

Portable Pumps Declared Real Step Forward as Fire Fighting Aid in Northwest

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In the timbered areas of the Pacific Northwest prior to 1922 there had been but very little or no progress made in the old methods used in forest fire fighting. This expensive way consisted of spending money freely for men, shovels and other agricultural tools, and still prevails to a great extent.

We spend thousands of dollars annually in the combating of forest fires with a very small per cent of money actually effective. Some of this expenditure is necessary, but the greater portion is spent in labor due to the lack of adequate pumping equipment.

Much has been said and done in the legislation of laws, extensive patrol, fire prevention and reforestation propaganda, but the fact still remains that we always have had forest fire and always will as long as there is anything to burn and the carelessness of mankind is an important factor.

The extensive and expensive research work now conducted by the weather bureau and others in recording relative humidity in view of forecasting possible fire conditions from 12 to 24 hours in advance is all very well, but what good is all of this forecasting to do if we are not prepared for the fire when it comes? What credit do you give to the weather forecast when you want to go to a ball game? Fire is fire, wherever you find it, and the most practical way yet found of fighting it is with speed, efficiency and water. Fire in the timber is no exception.

We pinch the dollars until the fire starts, then we get panicky to the extent of massing all available men, experienced and otherwise (mostly otherwise), tools, supplies, etc., on the job, and go to work. With what results? If the wind dies down or changes direction these men might cut it off, but without water the fire is still there, and it costs considerable money in man power to hold it until it goes out of its own accord, or gets away to a new start on a fresh wind. What happens when a fire gets away in the timber? The ranger in charge immediately gets busy, knowing that he must do something more or less sensational, all of the time hoping the elements are in his favor, and he is not paying much attention to the weather man. If the wind dies down, or it rains, or the fire runs into a natural barrier, he wins, and wires to headquarters: "Fire is under control."

The newspapers come out with headlines to that effect and the people are satisfied, provided they quote: "All available men were massed on the fire line." Which makes good reading but is hard on the taxpayer. I once asked an old fire fighter what to do when a fire got into the crown with a high wind blowing. He said, "The only thing to do is to take a picture of it and send it to the newspapers—nature will do the rest."

A fire in the forest area is never under control until it is out. The

only way to put it out is with water, and that water under pressure; the sooner you get it there the better. So far this has only been accomplished through the use of light, portable forest fire pumping equipment.

It is estimated on good authority that the operation of one forest fire pumper with discharge equipment worth about \$500 is equal to sixteen men on a fire line, and much more effective. Assuming this to be the fact, we are saving \$80 per 10-hour day of pumping operations. Take the average 10-hour man-day to be worth \$5, or 50 cents per hour—your outfit has paid for itself in six days. When the fire is out you still have the outfit left. What have you left at the end of six days, using man-power alone? Think it over.

In the State of Washington during 1924 the federal government, State of Washington and the private protective agencies spent \$875,969 for protection of the forests from fire. Over \$600,000 of this was spent for fire fighting alone, and the most of it for extra labor. This does not include the money the various logging companies spent for the protection of their holdings.

We are living in an age when most everything is proven by figures. So here are some more figures:

Horsepower vs. Manpower
Take a pumper that delivers 20 gallons of water per minute through one mile of hose. This is not uncommon. Now compare this work with manpower. About all that one man can conveniently handle is a 5-gallon can of water that weighs 40 pounds without the can. He probably could carry more, but he will have to make four round trips, which is eight miles, every minute, through the brush and over logs—or one mile every 1 1/4 seconds. If he keeps it up for eight hours he has earned \$4. Take it another way: A mile is 5,280 feet; a string of men placed close enough together to be able to pass a 40-pound can of water to each other—say four feet apart—there would be 1,340 men in line, and they would not be loafing, either, for they would be passing a can full one way and empty the other every 7 1/2 seconds, not assuming that they would last eight hours at this rate. But for only one hour the cost for labor PORTABLE PUMPS—Gal Two ♦♦ alone would be \$670 per hour, not figuring the wear and tear on the cans.

