

Track-Type Tractors' Role In Building US Remembered

Today, November 24, is the 50th anniversary of the successful operation of the world's first practical track-type tractor predecessor of today's Caterpillar tractor which has played an important part in the development of the Klamath region, both in the logging industry and in agriculture.

Man's ingenuity and the need for finding a way to farm the soil San Joaquin Delta lands near Stockton, California, combined to produce the forerunner of approximately 340,000 crawlers of all makes now working in the United States alone, 180,000 of them in agriculture.

Since 1890 Benjamin Holt of Stockton had been building steam traction engines which proved to be too heavy for the soft farm and orchard lands during the California rainy season when even specially-shod horses sank to their knees.

Shortly after the turn of the century the Holt shops produced a bulky machine with three, six-foot-wide wheels, each 7 1/2 feet high on either side of the boiler. Over-all width was almost 46 feet, an almost insurmountable problem for close work.

About this time Holt hit on a new approach. First removing the wheels from one of his standard steam models, he substituted a pair of rough tracks. The result was the world's first practical

crawler, which crept over low spots and up rough gullies.

It is a far cry from today's powerful, compact diesel powered machines. Two, big, box-like water tanks flanked a huge boiler. Overall, the machine was approximately 20 feet long, 16 high and about 11 wide. Tracks were made of blocks of wood. The tiller wheel was extended out in front in the belief that it afforded better stability and control.

The operator had excellent visibility; he sat so high he needed a ladder to climb to the steering platform. Turning of the tiller wheel was accomplished through a steam booster controlled by the operator, an early example of power steering.

Gasoline was substituted for steam in 1906 and new markets opened up. Originally the crawler was intended only for agricultural work but with the addition of gasoline power and improved track mechanisms, the machine moved out over rough trails, by-ways and desert routes and became the motor truck of its day. Its entry into the logging and construction fields was inevitable.

Several firms entered the field in the 1910-1920 period, including the Best Manufacturing Company, later consolidated with Holt to form the Caterpillar Tractor Company. The first tracktype tank made its appearance in World War I at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. A British inventor credited the American made crawler with furnishing his inspiration.

The crawler-bulldozer became a symbol of America's productive might in World War II. The Ledo Road and the Alcan Highway were pushed through by crawler power. Buses in China were built with one tractor equal to 1,000 coolies.

Because of the crawler, crops are growing on hills and marginal lands where none grew before; farmers get into the fields earlier and stay longer; logs are coming out of the woods quicker and cheaper, roads are being built by this same versatile machine which plays such a vital part in the U.S. blueprint for defense.

They go everywhere... deserts, forests, even to the Arctic Circle. They came to the Klamath country probably about 1910-11 when a road building contractor by the name of Masten came here to work on highways.

A few machines appeared on farm lands about 1918-1919 around the edge of the disappearing Tule Lake and on the E. A. Geary ranch on Upper Klamath Lake. The Geary machine is believed the first one used in agriculture.

Origin of the first crawler type logging equipment here dates back to about 1923 when a Holt "22" now on display for posterity at the Collier Park on Highway 97, was brought to this country by Harold Mortenson of the Pelican Bay Lumber Company. That honor is also claimed by the Goldswait Lumber Company of Chiloquin but this claim was never definitely established.

The Lamm Lumber Company brought in a Holt '30 in 1925 and other models followed in quick succession.

The first Caterpillar franchise for this area now served by Crater Lake Machinery Company was awarded to the Miller Tractor and Equipment Company. The dealership was acquired by Nelson Reed in 1936 when Caterpillar diesels were proving their worth. That company operated as the Reed Tractor Company. At that time two stores, one here and one at Medford served the Klamath country.

Later an agency was established at Tulelake now managed by Don Potter. The newest unit is located at Redmond.

Stanley Miller heads the company in this area.



