



A SECTION OF THE GROUP on the Humboldt County brush clearing tour discussing the selective thinning of hardwoods in a heavy stand of Douglas fir. Note the chinquapin on the hill at left which has been killed back. Madrona and Tan Oak in this same area had their leaves killed and were dying back. Spray had to be applied from an altitude of approximately 200 feet at this site because of the steep gullies and jagged contour of the land.

Logging Firms Declare War On Weed Tree Areas

Modern foresters for giant logging companies are fighting weed trees on the Douglas fir and redwood covered mountainsides of Northern California in the same way that today's farmers fight weeds in cotton and corn fields. They do it chemically, through helicopter application of selective herbicides such as 24D and 245T.

At a late October brush clearing field day held on Simpson Redwood land in Humboldt County, California, a group of Southern Oregon and Northern California foresters viewed the results of helicopter spraying of three pounds of 24D in 10 gallons of water per acre. The field day was sponsored by the Dow Chemical Company, San Francisco, and Oregon Ag Chemicals, Tulelake, California, in cooperation with the Humboldt County board of forestry.

Because it would be too costly to clear snags from the rough terrain at the sites, the helicopters had flown at altitudes of 50 to 200 feet. Application of the chemicals had been made in June, since at that time food is being transported out of the leaves of the tree and the chemicals, which kill systemically, move with it.

Although six months had elapsed since the spray runs, their patterns were clearly marked on the mountainsides in the dying browns and yellows of the killed back hardwoods, contrasted against the green of untouched conifers.

There are two purposes for such selective thinning. The first is simply to eliminate the competition of hardwoods for soil nutrients, light and water in mature stands of conifers.

The second purpose is the killing back of brush which shades out young seedlings. When such brush is sprayed and loses its leaves, young fir and redwood seedlings are "released" into the sunlight. Once ahead of the brush and growing well, an acre of redwood can

produce more than a thousand board feet of lumber a year, estimates California Redwood Association.

In summarizing the results to date of these trial runs, R. N. Raynor, western development manager of the Dow Chemical Company, says, "We know that these chemicals will do the job of selectively killing brush and weed trees. We still have much to learn about variables of application and nature."

Officials of Simpson Redwood emphasize that this project is entirely experimental and that theirs is but one of many conservation minded logging firms searching for new and better ways to grow commercial trees efficiently. Selective thinning by chemicals is a modern practice to which they are devoting considerable research.

LEGAL TENDER

BOULDER, Colo. (UPI)—Gold dust is legal tender again in Colorado—two bits' worth to the sack—as part of the state's centennial celebration. It's the idea of a Boulder engineer named Kent Schneider, who panned the dust from what's left of an old mill, mixed it with what he admits are a "few impurities" and packaged the stuff in small plastic bags which he sells for 25 cents. Schneider, who figures the gold in each sack is actually worth 26 cents, arranged for business establishments throughout the state to accept the bags in exchange for a quarter's worth of merchandise.

FALSE ALARM

MARTINEZ, Calif. (UPI)—The firemen of Martinez have been run ragged since the town installed dial telephones recently. There is only a one-digit difference between the fire department's regular office number and the number which automatically sets off a fire alarm when it is called.

matter of FACT



The first sewing machine was invented by Thomas Saint, an Englishman. In 1790, he patented a machine that had many of the features of the modern chain-stitch machine. Saint's machine was largely intended for work on leather. It had a moving awl which punched holes through which the thread could pass. The Saint machine was never used industrially and the inventor made no profit from it.

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SLUM PREVENTION EMPHASIS
CHICAGO (UPI)—American cities are putting new emphasis on slum prevention, according to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment officials. The association reported that six times as many cities have housing codes in force now as four years ago. It said at least 260 cities now have laws setting minimum requirements for safety and health in housing, compared with 44 cities four years ago.

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