



FIRE-FIGHTERS STUDY AMID TIMBER — A building used as a barn many years ago provides classrooms for fire-fighters of the Winema National Forest during the three-day fire school held annually in June at the Sevenmile Guard Station. This year 48 trainees took the instruc-

tion which began Tuesday and ended Thursday. Trainees receive instruction in a variety of subjects before being assigned to some of the Winema's 10 guard stations or seven fire lookouts.



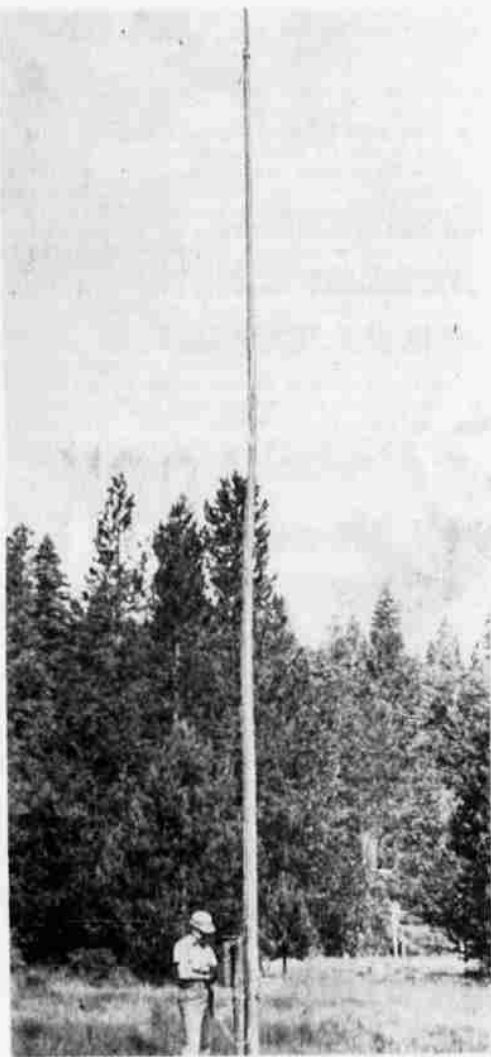
CREWMEN LEARN TO USE PUMPS — Fire suppression crewmen of the Chiloquin Ranger District, seated, learn from Bob Asher, left, standing, fire control officer of the Klamath District, and his assistant Joe Wagner, the use of centrifugal and other types of pumps used to extinguish fires. Some pumps are constructed to send a misty spray along a level plane; others are designed to shoot solid streams of water into the uppermost branches of tall trees.



VERDANT CLASSROOM — A group of fire-fighting trainees practice setting up a water pump along the tree lined banks of Sevenmile Creek. Fire fighters of the Chiloquin, Chemult and Klamath districts took the instruction and tested their skills in competition with one another later in the week.



TRAINEES LEARN HOW — Clarence "Moose" Jennings, third from left, lectures to a group of fire-fighters from the Klamath Ranger District on some vital points of controlling small fires in the forest. Jennings later used the torch at his feet to start a "snag" fire which he extinguished to demonstrate the use of the shovel and established fire suppression techniques.



WHIRLING DISCS CLOCK WINDS — A propeller of four metal discs rotating at the top of the pole sets off an electrical buzz each time it completes a revolution, transmitting the signal to a control box where a fireman counts each sound during a two-minute period. The total number of blips fired during the brief period is equal to the speed of the wind, which spins the prop. The wind measuring device, called an anemometer, is useful in assisting rangers to establish the extent of the fire danger daily during summer.



"STICKS" INDICATE FIRE HAZARD — Dan Abraham, fire control officer of the Winema Forest, removes a set of specially treated pine dowels from a metal bracket to weigh them on a scale nearby. The sticks absorb moisture in the air, if any is present, increasing their weight. The less the sticks weigh, the drier are the conditions in the forest and greater is the hazard of fire.

48 Fire-Fighters Manning Guard Posts In Winema National Forest

Forty eight fire-fighters of the Winema National Forest are manning fire guard stations and lookout towers throughout the forest today after receiving instruction in an annual three-day fire school which has figured immeasurably in reducing the spread of fires in the Winema during the past two years.

In 1961, 100 man-caused and lightning-caused fires razed 40 acres of forest land in the Winema, for an insignificant average of .4 acres burned per fire. Last year the average was even less.

Fifty eight fires which broke out in the forest during 1962 burned not more than a total of 10 acres, or an average of .16 of an acre damaged per fire.

The negligible amount of forest lands razed by fire in the past two years is the result of swift action and teamwork among lookout guards, fire suppression crews, smoke chasers and their supervisors.

The teamwork among those on fire duty and the ability of each member to do his job well is developed largely through the fire school, which this year opened with a briefing at 7:30 p.m., Monday, in Chiloquin and resumed Tuesday with the first of three days of classes held at the Sevenmile Guard Station, near Fort Klamath.

