



AT THE LANDING muscular high rigging unloads a truck that has brought logs from remote areas in the pine land between McCloud and Burney to a McCloud River Railroad landing. — Photo by Peggy Walsh



HOOKING LOGS at a McCloud River Railroad landing is a demanding job, for the big "jammer" straddling the tracks can load up to five flatcars per hour. The "hooker" at center was not identified. — Photo by Peggy Walsh

Bill Ending Slow Count Is Promised

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — A bill to end California's agonizingly slow count of ballots in presidential and other statewide elections will be introduced at the next session of the legislature.

Assemblyman Jesse M. Unruh, D-Los Angeles, one of the lower house's most influential legislators, promised today he will sponsor the bill when the legislature convenes next month.

"There just is no excuse to take weeks to count ballots and determine who won a close election in California," Unruh said.

His legislation would require that absentee ballots be in the hands of county clerks five days before election day. The bill will require that the absentee ballots be distributed to the precincts and counted on election night at the same time regular ballots are tallied.

Unruh, a leader in the Kennedy-for-president campaign in Southern California, expressed great displeasure with the present law which permits county clerks to drag out the absentee count for as long as two weeks.

"What if California had been the key state in deciding the Nixon-Kennedy contest?" he asked.

Unruh also said the present law invites irregularities.

"I don't know if there was anything wrong in the last election,"

Tiny Railway Serves Mill

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timely addition to this year's revenues was particularly welcome due to the slow lumber market, Willis pointed out.

Heading west again, this time by highway, it was easy to observe that terrain is one of the railroad's problems. The system is at right angles to three major drainage areas—the Pit, the McCloud and the Sacramento rivers. East to west, elevations vary from 2,900 feet at Lake Britton near Burney to 4,600 feet at Dead Horse Summit, dipping to McCloud at 3,300 feet and climbing to a 4,600-foot ridge before dropping again to Mount Shasta at an elevation of 3,355 feet. In order to edge the foothills of Mt. Shasta, four per cent grades and a switchback are required on the 17 miles between McCloud and the city of Mount Shasta.

he said. "But it does seem strange to me that the official estimates were that there were only about 200,000 absentee ballots issued. But when they finally got through tallying the absentees the total was up to 250,000."

What was probably the world's first Christmas card was designed and etched in 1842 by a 16-year-old English boy named William Egley. Its front panel showed four scenes: young people dancing, a family Christmas dinner party, poor people receiving gifts from a lady, and a group of skaters.

Snow can harass the company too. The last severe winter, 1952, brought 13-foot depths. This was also the year of a prolonged sawmill strike at McCloud, the only recent year the railroad has shown a loss.

Willis, a sandy-complexioned man of 46 and one of the youngest railroad presidents in the nation, speaks of the company's future with enthusiasm.

"Even with mills running on a four-day week due to the slump in the lumber market, we'll carry 75 million board feet of logs this year," he stated. "Long range plans by the lumber companies we serve provide excellent prospects for a continuing traffic load."

Willis feels the use of forest fibers now wasted or burned as sawmill fuel will bring greater prosperity to this sparsely-settled area of Northern California. He believes that, spurred by industrial research, this fuller use is in sight.

Willis is enthusiastic over his job, too.

"You get to do everything when you are president of a short-line," he explained as he changed a flat tire on the company automobile.

Willis knows the 92 full-time employees of the company on a first name basis and is proud of the part they play in getting forest products to the consumer. He is happy to say that rates of pay are a shade higher than paid by the main line roads, "except for company officers," he amends with a grin.

Congresswoman To Keep Post

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Edith Green, D-Ore., will definitely remain in Congress, at least for the time being, sources close to the congresswoman said today. She has been mentioned often as a possibility for a cabinet post.

Mrs. Green discussed her role in the national government with President-elect John F. Kennedy at a Washington luncheon Wednesday.

Reports said Mrs. Green reiterated that her paramount interest now is passage of legislation in fields which she considers important.

Mrs. Green was chairman of the Kennedy for President campaign in Oregon.

Gold is generally used to coat materials of lesser value, but in Bangkok, Thailand, a solid gold statue of Buddha was once covered with plaster to conceal its true value from invaders. The Buddhist priests died without betraying the secret, and the gold was not revealed until an accident cracked the plaster in 1956.

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