

WILDLAND FIRES



History of Forest Fires in Siskiyou County

**By
Lee Morford**

100 YEARS OF WILDLAND FIRES IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

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LEE MORFORD

Retired Fire Control Officer - Klamath National Forest

Preface

Before retiring from the U.S. Forest Service, after forty-one years of service, I realized that many of the records of the early days, and even those of more recent times were being disposed of. It occurred to me that somehow a collection of the records should be documented. And in this book some personal stories of fire fighting over the years should be included. Also, the problems and the methods as well as the changes which have taken place over the years in wildland fire protection.

The names, locations, area burned and the total number of fires by years were taken from records found in Yreka, Mount Shasta and McCloud. Many of these records have now been disposed of, or have been misplaced and are no longer available. Newspapers, history and other books of Siskiyou were searched for information for the period up to 1906. While every fire that may have occurred in the county may not have been found, there are not many.

No attempt has been made to list or record the damage to natural resources resulting from the fires occurring during the periods covered in the book. Suffice is to say that nearly all of the large fires caused considerable damage when compared with today's values.

The book, no doubt, will bring back many memories to anyone who has ever been a firefighter.

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CHAPTER ONE BURNING FREE

This history of fire can be traced back hundreds of thousands of years to primitive man. Bits of charcoal and charred bones have been found among stones evidently used as fireplaces during the stone age. However, little has been written about the history of fire in the forest. There are accounts where man used fire to protect himself from wild animals and to drive back an enemy, but little or nothing about the effects of fire upon his environment. Even in the written accounts of the westward movement in the United States little or no mention is made of forest fires by early day settlers, miners, or scouts. When I witness the destruction of old records which contain the early day history of the Klamath Forest by operation clean sweep, and little regard for preserving records which would give an account of the early day activity of fire control in the forest, I began to collect all the records and information I could to be put into a publication about fire and fire control in Siskiyou County.

In this publication will be found the results of research made to tell something about forest fires before organized protection, the beginning of fire protection in the Klamath National Forest, personal experience of people who contributed to the effort put forth to protect the forest from fire, the policies and administrative guiding of fire control for the past 65 years, as well as a history of the changing fire fighting techniques. Fire protection, like transportation, may be divided into three stages. First, the horse and mule; second the automobile; and third the aeroplane.

Fire is a natural element in the ecology of the forest. In my fifty years of experience in the forest of Siskiyou County, I have never been in an area of the forest where there was not some evidence of fire having occurred at sometime in the past. Fire being one of nature's ways of maintaining the ecological balance of the forest. So, through the hundreds of years of development and growth of the forests of Siskiyou County, fire has burned through most, if not all, of the forest at some time.

The Indians who were in Siskiyou for several hundreds of years before the white man, used fire in the forest. Ida Lake, Winnie Nelson, and Sargent Sambo have all said that their parents had told them how they would use fire to clean out the old growth and create a new stand of grass which was used in weaving of the Indian baskets. They also would burn out berry patches in order to stimulate new growth and to open them up. Another use of fire was to keep the undergrowth in the forest around their villages open. In the fall of the year and sometime in the winter when the weather was just right they would set fire to the leaves and needles and the fire would creep through the forest, sometimes burning patches of brush and small trees, but never doing much damage to the more mature trees.

History of great forest fires in the United States goes back to 1819. In Stewart Holbrook's book "Burning an Empire" he writes about fires in Minnesota in 1819 and the Miramick, New Brunswick in October 1825. Also two other fires in Minnesota in 1842 and 1864. These fires were the results of fires being allowed to get started in logging slash and to continue to burn week after week with no attempt being made to put them out until the weather became favorable to a rapid spread. The main reason that the fires became note-worthy is that they caused damage to farms and communities. October 7, 1825 was the worst day of the Miramick fire.

As near as I can determine from the history few white men had visited Siskiyou County before 1832. Well's history of Siskiyou tells about the Hudson Bay and American Company trapper trapping in the Scott and Klamath River areas. No mention was found about any forest fires between this time and the gold rush into Northern California in 1850 and 1851.

There is no doubt but that lightning had caused many fires prior to this date. Just where and how large they were is not recorded.

Early Fires in California

Excerpt taken from fires in California from the days of the early explorers to the creation of the Forest Reserves. The data compiled by T.C. West and L. A. Bartlett 1935.

1793 First California Fire Prevention Order. The first legislation against Forest fires in California was in the form of a proclamation issued by Governor Joseph Jose Joaquin Arrillaga under date of May 1, 1793, Santa Barbara. It was enclosed in a letter which he sent Father Presidente Lasuen who was stationed at Nation San Carlos and as a successor of Father Junipero Serra was a head of the California Missions. It appeared that in the early days Indian Christians and gentiles have been careless in setting fires. Part of the Governor's letter to Father Presin is as follows:

"About the serious damage that results from Fires every year the Indians, Christians, and Gentiles have started in the fields and so forth, I have taken steps to publish the following proclamation I forward it to you per reservation with the petition and request that you be pleased to make it known to all that the reverend Missionary in order that on their part they contribute to this just measure in that they threatened the Christian Indians with rigors of justice in case of fires are started."

