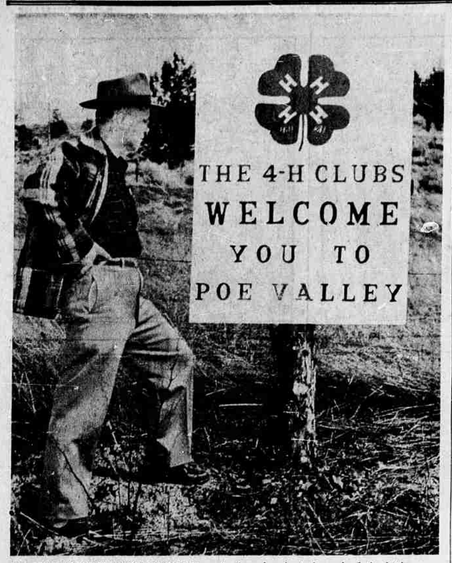

4-H CLUB AGENT FRANCIS SKINNER, inspects sign placed at the end of the bridge near Olene. The sign was a project of the Poe Valley Sewing Teens, consisting of eight members and their leader, Mrs. William Tubach.

Steelhead Release Set For Sandy

The Sandy river steelhead fishery, due to receive a substantial boost next year when the game commission plans to release yearling steelhead in the river, already shows evidence of being on the upswing. Numerous angler reports this winter testify to a great improvement in steelhead angling success on the river.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the run the game commission installed a trap in the ladder at the Marmot dam this winter. Following a warm rain on April 2, which brought about a temperature rise in the stream, steelhead started over the dam in earnest. On April 3 and 4, more than 750 steelhead passed over the dam on their way to spawning grounds in the upper river. It is known that many steelhead spawn below Marmot dam as well. Since installation of the trap more than 1,600 steelhead have been counted past the dam.

The power diversion of the Portland General Electric Company at the Marmot dam was screened in the spring of 1951 prohibiting downstream migrant young and adult fish from entering the diversion and winding up in Roslyn lake, a dead-end trap. It may be too early to predict the contribution of the screen to the improved steelhead fishery this year, but it is a logical assumption that the greater escapement of fish downstream because of the screen has brought about an increased return this year.

Although there are other various problems related to fish migration that must be solved on the Sandy river system, including improved passage for migratory fish at low water periods and correction of conditions on the Bull Run river, it can be expected that the Sandy will become one of the more popular steelhead streams in the state in future years.

Lumber Producers Betting On Continued New Building

By SAM DAWSON

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The raw materials for America's homes are coming from the Pacific Northwest's forests at a slower rate today than last year. But lumber mill spokesmen say they are still betting on at least a million new houses rising this year—almost as many as last.

The plywood industry, moreover, is going the lumbermen one better. Despite declining shipments, it goes on producing at or near capacity, confident that demand from builders will catch up in coming weeks.

Lumber prices, shipments and orders, however, at present are all running below this time last year. And numerous small marginal mills and logging operations have closed down, because prices dropped below the break-even point.

The large concerns are betting on a spring pickup in construction to justify their hopes that total production this year will finally come within 5 per cent of 1953's fat output.

FEBRUARY BUILDING

They point to an unusually good February home-building performance as one sign, and an another to the fact that in recent weeks orders have topped winter-retarded output.

Prices of lumber and plywood, now down by 10 to 20 per cent from Korean War highs, are expected to fluctuate with the ups and downs of the construction industry.

And with some types of timber used by home builders, prices may react to Canadian lumber exports and to overseas markets for American forest products.

So far this year American shipments of Douglas fir to Australia and South Africa have been topping those from British Columbia—with the rise of the value of the Canadian dollar in foreign exchange said to be giving the Americans a price advantage.

But last year Canada lost part of its English market when the United Kingdom bought lumber from Scandinavia and Russia. The Canadians then sold part of their output in the Eastern U. S. market—weakening prices for American lumber, industry spokesmen here say.