The trainees, approximately one-third of whom received the instruction in past years, took courses in map reading, fire behavior, use of tools in fire suppression work, extinguishing small fires, use of water and water pumps, radio use and care, maps and smoke chasing, and fire organization and crew action.

Speed and adeptness in handling fire-fighting tools and equipment is vital if employees of the Winema are to seek out and extinguish smaller fires before they become large ones and threaten destruction to vegetation and timber in some of the forest's 913,444 acres.

Included in the training: Most of the forestry aides set up and operated a water pump and compressor which was fed from Sevenmile Creek and learned to trace a fire by taking a bearing on its smoke and then seeking it out.

In addition, trainees learned that forest fires react differently under varied conditions of humidity and wind velocity and then in another course, observed instructors splash dirt on a fire to smother it when water was not available.

Other forestry workers who are serving in lookout towers this summer visited the lookout station at nearby Fort Klamath and plotted imaginary fires on the tower's "fire finder."

A new wrinkle has been added to the Sevenmile Guard Station's weather measuring devices, which aid foresters in determining whether the current fire danger is low, medium, high or extreme.

The new device is an anemometer, a weather vane type object which spins in the wind at the top of a tall post located at the main entrance of the guard station. The anemometer measures the velocity of the wind as it rotates on its axis.

Each time it completes one spin an electrical buzz is sounded in a box at the base of the pole. The total number of buzzes sounded during a two-minute period is

equivalent to the wind velocity, or the mile per hour rate of the wind.

After determining the wind velocity, foresters weigh a specially treated set of "pine sticks," situated outdoors near the station, to establish the amount of moisture present in dead brush and debris in the area.

The sticks weigh 100 grams when "oven" dry, indicating that the fire hazard in the forest is "extreme." Increased moisture in the air adds to their weight and indicates a corresponding decrease in the combustible nature of kindling at the time of the test.

Foresters take the information they receive from the "pine sticks" and the anemometer and refer to a chart which sets the degree of the fire hazard.

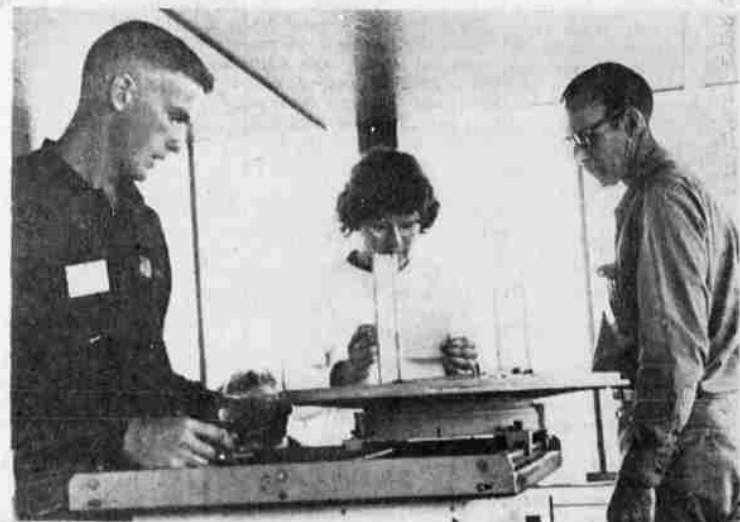
For instance, although high moisture noted in the forest would indicate a low fire danger, that danger would be increased if strong winds were present at the time.

As the training ended, fire suppression crew members and fire tower lookouts were assigned to the Winema's 10 guard stations and seven lookouts, where they will be alert to the presence of fire during the remainder of summer.

Instructors of the fire school were Dan Abraham, Doug Shaw, John Grove, Ed Harshman, Vern Fridley, Joe Carter, Clarence Jennings, Lloyd Olson, James Warren, Homer Faulkner, Robert Asher, Joe Wagner, Jesse Barr and Horace Landrith.

Features

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1963



LOOKOUTS PLOT IMAGINARY FIRE — Dwyght Moore, right, forester of the Klamath Ranger District, observes John Vest, Swan Lake lookout, and Elenore Wiggins, Deer Butte lookout, as they plot a mock fire on the "fire finder" in the Fort Klamath Lookout Tower. After detecting a fire, a lookout guard moves to the "fire finder" where he plots its location and then relays the information to fire suppression crews nearest the fire. Crews are then dispatched immediately to control the blaze.



EARLY CHOW FOR FIRE-FIGHTERS — Backlighted in early morning sunlight, students of the fire school meander around the campground at the Sevenmile Guard Station while awaiting "chow" call for breakfast, served cafeteria style beginning at 6:30 at the station. Last year, students received their meals in a Fort Klamath restaurant.



SMOKE BETRAYS BLAZE IN ROTTEN STUMP — Clarence "Moose" Jennings rakes away a pile of slash with his shovel before moving in to suppress a snag fire in the vicinity of Sevenmile Creek. Jennings started the blaze to demonstrate the methods of putting out a fire without the use of water. First, the forest ranger scrapes the combustible material away from the fire and then smothers it with dirt he hurls with the shovel. Observing the demonstration are employees of the Klamath Ranger District.