1872, First California State Bylaw, an act to prevent the destruction of the Forest by fire on public land approved February 13, 1872.

Section 1 - Any person or persons who shall willfully and deliberately set fire to any wooded country or Forest belonging to this State or the United States within the State or to any place from which fire shall be communicated to any other wooded country or forest and shall not extinguish the same or use every effort to that end or who shall build any fire for lawful purpose or otherwise in or near any such wooded country or forest and though through carelessness or neglect shall permit such fire to extend to and burn through such wood country of forest shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction before a court of competent judiciary shall be punished not exceeding 1,000 dollars or imprisoned not exceeding one year or by both such fine and imprisonment provided that nothing in

here contained shall imply to any person who in good faith shall set a back fire to prevent the extension of a fire already burning.

1874, Yreka Journal, Yreka, July 29, 1874. Forest fires at this season of the year it is usual to see our Forest in some section on fire and to guard against it, Sheriff Riley has offered a reward of 100 dollars for knowledge of any party guilty of such an act as setting fire to the woods or carelessly allowing such fire to result from campfires.

1902, What Miners thought of Burning Forests. The following is a part of the report of the California on resolutions adopted at the annual convention of the California Miners Association in November 1902.

"Whereas it is well known that the annual fire in the Forest do more injury than the other destructive agencies combined. Whereas this injury can be prevented by an efficient course patrolled now therefore, resolve that this association hereby instruct its committee on legislation to formulate a proper bill and urge its passage through the legislature to appropriate such sums of money as it may think necessary for the purpose of paying the expense of fire control to be placed under the control of the University of California."

What Fires Have Done to California

The claim that the old timers knew how to handle fires is not born out by what the bible says about fire that ruined the country, destroyed the beasts of the fields and the birds of the air. Our pilgrim fathers had fire laws. So did the Spanish Governors of California. Napoleon had a drastic fire law in effect in France during his regime.

Periodically the Forest Protection Policy of the United States Forest Service which seeks 1) to prevent fires from starting; 2) to suppress quickly those that may start in it is attacked by people who owned that the deliberate and repeated burning of the Forest land offers the best method of protecting these lands from the devastation of the summer fires. The light burner advocates base their contention on the false premise that fire prevention is in the long run an impossibility; that control burning does protect the merchant expand of timber; and that this can be done at a

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lower cost than by fire prevention methods. But they present no facts to prove the correction of their theory.

It is stated that in the early days of Indian fires there were no great conflagrations that the forests were open and free from brush and that the forests withstood repeated burning without serious injury.

The record proves all these statements to be incorrect. The Forests of California that were swept by early day fires now support only one third to one half the amount of timber per acre as compared to the stand growing on the land which escaped fire. In other words periodic burning has reduced our Forests capital percent and has also turned millions of acres of valuable timber bearing land into brush waste. On the six million acres of California land burned by early day fires the loss from fires insects and other results of the burning is currently estimated at 3 billion dollars.

Light fires, even if it were possible to properly control them cause serious damage to the most valuable veterans of the stand by burning them at the base and causing Cat Faces, a loss that amounts to several dollars per acre and merchantable timber every time a fire runs through the forest. In addition, all the little trees and saplings which are the basis of the next timber crop are killed outright. No more effective method of sure and total forest destruction could be devised. Light burning cause the same sort of forest destruction it is claimed to prevent and the most beneficial species of brush subserved first to the effect of repeated fire.

Another serious effect of repeated burning of the forest is that the gradual destruction of the tree cover and the burning of the humus and top soil lead to the invasion of the land by worthless brush which makes the reestablishment of the forest more difficult. Furthermore the brush is never entirely consumed by these fires and each light burning makes more fuel for later and more destructive fire. Over two million acres of brush fields in the timbered region of California today bear mute witness of the destructive effect of the repeated burning of the forests.

Light burning contrary to the belief of its advocate is not an easy practice either in the spring or fall as extensive field experiments have proven, nor can it be carried on without damage to the forest in rough mountain country such as makes up the greater part of our forest area. It is practically impossible to get the fire to run lightly

on any large area or to control them after they are lot started.

Brush in the Forest undoubtedly makes game difficult to hunt, if game seeks the brush this is evidence that the brush is attractive to it. Just as it is the Forest destroying the brush and Forest as you destroy the home and breeding places of wildlife as well as countless gamebirds and animals even with present forest practice methods the yearly toll of wildlife taken by fires is enormous what must have been in the days when the fires were looked upon with defiance or as a necessary evil.

