

TWO STATES RAVAGED BY FIRES

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
This is the hurricane season along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It is the FOREST FIRE SEASON in the timbered Far West. Both are grisly ogres.

Both hurricanes and forest fires arise out of weather conditions. The hurricanes are born down in the doldrums, where confined hot, humid air forces its way up through a cooler air stratum and starts a whirlwind that grows and travels.

BAD forest fires arise out of heat and LOW humidity. When the air gets tinder dry, a spark is all that is needed to set off a conflagration.

Nobody has yet been able to control the weather.

We just TAKE what we get.

The teletype this morning tells us:

Forest fires continue out of control in Central and Northern California, with a total of some 25,000 acres already burned. Fires in Humboldt county in the north have covered about 18,000 acres and one threatens the VIRGIN stand of redwoods known as Rockefeller grove, the world's tallest tree — the General Grant redwood — is threatened by a fire in the Sequoia national forest in the Sierra Nevada.

We're still inclined, you see, to think of fires in VIRGIN timber as the BAD ones.

That isn't really true. Old, ripe trees, with their thick bark, can resist a pretty hot fire. Even if killed, they can usually be salvaged by immediate logging.

It's the NEW GROWTH that really concerns us most vitally. The new growth has to do with our raw materials of the future.

We shudder, of course, at the thought of damage to a thrillingly lovely thing like the Rockefeller stand of virgin redwoods or the fabulous General Grant tree in the Sequoia national forest. We're really said to be the oldest living thing on this earth. That appeals to our sense of the dramatic.

But I can't help wondering.

One can hardly look at and meditate upon such fantastic marvels of nature without being struck by the thought that these old boys must have weathered many a hot blaze in the long centuries during which they have remained alive.

Maybe they will weather this one.

It seems reasonable that they can.

But the new growth — Well, that is a horse of another color. New growth, when run over by a hot, HOT fire is a goner. It's the new growth we must look to for the maintenance of our timber industries in the long years to come.

Some interesting new thinking about virgin old growth timber is entering the forest picture. A recent report on the forest products industry of Oregon, prepared by competent lumber people and sponsored by Lewis and Clark college and Reed College during the current year has this to say:

"The capacity of Oregon's forest lands to produce wood fiber will not become evident until a large proportion of the virgin old growth material is REMOVED. Loss from fire, insects, disease and windthrow may actually offset or EXCEED growth within an area of virgin old-growth timber."

"When this mature and over-mature timber is used and replaced with young growing trees of sawtimber size, then the annual growth of wood fiber should EXCEED THE PRESENT CUT of 8.3 billion board feet annually."

The future of our timbered area in Oregon and Northern California will continue bright IF WE CAN KEEP THE NEW GROWTH GROWING.

Jet Base Job Requests Told

Inquiries are being received by the Klamath Falls Post Office regarding opportunities for employment at the Klamath Falls jet air base, according to Chester L. Langslet, Klamath Falls postmaster.

In order to give accurate answers, Langslet directed an inquiry to the 11th U. S. Civil Service region, Seattle. A reply from Herbert F. Nye, chief, examining and placement division, states:

"We inquired at the McChord Air Force Base and they notified us that the field would be under the Western Air Defense Force, Hamilton Air Force Base, Hamilton, California."

"Applications for employment should be directed to that headquarters, in care of the civilian personnel officer."

"As yet, examinations have not been issued by a board of examiners, but we anticipate that some time in the future, announcements will be issued by the board of examiners servicing the Hamilton Air Force Base."

"At that time, examination announcements will be published in the local area."

West Calf Wins Fair Ribbon

MERRILL — The grand champion bull in the Aberdeen Angus futurity at the Oregon state fair in Salem over Labor Day was exhibited by Dale West of Merrill. His junior calf topped six classes.

Lightning Causes 300 State Fires

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 300 fires burned in Oregon forests Tuesday. Cinders and ash swirled over wide areas of Southern Oregon. Spoilers continued to be called in reports of new blazes set by lightning strikes.

Five homes burned northwest of Medford and many families were evacuated there in the Tolo district. The spread of the fire in those areas, though, was checked. Embers were falling on Jacksonville, historic center of Oregon's gold rush days.

The woods and brushlands, explosively dry from a month without rain and recent high temperatures, were hit by lightning strikes Monday and early Tuesday. Fire-fighters were dispatched as fast as reports came in.

LOGGING HALTED

All logging was halted in many areas and the Weather Bureau said there was no relief in sight from either heat or lightning storms.

The fires dotted Oregon southward from the mid-Willamette Valley and eastward nearly to the Idaho line.

Guy Johnson, U.S. Forest Service regional fire control officer, said none had been reported in Northern Oregon or in federal timber in Washington.