MARGINAL MILLS

There are other problems bothering the Northwest's No. 1 industry. Booming postwar building brought many marginal mills into operation for a quick harvest of dollars. When production outran demand and prices cracked, these mills folded and brought spot depression to some small communities.

In some instances the easily available timber has been cut, and costs mount as the lumbermen go farther afield.

A threatened strike could affect the producting picture. The CIO Woodworkers' Union, representing some 50,000 workers in sawmills and logging camps, has set May 3 as the date for an industry-wide strike unless its demands for wage increases and other benefits are met.

But those who sell lumber see their best chance of finding a million-home market for their product to lie in possible congressional action to ease mortgage financing terms still more.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

Competition from other building materials is growing. The lumbermen are fighting back with promotional campaigns to induce more use of their product and with efforts to get building codes revised.

The mills are following in the footsteps of the meat packers who learned to use every part of their animals "but the squeal." Mills have learned to cut more usable lumber out of a log, to sell certain types of their output to plywood makers, to get the bark chips and branches to the pulp mills, to turn the sawdust into salable products. Waste is too expensive for modern day lumbering.

The Northwest's lumber falls into two classes, each with its special problems and uses. The West Coast Lumbermen's Assn. represents the Douglas fir industry which flourishes from the Pacific Coast to the western side of the Cascade Mountains, the great rain belt of the Northwest. Association spokesmen say they are "conservatively optimistic" for 1954.

The Western Pine Assn. represents lumbermen in the 12 Western states where the ponderosa pine grows—in the drier regions from the western slopes of the Cascades on east through the Rocky Mountains. The association looks for a slight drop in home building from the 1953 level, and a consequent five per cent decline in lumber production.

Rescue Crew Saves Small Boy

AUBURN, Maine (AP)—Gary Gorten, a 14-year-old Boy Scout, tumbled from a 40-foot mill dam into rain-swollen Little Androscoggin River, swept downstream, he clung to a clump of trees for more than an hour before being rescued.

A fireman and policeman failed in efforts to reach him. Then Scoutmaster Bernard Helwig Jr. and another fireman, Thomas Giberti, crawled out on a ladder and threw a line.

Hauled to shore, the boy was treated for shock and bruises at Lewiston Hospital.

Oregon Hunter On Records Roster

One of the trophy heads registered last year in Oregon has received recognition from the Boone and Crockett club according to news received by the Oregon State Game Commission.

On April 8, Mr. Bernard Denn of Portland received a bronze plaque from the club noting that the blacktail deer he had registered was the third largest recorded for 1953.

The prize animal was taken near Gold Mountain Lookout in Douglas county in 1934.

At present, the head is on display in the American Museum of Natural History.

VETERAN

SUDLERSVILLE, Md. (AP) — Joe George drew a unanimous 63 votes cast in the city election to successfully gain his 36th term as president of Sudlersville's three-man town board.

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French Fight Desperately In Seven Year Asian War

Editor's Note—William L. Ryan is in Singapore writing free from censorship after a tour of Indochina during which he flew over the embattled fortress of Dien Bien Phu. This is the third of five articles by Ryan on Indochina.

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

SINGAPORE (AP) — For 40 terrible days and nights soldiers of the French Union have been writing a new page of glory with their blood. Yet the fearful battle of Dien Bien Phu is more for political objectives than military.

Dien Bien Phu, once not even a spot on the map of northwest Indochina, suddenly became one of the best known names. When the Vietminh Communists decided to attack March 13, they brought home to the non-Communist world, with dramatic impact, the gravity of the situation in Southeast Asia.

It was to be a major military-political battle of the seven-year-old war. The Communists desperately wanted to inflict a crushing blow. The French equally needed a victory if the political line were to be held. But the French were in an unenviable position. They could lose the battle but it was difficult to see how they could win a clear-cut decision, since they were holed up and immobile behind fortifications 180 miles from the nearest French base. They might inflict frightful casualties on the enemy as long as he attacked en masse, but he remained there continuing the siege.