DOBBIN PROBABLY never dreamed that this bulky, unwieldy machine would ever replace the horse in man's scheme of progress. Here—the first gasoline powered crawler was being tested by the Holt Manufacturing Company near Stockton, California in 1906. The test proved its worth in agriculture and industry.

Allies, Russia Prepare UN Debate On Korean Issues

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — Russia and the Western Powers took advantage of a lull in East-West debate in the United Nations today to marshal their arguments on the stormy Korean issue.

The Assembly's chief Political Committee, now occupied with the Indonesian-Dutch dispute over West New Guinea, hopes to turn late this week to the rival plans for unifying Korea. The West and the Communists last deadlocked on the issue at the Geneva political conference in June.

Because of Russia's new policy of trying to win friends in the U.N., delegates speculated that the Soviets might come up with a plan to break the stalemate over supervision of all-Korean elections.

South Korea and her U.N. allies already were reported at odds over a Western compromise plan to settle the election question which foregoes the Korean phase of the Geneva talks.

South Korean Ambassador You Chan Yang has protested that the new proposal, reportedly advanced by Britain and Canada and agreed to by the 13 other U.N. allies, represents a drastic change in position which would take the Korean problem out of the U.N.'s hands.

These sources said it would set up a supervisory commission, similar to the one created in Indochina, consisting of South Korea, a Communist nation and a neutral. South Korean President Syngman Rhee has said flatly his people want "no foreign government or foreign nationals" involved in the election. South Korea's Foreign Minister Y. T. Pyun is due here soon to take part in the Korean debate.

Western diplomats speculated whether Andrei Vishinsky's death would mean any change in Russia's position on Korea. Ambassador Jacob Malik, who has been named to head the Soviet delegation temporarily, has never been noted for his Western leanings. But Arkady Soboly, No. 2 man on the Soviet delegation and believed by some observers slated to eventually inherit Vishinsky's chair, has maintained better relations with Western diplomats than any other Soviet delegate. Many believe that, in view of

the Kremlin's new conciliatory attitude, either Sobolev or Malik might lend a sympathetic ear to Western attempts to compromise the Korean issue.

U.N. circles pointed out that Russia made a number of substantial concessions at Geneva. Along with her North Korean and Red Chinese colleagues, she accepted the principle of proportional representation in the proposed North-South legislature and a six-month time limit for holding elections. She also agreed to negotiate on the powers of an all-Korean commission, as proposed by North

Korea, to take charge of elections. However, the Communists rejected the authority of the U.N. in Korea and insisted on measures which would make genuinely free elections difficult if not impossible.



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Police Arrest 'Rod' Drivers

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) — More than 125 youths from 15 to 21 years old were arrested and their "souped up" cars impounded early Wednesday as police squads sought to break up illegal and dangerous hot-rod racing on a divided highway here.

Some 60 officers in 10 patrol cars converged in a mass raid on the racing strip. Roadblocks had been set up to trap hot rods attempting to elude sheriff's deputies and state highway patrolmen.

Several of the hopped up autos took to across bumpy fields, with police cars roaring in pursuit. Races up to 80 miles an hour developed.

All the youngsters, including four girls, were booked on suspicion of engaging in an illegal speed contest and abetting such a contest. Juveniles were turned over to their parents. Youths over 18 were booked as adults and transferred to the county jail in neighboring Los Angeles.

Previously when officers had tried to crack down on the hot rod racing, the cut-down cars had managed to elude officers because only one or two police cars were involved.

Ceylon Forester Witnesses Strange Elephant Birth

COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP) — A Ceylon forest guard has witnessed what few humans have seen in this island's jungles — the ritualistic birth of a baby elephant.

Guard W. L. A. Andiris watched from a vantage point within a cluster of high rocks in the Yala game sanctuary. Writing in the official records of the Ceylon Department of Wild Life, Andiris says the mother elephant was attended by eight "midwives."

The mother elephant lay on her side in a well-hidden jungle clearing. The eight attendants surrounded her, caressing her gently with their trunks.

