

Business Notes

New harvester/forwarder demonstrated in forest "classroom"

Fall rains didn't dampen the spirits of sixty loggers wearing rain slickers and hardhats as they eagerly gathered in the woods Nov. 30 for a timber harvesting seminar and equipment demonstration.

These loggers, who are used to working outdoors in all weather, were excited about learning to operate state-of-the-art mechanized

harvesters.

Since 1989, the use of Scandinavian harvester-forwarder machines for thinning and selection logging has been gaining acceptance across the northwest region. The equipment demonstrated in the forested hills near Scotts Valley has improved the ability to thin stands of trees, without damage to remaining leave-trees, and without impacting valuable

soils, streams or wildlife habitat.

The latest Sisu Valmet brand harvesters, made by a Finnish company in Michigan, demonstrated thinning techniques on a second generation forest owned by Lone Rock Timber Company of Roseburg. Representatives from both Sisu and Papé Bros. Inc. of Eugene facilitated the discussions held in small groups around their "forest classroom".

According to Kent Stevens, forest products manager with Papé, the woods seminar gives the loggers a chance to discuss harvesting techniques and maintenance with other new operators, while getting hands-on experience with the harvester.

The system, commonly referred to as "cut-to-length" because of its mechanical cutting of log lengths, presents a unique opportunity to thin forests while minimizing impacts. The harvester machine severs the tree from the stump and cuts the pole into logs, while the forwarder machine carries, or forwards, the logs to the roadside where they are loaded onto trucks.

Efficient operation of the mechanized harvester requires ample training and experience. The harvester, which looks like a moon-vehicle from the movie Star Wars, is equipped with an on-board computer, a control panel resembling an airplane cockpit,

and two joy sticks used by the operator to direct the movements of a mechanical processor head on the end of a long telescoping arm.

Adopting new technology and innovative methods has

not been without challenge. The systems are sophisticated and, to gain productivity, require knowledgeable operators who may take a year of on-the-job experience to become fully productive.

Firm earns Logging Safety award

Iron Triangle Logging of John Day accepted Husqvarna Forest and Garden Equipment's Outstanding Safety Award, at the Northwest Regional Logging Safety Conference, in Bend last month.

Husqvarna's award recognizes companies that have excelled in implementing successful logging safety programs. Iron Triangle is one of twelve companies to be recognized nationally by Husqvarna in 1995 for promoting logging safety. Husqvarna is a Swedish chainsaw manufacturer and leading supplier of professional chainsaws and safety equipment to loggers worldwide.

In presenting the award, Husqvarna representative Charlie Smith said that a good woods safety record is the result of safety programs that help loggers work safely day in and day out in often dangerous situations.

Jack Young, Merilee Young and Duane Davey are co-owners of Iron Triangle Logging. The company promotes safe work practices for its

employees in logging and forest road construction projects. Iron Triangle was formed 12 years ago and currently has 80 employees.

The third annual Northwest Regional Logging Safety Conference was attended by over 180 loggers from across the five-state (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, and Montana) Northwest region. Loggers meet annually to address logging safety issues. The keynote speaker, Jim James, of Willamette Industries, spoke about improving industry-wide commitment to excellence in logging safety and forestry stewardship in Oregon.

The convention also kicked off Oregon's Professional Logger Program, which recognizes and encourages logger education and safety in the workplace. Call AOL at 1-503-364-1330 for more information on the program.

Shoe repair store will serve Vernonia

Vernonia doesn't have a shoe repair shop, but it now has a place to drop off shoes, purses, saddles and tack, or anything else made of leather, have the items repaired and returned the following week.

Bob Stanley and Rocky Martinez, of St. Helens Shoe & Saddle Repair, will pick up work left at Vernonia Hardware once each week, then return it the following week.

Local residents who want to meet Stanley and Martinez may do so Sunday, Dec. 10th, when they will hold a Boot Sale at 859 Bridge Street, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., across the street from Crazy Charlie's Restaurant.

Hammel joins staff at Fuiten-Rose

Richard Hammel recently joined the staff at Fuiten-Rose Mortuary Chapels, Inc. in Forest Grove and Vernonia. A licensed funeral director and embalmer, Hammel has been in the funeral service industry since 1980, working in

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Simples
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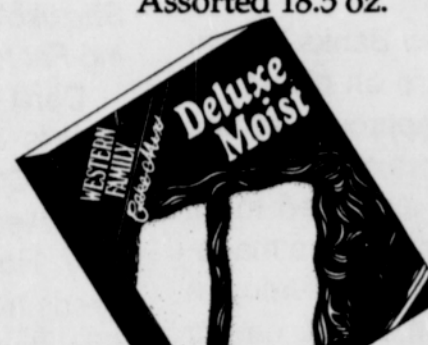
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