THIS SCENE IS TYPICAL of the 1,434 snow courses in the western states and British Columbia upon which two-man teams will make surveys this winter to determine the snow depth and water content. Water supply forecasts, which are of great importance to agriculture, industry, cities and other water users in the west, are based on this information. Around 60 men will be trained in snow surveying at Mount Hood during the Westwide Snow Survey Training Conference to be held January 18-22.

Bonanza Man, Roger Reid, To Attend Snow Survey Course Held On Slopes Of Mount Hood

How much water will be available for use by farmers, ranchers, cities, industries and others this year?

This is the question that Roger Reid, conservation aide, Soil Conservation Service, Bonanza, will help to answer. Since much of the water in the West comes from melting snow, it is necessary to make surveys to determine the depth and water content of snow in the mountains in order to make water supply forecasts.

Reid has been selected to receive snow survey training at the Westwide Snow Survey Training Conference to be held at Mount Hood, Oregon, January 18-22.

Purpose of the Mount Hood conference will be to train around 60 employes of the Soil Conservation Service and cooperating agencies in making the most efficient snow surveys with the utmost safety.

During the conference at Mount Hood, trainees will be separated into five groups. During the forenoons the groups will attend general instruction sessions together. They will be instructed in the theory and practice of snow surveying, travel equipment, preparation for winter trips, snow survey note keeping, first aid, survival in operation, and other phases of the work.

In the afternoons, each group will receive field training on different phases of snow surveying. While one group is learning to sample and determine the water content of snow, another will be learning to travel by skis and snowshoes, a third will be trained in over-snow vehicle travel, the fourth will study first aid and rescue methods, and the fifth will be instructed in winter survival.

Then each night one group will go up on the slopes of Mount Hood for a night of bivouac to learn winter survival methods.

The trainees, attired in heavy winter clothing, will dig holes in the snow, line them with boughs, spread their sleeping bags, crawl in and bed down for the night.

Snow surveyors learn to work as teams. Once a month during the winter and early spring they load their over-snow machine on a truck and set out for the snow course high in the mountains. The truck goes as far as possible, then the over-snow machine is unloaded, and the journey is continued until the machine can go no farther.

Then the two men take to skis and snowshoes. They are equipped with a long hollow tube made of metal, an inch and a half in diameter, and with sharpened saw teeth at one end, which they use in sampling the snow courses.

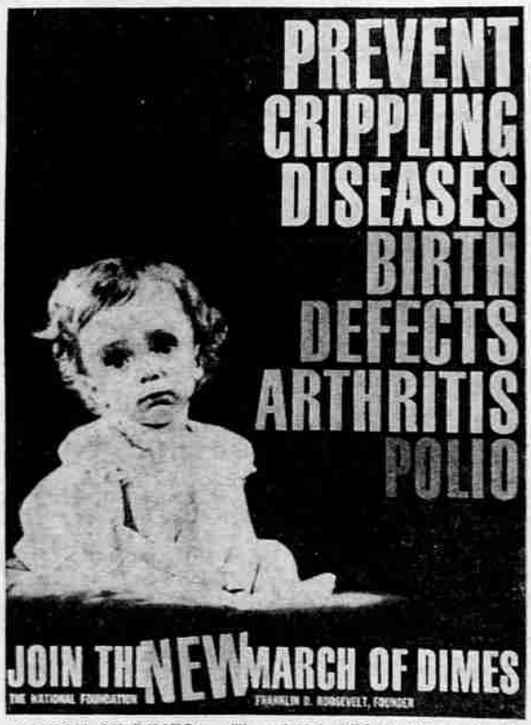
A snow course is a permanently established series of 10 stations in line and 100 feet apart so that the snow is measured in exactly the same place each month and each year. A few are at low elevations, but the majority are located in high remote mountain areas where they are protected from drifting snow, foreign ponded water, interception and exposure to snow melt.

The surveyors carry with them plenty of warm clothing, skis, snowshoes, non-freezable Army rations —any article of food or clothing that is needed for survival.

Arriving at a course, they drive the metal sampling tube straight down until it reaches the ground at each of the 10 sampling points. As the tube sinks, it fills with snow. The depth of the snow then is measured in inches graduated on the outside of the tube. The tube and snow core is then withdrawn and weighed to determine the amount of water in the snow. The average of these 10 sampling points gives snow depth and water content for that course and the adjoining area.

