GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER CO. plaque was presented to the Midstate Soil Conservation District as first place district in Oregon in the company's annual achievement contest. Rodney Rosebrook, Bend, Midstate chairman, holding plaque, and Roy Stanton, Sisters, behind plaque, outstanding conservationist of his district, were given an expense-paid trip to Goodyear Farms at Litchfield, Arizona. Others pictured are Ted Thorson, extreme left, SCS work unit conservationist, and Joe Howard, extreme right, supervisor. Picture taken by Bud Parks of Fort Rock, one of the speakers at the annual convention of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts held recently at Pendleton.

LLOYD GIFT of Langell Valley, left, Pacific Northwest "Grassman of the Year," with Claudette Shuck and Bill Dearborn, second and first place winners in the SCD speech contest, inspect McNary Dam while at the annual convention of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts at Pendleton. —Photo by Parks

Soil Conservation Groups Hold Meeting In Pendleton

By HELEN PARKS

FORT ROCK—The seventh annual meeting of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation districts held recently at Pendleton chalked up the biggest attendance in the organization's history. Lake and Klamath counties contributed considerably to that number.

Ralph Saylor of Echo, president, and Ralph Wilson of Salem, vice president, presided over the sessions.

Lloyd Gift of Langell Valley, who was chosen Pacific Northwest "Grassman of the Year" last month, was honored at the meeting.

Bill Dearborn of Langell Valley presented his winning speech on "Wildlife Conservation in my Soil Conservation District."

"Nature is a good provider," he stated, "and what Nature has provided we must protect." He cited projects carried out in his district for increasing and improving the basic necessities for wildlife.

Dave Doneen, national stewardship director, spoke of the new program of stewardship as "one which seeks to help the people of soil conservation districts realize their responsibility to God for the gifts of soil and water." National church leaders have been enlisted in this work and President Eisenhower plans to proclaim May 6-12 as Soil Stewardship Week, Doneen said.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company's plaque for achievement was presented to Midstate Soil Conservation District and accepted by Rodney Rosebrook, chairman, from F. W. Pickard.

Principal speaker was Nola Fuqua, president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. With 35 years' experience in Boy Scout work, Fuqua also spoke of a five-year soil conservation program now under way in conjunction with the Scouting program.

At the evening banquet, Lloyd Gift, a director of the association, and first president of the Oregon association, spoke of his debt to soil conservation work. He urged those present to take advantage of the tools available through the service. At the close of his talk, the board members presented gifts for Gift and his wife. She was unable to attend the Pendleton meeting.

In speaking of the worth of soil conservation districts to this country, W. F. Hall of Sparta, Georgia, a national director, called the 13,000 supervisors "men dedicated to give and not to receive," each worth $7000 in federal appropriations. He also referred to Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company's $100,000 a year to encourage improvement in soil conservation districts and of the Spencer Chemical Company's annual contest with its $1000 grand prize and $1400 in area prizes.

Merritt (Bud) Parks of Fort Rock spoke on "The Goals of My Soil Conservation District." A tape recording of his talk will be entered in the Spencer Chemical Company's national contest as Oregon's representative.

Senator Wayne Morse spoke during the final day, claiming our nation's surplus as one of our greatest weapons for freedom.

Another speaker, Don Williams, chief of SCS, Washington, D.C., stressed teamwork as the only way that the job of soil and water conservation can be done.

"We must take the long range view of water and land conservation and management and a stepped-up range management program," he declared. "There is no short cut. It is done by the farmer and the rancher who understands it and believes in it and wants to do it," he added.

A tour of the West Umatilla SCD and McNary Dam concluded the program.

Johnsons Take Over From Smiths At OSC

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Smith is no longer the most common name at Oregon State College, a fall term name count shows. The Johnsons have taken away the title.

The tally shows 57 Smiths on campus and 59 Johnsons.

The Browns are third with 36, followed by the Andersons, Millers and Jones.

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Water Table Aided By Snow

By DICK HUBBELL

The public — or, at least, the city dwelling public — has little use for snow, except to use it to ski on.

