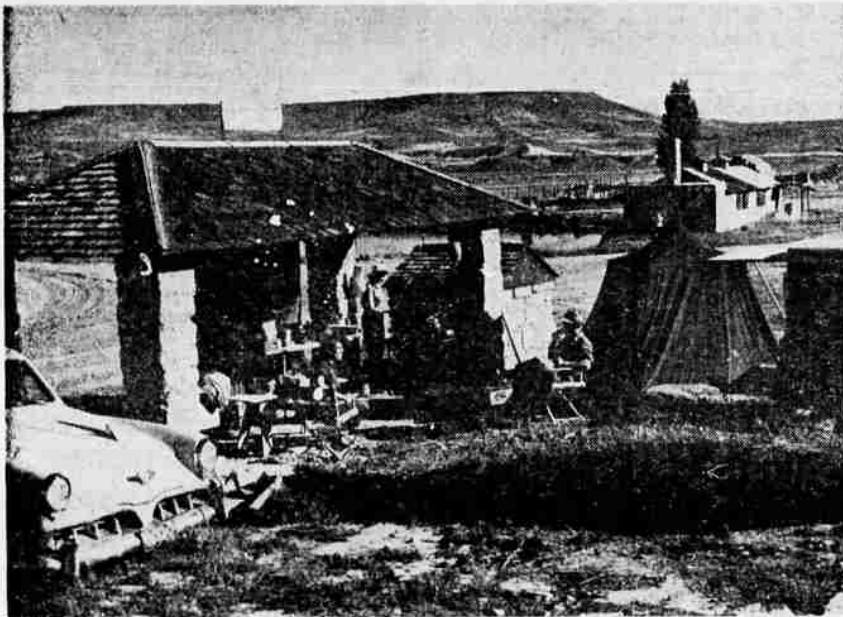




TYPICAL OF THE HAUL made at the Virgin Valley site of Rainbow Ridge mine is this collection of opals, opalized wood and bits of petrified wood. For purposes of comparison the big piece in the upper right hand corner measures about five inches long.



THE CAMPSITE in Virgin Valley. This is the only shade available and the first arrivals always latch onto this old CCC shelter for their headquarters. The Herald and News party is shown here comfortably set up for a weekend stay. The camp is the sub headquarters of the Sheldon Antelope Reserve. The caretaker for the mine lives here. In addition to the shelter shown there are other campsites and an abundance of water.



PROSPECTING FOR OPALS on the surface are Art and Delores Coles and Donna Ketter. This area of the Rainbow Ridge mine has been stirred up with a bulldozer to make the finding easier. This scene is typical of the ground worked by rockhounds visiting Virgin Valley.

Klamath Weed, Once Held To Lowland Area, Invades High Country In Calif.

By J. O. MCKINNEY

Klamath weed, once thought to be a range pest only along the coastal region, and in the lower valleys, has now invaded the land of the skies. Patches of this herbal "range hog" are now growing near Snowman's Hill, on State Highway 89. This is above 4,000 feet elevation.

But its existence there is threatened. Beetles that were imported from Australia a decade ago to combat the weed have discovered this infestation, and are cleaning it up. Soon there will be no Klamath weed there, nor beetles. The bugs remain only so long as their food supply lasts, and they eat nothing save this weed.

Klamath weed has many names aside from the one here used. Some folk call it Dollittle weed. Oregonians know it as Tipton weed. A universal title is St. John's wort.

Botanists have named it hypericum perforatum. But by any name it is a formidable range pest.

Before the advent of the beetle, hypericum gemelata, Klamath weed crowded out range grasses and damaged stock foraging there. Banks once refused to lend money on lands where this weed was established. Control was difficult to impossible and damage was great.

The weed resembles alfalfa, and stock will eat it where other feed is scarce. Sore mouths developed in every case where it was eaten. Death seldom resulted, but a loss of weight always did.

Neither were herbicides practical. Some worked to a limited degree, but the terrain over which the weed grew excluded use of mechanical equipment in most cases. The rate of spread of this weed was alarming.

The United States Department of Agriculture, through entomologist James K. Holloway, imported beetles from Australia that ate this weed and nothing else. They were liberated in many localities, and soon proved their worth. All large infestations where the bugs were planted soon were cleared of the weed and range grasses once more flourished there.

Scattered infestations, such as this one near Snowman's Hill, have sprung up through dissemination of seed by various means. The beetles, their big feed boxes gone, are now searching out all food supplies and clearing them out. When the food supply is gone, there will be no more beetles. They live but a year, and with no more food, do not reproduce.

What makes the weed's presence on Snowman's Hill remarkable is

that there was once a time when 3,000 feet elevation was thought to be the absolute ceiling for its growth. Now with that theory exploded Klamath weed may go on up and mingle with clouds and perpetual snow.



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DDT Ruled Out For Use In Cleaning Bins

With the grain harvest season getting into full swing, farmers are reminded of the new federal requirements banning the use of DDT for cleaning grain bins.

Because of residue found on grain stored in bins sprayed with DDT, University of California agronomists recommend the use of malathion. One gallon of 57 per cent emulsifiable liquid malathion mixed with 25 gallons of water is the recommended strength for treating storage bins. There are also some other chemicals which can be used, such as pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide, but these should be used carefully, and according to manufacturer's directions.

TO THE POINT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)— Juvenile Court Judge Louis H. Jull may have made the shortest speech on record. After listening to a suggestion that children would refrain from such delinquency as stealing hubcaps if they were allowed to shoot off firecrackers, Jull approached the rostrum thoughtfully and said: "No." He sat down amid tremendous applause.