As time for the birth approached, the mother became more and more nervous, shifting her position in the clearing by taking a few steps this way and that, lying down after each movement. Seven of the attendant elephants withdrew into the jungles, leaving one with the expectant mother. From time to time as the mother rested or moved around, members of the "midwife" group came from the jungle in pairs to check her with their trunks.

Actual birth of the baby was accomplished without any apparent strain or sound from the mother. The mother left the baby and walked about 10 paces away. She then trumpeted and the other elephants emerged from the jungle, also trumpeting, and seemed to caress the mother again with their trunks.

"Then all eight turned in unison to the child," Andiris reported.

Will Provides Student Loans

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A student loan fund of about \$25,000 honoring a labor union organizer is provided for in the will of Charles William Grupe, local mining engineer.

Grupe said in the will filed for probate Tuesday, that Frank Little, the organizer, was lynched in 1917, and hanged under a railroad bridge near Butte, Mont., after being accused of sedition. Grupe said that the accusations were disproved later, Grupe wrote that he knew Little.

Grupe left his estate to the Montana School of Mines at Butte, directing the school to administer the fund and make loans to deserving students. The engineer, 68 and unmarried, died last Thursday.

SENTENCE
CHESTERTOWN, Md. (AP) — John Caulk, about 60, a farm laborer, was sentenced to six months in the house of correction last night for putting lice in the snuff box of a lady friend.

STARVATION BIELEFELD, Germany

German starvation artist Willy Schmitz gave up Tuesday in his attempt to set a new "world hunger record" after 65 days of fasting in a sealed glass cage.

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Oregon Bank Merger Voted

PORTLAND (AP) — Approval of a merger by stock exchange with the United States National Bank of Portland was voted Tuesday by stockholders of the Commercial Bank of Oregon.

Stockholders of the Bank of Albany approved a similar merger with U. S. National earlier Tuesday. It approved by U. S. National stockholders and banking authorities in Washington, D. C., the merger would give U. S. National's statewide banking system 12 new branches and add deposits of 40 million dollars.

U. S. National stockholders are to vote on the mergers Friday.

The Commercial Bank of Oregon has its head office at Hillsboro and branches at Banks, Cloverdale, Newberg, St. Paul, Tillamook, Vernonia, West Slope, Wheeler and Hood River.

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Air Leader Deplores Loss

KANSAS CITY (AP) — An airplane executive says the Air Force is losing 180,000 men a year at a cost of "2 1/2 billion dollars a year."

Speaking to members of the Air Force Assn. in Kansas City Tuesday, J. E. Schaefer, vice president of the Boeing Airplane Co., said "This loss (in personnel) can be cut by making the services more attractive to bring about a higher percentage of re-enlistments."

Schaefer said "The Air Force now invests about \$14,000 for training each enlisted man," and it takes "five years and costs \$600,000 to train a triple-rated B47 pilot."

"The finest equipment being produced today for America's military needs will fail in its mission to protect our freedom unless we have qualified personnel of high morale to operate and maintain it," Schaefer said.

Coming Sunday - Nov. 28th "Little Tyke" World's Only Vegetarian Lion



on the stage, in the flesh, this legendary animal will perform almost unbelievable feats. See Little Tyke lie down with a lamb, refuse a juicy beefsteak. See the prophecy of Isa. 11:6, 7 fulfilled before your eyes.

Voice of Prophecy Bible Lectures -- The Armory
7:00 P.M. All Seats Free

FLOOD NEW DELHI, India

U.S. Ambassador George V. Allen Wednesday presented to India his government's gift of \$100,000 worth of emergency medical supplies for flood victims.

Gives Special Kind of 'Comforting Warmth' for KIDS' COLDS
to relieve coughs—aching muscles
Child's Mild Musherole—made especially for kiddies' tender skin—forms a special comforting, protective warmth on chest, throat and back. It not only gives fast relief but helps break up localized congestion. Stainless!
Child's Mild Musherole

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