Fires in the Pine Forest

The fires started by lightning otherwise in the pine forest of northern California as early as the year of 1454 is a fact. Now established beyond any question of doubt. Between 1454 when the earliest fire of which living pine trees gives a record to the year 1700, a period of 346 years. The evidence is meager and rather hard to find date of the trees of that age being scarce. However, a sufficient number bearing the unmistakable evidence that fires devastated the forest at frequent intervals during that period were found. The living method of conflagration occurred during the past 230 years or since 1700 is both complete and intensely interesting. By cutting down trees and lumbering operations and counting back on the annual range each one of which represents one years growth and recording the occurrence of fire scars it is established particularly severe fires occurred during the year 1702, 1708, 1720, 1726, 1735, 1747, 1750, 1760, 1767, 1766, 1783, 1785, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1800, 1804, 1807, 1814, 1822, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1837, 1842, 1843, 1851, 1857, 1865, 1870, 1878, 1880, 1889, 1890, and 1899 many other fires occurred. In fact, fires occurred particularly every year from 1700 - 1900 according to evidence found on living trees but the years listed witness fires which cover big areas in which burn with unusual severity.

Indian Fires

According to Ethnologists who have studied the Indians of California most of the Indians along the western slopes of the Sierras lived in the valley or the foothills and very few live above

the woodland type or above the Salmon Run. The limited territory occupied by them within the yellow pine belt has in most cases been deforested and is now brushland or second growth timber which has come back in the last 60 or 70 years. If they did light burning in the territory occupied by them, their methods either destroyed the timber or the miners and stockmen destroyed it when they came. There are no villages along the western slope of the Sierras where our mature timber now stands. In writing about the Indians as he found them, Fremont said the condition of the Indians is nearly akin to that of lower animals here they are really wildmen. In his wild estate the Indian lives to get food. This is his business, I found in the most elementary form. The men live alone, the women live alone but all after food and the same in the mountains and the prairies where the wild Indians were found in their highest conditions where they had horses and lived in lodges, the labor of their lives was to get something to eat. The occupation of the women was in gleaning from the earth every thing of vegetable or insect life. The occupation of every man was to kill animals they could find for food. From this statement it seems very unlikely that our Indians had the time or the inclination to go into the forest and light burns them as some claim they did before the whiteman came.

Opposition to the Forest Reserve

The early day boundaries newspaper items from the days when the Forest Reserves was in the making, in my own observations conservatively show that the greatest opposition to the creation of the Forest Reserves came from stockmen who used the mountain ranges and that this opposition was particularly strong from the sheepmen. A principle reason for their opposition is not hard to find.

From the days when cattle and sheep were first taken into the mountains until the creation of the Forest Reserves, it was common custom to fire the mountains as they were driven out in the fall. Sheepmen were by far the worst offenders. This burning was not done with any view to improve the forest but for the mistaken idea that it was improving the range. In those days it was often possible to count over 100 fires from one high point and the sky could be so full of smoke that the sun was obscured.

Evidence of these old stockmen fires show up on the older timber everywhere from the mountains of California.

September 26, the following is taken from the third bi-annual report of the California State Board of Forestry, Page 118-119.

"We arrived September 26, 1889, at Cole's Station to find a canyon all ablaze with fire and filled with smoke, there was no alternative but to pass on through the stiffling smoke, a blazing tree, every now and then, crashing beside the sweeping trail. In October, we found the forest fires so far lessend as to warrant the hope for successful examination of the Siskiyou Mountains in detail. Disposing of the wagon in the corral of a pioneer farmer, and saddling our horses we started out in the grey of the early morning taking the trail towards Happy Camp."

J.J. Lennan

1889, Siskiyou County. About 1200 acres were burned near Black Bear in Siskiyou County, the fire was set by an incendiary who left the country. Fifteen hundred dollars was spent by John Doggett to save his property at Black Bear.

1889, Siskiyou County. A fire started near the Forks of the Salmon and burned all of the country back of the Salmon Summit an area of about 16,000 acres _____.

1891, Shasta County. September 12, an immense fire has been raging on the south slopes of Mt. Shasta, 3 miles south of Sisson, a vast amount of wood, ties logs, standing timber were being destroyed. Every available man was needed to check the fire, San Francisco Bulletin.

1891, Siskiyou County. A severe fire burned in ahead of Russian Creek, in Siskiyou County and destroyed all the timber on the steep slopes where it burned. It was caused by someone burning a log out of a trail, it spread over an area of 3 or 4 miles square. H. Finley.

1904, Siskiyou and Shasta Counties. The following extract is made from Ed Koch's report of 1904 on the proposed Mt. Shasta Forest Reserve. "Traces of fires seemed almost everywhere it would be difficult to find a square mile of timber in the Region which has not been burned over at least at some time. It rarely happens that large fire bodies of timber are entirely

destroyed by fire, the entire area thus destroyed is estimated at only 11 square miles. Most of this is in the upper timber belt."