It's nasty, white stuff that has to be shoveled or plowed. Drivers have trouble making their automobiles go up hills. It blocks highways sometimes, and makes trains, buses and airplanes late.

The Klamath Basin, in common with most of Southern Oregon and Northern California, has had more than its share of snow so far this winter. Some places have already had more snow than they had all last year. And Bureau of Reclamation figures indicate that if past performances are any guide there are two, or possibly three, good, wintry momths ahead of us.

More nasty white stuff to be shoveled or manhandled.

But the experts about these things — the Bureau of Reclamation, the power companies, the Forest Service — all seem to be remarkably cheerful about this abnormally heavy snowfall.

They point out that for the past two years, Southern Oregon and Northern California have had abnormally dry winters. A third dry winter would have produced a situation which one Yreka expert called desperate.

This winter, they hope, will be the end of this dry spell. Water, and lots of it, is needed to replenish the dry soil and build up the reservoirs. Water is needed to fully wet down the forests and cut down the intense forest fire situation that plagued the area, along with much of Southern and Central California last year.

The water is falling in the form of either snow or rain.

The experts are glad of one other thing. The water came before the frost sealed the ground, so the slowly melting snow is being absorbed into the ground, building up the underground storage and water tables.

According to J. Pitts Elmore, project manager of the USBR Klamath Project, this is good. He said the snow, when it has melted, has melted slowly, giving the parched ground a chance to draw it in. "That is very good," he said, "it will get the ground recharged."

The total precipitation last year in Klamath Falls was 7.52 inches. The stream year runs from October 1 to September 30. As of 8 a.m. Friday, 6.67 inches had been recorded.

He said that the snowfall south of the Siskiyou Divide has been somewhat lighter and the rainfall correspondingly heavier because of the lower elevations there. He said that this has served to build up reservoirs in that section somewhat more than in Oregon.

According to USBR figures, the snowfall and rainfall last November has been exceded only five times in the entire period the bureau has been keeping records. The moisture content of the precipitation last November was 3.74 inches. In November, 1885, it was 3.76 inches; in November, 1909, 5.30 inches; in November, 1910, 5.16 inches; in November, 1926, 7.94 inches, and in November, 1942, 4.18 inches.

These bureau figures go back to 1864, with some gaps between 1890 and 1903.

And, Elmore said, the records of those six years show that December and January also had abnormally heavy snow or rainfall. Sometimes, the heavy storms continued on into February.

Elmore said that his heavy snowfall has not yet had much affect on the reservoirs of the project because of the small runoff.

"There has been practically no runoff," he said.

Instead, the water from the little snow that has melted has been absorbed into the ground.

The usable storage in Upper Klamath Lake on December 1, 1955, is 288,500 acre feet, compared with 206,160 acre feet on December 1, 1954. However, in Clear Lake and Gerber Lake, the December 1 figure is below that of last year. These lakes, however, are slowly filling up, Elmore said.

Figures for Clear Lake are 185,410 acre feet in 1955 and 218,540 acre feet in 1954. The Gerber Lake figure for 1955 is 7,920 acre feet this year compared to 26,940 acre feet last year.

Officials of the California Oregon Power Company are also pleased with the weather. Truman Runyan, assistant manager of the Copco Klamath Falls area office, said that this looks like "the start of a good one," but added that it is possible the storms could stop, "and leave us worse off than last year."

Runyan said that Copco prefers a heavy snowfall early in the winter because it will back much harder and the spring runoff normally would be slower. "But not always," he added, "there could always be some kind of a chinook that would roast the snow right off the mountains."

He said that when the snowfall comes late in the year, the runoff is usually much faster.

The heavy snowfall has hit all areas where Copco has hydroelectric plants, he said.

Runyan added that the power company has been extremely fortunate from a service point of view during the storms. There have been very few outages, he said, and none of them were serious.

The U.S. Forest Service took a slightly different view from the power company on the timing of the snow. The early snowfall, Forest Service officials said, was a good thing, and would aid tree growth, but the precipitation late in the winter and during the spring is the precipitation which aids in prevention of fires.