I came into the forest regions of the State of Washington, trained along the lines of electrical and gasoline engineering, having followed

that particular branch dealing with the eccentric disposition of the gasoline engine from its infancy. This experience, together with my twelve years of fire fighting with shovel and mattock, encouraged me to attempt a revolution over this primitive method of fire fighting. In 1921 I started in to study the pumps then manufactured that, in my judgment, were best suited for the service I had in mind. No one seemed willing to introduce anything modern of a practical nature until 1922, when with the assistance of the state supervisor of forestry, we were successful in getting an eastern manufacturer of pumps to ship us one of their rotary pumps, mounted on a base and coupled to a 2-cycle, 2-cylinder gasoline motor, the complete mounting weighing in the neighborhood of 140 pounds.

When the unit arrived we made a demonstration at Bellingham in November, 1922. We tried out the apparatus at that time before a few heads of forestry organizations, with the same criticism that the automobile industry met with 25 years ago, to-wit: "It might work if the gasoline engine could be depended upon." However, through the vision of some of the old timers, we were able to work up sufficient interest to schedule another demonstration to be held at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in the following April (1923). All of the manufacturers of portable pumps and near pumps were invited to attend. Five outfits managed to get there for the demonstration. The results of this demonstration found the season of 1923 with Washington, Oregon and Idaho using a few pumps in the field, instead of 500 or 600, thus not only getting the valuable service which these pumps would give, but it would have encouraged the manufacturers to watch their equipment in view of improving their product for the next season's market.

The timbermen say now that the pumps are all right, but cost too much money. Why? Because the market is limited. If we get behind the manufacturer and purchase the quantities we need it won't be long before parts will be standardized, makeshift combinations eliminated, units turned out and marketed in quantities, and the cost will come down so it will be possible for every logger to own two or more outfits and consider it an essential part of his equipment. During the season of 1923 and 1924 I had the opportunity to make a thorough study of the various pumps and their performance while in actual service in fire fighting and it is remarkable how few breakdowns there were, even under the extreme hardships they were put to, such as rough handling while packing through the timber, pumping gritty water, neglect of proper lubrication, operating on full load continuously for days at a time, all of which proves that they are now out of the experimental stages, and this method of fire fighting has come to stay.

In the development of portable pumping outfits, the surface has only been scratched. The manufacturers feel that due to the limited market for such apparatus they do not feel justified in going into costly research work to bring out improvements along these lines, if the timber man will get behind and purchase half of what they need the market will be created, the rest will follow.

In the designing and development of power machinery, particularly where power, portability and endurance is a governing factor, there is no guesswork. It requires hard work, considerable expense and special training along the lines of what you are attempting to do. In equipment of this nature it also requires vision and nerve to manufacture against the odds of a doubtful market.

The time will come when forest fires will be taken care of as efficiently as the fires are taken care of in the large cities. If we are not afraid to spend money freely for equipment, spend money for the care and upkeep of this equipment after you have it, train men in its operation, when we have all this, then we can look forward to that ideal fireless and smokeless summer.

Why not give the timber the same fire protection as you do your factories, mills, etc? It is just as valuable. By doing this it will give nature a chance to take care of the reforestation problem that now seems to worry the public.

Let the weather man guess at the weather in the future the same as he has in the past. Don't wait for someone to tell you we are liable to have fire conditions next week, but get your equipment early, train your men and have everything ready for whatever comes. If you spend thousands of dollars for fire fighting equipment and never use it you are still ahead of the game. This is true economy.

The only way a man can keep wober now-a-days is to avoid the revenue agents.

MODOC POINT

MODOC POINT, July 22.—Some ball game, we'll say!

The proud Tennants, tied with Algoma, trek to our place to capture an easy one from the lowly Lamms, who were peacefully sleeping in the cellar, but they reckoned wrong with their geography.

The howly Lamms say the pennant will not go to California. We will keep it in Oregon, says they, and Lord, how the boys did fight.

