

Cattlemen Put Up Good Fight

By BILL JENKINS

FROM surface appearances at least the North Warner area cattlemen walked off with the victory at yesterday's interim hearing on the proposed cuts in stocks numbers and grazing times.

Forest service officials who came up to testify before the board, composed of Rep. Claire Engle of California and Congressman Walter Harding of Nevada, had little if anything to say about immediate plans for the area. Their statements were based almost entirely on the proposition of a long range program that may be changed from time to time.

In rough outline the plan the forest men have brought forward is one that would call for minor cuts in both time, turn-out time that is, and the number of cattle to be grazed on a certain permit. This plan would cover a period of some five years, but would be reviewed at the end of three years.

Apparently what the cattlemen are skittish about is that at the end of three years they may be forced out completely.

DURING testimony it was repeatedly brought out, in answer to direct questioning, that the stockmen feel that the forest service is deliberately setting out to drive the stock off the national forest lands for good. This the foresters deny. The denial would certainly seem logical. Why would the service wish to cut out stock? There would seem to be no good reason now apparent. By their own statement they say that their estimate of the condition of the range is almost always on the conservative side. But these cuts would make it seem that perhaps they have been a little too conservative.

Engle hammered away repeatedly at the question of the capacity of the range. "I can't see," he said, "why you say the range is overgrazed when the cattle are coming off the area fat." He got the answer that, yes, the cattle were fat, but that they were eating out the best grasses, which are being replaced by inferior grades of forage. If carried on this will lead to eventual disuse of the range. I think I agree with Mr. Engle. As long as cattle are getting fat on a range it must be pretty fair range. And many of the so-called inferior types of grass that they feed on are only palatable during the spring months. That's just when the cattlemen want it.

REMEMBER this, the cattlemen has to get his cows up on summer range early enough in the spring that he can get a hay crop started. You can't grow hay in a field full of cattle. The forest service contends that they could lease other, private, lands. The cattlemen say no. The forest service also says that they can't do improvement work on the ranges while cattle are there. Yet they expect the cattle rancher to grow a hay crop and take care of his cattle at the same time. Or get rid of his cattle, maybe. It doesn't make sense. I stand with Mr. Engle. If the cows are fat and sassy the range must be in pretty fair shape.

NOT that there isn't room for a lot of range improvement, because there is, but why cut the cattle numbers, already small, to accomplish the end?

The forest service scored one very strong point, morally, however. P. A. Thompson, regional forester, made the statement that the biggest drawback to getting anything done, even bigger than the perennial lack of funds, is a wall of suspicion that has been built up between the two groups. That kind of a wall is the strongest in the world and the hardest to tear down. Maybe the day will come when the two groups can sit down and talk it all over, but certainly not if the cattlemen has been driven out of business and has left the country.

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OLIVIA'S FIRST-BORN—Screen Actress Olivia de Havilland holds her first child, Benjamin Briggs Goodrich, born in Hollywood. The actress, wife of Writer Marcus Goodrich, was confined to her bed during most of her pregnancy.

Mrs. Jess Fidler, Dunsuir, Dies

DUNSMUIR—Mrs. Anna May Fidler, 67, wife of retired Southern Pacific locomotive Engineer Jess G. Fidler, died suddenly at her home at 439 Castle avenue Friday night.

Funeral services were held Wednesday in the Dunsuir Methodist church with Rev. T. Elmer Smith officiating. Interment was in the family plot of the Red Bluff cemetery.

Mrs. Fidler, a resident of this community since 1906, was a member of the Eastern Star, and the Ladies auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. She was a native of Red Bluff, and a member of a pioneer Tehama county family. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. William B. Roberts, who came here in 1857.

Survivors include her husband; three daughters, Mrs. Roberts Beland of Dunsuir; Mrs. Gladys

Martin of Guam, who came by plane for the services; Mrs. Alta Povda of Sacramento; two sons, both of Dunsuir, Jess W. Fidler, a Southern Pacific conductor, and David F. Fidler, a Southern Pacific locomotive engineer; two brothers, William H. Roberts of Dunsuir, and retired engineer, Joseph A. Roberts of Gerber, also a Southern Pacific conductor; and a sister, Mrs. Violet Clemenson of Monmouth, Ore. There are 11 grandchildren.

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Scout Leaders Attend Round Table Meeting

Fifty-two Klamath area Scout leaders attended the November round table session held at Altamont Junior high school last Friday.

Starting off the session in a group meeting, Gomer Jones spoke on the "Strengthen the Arm of Liberty" theme selected for the 1950 national congress at Valley Forge.

After the group meeting, four separate discussion periods were held. District committee chief, Chuck Bailey, lead discussion on district committee activities. Barnie Simons

headed the explorer group. Roy Premo the Cub Scouts, and Cliff From the Scout section.

Taylor Appointed
During the course of the night's activities Ernie Taylor accepted appointment to head of the district camping and activities committee. Taylor intimated that this year's winter camp would probably be held at Crater lake.

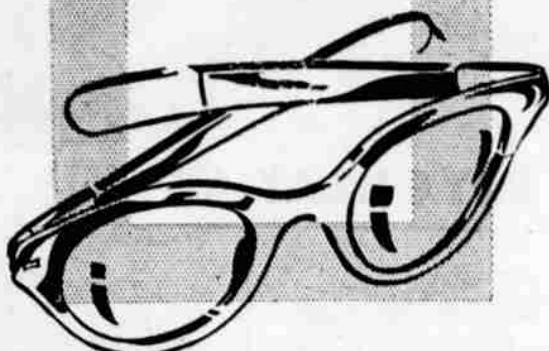
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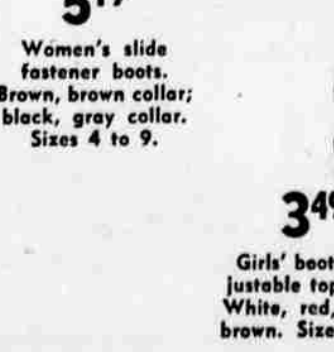
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