This information, collected by the Soil Conservation Service and cooperating agencies, is correlated and monthly reports are issued. Around mid-April the SCS issues a forecast of the amount of water that will be available from snow melt. Water users in the West base their plans for the year's operations on this forecast.

Present north star is Polaris. The star Gamma Cephei will be the pole star for people on earth 2,000 years from now.



MARCH OF DIMES — The wistful child on the March of Dimes poster is Mary Beth Pyron, 2½, who was born with an open spine. She symbolizes all the handicapped children who may benefit from the national foundation's expanded program to prevent crippling diseases.

Current Of Sea Studied

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — An age-old sailor's trick of tossing bottles into the sea to carry messages ashore is being used to chart the pattern of ocean currents off Oregon. At present, little detail is known of currents close to the Oregon shore.

The project is a cooperative effort of the Oregon State College department of oceanography and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, LaJolla, Calif. Started in June, it has already shown great shifts in the Oregon ocean currents.

Twelve bottles are dropped each month at points 5, 15, 25, 35 and 45 miles off Newport when the OSC oceanographers make their regular readings of water temperature and salinity. The bottles carry a letter that briefly explains the project and a special card that the bottle finder is asked to send to Scripps Institution, which has similar projects underway off California.

OSC oceanographers are mapping the bottle recovery sites and thus piecing together the picture of how the currents shift from month to month.

June bottle recoveries, for example, were between the Umpqua and Cape Blanco, showing a fast southern movement of the currents. Soon July recoveries were made at Newport but one also below Coos Bay. August recoveries ranged from Newport to Grays Harbor, Wash., while the September recoveries were near Newport, indicating that the surface currents were coming almost straight in at the time.

'Decisions' Program In Oregon Set

Anyone interested in learning more about America's foreign policy will have ample opportunity during the months ahead.

Many Oregon librarians are already gathering books relating to foreign policy topics that will be discussed by Great Decisions study groups in February and March.

Co-chairmen of Oregon's Great Decisions program are Mrs. Mabel Mack, assistant director of Oregon State College extension service, and Dr. Charles Dean, Great Decisions representative for the Institute of International Affairs, general extension division, state system of higher education.

They report that although local discussion groups are just now being formed in each county, librarians are getting ready early in anticipation of requests for material about the eight discussion topics: Communist Timetable for 1960; Divided Europe; Red China on the March; Chances for India's Middle Way; Hope for Stability in the Middle East; Goals for Africa's New Leaders; Cuba's Revolution; and U.S. Global Strategy.

The organization behind Great Decisions, which has been offered nationally for the past six years, is the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), a 42-year-old national educational agency. Its purpose is to help people understand critical international issues facing the American government and people. FPA is nonpartisan, nongovernmental and nonprofit. It is supported mainly by contributions and foundation grants. The FPA prepares fact sheets for participants.

In Oregon, Great Decisions is cosponsored by Oregon State College extension service and the general extension division of the state system of higher education in cooperation with the FPA, the state department of education, state library, and some 25 statewide organizations.

Further information about the 1960 Great Decisions program is available from county Great Decisions chairmen and county extension agents.

4-H Planning Rifle Club

Free instruction in safe, sensible use of guns is offered Oregon youths in a new 4-H club project recently developed by Oregon State College extension service.

The Rifleman 4-H Club project is aimed at helping youngsters develop ability and responsibility in handling guns safely, says Andrew Landforce, OSC wildlife specialist, who wrote the project outlines. The 4-H project supplements the Oregon Hunter Safety Training program, sponsored by the state game commission.

The 4-H leaders also hope to discourage "gun totin' " and the popularized TV "fast draw" which cause many needless accidents and deaths each year in Oregon.

Youngsters 12 years of age and older, may choose from three project divisions—the Pro-Marksman, the Marksman and the Hunter—depending on age and ability. All the 4-H gun lessons emphasize good sportsmanship, respect for private, public and personal property, and wildlife conservation. More information about the project is available at all county extension offices.

Hawaii asked to be annexed to the United States and was voted permission in 1898. Now it is a state of the Union.