"We must win this one," said Gen. Rene Cogny, French commander in north Indochina. He seemed to consider the battle would be won if the all-out attack were repulsed. The monsoon rains were due soon, to bog down military operations. That would hurt Vietminh supply lines, but it also would hinder the French air force's job of supplying and reinforcing their fortress.

So badly did the Communists want it that Russian-made Molotov trucks brought in a steady stream of heavy weapons and munitions and possibly as many as 6,000 Chinese advisers and technicians were overseeing the Vietminh's transition from jungle warfare to mass attack.

If the troops of Communist Ho Chi Minh sought military victory alone, the price would be too great. Wiping out the fortress and its defenders would be a great military victory but the Communists are not exclusively concerned with that.

The Vietminh already has suffered thousands of casualties in the spectacular gamble. Why? Capitalizing on Paris' weariness and impatience with the war, the Communists hoped to convince France that her position in Indochina was hopeless. The Communists hoped to cause the fall of the French government, to be succeeded by one eager to negotiate with Ho and get out of Indochina. The Communists also expected to make the voice of Ho heard at the Geneva conference opening Monday.

The prize sought was a negotiated agreement which would leave the Vietminh, strongest political force in the country, ready to step into the vacuum if and when the French withdrew their troops. The effect of that on all Southeast Asia would be enormous.

The how and why of Dien Bien Phu is confusing to many. Why did Gen. Henri Navarre, French commander in chief, choose such a spot to make a fateful stand? It is a plain of red dust in a sweltering valley surrounded by commanding hills which permit fire to be poured down upon it. The defenders have no rear—the nearest French forces are 180 miles east. There is no place to fall back. It is as a matter of stand or be massacred.

The best explanation I could get:

Dien Bien Phu had been a cluster of mud and straw huts perched and poles. Last fall the French cleared away the villagers, cut down the trees and began building fortifications. The reason was that the French were developing among the friendly, anti-Communist Thai tribesmen a type of warfare waged by the Maquis (guerrillas) in France in World War II.

The Vietminh sent its 316th Division to clean out the Thais. The French flew more troops to Dien Bien Phu to protect guerrilla activities. The French kept reinforcing Dien Bien Phu, building strongpoints and setting up seas of barbed wire barricades, until by Jan. 1 it was a formidable complex 6 by 4 miles, encircled by thickly foresied hills. The entrance was protected by eight hill strongpoints. The command post complex was made up of underground positions, well-bunkered and encircled with more barbed wire.

REDS JOIN

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AP) — The Soviet Union joined the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Wednesday. She promptly hustled in a delegation for the opening of a meeting here on protection of cultural treasures in wartime.

WAITING IN LINE FOR LUNCH and discussing the bill to release the Klamath Indians from government supervision at Klamath Agency Monday were: (l to r) Forrest E. Cooper, Lakeview attorney and member of the governor's advisory committee; representative from Klamath County Henry Semon, Klamath Falls; Tom Sanders, chief clerk, Klamath Agency; Congressman E. Y. Berry, South Dakota; Don Foster, area director of Indian Affairs, Portland; J. Jex, assistant to Senator Watkins of Utah, Washington, D.C., and Charles Cohen, area counsel, Portland.

VISIT ENDED

COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II ended her 11-day visit to Ceylon Wednesday night and sailed from Colombo with the cheers of the people ringing in her ears.

Chemult Egg Hunt Held

CHEMULT — Beginning a hunt for 30 dozen eggs, at 1:30 p.m. Easter Sunday, were over 40 children aged one to 14. Four lucky youngsters found silver eggs for which they received live, smudged nosed bunnies. Two dozen golden eggs were found with the finders receiving gifts for their various age groups.

Following the egg hunt which was enjoyed by adults as well as the children an Easter dinner complete with the traditional ham was served all members of the community. Rev. and Mrs. W. N. Byars, of Gilchrist Methodist Church and Mr. and Mrs. George Larimer and family, Lapine, were out of town guests. Over 100 persons were served. Unique about the Chemult egg hunt was the fact that snow had to be plowed from about the club premises in order to hide the eggs and provide adequate parking space.

Freddie Fine was winner of the ham.

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