



EVEN SMALL BRANCHES are utilized in a big Christmas tree operation. Here Ken Bishop of the Ken-Dell ranch shows a branch, pruned off an already cut tree, all tagged and ready for shipment. The branches are packed in 25-pound bundles and go to stores in the San Francisco area where they are used in Christmas decorations.



IT'S A STEEP CLIMB to get up to the higher levels of the Ken-Dell Christmas tree ranch at Tennant as this picture shows. The inspection party is shown here threading its way down one of the steep, snow covered slopes where the latest thinning operations are being carried out. It took a lot of huffing and puffing as well as grinding along in the big hole of various jeeps and four-wheel drive trucks to get up to this 6,500 foot level in mid-November.

Tranquilizers Used As Aid In Mock Spawning Process On Trinity Area

By DEVAN L. SHUMWAY

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Salmon spawning in California's Trinity River are being tranquilized these days but apparently it is meeting with their approval.

A State Department of Fish and Game publication describes a unique, just-finished fish-trapping facility on the Trinity near the central California city of Lewiston.

The main points of the operation are these:

1. It allows the fish to do most of the work.

2. It uses a special tranquilizer to help matters.

The installation, which cost the Federal Reclamation Bureau \$300,000 to construct, is operated by the California F&G Department as a temporary means of preserving salmon and steelhead runs in the Trinity River system while construction is in progress on the proposed huge Trinity Dam.

When the dam is completed, the fish won't be able to go above it and their spawning grounds will be covered by the reservoir. But that is a long way off. So something had to be done to keep the fish going while they could.

So the unique "Rube Goldberg" system was devised. It's actually so simple that one man can load about 100 salmon by himself during a moderate run.

This is how it works:

A weir, set at an angle across the river, prevents the fish from traveling further upstream. The weir's operation is not affected by stream flow conditions.

Just below the weir on the west side of the river a fish ladder has been built and the fish, having no place else to go, jump into the ladder.

Then they start through the system.

Their first stop is a holding tank, 68 by 12 feet in size and containing about four feet of water. The fish can't get out of here and they begin to congregate.

The operators of the system let them mill around until there are enough to haul to the stream above the construction area and release to spawn naturally.

Just above the holding tank is

a 12 by 12 foot anesthetic tank with a sloping bottom. It can hold about 1,500 gallons of water.

To that water is added about 75 cubic centimeters of a coal tar derivative called quinaldine, which acts as a tranquilizer for the fish — thus making control much easier.

The system is set up so that water can well up between the holding tank and anesthetic tank. This has the effect of producing an artificial waterfall.

Fish in the holding tank do what comes naturally to salmon. They jump at the waterfall.

Suddenly they make it. And they are in the anesthetic tank.

Or else they don't make it, and a little boost is needed.

The boost is provided by a persuader in the form of a sweep which slowly drives the fish ahead until they reach the end of the tank. Then the sweep is raised straight up and a horizontal projection on it lifts the fish over the waterfall and into the anesthetic tank.

When they are in the tank they are — within seconds — feeling a little like a drunk on Saturday night after the bars close. They're sleepy.

Slowly, the fish begin to sink toward the bottom. They fall onto a built-in escalator and are carried on a conveyor from the tank to the top of a waiting fish planting truck.

As soon as they hit the cool water of the truck's water tank they suddenly revive. And an hour later they are dumped into the spawning grounds.

Since the spawning grounds will be destroyed when the dam is completed, this system won't be used forever. As a matter of fact, plans are now under way to replace it with an ultra-modern hatchery.

The hatchery is designed for completion by the federal government sometime in 1961. It will be operated by the State Fish and Game Department with federal money.

The plan of operation then will be to strip the eggs from the fish, hold them for hatching and rear the young fish to desired size for releasing into the stream for a trip back to the sea.

Medium Sized Hombres Tote Babies For Gun OK

SACRAMENTO, Cal. (UPI) — California has established a "common sense" rule of thumb for parents who want to know when a child is old enough to own a gun.

The California Department of Fish and Game believes the child is old enough when his mother and dad "would trust him to carry the neighbor's baby across the street."

The department provided this yardstick for responsibility in a recent publication designed for parents whose children are asking for a rifle.

"Usually youngsters are ready to start shooting when they have shown a sense of responsibility in other fields," the booklet said. "This may be at 12, 13 or 14 years of age."

Under California law, however, responsibility alone is not enough to earn a boy or girl a coveted hunting license. He must complete a course in safe handling of firearms and pass a test on the subject before he will be permitted to try his hand at hunting.

Since the law went into operation in 1954, more than 100,000 youngsters have received training in safe shooting.

Partly as a result of the program, California reduced hunting casualties from 132 in 1955 to 79 in 1957. That achievement won the state international recognition for an "outstanding hunter safety training program" from the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

The hunter training program was based on a plan which went into effect in New York two years

before it was adopted by the Legislature here.

Instructors are volunteers who donate their time to help young people learn to handle guns properly.

"You must understand," Seth Gordon, state fish and game director, said, "that these people are not merely good hunters. They are persons who have taken the time to study their subject, pass a rigid test in firearms safety and be certified and qualified as instructors by the Department of Fish and Game and the National Rifle Association."

"They spend many hours of their free time to teach young Californians the rudiments, not only of safe gun handling, but also of good sportsmanship."

'BUSY ACRES'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — For the first time in this century we are growing timber faster in the U.S. than we are removing it from forests, according to John B. Veach, president of American Forest Products Industries. The FPI is sponsoring a "Busy Acres" program to assist farmers in putting their idle lands to work growing trees to accelerate tree growth in the nation.

DRY FACTS

MONTPELIER, Vt. (UPI) — Bars are illegal in Vermont. Places where alcoholic beverages are sold must be called "counters" and counter stools are required. The law permits only one glass of intoxicants on a dining table per person. Drinkers may not stand or carry their glasses around.