During the summer when this examination took place, fires were burning almost everywhere. During the month of August, thick fogs of smoke hung over the whole country. A large majority of these were brush fires. During the dry season, even the green chaparral burned freely. In the absence of fire lines to work from, it is almost impossible to extinguish such fires. They burn until they go out or from lack of material to burn or are extinguished by rain continuing. Thus the cause of fires are many, railroads and especially logging railroads are responsible for logged portions of the fires. Campfires and smokers clearing land and so forth are frequently the origin of fires. Undoubtedly sheep and cattlemen set out fires to improve the grazing and open up dense brush fields and add to their straw. In one case, a large fire near Lamoine was started by goat herders to burn a bear out of a canyon. The fire burned over many square miles destroying a large quantity of cut and piled cordwood and seriously threatening the town of Lamar. Another case was reported from near Round Mountain where cattlemen started a fire to drive out a band of goats. The general feeling among settlers is against starting fire there on account of the danger to their homes and fences and the damage to the field-end.

I am afraid that it is too late for me to make a study of fire damage back through the years when the forests of the Klamath had been developing. I once counted the growth rings on a stump in the Janes Canyon area which indicated a damaging fire had burned in that area about 1902. Another time I estimated that a fire had damaged a large sugar pine tree more than 80 years ago or some time in the 1880's.

In a diary kept by Dan Caldwell at Hamburg Bar, he writes of an unusual heavy thunderstorm occurring on July 22, 1886. Such a thunderstorm was sure to have started many fires. And on October 9, rain and showers put out a fire which had been burning across the Klamath River from Hamburg Bar and had also cleared the air probably an indication of a blanket of smoke as a result of the free burning fires.

In the book "Sketches of Early California" by Oscar Lewis, a personal account is made by E.G. White of his parties trip up the Klamath River to

Salmon River and up the Salmon to a short distance in the North Fork above the Forks of the Salmon in 1850 where they mined on a river bar all summer and in the fall being short of food went over the divide between the South Fork of the Trinity and up the Trinity to Weaverville. No mention is made of forest fires and since he speaks of the bright clear air it must be concluded that there were no major forest fires in this area during that summer and fall for he tells of many other interesting points about the county. The party used fire in their camps each day but must have been careful to prevent any fire from escaping. The season was very dry since he states that there was no rain from May to September.

The newspapers published in the period between 1862 and 1905 were searched for news items which gave any information indicating that forest fires had occurred. The oldest paper found was called the Sime Weekly Union dated June 14, 1862. Nothing was found concerning forest fires. However as a point of interest on August 2, 1862 the following statement was found: "The weather was very hot in this city yesterday." On August 6, this news item: "More incendiarism. About half past 6 o'clock last Sunday morning a fire broke out in a row of wooden buildings on Center Street near the corner of Lane." The August 9th issue carried "Citizen offer \$1000 reward for information leading to the arrest of persons plying their incendiary torch." And in the same paper an ad "\$1000 reward for information leading to the arrest of persons who set fire to building on 2nd Street." Sounds like they had a fire bug. Later on in this history there is a chapter on Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement. (chapter six)

Beginning with the first issues of the Sime Weekly Union, a Yreka paper, I have searched for articles about forest fires and weather such as thunderstorms that may have resulted in fires in the mountains. The articles in the papers are quoted as written and I trust that the writing style will be of some interest as well as giving information relative to the subject. The first reference to any forest fire was not found until 1864. Using my experience and applying the forest fire behavior from weather and lightning storms I have made comments from time to time and have prepared a map of Siskiyou showing the year and general location of all large fires that could be identified. The map will be found at the end of chapter two.

In 1864 on June 27 "It snowed in Yreka." Under the date of August 10, 1864, "Fire in the

Mountains." "We do not recollect for many years of seeing day after day such an immense body of smoke caused by extensive fires in the mountains. The sea breeze seems to have little effect on driving away the dense smoke."

From this article it can be concluded that there had not been forest fires in the 1850's sufficient in size and numbers to have caused a blanket of smoke covering Yreka.

July 15, 1865: Weather; "This old fellow has been as fickle as a maid this week, sometimes hot and sometimes cold, then cold and cloudy, then rainy. We have had two days of pretty steady rain." From this article, I believe that the summer of 1865 was a cool one. I did not find any other reference to weather and the only article on fire was the destruction by fire of a residence on the east side of Oregon street in Yreka.

July 21, 1866: "Warm - hot, hotter, hottest. The thermometer stays up well it's no trouble at all to raise to a hundred."

July 28th: Lightning; "During the thunderstorm of last Monday, lightning struck a tree in Greenhorn and also, knocked out the telegraph service."

No mention of fire was found during the summer of 1867.

June 20, 1868: Weather; "For a few days we have had good weather but Wednesday was cold and cloudy, Thursday the wind blew almost a hurricane."

August 1, 1868: Fire in the Mountains; "The mountains around our town are being lighted up by fires which have been burning on them for several days; caused no doubt by the carelessness of camping out and neglecting to put out their fires when leaving camp." No doubt these fires are the reason for the brush field west of Yreka and Hawkinsville that we have today.

August 8th: Weather; "Last Wednesday was the hottest day of the season. The thermometer went to 105°. Monday was also very warm."

