

State Forestry Department Racks Up Good Record In '59

SALEM — One of the outstanding events which marked state forestry in Oregon during 1959 was the sale of the last large block of fire killed timber in the Tillamook burn, thus marking the end of the big time logging in one of the largest salvage projects in the country.

The sale consisted of a block of 15,000,000 board feet of snags in the Kilchis River watershed that went to the Diamond Lumber Company. The timber will be processed in the company's plants in Tillamook.

When this last block of timber is logged it is estimated that the total recovery will amount to about six billion board feet of timber. The total footage killed in the fires of 1933, 1939 and 1945 has been estimated at 13.1 billion board feet.

Other outstanding events included low fire losses; emphasis on forest rehabilitation; developments in weather equipment; radiological training; continued emphasis on insect, disease and animal damage to the forests; expansion of the farm forestry program; conservation act administration; and a complete reorganization of the state safety program.

FIRE RECORD EXCELLENT

The area burned on the 12,000,000 acres of forest land coming under the jurisdiction of the state and association units was held to 20,843 acres in spite of the very hazardous fire season that was marked by record breaking periods of high fire hazard. The number of fires was listed at 623, with 114 of them having been caused by lightning.

The Southwest Oregon state unit was hardest hit with a total of 6,152 acres burned. Next in line came Douglas with 5,361 acres, followed by Central Oregon with 3,310 acres, Klamath with 2,929 and Coos with 1,532. Thus all except 1,259 acres was burned in the five units.

Nineteen fifty-nine marked the end of the 10th year since the rehabilitation of state owned forest land and especially the Tillamook burn got under way by the state forestry department. It represented the largest project of this nature that had ever been undertaken by any agency in the nation, either state or federal.

Accomplishments up to the end of the year included planting 41,347,869 seedlings on 52,792 acres of forest land and in addition the aerial seeding of 69,168 acres. This brings the total area reforested to 105,561 acres, of which around 100,000 acres is in the Tillamook burn.

While tree planting and seeding was going on the state felled 1,282,437 snags as a part of the program designed to keep fires out of the burned areas. Approximately 150 miles of fire corridors were built, a similar mileage of roads constructed and an additional 2,000 miles of roads maintained. It is estimated that the huge project is more than half completed.

WEATHER EQUIPMENT DEVELOPED

Development of equipment by the radio section of the department which will successfully intercept radio signals from the U.S. Naval station in San Francisco and make it possible to secure teletype weather reports and to transcribe weather maps on the facsimile machine, marks an advanced step in weather forecasting on going fires.

Through this means of interception it will be possible to set up the mobile weather station at a fire and secure all the basic data without having to go through the slow procedure of securing the new data from the weather unit in the state forester's office. Together with weather information collected in the vicinity of the fire, accurate forecasting can be accomplished in a brief period of time.

Additional development work will go ahead during the coming year and it is expected that the final results can be announced this fall. The meteorologists and radio technicians are quite optimistic over the eventual results.

FOREST PESTS STUDIED

During the late spring 27 million acres of Oregon's forests were covered by an aerial flight with the departmental plane and two federal observers who mapped current areas of tree mortality which might have been caused by insects, disease or animals.

The flight indicated that there was no further spread of the spruce budworm following the 1958 control project which brought the total area treated in a state-federal cooperative program to 4,300,000 acres since 1949.

However, the wooly aphid, or chermes, is still in an epidemic stage along the crest of the Cascades as far south as Crater Lake although little mortality has been indicated. Aerial spraying is ineffective but entomologists have shipped in many predator beetles from foreign countries and these have been released in many of the infested areas. Results seem to be promising although it is too early to predict complete success.

The porcupine is still active in the ponderosa stands of eastern Oregon in spite of an active pro-

gram of control. Forestry and industry personnel have been killing many of the animals. In spite of the activity the animals are still doing a considerable amount of damage.

Deer, elk and rodents still offer a definite threat to the young Douglas fir seedlings in the western part of the state. In some instances the damage has been so great that public and private agencies have seriously considered delaying further reforestation programs until control methods are worked out.

TRAINING INTENSIFIED

Training selected forestry personnel in the use of radiological monitoring equipment in order that they may qualify as instructors was undertaken during the year. A forestry official was assigned to attend the radiological monitoring schools at Olympia, Washington, and Battle Creek, Michigan, where he took an intensive course of training that qualified him as an instructor.

Following his return to Salem a five-day school was set up in the state capitol at Salem which was

attended by forestry personnel and a number of officials from other state and federal agencies. Those completing the course were qualified as instructors and will conduct schools at various points in the state during 1960.

