookout assignments on a weekly basis. Some women participated in this program.

Most of the current lookouts in the Detroit district are college students. Two are from Princeton university. Others are forestry majors from colleges in Oregon, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Last season Mrs. Young spotted 10 fires. She has a list of slash burnings and other controlled fires. When she sights a stray curl of smoke she contacts headquarters and the race against time is on. Sometimes it's just a trash burner at a dwelling. Often, it's serious.

* * *

By means of an intricate "fire finder" Mrs. Young can pin-point the smoke locations. But she and the

Last Round Santiam League Completed

Friday night Chuck's defeated Mehama 17 to 7 in a wild contest. Duane Downing was the big gun for the winners as he collected two home-runs a single and two walks in six trips.

The score: R H E
Chuck's — 040 605 2—7 5 3
Mehama — 112 003 0—17 13 3

In the second game Friday night the Engineers defeated the Firemen 15 to 3. The Firemen jumped off to an early lead but were unable to hold off the Engineers attack.

The score: R H E
CBI — 003 143 4—15 5 4
Firemen — 100 020 0—3 5 5

Tuesday night Mehama defeated Lee Logging 15 to 13. Mehama had a ruff time overhauling the Loggers but finally won out in the battle of the celler dwellers.

The score: R H E
Lee Logging — 380 010 1—13 11 3
Mehama — 340 107 x—15 14 0

In the second game Tuesday night Kellys swamped CBI 14 to 0. Ron Davidson pitched a no-hit no-run game in one of the finest performances seen on this field. Ron gave up three walks and one batter got on by an error, all base runners except one were erased and Ron faced only 22 batters. Thirteen batters went down via the strikeout route as they were unable to solve Ron's assortment of curves, drops and rise balls.

In the offensive department the Kelly batters were well stocked with an assortment of 2x12's which they used effectively at the plate. Don Carey collected two for three, Bob Dombrowsky collected three for four, and John Jubb and Pete Valdez added home runs to the cause. Ron Davidson managed a home run and two doubles in four trips.

The score: R H E
CBI — 000 000 0—0 0 4
Kellys — 034 106 x—14 13 1

In the final league game Wednesday night, the Firemen defeated Chuck's 8 to 7. This was a close one all the way as the teams matched each other run for run all through the contest. The game went into extra innings after being all tied up two and two at the end of the seventh. Chuck's pushed across a run in the top of the ninth and the Firemen matched it in their half of the inning. In the top of the seventh Chuck's blasted out four runs and appeared to have the contest on ice, but the Firemen came back with some tricky stick work to squeeze in five runs in the eleventh inning and win the game.

The score: R H E
Chuck's — 101 000 001 04—7 8 5
Firemen — 100 100 001 05—8 9 7

rangers know their territory well, often go by landmarks to save time. She can communicate with trucks en route to the scene.

If you like sweeping vistas of snow-capped mountains, if you like to go to bed with the sun, if you really think you could live alone and like it—then maybe a fire lookout's life is for you.

You'd be sure after a season at Stahlman Point.



Detroit—Mrs. Clara Young, who rarely sees a visitor at her forest fire lookout post high above Detroit, waves goodbye (top photo) from her station atop Stahlman Point, 2,000 feet above the nearby North Santiam highway. Standing between Mrs. Young and possible unwelcome guests (lower left photo) is her doberman pinscher, Courageous, who stands by while she selects supper items from her shelf of canned goods. Mrs. Young scans the forest many times a day (right) from a rocky ledge outside her lookout tower. Mt. Jefferson, 16½ miles distant, looms in background. (Statesman photos by Charles Ireland, Valley Editor)



Detroit—Mrs. Clara Young, who rarely sees a visitor at her forest fire lookout post high above Detroit, waves goodbye (top photo) from her station atop Stahlman Point, 2,000 feet above the nearby North Santiam highway. Standing between Mrs. Young and possible unwelcome guests (lower left photo) is her doberman pinscher, Courageous, who stands by while she selects supper items from her shelf of canned goods. Mrs. Young scans the forest many times a day (right) from a rocky ledge outside her lookout tower. Mt. Jefferson, 16½ miles distant, looms in background. (Statesman photos by Charles Ireland, Valley Editor)

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Softball Schedule For Next Week

From now until state tournament time the schedule will be slightly irregular. There will probably be softball every night and the first game should get under way by 7 p.m. PST.

Kelly Boysen Paints will bring in some of the teams who will be on hand for the state tournament. This will give those teams a chance to play on our field before the tournament begins and it will also give Kelly some competition to gear them for state play-offs.

Some of the teams tentatively scheduled to appear here next week are: Salem Merchants, Lebanon Western Veneer, Springfield Clear Fir Lumber, Eugene Copping's Big Bucks, Oswego, and Junction City. All of these teams are contenders for the state tournament.

KEEP OREGON GREEN

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS of the Santiam Softball League

Team	W	L	Pct.
Kellys	10	0	1.000
CBI Engineers	7	3	.700
Firemen	6	4	.600
Chuck's	4	6	.400
Mehama	3	7	.300
Lee Logging	0	10	.000

Kelly will represent the Mill City district in the state tournament and will be the host team. As someone said a long time ago, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Let's all get behind the Kelly Green and root them to a state championship.

Local Fishermen Catch Limit at Clear Lake

Fishing proved to be very good in the Clear lake country Wednesday when local fishermen returned home with their limit of 30 beautiful trout specimens.

A. V. Herron, John Jackson, and Don Jenkins spent the day at Clear lake and were the lucky devotees of Isaac Walton. This reporter caught them in the act of having photographs being taken on the lawn of Photographer Bob Veness Wednesday evening.

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