August 22, 1868: Fire in the Woods; "Extensive fires have been raging in the woods for several weeks past. The consequence is that the whole atmosphere has become thick with smoke." It is safe to assume that the hot period in the August 8 news item ended in a period of thunderstorms causing the fires reported August 22.

June 19, 1869: Weather; "Last week and the first part of present was extremely hot. On Monday evening and early Tuesday there were

fine showers which cooled the atmosphere."

June 27: "Thunder showers in the neighborhood of Little Shasta. The storm was very severe washing the hillsides into gullies."

August 14, 1869: Fire in the Mountains; "An extensive fire prevails in the mountains between Little Shasta and Butte Valley. It has been raging there for weeks and has burned mile after mile of territory and destroyed an immense amount of timber."

From these three news items in 1869 one may speculate that the fires in the mountains between Little Shasta and Butte Valley were the result of the thunderstorm of June and that the fires continued to burn from that time until August when they became so-called raging fires. No other mention of weather was found in the newspaper until fall season. Did the fire continue to burn until late September? It is possible that the brush field on the north and west side of Goosenest Mountain date back to this period of fire activity. Up to this time no evidence has been found in the paper that anyone had made any attempt to control a fire burning in the woods.

June 17, 1870: "Weather; On Tuesday the weather became quite cold and on Thursday morning there was a heavy frost. The fruit was too far advanced and protected by leaves to suffer much injury. Whether or not the grain in Scott Valley was damaged or not we have not heard."

July 1st: Cold; "It has been unusually cold for this time of year. We did not have any frost."

July 15, 1870: "Fire in the Woods; We understand that extensive fire is burning in the mountains between Deadwood and McKinney creeks. Fires rage in the mountains every summer, and destroy a vast quantity of timber. If there was any possible way to find out the parties guilty of setting fire to the woods they should be severely punished."

This is the first expression of concern about the free burning fires that occur in the woods nearly every summer and also that fires were being set. This news item also indicates that the damage being done to the forest by the fires was recognized with some concern.

This fire may have been responsible for the brush and snag patches that was in the East Fork of McKinney creek when I first went through this area in 1933. The fire burned a fine stand of pine timber but was largely a brush field with scattered snags when I first saw it.

August 1, 1870: "Smoke; For some days past the atmosphere has been heavily charged

with smoke from the fires in the woods." Weather; "The weather has been extremely hot this past week."

August 10th: Weather; "The weather this past week commencing with Wednesday and extending into Sunday was about the hottest it has ever been. The thermometer ranged from 100 to 106 degrees."

August 24: Weather; "The weather the past week has been quite cool. We understand that on one or two nights Scott Valley had frost which damaged potato tops."

In spite of the fact that the weather was unusually cool in the middle of June, there was an unusually hot period of a month. During this period the wild fire undoubtedly burned day after day. However, after the cool weather reported in the middle of August no further mention of fire or smoke was found in the newspaper.

In 1871 I found where the weather was 100° in the middle of June but it was cool in July and August and no mention of either forest fires or smoke in the air was found. It may be concluded that the weather was unfavorable to the continued spread of free burning fires in the forest. Most probably little damage occurred during the summer of 1871 to the forest in Siskiyou County from fire.

This was not true in Wisconsin. On October 8, 1871 the great Peshtigo fire raged and is recognized as the most deadly of all forest fires. On the same day the great Chicago fire was doing its damage to life and property.

Weather records are available beginning in 1872 for Yreka. Precipitation for 1872 was an amount near our present day normal. However the next year, 1873 was only 12.04, an unusually dry year. I am fairly sure that there must have been some forest fire activity during the summer.

1873: About this time the paper changed its print style as well as its news reporting. The weather was not a subject of news and the only forest fire mentioned was in a dispatch from Shasta telling of a terrific fire burning in the Trinity Mountains and destroying a great amount of timber.

The only article found for 1874 was dated September 5, and was a rather long report on the weather for the summer which indicated that it had been pleasant and that they were now having Indian summer with warm days and cool nights. It also carried a statement that; "There has been less than the usual amount of smoke in the atmosphere." From this information it might be

concluded that the forest fire activity for 1874 was lighter than usual.

Minnesota had another of its large damaging forest fires in 1874.

June 26, 1875: Weather; "The weather during the past week has been quite warm and delightful."

July 3, 1875: Woods On Fire; "Quite a large fire has been burning fiercely in the mountains south of town (Yreka). The fire is on the Scott Valley side principally. A large amount of timber is destroyed annually by fires in the woods. The law fixes severe penalty for person convicted of setting the woods on fire, and if the sheriff can lay his hands on any of the guilty parties they will feel the full breath of the law."

This is the first reference to the law which prohibits the setting of fire to timber land that I have found in the search of the newspapers. While there has been concern expressed earlier there seemed to be no effort to prevent the man-caused fires up to this time. Later on in another chapter I intend to write about fire laws and their enforcement.

July 31: Fire in the Mountains; "Judging from the smoke in the atmosphere there must be large fires in the woods." "A large fire in the mountains south of Weaverville for some time past."

