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Horse Logging Flourishes on Columbia Tree Farm



Old Dobbin's comeback in the woods is in evidence all around Vernonia. Some horse loggers are shown here. Team pulling log is Hugh Devine's, with Devine, Jr., driving. Measuring log are Glen Harmon (left) and Gene Hanon (right), loggers, and Paul Goodmanson (center), resident tree farm forester for Crown Zellerbach. Showing the midge choker, specially made for horse logging, is Rex Normand, who logs with a big team, and who is recording secretary of local 5-37, IWA-CIO. (Photos by American Forest Products Industries, Inc.)

BY HAROLD OLSON

It sounds fantastic in this machine age, but the good old horse is making a strong comeback in the logging industry. Columbia county is one of the many areas where Old Dobbin is back in the logging picture, 40 years after his heyday.

A recent count on the Crown Zellerbach tree farm here showed no less than 14 horses at work skidding logs, and more of them likely to be brought in. In addition, horse loggers were operating elsewhere in the county.

Out of slightly over a dozen operators now salvage-logging on the Columbia Tree Farm, eight were using horses to move the timber to landings for loadings. Some use teams, others single horses, but all testify that for skidding small logs it's hard to beat Old Dobbin.

Horse loggers on the tree farm include Glen Harman, Gene Hanon, Robert L. Hodgson, Lester McNair (father and son), Rex Normand, Sr. and Jr., Don O'Brien and Robert Wilfong (partners), Hugh Devine and Lawrence Gregory.

Working in the same area are several machine loggers too, such as Junken and Wells, Stevenson Bothers, Burndt and Hicks, and Frank Reed. They use various types of machine power—crawler tractors, wheel tractors, small donkey engines.

Glen Hawkins, superintendent of the tree farm, says it is not a case of the horse replacing machinery, but simply that Dobbin has entered the scene to fill a new need.

"We are re-logging and thinning," he explained, "and that involves the handling of thousands of smaller logs, too light and scattered for handling with heavy machinery. For that type of job the horse is surely useful."

The tree farm is a beehive of activity as the many small operators cut and skid pulp and sawlogs to loading points along the roads. Only down timber and snags are harvested. This serves three main purposes: Reducing the

fire hazard for the new timber crops, helping supply wood for the mills, and creating a substantial new payroll for Columbia county.

An average total production per day is 15 truckloads. Scaling is by units of 90 cubic feet, not by board feet or cords.

At the Portland office of Crown Zellerbach, Logging Manager E. P. Stamm and Chief Forester Clarence Richey look ahead to many years yet of this type of salvage logging, coupled with thinning on an increasing scale in the sturdy young forests already growing on parts of the tree farm. In fact, thinning has already started, to speed timber growth and increase wood yield. First, such operations were carried out recently in the Natal area under supervision of Resident Forester Paul Goodmanson.

Old Dobbin pops up again in this thinning work. Horses are said to be ideal for weaving in and out among the small trees, doing a minimum of damage to roots and bark of the growing stands.

Among the several good logging horses out on the tree farm one of the more famous individuals is Dick, an average-sized, black horse owned by Glen Harman. Dick is an educated fellow who follows Harman around like a dog, works without a bridle, understands just about anything by way of instructions and can pull the logs without guidance. He can do just about anything except unhook at the landing, and loggers who have seen him work wouldn't be too surprised to see him learn that too one of these days. They claim that Dick savvies 40-hour week, and is fond of it as he is of oats and hay.

It's all colorful and fascinating to watch, out there on the tree farm, where there are about as many logging systems as there are individual operators, and all making a go of it.

There are other colorful small operations in the county too, using horses. One is that of John Titus and William Pringle Jr., along the Vernonia-Mist road a



few miles out of town. Titus and Pringle have revived another famous logging practice of long ago. They "bark the ride and snipe the end", just like pioneer loggers did in the old bull-team and horse days a half century ago. Peeling the contact side and beveling the log end ease the pull for the horses.

All the loggers have a double slogan: "Get the logs out" and "Keep Oregon Green." And they are doing both.

Fire Permit Change Made

People who reside within the city limits of Vernonia now have a different place to call for permits when they wish to start open fires. The change was announced the latter part of last week when Frank Slemmons, member of the volunteer fire department, said that permits are now obtainable at his home at 642 Third street.

The permits were formerly issued to local residents at the Bush Furniture store by Calvin Davis.