The Oregon fires spilled southward into California where vast areas are ablaze. Covering smaller acreage north of the border, the fires stem from the same spell of drought and heat.

The Medford area, center of the sudden upsurge of fires Monday, continued Tuesday as the hardest hit with nearly 10,000 acres burned, humidity under 15 per cent and high winds threatened.

A new fire in Eastern Oregon was reported to be spreading in and near Malheur and Ochoco National Forests. Johnson said rough estimates Tuesday morning placed it at around 3,000 acres. It was burning in scattered pine and fir in the Lee region, west of Geneva, where on Sunday a firefighter was trapped by flames and killed.

The Willamette National Forest was closed to all logging. State Forester George Spurr Monday closed the Lee region, Oregon district, which encompasses the Tillamook burn and the Cascade foothills areas of Multnomah, Hood River, Clackamas, Linn, Lane and part of Douglas counties.

CLOSED AREAS

He said operation of power driven equipment was forbidden within an eighth of a mile of any forest land within the closed areas.

The fires were being fought by hundreds of men including Mexican nationals who had been in the Rogue River Valley and adjacent areas for the fruit harvest.

Smoke jumpers from the Cave Junction station were at work at dozens of points.

Supervisors and administrative personnel from the U. S. Forest Service regional headquarters at Portland as well as from offices in Montana and Washington state were dispatched.

This is the late Tuesday morning situation by forest areas.

Willamette National Forest: Forty-nine fires were burning, all but one started by lightning. All were called potentially dangerous by Jack Smith of the forest office although the largest were 30 and 40 acres. All logging shut down.

Western Lane Protective Assn.: Only one fire reported.

Eastern Lane Protective Assn.: No fires reported.

Umpqua National Forest:

Thirty-nine fires, 23 of them in the Diamond Lake vicinity and the others scattered down the North Umpqua River. Some 300 Morrison Knudsen Co. employees were taken from dam building jobs at Toketee and Lemolo and put on fire lines.

So were employees of California-Oregon Power Co., the firm for whom the dams are being built.

Most of the fires started from a 3 p. m. Monday lightning storm and many are in excessively rough, inaccessible country above Steamboat, 40 miles east of Roseburg. The air is filled with smoke, making new fires hard to spot.

Morning humidity was 7 per cent.

Crater Lake National Park:

Sixteen small fires, ranging from single trees to two acres. Discoveries.

(Continued on page 4)

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1955

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Oregon Lists 17 Dead By Accidents

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Labor Day weekend accidents claimed 17 lives in Oregon.

The death toll, one of the highest ever recorded in the state for a holiday weekend, included seven dead in traffic crashes, four in drownings, and six killed in other miscellaneous accidents.

Traffic victims reported Monday included Jack Penmore, 22, of Klamath Falls who died when an automobile ran off Lake of the Woods Road 16 miles northeast of Klamath Falls. Three others in the car were seriously injured.

Others killed earlier in traffic accidents were:

Donald Hovgaard, 25, Cascade Locks.

John C. Hopkins, 21, Portland.

James P. Twoby, 43, Portland.

Lee Papham, Portland.

Ambrose Hopkins, 63, Marcola.

Martin J. Hillburn, 25, Parkdale.

DROWNED

Don Westover, 21, of Springfield, drowned Monday in a water skiing accident on Fern Ridge Lake, 10 miles west of Eugene.

He fell off his skis into the water while being towed by a speed boat operated by U. W. Ellmaker, Eugene. The boat's motor failed while Ellmaker was circling to pick him up. Westover drowned before help reached him.

Forest De Hart, 23, Tillamook, died in another swimming accident at Hidden Lake near Barview on the Oregon Coast. He dived into shallow water and broke his neck.

CHILD KILLED

Jimmy L. Bones, 18-month-old child who fell into a logging ditch at his home near Turner, and Arthur Brewana, 23, Portland, who died in a boating mishap on the Willamette River near Wilsonville, were the other drowning victims.

Logging accidents claimed the lives of three.

Robert Hughesley, 10, was killed Monday when a 40-foot snag, being downed by his father, fell on him.

LOGGING MISHAPS

Dec W. Deffenbacher, 38, and Edward Wilkie, 40, both of Chiloquin, died Monday when a falling tree crushed the pickup truck in which they were sitting near Sprague River in Klamath County.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scott, Portland, died from burns suffered in a rooming house fire.

And Patricia Trule, 24, Portland, was killed in a fall down an ocean-side cliff near Delake.

The death count for the weekend, the last holiday of summer, began at 6 p. m. Friday and ended at midnight Monday.

Floods Strike India, Turkey

NEW DELHI, India — New floods swept areas of eastern India Tuesday as the International Red Cross sped a first shipment of 20 tons of relief supplies here by plane.