FARM FORESTRY STEPPED UP

The cooperative forest management program was extended to the entire state during the year by placing three additional farm foresters in the field, bringing the total to nine. At present, farm foresters are located at Salem, Oregon City, Hillsboro, Tillamook, Eugene, Medford, Prineville and La Grande.

CONSERVATION PROGRESSES

Compliance with the Oregon conservation act was found to be excellent with only 25 violations involving 1,977 acres being listed. The field men also examined 9,724 acres of cutover land to determine whether satisfactory stands had been established within the five-year abeyance period. Of this it was found that 3,484 acres had not been satisfactorily restocked through natural seeding and artificial reforestation by the owner will be required.

SAFETY EMPHASIZED

A mounting accident record in some of the state and association protective units during the past three years has led to a complete reorganization of the safety program. A state forester's committee has been set up which is made up of the deputy state forester and the four assistant state foresters.

The committee sets up the safety policies of the department. Each of the district wardens is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the program in his respective district. The area supervisors see that this is done. The safety and training official has been given authority to take positive action in the field instead of acting in an advisory capacity as has been the practice in the past.

Army 'Bird Dog' Retired

FT. RUCKER, Ala. (UPI)—The Army Aviation Center Museum here has a famous "Bird Dog."

Its name is "1327."

The Bird Dog is a light single engine observation aircraft.

The Army's first Bird Dog, or L-19, had a notable history during its some 1,600 hours in the air. It was the first model of the L-19 used by the Army and the first to see action during the Korean War.

The "1327" was also the first L-19 to be assigned to the Republic of Korea, in June, 1952, for training and operational flights. It was transferred to the Air Section of the U.S. 9th Corps of the 1st Cavalry Division in June, 1954, and was later transferred to the maintenance depot for overhauling and return to the U.S.

Upon its return to the United States, "1327" was assigned to the Army Aviation School as an instructor aircraft in February, 1956. Recently, the Bird Dog was returned to the Army Aviation Museum.

LOW-DOWN

NEW YORK (UPI) — A sitdown bathtub was available to Americans around 1850. Called a chair tub, it was made of sheet iron. Good for hip, foot and sponge baths.

matter of FACT

"We must therefore, we therefore, the Republic of the United States, that they are entitled to, that as this and independent is, that may of right be, and our friend, Thomas Jefferson."

The most valued autograph of any of the signers of the Declaration of Independence is not that of any of the men who later became famous in history. It is the signature of a Georgia delegate to the Continental Congress, Button Gwinnett. Its value depends on the extreme rarity of Gwinnett's signature.

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WILL BE HONORED—Fred H. Dressler, Gardnerville, Nevada, one of the West's best known cattlemen and breeders, will be especially honored during the 19th annual Red Bluff Bull Sale February 4-6.

Cattlemen To Be Given High Honor

RED BLUFF—Fred H. Dressler, Gardnerville, Nevada, will be especially honored during this year's Red Bluff Bull Sale February 4-6.

Dressler, first vice president of the American National Cattlemen Association, and one of the West's best known breeders and ranchers is slated to become president of the national organization. He was Nevada's first "Cattlemen of the Year" and represented the cattlemen of that state at the Red Bluff Bull Sale on February 1954.

His home ranch is in the Carson Valley of western Nevada, but his herds also range through three California counties.

The home place was settled by Dressler's grandfather 100 years ago. The ranching enterprise which he heads is unusual.

Except for excess purebred bulls, none of the enterprises' fine Herefords is sold except as carcass beef. Calves from the 1,000 cow commercial herd go into a feedlot and from there to a Nevada packing company. The ranch also has 300 purebred cows and sells about 100 bulls each year for use on western ranges.

Dressler is active in numerous livestock groups, is vice chairman of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and for 26 years also has been a member of his local school board.

His wife is the former Anna Neddierup, a member of a pioneer California family. She has been president of the American National Cow Belles and currently is president of the Nevada chapter.

Rebel Yell Is Lost Art

NEW YORK (UPI)—A Columbia University English professor believes it is impossible nowadays for anyone to imitate the famous "rebel yell" of the Civil War.

Allen Walker Read describes the yell as "a mixture of fright, pent-up nervousness, exultation, hatred and a pinch of pure devilry."

While related to the Indian war whoop, the rebel yell "occurred only under the excitement and tension of the battlefield and therefore the real thing has not been heard since 1865," says Read.

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