Mr. Slemmons emphasized that permits very definitely are needed before open fires for rubbish can be started. During the hot days a short time ago, no permits were allowed in order to do as much as possible in preventing a fire that might damage property.

Mill Starts Monday

The Oregon-American mill will resume work again Monday morning following a week of vacation during which time those employees who wished to had the opportunity to go deer hunting.

Grades Vacation

Washington and Lincoln grade school students will not attend school today, Thursday, and tomorrow because of the elementary teachers' workshop scheduled at St. Helens. All grade instructors are required to attend the two-day session.

LOGGERS LOSE TO SAINTS 33-0 FRIDAY

Lions Scoring Spree Comes in First Period

BY MELVIN SCHWAB

St. Helens was a beehive of activity Friday night, September 26, when the Lions had beaten the Vernonia Loggers after seven years of trying, by a resounding score of 33-0. With horns honking, the outcome of the gridiron battle was announced as an event which hasn't taken place too often.

The first half of the game saw Joe Haebe, burly 210 pound full-back for the Lions, plow over three times and Don Neveau once, making the score at the half time period 26-0 in favor of the St. Helens squad.

The second half saw the Loggers hold the Lions practically to a standstill compared to the first quarter, with the Saints scoring only one time.

The Loggers great weak spot was in the line through which the Lions made most of their yardage. The blocking was poor as was the tackling. Jack Frank did beautiful passing even when rushed so fast he couldn't spot his receivers too well.

"St. Helens was good, but not that good," said Jake Hergert, Vernonia coach. "Maybe one or two touchdowns against the Loggers, but not five. The game was one of bad breaks also. Penalties raised havoc with the Loggers five times and also passes that should have been caught were dropped."

The only injury was suffered by Don Cline, who will be back in the Seaside game.

Monday, September 29, saw the Loggers go through their toughest practice of the season with a concentration of tackling and blocking taking place. The players were so tired after practice that they could hardly get to the dressing rooms.

On Friday night, October 3, at 8 p.m. the Seaside Seagulls will come to Vernonia to challenge the local team. Last year saw the Seagulls win over the Loggers, but this year, without the services of Earl, the story should be different. The Freshmen squads of each school will play two quarters while the teams are in the dressing rooms at halftime.

Eight '47 Grads In College Now

Eight members of the 1947 graduating class of Vernonia high school enrolled in schools of higher learning. Priscilla Ray Mills said last week when he listed the students and the colleges they are attending.

Five of the eight are at Oregon State college. They are Cora Dusenberry, Elna Morris, Barbara Keasey, Duke Byers and Billy Olinger. Miss Keasey is the fifth member of the Ted Keasey family to be in attendance at that school now.

Of the three other former members of the class, each picked a different school. Kenneth Anderson is attending Portland University, Betty Rose is in Linfield and Earl Spofford is enrolled at Multnomah college.

Two students of last year's graduating class also enrolled in colleges this year for their first terms. Going to Oregon State is Stella Bellingham and to Pacific University, Walter Buckner.

Station Owner Changes

Effective yesterday, Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene S. Dripps are the new owners of the Sunnyside Service and Feed near Trehanne. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Peasley, former owners are now living at Brush Prairie, Washington where they have purchased a small dairy.

Strikes Cause 4 County Fires

Four lightning fires in Columbia county were the result of the electrical storm last Saturday night, the state forestry department headquarters reported early this week. One blaze, started on Coal creek, was extinguished by the Columbia Tree Farm fire fighting equipment.

The forestry crew from Pittsburg extinguished another fire on Pebble creek and two between the Beaver creek road and the Timber road. The Pittsburg crew also extinguished one just across the county line in Washington county on the Beaver creek road. Three more fires in the Scofield area were handled by a crew from Forest Grove.

All fires were in snags or green trees. Numerous other strikes were found which had left no fire in their wake.

Fraternal Order Marks 9th Year

The first nine years of existence for the local Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles will be commemorated October 10th by a dance at the Legion hall, members of the organization announced Tuesday of this week after plans had crystalized for the affair.

The dance will feature Buck Beeman and his Western Pals who will provide the evening's music. The orchestra is heard between 5 and 6 p.m. every Saturday over station KWJJ.