Indian Red Cross officials estimated 25 million persons had been made homeless in East India and East and West Pakistan, where heavy monsoon rains had coincided with the annual rise resulting from the melting of Himalayan snows.

The greatest loss was to property, cattle and crops. Because the river levels rose slowly, most villages had time to flee to higher ground.

KONYA, Turkey — Ten members of one family were lost in floods which struck this south Turkish city and 23 nearby villages Monday.

The floods followed day-long rain. The overflow of the streams caused heavy loss of crops and livestock.



VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS left Klamath Falls by Greyhound bus Monday morning to swell the ranks of men already on the fire-line of the huge blaze raging near Yreka, California. These men, assembled by the Oregon State Employment Bureau, were gathered after an appeal from the Yreka area Forest Service office. Tuesday, U.S. Army troops from the San Francisco Bay Area were being rushed to the stricken area.

Driver Killed On Lake Road

A 22-year-old Klamath Falls man was killed and nine persons injured, none seriously, in traffic accidents in Klamath County over the heavy-traffic Labor Day weekend.

It was the county's 12th traffic fatality of the year.

Jackie Eugene Penmore, 22, of 1430 Lookout Avenue, was killed Monday evening about 7 o'clock when he was thrown 86 feet clear of the car he was driving after it skidded on a soft shoulder, veered 127 feet across the highway and came to rest upside down.

Occurring on the Lake of the Woods road, 11 miles west of Klamath Falls, three passengers in his car were injured and taken to Klamath Valley Hospital.

Treated for cuts and bruises were Jack Fields, 18, 2733 Crest Street; Dee Valentine, 18, 1807 Burns Street; and John Devine, 14, 2250 Rose Street.

State police, who investigated, said the accident occurred as Penmore attempted to pass a car driven by Orville Johnston. The car skidded on the left shoulder before careening across the highway and overturning.

Others treated for minor injuries in weekend traffic accidents were:

Gerald Marvin Riddle, 26, 514 Walnut Avenue; Wilma Lee Reich, 22, 1024 High Street; James Donald McCormick, San Francisco; Wilfred D. Groves, 51, San Francisco; Mrs. Bertha Backman, 1717 Main Street; and E. H. Harrah, 63, 129 North Second Street.

Penmore is a native of Nebraska, and had been a resident of Klamath Falls for two years.

He is survived by his father, Ralph D. of Red Cloud, Nebraska; brothers, Paul of the USAF, and Robert, of Klamath Falls; a sister, Wanda Bullard of Omaha, Nebraska; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Williams of Klamath Falls; and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Penmore of Emporia, Kansas.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Ward's Klamath Funeral Home.

He was a member of Lodge No. 197, A.F. and A.M., Chiloquin.

Funeral services for Deffenbacher will be held at 3 p.m. Friday from Ward's Klamath Funeral Home.

Wilkie is survived by his widow, Loreta, Chiloquin; his father, Joe, Belcourt, North Dakota; seven brothers; five sisters; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Ward's Klamath Funeral Home.

VISITORS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (UPI)—King Paul and Queen Frederica of Greece were scheduled to arrive here today for a week-long state visit.

They were driving to a work area in the forest on the east side of Mount Olympus when the tree, which was being felled by other loggers who were using the road, crashed through the cab killing the men.

Both were employed by the Raymond Logging Company, and apparently drove through on a restricted road, it was reported.

Deffenbacher had been a resident of Chiloquin for three years and Wilkie for 16 years.

Deffenbacher is survived by his widow, Hazel, Chiloquin; a daughter, Denise, Chiloquin; a father, Roy, Chiloquin; mother, Mrs. G. W. Wilson, Peineville; and a sister, Mrs. Dolores Sche, Anchorage, Alaska.

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PEGGY DORGAN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dorgan, 2694 Eberlein, was on her way to her first day of school when the 9 o'clock photographer stopped her.

Crowds Attend Lake Rodeo

LAKEVIEW — The 36th Annual Lakeview Roundup and Lake County Fair was listed in the record books here Tuesday as the greatest celebration of its kind ever held in this area.

The normal crowd of merry-makers was swelled by gramin prospectors who for weeks have been gathered here.

The three-day rodeo, which opened with a night performance Saturday featured some of the best amateur riders on the West Coast.

Some of the finest livestock in Oregon was exhibited at the county fair. Charles Jamieson of Lakeview took top honors when his Angus bull was declared grand champion in the open class.

Other winners in the livestock division included: champion ewe lamb, Tom Crawford, Lakeview; grand champion 4-H steer, Jerry Pitcher, Fort Rock; grand champion, FFA bull calf, Charles Vandergaard.