September 11, 1875: "The atmosphere is heavily laden with smoke for the past week from fires in timber on the mountains. An immense quantity of timber is destroyed by fire in this state every year."

From the articles quoted here it is reasonable to state that 1875 had a long fire season beginning by July 1st and extending into September. One can only wonder how much area was burned over and volume of timber was destroyed. The total precipitation at Yreka was only 10.20 inches.

A History of Forest Fires in Shasta County 1858-1920

by

Philip McDonald

*(Pacific Southwest Forest and Range
Experiment Station, Redding)*

"Jim" as he was known to only a few, being favored by the moniker of "Stingy Jim" by most, awoke with a "sore head" and a vague premonition of danger. Tumbling out of bed, his first im-

pression was that it was awful hot even at the tender hour of 9 a.m. on August 19, 1898, 1½ miles south of Shasta.

Opening the door, Stingy Jim was greeted by an appalling sight. As far to the west as he could see was a brilliant wall of solid flame. Looking to the north and south only worsened his view. To the west were no flames but smoke so thick as to discourage thoughts of breathing. With ashes raining down from above and a hot dry wind in his face, the only thought that came to Stingy Jim's sluggish mind was that it was cooler inside. He thus stumbled inside, shut the door, and lay on the dusty floor awaiting his end. In a few moments a terrible wind shook the cabin and pebbles the size of hailstones rattled against the walls and his tin stovepipe. The house filled with smoke—and then only silence intermingled with the distant crackle of a burning tree.

Coughing and sputtering, a now thoroughly sober Stingy Jim again stepped outside, grateful to be alive. He was alive solely because of the capricious nature of the fire which had leaped completely over his establishment in the little swale.

An experience such as this, though often not so fortunate, was no stranger to the "old timers" of Shasta County as evidenced by the record of wild fires in Shasta County which follows:

Date	Remarks
1858 Oct.	Large fire burned for several days on the high ridge between Shasta and Whiskey Creek.
1860	Hills west of Shasta are burning.
1872	Raging forest fires in mountains above Flatt Creek and Churntown.
1872 Aug.	150,000 acres burned on N. slope of Pitt River as far East as the divide between Pitt River and Squaw Creek, the entire Squaw Creek drainage and the lower McCloud River as far north as Chatterdown Creek. This fire destroyed about 1½ billion board feet of timber—most of the standing timber in the area.
1873	Extensive fires raging in mountains above Buckeye.
1879	Mountains north of Shasta are being burned over.
1880 Aug.	Extensive fire in the mountains above Shasta have burned over a great area.
1880 Sept.	A fire, raging for two weeks between Shasta and Richardson's Place on Clear Creek. Parties who are cutting wood this side of Clear Creek state that the fire is set out and kept going by parties whom they cannot get sight of. These wood-cutters had hard work to keep their camp and outfit from being consumed. A close watch and bullets from a rifle may reveal who it is that spreads the fire.
1880 Sept.	Shasta Courier—big fire last week swept over the country between Fountain House and Texas Springs.
1881	Extensive fires are burning around Burney Valley, particularly in Hatchet Creek.
1882 Aug.	Woods around Shasta have been on fire for two days and the citizens have fought the fire all night to keep it out of town. Fire cut off communications to Redding.
1882 Sept.	Fires still raging, spread from Shasta City to north and west of Tower House.
1887 July	Large fire in woods east of Sacramento River near Redding.
1887 July	A terrific mountain fire is still raging on Iron Mountain.
1887 July	Flames within one mile of Shasta City stretching to Shasta Divide—cover about 20 square miles.
1887 Aug.	Fire raging on Cottonwood Creek, crossed the creek, spread northward, having reached Happy Valley—burned a strip of land about 20 miles in length.
1887 Aug.	Fires burning all summer in Shasta County, continue to burn between here and French Gulch and on Trinity Mountain. The fires are doing great damage and causing inconvenience to travel.
1888 Jan.	Terrific forest and brush fires broke out to north of Shasta.
1888 Aug.	Much of the timber along the grade of Iron Mountain stood straight and naked and one sees there the firey core of a burning log.
1891 July	Fire spreading south from a point below and west of Redding.
1894 July	Fierce forest fires reported near Anderson. The citizens started a back fire to save the town.