Joe Plunket in the pitcher's box kept tightening up his belt until he looked like a blue racer after a long winter, but the tighter the belt the sweeter he pitched. Ho made the Tennant timber beasts look like 30 cents with a hole in the quarter.

Willie Adenoid Shannon will go down in history as a saviour, for Tennant had enough men on bases to tie the score when a long fly was knocked in left field and Adenoids had to run to get it but he got it. Boy, that was a sweet catch!

Tennant was leading, two to nothing, until the fourth, when Lamms got two men on bases and then Hank Gowdy Pierson knocked a sand burner which brought in the two runs and from that time it was a game of thrills. Something that happens once and pays for a summer's defeat.

Quite a crowd from Algoma viewed the game and for the first time in history Algoma rooted for us. The Tennant bunch are a fine bunch of sports and we hated to rob them of a pennant but blood is thicker than water and we just had to lick 'em. Every man on the team played ball and each one deserves special praise.

The P. T. A. has offered a prize for the best kept lawn. Silk stocking row is very much excited over who will win the coveted medal. This is a step in the right direction and many beautiful lawns are the result.

The writer always sympathizes with a spoiled ambition and this week our sympathies, each and every one, are given to our good friend Dan Crump. Dan is the proud possessor of a radio and of course like all the radio bugs, Dan likes long distance. The other night after tuning in for several hours, Dan excitedly yelled:

"I've got it! I've got it!"
His wife finally got him cooled down long enough to explain that he had got Japan.
"Japan your eye," his wife replied. "That's a cat walking over on the railroad track."

Poor Dan. She was right. It was a cat.

We want to retract the article appearing two weeks since, regarding Dad Pierson's experiences at the Indian convention, and tender our apologies. We got the matter first hand from him out on the front porch and he insists there is no truth in the article at all, besides she didn't say anything at all about crutches, she simply told Dad if he didn't stop trying to flirt with her she would call her grandson, and he would mop up with the old gray-haired cuss. Very sorry, Dad, that we got it wrong, for truth in these columns we will have, even if we have to lie to get it there.

Mr. Raymond, the new editor of the Lumberlogue, was a visitor here last week. Mr. Raymond informs us that he is an old lumber jack and knows the game from stump to market. However, he was disappointed in not seeing the mill cut any six-quarter. Says it is somewhat of a mystery to him as to how they can cut a log in six quarters.

Earl Muskoff and Howard Joy motored to Grants Pass during the week of the Fourth to visit two sweet damsels. When the boys knocked at the door, Mother appeared instead of daughters. The boys gave one look, turned and fled to the auto and sadly motored home.

H. Society Red Pygall has deserted the timber beasts at Lamm's camp and is now here mowing weeds eight hours in the street and throwing the ball two hours on the front porch. Glad to have you with us, Red.

PLANT DESTROYED

Fire occurring at the plant of Wm. Cameron & Co., Inc., at Temple, Texas, caused a loss estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Origin of the fire is unknown, but was first discovered in one of the main lumber sheds in the company's yard. The offices and two large sheds covering a plot of ground 150' by 110' feet were almost completely destroyed, according to the report, together with their contents of lumber roofing and other building material.

For grandmaster of the dumb-bells: The goaf who brought a pall over now-a-days is to avoid the revenue agents.

The Weather makes no difference

IT'S HOT NOW.

IT WILL BE COLD IN A FEW
MONTHS

—No matter what the temperature is, the people who have money next winter will be those who saved it this summer.

—The best way to save it is to be careful how you spend it—and where.

When It Comes to Clothing—

—You can go a long ways before you find values equal to those we offer you.

We've Said All This Before—

—People who have lived here for some time are beginning to realize it. Our sales prove it. In less than a year they have increased many-fold.

This Is for the Strangers in Our Midst—

—Unless you've been in the store, you can't realize why our prices ARE so low. The reasons, very briefly are these:

- 1.—Low rent, (look the building over and see why)
- 2.—Plain fixtures. Pine mostly. We built 'em ourselves. Serviceable, but certainly not fancy.
- 3.—Low expense. Nothing fancy. Only one clerk.