James W. Ogle, president of the Lake County Fair Association, said this year's stock entries were the best in the history of the exposition.

The celebration was climaxed Monday with a Labor Day parade. Dozens of floats and riding units participated including the Klamath County Sheriff's posse.

Reds To Free U.S. Citizens

GENEVA (UPI)—Communist China announced today it has granted exit permits to nine Americans who may now depart for their homeland, and is ready to free two others when they ask to leave.

A 12th American will be permitted to leave in two or three months when his business affairs are cleaned up.

The Reds also announced that three other persons, one believed to be a Dutchman, will be allowed to leave the China mainland immediately.

Chinese Ambassador to Poland Wang Ping-man made the disclosure when he met this morning to discuss with U. S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia U. Alexis Johnson the exchange of nationals of each other's country.

The Americans to be freed are part of a group of 41 known to be in Communist hands and whose release has been demanded by the U. S. government.

A communique issued after Wang and Johnson met for two and a half hours and then adjourned until next Saturday said the nine Americans had applied for and been granted exit permits.

It said two other Americans, identified as Bishop James Edward Walsh and Mrs. Peter Huizer, had not yet applied for permits but could have them upon request.

The communique also said that another American, identified as Charles Sydney Miner, could leave Red China "when the affairs of the company with which he is connected are cleared up."

According to E. A. Faber, vice president of KRES-TV, temporary replacements are being hurried to the scene and the station, expected to be on the air by programming time today, 3:50 p.m.

KBES Damaged

Five damaged buildings of KRES-TV Monday at Blackwell Hill near Medford where the station's transmitter is located. The power supply lines to the transmitter and the poles carrying the lines were destroyed by the flames.

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California Blaze Rages Near Yreka

Fire of unprecedented fury was sweeping uncontrolled through approximately 30,000 acres of timber in the Klamath National Forest, 20 miles west of Yreka, California, Tuesday, while other fires raged eight miles west of Fort Klamath in the Rogue National Forest of Oregon.

Russell M. Bower, superintendent of the Klamath Forest, said the fire west of Yreka is the most devastating conflagration to ever strike that region.

The city of Yreka, itself, is menaced by the flames which are moving rapidly toward a stand of timber on Humboldt Creek. A backfire has been started there to keep the main fire from spreading closer to Yreka.

THIRTEEN DESCRIBED

In describing the fire in the Yreka area, Superintendent Bower said:

"Nothing but a change in the weather can stop it. Otherwise, all of the timber in that area will be destroyed."

Shortly before noon Tuesday, more than 1,400 fire fighters were battling the Klamath Forest flames. Smoke jumpers from Montana were dropped into the area Tuesday morning.

Another uncontrolled fire is believed to have destroyed scores of summer homes and several lodges in the Happy Camp area. Residents of the area fled for their lives. This fire, according to the forest service, has burned over 600 acres on Indian Creek, near Happy Camp. No fatalities were reported.

UNCONTROLLED

The worst fire in the Fort Klamath area is burning uncontrolled on Gardner Peak. Two or three smaller fires in the district west of Fort Klamath also are out of control.

Yreka Station at the Fort Klamath Ranger Station said fires are burning in an area 40 miles long and nine miles wide west of Fort Klamath. Smith added that 27 men are on the fire lines and it was expected 30 more men would reach the scene Tuesday afternoon.

Officials at the Oregon State Employment Service office in Klamath said they have dispatched 60 fire fighters to Yreka and Fort Klamath in two buses. They said other volunteers drove in their own cars to the stricken areas.

MINUTEMEN

The police department received a request from the employment office Tuesday morning for assistance in recruiting fire fighters. Desk Sgt. Leonard Clark at police headquarters said officers were unable to find any men for fire fighting.

LAKEVIEW — Seventeen fires were reported over the weekend in the Fremont National Forest, the largest of which was still burning at press time in the Summer Lake Rim area. More than 400 acres of timber had been burned.

Mike Palmer, forest ranger for the district, said fire fighters are being assisted by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company men and five Weyerhaeuser cats, Lakeview Logging Company loggers, Summer Lake ranchers and men from the Adams mill at Paisley.

It was anticipated that the fire would be controlled today.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity. Mostly sunny with Wednesday. Some thundershowers in the mountains. High Wednesday 99; low Tuesday night 56.

High yesterday 98

Low last night 56

Precip. last 24 hours 0

Since Oct. 1 7.00

Same period last year 13.27

Normal for period 12.71



SINGLES WINNERS, Barbara Bradley, left, and Ellis Williamson talk over the outcome of the Labor Day weekend's eighth annual Herald and News Invitational Tennis tournament. Bradley won the women's singles and Williamson captured the men's title. See story and pictures on sports page.