- 1894 Aug. Big fire raging on the Shasta country side of Cottonwood Valley. Several thousand acres have been burned over and every mile of fencing consumed.
- 1896 Fire began near Charley Sykes place, near Churn Creek and raged for several days.
- 1897 June The fires 3 miles northeast of Redding are continuing with disastrous results. The little mining town of Hart, 8 miles north, lost several buildings on the outskirts of town before the flames were under control. A broad swath of timber was felled before the flames and severed to turn the fire from its course.
- 1897 July Numerous fires are raging in the mountains north of Redding. A brilliant flame stretching over several miles on the mountains just north of Shasta. Another fire in the Flatt Creek country is racing toward the Big Mountain Coffee Company located near Iron Mountain but a force of 100 men from the mine succeeded in checking it by backfiring. Systematic backfiring between Buckeye and Newtown saved a good portion of that section from the flames.
- 1897 July Some unknown incendiaries maliciously set fire to the big timber interests of the famous Greenwood estate in Shingle-town country — about 5,000 acres of timber completely destroyed.
- 1898 Aug. Between Elmore and Smithson there is an immense territory burning over, and the flames have encroached so close to the railroad track that the company has a large force of men beating it back.
- 1898 Aug. Forest fires are raging near Bee Gum. These fires occur almost every year and are the result of efforts to clear the land for farming purposes. These fires soon become unmanageable and thousands of dollars in timber and feed are lost.
- 1898 Aug. A large destructive fire is raging around Shasta. The flames are threatening the Miller place on the Old Shasta Road and Stingy Jim's south of Shasta had a narrow escape.
- 1898 Fire covered the same area as the fire of 1872 on the Pitt River, Squaw Creek, and the McCloud River. Complete destruction resulted over the area, especially on the higher slopes. From July 15 to Sept. 30 one or more fires were raging continuously over the south and west slopes of Mt. Shasta. One burned from McCloud Mill up the Panther Creek slope consuming the greater part of the only area of *P. attenuata* on Mt. Shasta and extending great fiery tongues into the handsome fir forest on both sides of Wagon Camp. Another fire consumed a worthless tract of manzanita chaparral between Black Butte and the mountain and gave off a surprisingly enormous quantity of smoke, hiding the country to the west for a full month. When the wind was northwest as it was a great deal of the time, charred leaves fell so abundantly that members of the biological survey (at 9,500 ft. elevation) caught them in their hand with little effort. Of the hundreds of persons who visit the Pacific slope in California every summer to see the mountains, few see more than the immediate foreground and a haze of smoke which even the strongest glass is unable to penetrate. Along the railroad between the head of Sacramento Canyon and Shasta Valley one traverses desolate tracts which a few years ago were covered by a noble forest of ponderosa and sugar pines.
- C. Hart Merriam, Chief, Div. of Biol. Surv.
- 1901 Aug. A fierce fire in the Salt Creek district has burned over a territory of five miles square and is still burning.
- 1901 Aug. Large fire south of Kennett along the upper stillwater.
- 1901 Aug. Another fire west of Kennett started between Backbone and Little Backbone Creeks—burned thousands of acres.
- 1903 Aug. Huge forest fires on the McCloud, a large section of valuable timber has

been destroyed.

- 1903 Sept. A fire started near the Bully Hill Mine is threatening the town of De Lamar 26 miles northeast of Redding.
- 1903 Sept. Over 200 fire fighters on a furious blaze near Whitmore which did thousands of dollars worth of damage to timber, cabins, and fences.
- 1903 Sept. Fires raging near De Lamar shut down the smelter and mining operations about the town as the flames destroyed the electric line which supplied power.
- 1904 June The Cone and Ward range, some 20,000 acres from Mill Creek to Dry Creek was burned.
- 1904 July Campers set fire which raged for three days on the South fork of Dog Creek near Delta.
- 1904 Aug. Fire at Balls Ferry has been turned from the course toward Shingletown.
- 1904 Aug. All along the road from Elmore north are big fires on the mountains. A fire broke out on the mountain over tunnel #4.
- 1904 Sept. Fire began 1½ miles below Clear Creek Bridge, burned 3 square miles, and is burning north and west and there is no telling where it will stop.
- 1904 Sept. Fire burned on east side of Sacramento River from Sims to LaMoine—9 miles away.
- 1907 Aug. Fire devastating the country between Clear Creek and Redding.
- 1908 July A fire raging east of Keswick.
- 1908 Aug. Thousands of acres burning near Redding. It is feared that the flames will not be stopped until they reach the Pitt River—burned 2 square miles in area and still unconquered.
- 1908 Aug. A big forest fire in Harrison Gulch Region threatening the Hoxie sawmill.
- 1908 Aug. Fierce forest fires are burning near Manton in southeastern Shasta County.
- 1908 Aug. A fierce forest fire is raging on the Pitt River between the Sacramento and the McCloud, over a section several miles square.
- 1908 Aug. Disasterous fire 7 miles south of Delta near the Antler Hotel raging on both sides of the Sacramento River.
- 1908 Aug. Fire of incendiary origin near the Kilarc Station.
- 1909 Aug. Mining town of Newtown threatened by fire.
- 1910 Aug. Fire west of French Gulch for several days and heading for Trinity County.
- Fires above and around Ono have destroyed the timber in many square miles of land.
- A big fire is burning in the Big Bend of the Pitt River. A large forest fire which started near Gibson, north of Redding, caused by a wreck where many cars of lumber were piled up in a deep gorge, is raging in that district today. A tremendous forest fire fanned by a northwest wind burned Terry's portable sawmill near Montgomery Creek.
- The largest forest fire is burning east of McArthur where it has burned over an area 4 miles long and 2 miles wide.
- 1911 Aug. 100 farmers turned fire fighters began to stay the onrush of flames through the timber on Oak Run which started in the center of Millville and destroyed its business heart.
- 1911 Aug. Fire near Mt. Shasta Mine burned 3 to 4 square miles. In addition flames are roaring on both sides of Clear Creek.
- 1916 Aug. Fire 4 miles south of Sisson Lake has devastated about 1,300 acres of forest growth 12-15 years old.
- 1917 Aug. Huge fire on plateau above Manton, still beyond control.
- 1917 Aug. Forest rangers finally succeeded in their attempts to stay the advance of a forest fire along Castle Creek, west of Castella. The Burns Lumber Company lost 4 railroad trestles and considerable timber.
- 1919 Aug. A forest fire near Gibson has burned over 2,000 acres and is still uncontrolled.