Churches to Observe Day

One of the most significant dates in the entire church year is Sunday, October 5. On that day, churches of all denominations here as well as throughout the world will observe World-wide Communion Sunday. They will do this in remembrance of a time when 13 men met together in an upper room for communion with their Lord—their last communion together.

The communion at the Christian church will also come as a part of Loyalty month which the congregation is observing during October.

First Deer Reported

Being displayed Wednesday morning by Harry Eckland was a 125-pound buck shot near the old St. Helens road between the lookout and the highway. Also reported Wednesday morning was a deer shot by Bob Thompson at 9 o'clock near the old McDonald road up Pebble creek. This animal weighed about 300 pounds. Frank McCabe now living at Seaside, also said he killed his deer about 8:30 Wednesday morning while hunting in the Pebble creek area.

About 13,000 to Get Notices of Tax; Dual Control Car Expected

SCHOOL TO GET DRIVER TRAINER CONTROL CAR

CLATSKANIE—A dual control driver training car for high school driving training has been assigned the Clatskanie high school by the AAA in Washington and is enroute for delivery to the local dealer for presentation to the school, the Oregon State Motor Association announced last week.

The only cost that must be assumed by the school is insurance, operation and maintenance.

FISH CATCHES HOLDING STEADY

ST. HELENS—Though the fall fishing season is well advanced (it opened at noon on Sept. 10) the take of salmon is holding up better than at the same period in 1946 and the daily take of the eight or more fishermen who stick by the commercial fishing job is close to 2000 pounds per day. On an average, though, for the past few days it has dropped as

PRECINCT 3 VOTING PLACE CHANGE MADE

Washington Grade School New Ballot Casting Place

The voters of one of the Vernonia precincts will go to a different place to cast their ballots for or against the sales tax measure and the cigarette tax next week Commissioner Wm. Pringle, Sr., said late last week. The change is for precinct 3 residents who formerly voted in a room in the building formerly housing the C. Bruce lumber office. Now, residents of precinct 3 will go to the Washington grade school building.

The change in voting places was made possible earlier this year when the boundary of the precinct was changed so that the grade school building is now in No. 3 instead of No. 2. Part of the basement will be used as the polling place Mr. Pringle said.

The other three voting places, which remain the same as for previous elections are: precinct 1, Sundland Electric building; precinct 2, IWA Union hall and precinct 4, city hall.

Members of the election boards for the four local divisions are: No. 1—John Erickson, chairman, Mrs. Winston Walker, Mrs. Harry Junken, Mrs. Cleo Walrath and Mrs. Charles Poetter; No. 2—Rev. Allen H. Backer, chairman, Mrs. J. M. Currie, Mrs. A. E. Tapp, Mrs. John Grady and Mrs. Cecil Johnson;

No. 3—Mrs. J. W. Nichols, chairman, Mrs. John Titus, Glen Hawkins, Robert Lindsay and Mrs. Wm. Chalmers and No. 4—J. W. Rose, chairman, Jack Nance, Mrs. M. J. Lamping, Mrs. Juanita Timmons and Mrs. George Johnson.

Schools to Get Basic Aid Fund

Receipt of checks for each school district in Columbia county for its apportionment of the basic school support fund was announced last week by Mrs. Lois D. Kent, county school superintendent. All checks were for one-half of the amount due the various districts for the current school year and the amounts were almost identical to estimates made some time ago.

Mrs. Kent stated that all clerks in the various districts must come to her office to pick up the checks apportioned to their units.

In the Nehalem Valley, the following amounts will be received: Natal—\$939.56; Birkenfeld—\$15,908.04; Vernonia elementary—\$19,904.97; Mist—\$1,498.42 and Vernonia union high—\$8,274.14.

low as 1600 pounds. Only a few silversides are being taken and price for the fish has been increased to 18c per pound.

BIG DEER CONTEST PLANNED BY V. F. W. RAINIER—The Rainier V.F.W. are sponsoring a deer derby that is open to all hunters with prizes of \$75.00 each for the largest Blacktail and the largest Mule deer brought in.

The contest is open to anyone having a legal deer tag and complying with the hunting laws. TAX NOTICES WILL BE MAILED SOON

ST. HELENS—Columbia county taxpayers are reminded that notices for both personal and real taxes for 1947-48 will be mailed out between Oct. 20 and 31 for payment on Nov. 15. Approximately 13,000 notices will be issued, according to Mrs. W. J. Sullivan, deputy in the tax department of the sheriff's office.