Russell M. Bower, supervisor of the Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County, said that in his forest, precipitation has already exceeded the total for the entire season last year. According to figures published in the Siskiyou Daily News as of 8 a.m. Thursday, there has been 9.99 inches of precipitation since July 1, compared with 7.45 for the entire 1954-55 year.

Most of the precipitation in the Klamath Forest has been rain rather than snow, but Bowen indicated that the dry land was absorbing most of the water. Beginning January 1, the Klamath Forest takes snowpack surveys for the California State Division of Water Resources, but until those surveys are begun, there are no figures on the pack, Bower said.

He said that precipitation in April, May and June would control the fire danger next year. A dry spell during these months would herald another severe season such as last year, he said.

Jack Groom of Lakeview, assistant superintendent of the Fremont National Forest, expressed the same thoughts concerning a dry spring, but said that he felt that July should be included in the critical months for fire danger.

He said that there has been no runoff with all of the water going into the ground. He said that on December 7 there was approximately 14-18 inches of snow in Lakeview and about four feet on the land of the Denning Creek sale on Gearhart Mountain north of Bly. This area, however, is approximately 7,000 feet in elevation.

Robert L. Cooper, Klamath district ranger of the Rogue River National Forest, pointed out that the snowpack would serve as an insulating blanket, and would probably prevent the ground from freezing at all this winter, except in spots where the snow melts off for some reason or another. This, he said, would add to the amount of water which would be absorbed by the ground.

He also agreed that the critical time for precipitation to aid in fire prevention was the last few months in the season, but said that the snow pack was a help because it would delay the drying out between storms.

Accurate snow pack figures are difficult to obtain, he said, because the snow tends to compress and what was a four foot pack one week might be a three or two foot pack the following week. He said, however, that the Lake of the Woods ranger station reported a four foot pack on December 2, and that the storm since then has probably added around a foot to that figure.

College Gets $56,000 Grant

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Research grants totaling $55,000 have been received by the mathematics department at Oregon State College for four studies this year.

Dr. A. T. Lonseth, department chairman, has been awarded $17,500 by the office of ordinance research, U.S. Army, to continue research on solution of complex scientific equations, called integral equations. Since the project was started four years ago, he has received $66,000.

The study is designed to find ways of simplifying and speeding up complicated problem calculations such as those involved in computing earthquake wave passage and theory of lift on airplane wings.

For the third straight year, Dr. W. M. Stone has been given a grant by Boeing Airplane Company, Seattle. This year's total is $8,800. The study involves work on improving methods for radar detection of planes and guided missiles.

Two grants came to OSC from the Air Force Wright Air Development Center at Dayton, Ohio. Both are tied in with preparation of material for a reference handbook on solution of involved mathematical problems by use of the new electronic computers.

Dr. W. E. Milne, former head of mathematics who retired last summer, received $15,100 for one part of the project and Lonseth received $14,500 to head up the second phase.

Holly Mailing Advice Given

Oregonians sending holly for Christmas are advised not to pack it with ripening fruit, Ralph Clark, horticulture specialist at Oregon State College, warns shoppers that ethylene gas given off by the fruit knocks holly berries and leaves off stems.

Holly should be packed in cardboard cartons and shipped early for best holiday deliveries.

Whether readying for mailing or local use, Clark recommends dipping the holly in a hormone preparation which is sold at stores handling spray supplies. "Twenty-five cents will treat a lot of holly and will ensure its freshness weeks after it's picked," says Clark. Dipping can be done at home in a laundry tub or sink.

"When the holly comes off the tree, put it in a cool place out of the wind, Clark says. Dip the holly in the hormone mixture and shake the excess moisture off. Some will remain on the holly and keep it fresh. Pack the holly in cardboard boxes lined with waxed paper for shipping.

Although some holly was lost in the pre-Thanksgiving freeze, there will be enough for commercial sales here and in eastern states, according to Clark. Large losses in certain strains were reported in the Portland area, a holly-growing center.

About half of the 1,200 acres planted to holly in Oregon are in production. After a branch is cut off a tree, it takes two to three years for the holly to again produce.

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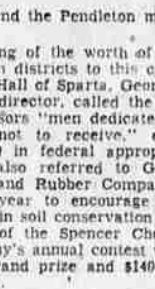

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