BUT REMEMBER—THE CLOTHING WE
HANDLE IS THE BEST. ONLY THE
PRICES ARE CHAEP!

Lloyd Ryan

9th and Main
"Home of the Working Man"

Coos Bay Mills on New Schedule; Plan Now to Run Six Days Per Week

MARSHFIELD, July 22.—Formal notices have been posted at both mills of the Coos Bay Lumber Co., that the plants would operate six days per week until further notice.

The mills have been operating six days for the last few weeks but the original five-day schedule notice had never been withdrawn. The notice was to give the employees more definite information.

J. H. Jeffrey, assistant general manager, said the lumber market showed little material change but improved crop conditions in California, according to others, indicated an early revival of trade there.

Stouts Build Burned

Manager Bourne and Assistant Manager Somerville of the Stout Lumber Co., could not be seen today about their plans. However, they will have to rebuild the burner at the big mill, it is said, efforts to repair it having proved futile. This will probably interfere with operations some.

However the Stout Co., is likely to adopt the six-day schedule very soon, it is believed.

Prof. Carcass will now whistle his own composition, "she had a bum shape in a bathing suit but a lovely figure in the bank."

reported a fine catch of fish in Applegate river.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Lowe spent their honeymoon in Bend during the 4th.

H. Pygall (Society Red) is back on the job as official spud peeler for the cookhouse. Red says that his time to be back home again.

Most all of the old crew is back on the job after their 4th to July celebrations.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph R. Steele of Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stockdale of Weed, California, and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Clement all had a fine time fishing at Crater Lake during the 4th., all getting the limit of fish.

Badger Brady says that his red shirt is too hot for those days, he was seen sporting a nice blue shirt today.

The sheik Frank Lowell is in quest of some nice looking school teacher, who will teach school in the winter time, thus giving him cause not to have to work.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lamm of Modoc Point visited the camp on Monday afternoon.

Ewauna Folks On Crater Lake Trip

Accompanied by their families, J. A. Rosser, sawyer at the Ewauna plant, accompanied by Filer W. O. Stallings and Night Foreman Harper last week took a trip to Crater lake, returning the same day. Good roads and no trouble was the report of the party.

Klamath County Sawmill, Planing Mill and Manufacturers' Directory

- Ackley Bros., Klamath Falls.
- Algoma Lumber company, Algoma.
- Anne Creek Lumber company, Fort Klamath.
- Big Lakes Box company, Klamath Falls.
- Bryant Mountain Lumber company, Malin.
- Christy Lumber company, Kirkford.
- Campbell-Towle Lumber company, Sprague.
- Chiloquin Lumber company, Chiloquin.
- Ewauna Box company, Klamath Falls.
- Illinois Lumber company, Langell Valley.
- Kitts Lumber company, Bonanza.
- Kruse Lumber company, Klamath Falls.
- Klamath Lumber and Box company, Shippington.
- Long Pine Lumber company, Bonanza.
- Lamm Lumber company, Modoc Point.
- McCullom Lumber company, Keno.
- Modoc Pine company, Chiloquin.
- Nine Lumber company, Klamath Falls.
- Pelican Bay Lumber company, Pelican City.
- Shaw-Bertram Lumber company, Klamath Falls.
- Shasta View Lumber and Box company, Klamath Falls.
- Sprague River Lumber company, Chiloquin.
- Topsy Lumber Co., Topsy, Ore. (P. O. Dorris, Cal.)
- Wheeler-Olmstead Lumber company, Klamath Falls.

Planing Mills and Remanufacturing Plants

- Big Basin Lumber company, Klamath Falls.
- Lakeside Lumber company, Klamath Falls.
- Klamath Moulding company, Klamath Falls.
- Swan Lake Moulding company, Klamath Falls.
- Sixth Street Lumber company, Klamath Falls.
- White Pine Moulding company, Klamath Falls.