MEMORANDUM

Fire in the woods was commonplace in the period 1858 to 1920 in Shasta County. Doubt-

lessly for every fire listed here, 2 or 3 times that many occurred of which there is no record. Only "big" fires were news, anything under 800 acres, especially if no buildings, mines, or people were burned (in that order) wasn't even noticed.

Of interest, is the increasing number of fires with recent years. Several possible reasons apply: (1) The comparatively few people in the area in the earlier years presented a lower risk, (2) the fledging press simply had more interesting news items to report on than just fires in "unpeopled" wildlands, (3) a cyclic weather pattern with the later years being drier, (4) placer mining in the earlier years by its very nature and location (in moist creek bottoms and no explosives) is not as prone to fire starts as was hard-rocking, and (5) increased mechanization and industrialization leads to higher risk of wildfire starts.

All of these reasons both alone and in conjunction probably answer the question with the possible exception of #3. A word of caution is in order because the accuracy of the acreage mentioned, is probably grossly over estimated.

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Red Bluff News

1898. (Stingy Jim) v. 13 #34 page 8 col. 2 August 19, 1898.

July 22, 1876: Weather; "The weather has been quite warm during the past week. Thursday there was indication of a thunderstorm but none occurred in this area."

July 27: Weather; "The weather during the past week has been extremely warm."

By August 5th the weather had changed to unusually cool and by September 2nd fall had arrived. No mention of fire in the woods nor smoke in the atmosphere was found for the summer of 1876.

No copies of Union for 1877.

August 17, 1878: Fire in the Woods; "The atmosphere is much ladden with smoke from fires in the mountains."

August 24: Weather; "Quite a shower fell between dark Thursday and Friday morning." Thunderstorm?

No further articles on either weather or fire in the woods were found for 1878, but the August 17 article was evidence of uncontrolled fires burning in the forest probably at some distance from Yreka since no mention was made of the location of any fire. 1878 a dry year, 14.02 inches in Yreka.

July 12, 1879: Havoc by Lightning; "During the thunderstorm of Wednesday morning, the lightning played smash with the telegraph instruments in the office here." This no doubt was one of those thunderstorms that occur about daylight and while no mention of fires or smoke was found in the paper, I feel sure that some forest fires did result from this severe lightning.

September 13, 1879: Fire at Han Hansen's; "Last Saturday fire was discovered in Hansen's barn a few miles from Etna. The barn was hid behind a hill delaying the discovery. The fire also spread through the fields."

In the same paper. Fire at Scott Bar; "On Sunday there was a fire in the Scott Bar China town. If it had not been for the fact that the wind was blowing in the opposite direction to its usual direction, and the efforts of the towns people, the fire would surely have spread into the rest of the town. Charles Fisher was blistered on the hands, face, and neck while fighting the fire." The article did not mention that the fire spread to the woods but since the fire from the barn at Etna spread to the fields and past fire history, it indicates to me that at the very least there would have been spot fires in the surrounding woods from the burning buildings at Scott Bar.

From the Yreka Weekly Tribune, June 3, 1880. Weather; "Clear and warm."

July 1: Weather; "Hot and dust plentiful." The mountains around town are wrapped in a delicate veil of smoke which makes them look attractive." July 26: Weather; "The thermometer stood at 99°, Tuesday was 98° at 10:00 AM, and Wednesday was equal and a thunderstorm in Little Shasta." "September weather has the appearance of rain on two days but none so far, the indications have passed away without bringing us any fall weather." It would appear from these articles that 1880 had a long dry hot summer with

some thunderstorm and free burning fires in the woods.

From weather records 1880 was the driest year since records began in Yreka. Only 9.68 inches of precipitation occurred. And as indicated in the news the temperatures were unusually high. With these weather conditions it is safe to say that the county had some large forest fires in 1880.

About this time the Union paper had a change of editors and weather and atmosphere conditions seemed to have little news value so I changed to the Tribune in my search for articles about weather on fires.

The summers of 1881 and 1882 were late in arriving and ended early in September with no news of forest fires.

The tremendous forest fires that occurred in Minnesota and Wisconsin resulting in the loss of life and property, as well as the destruction of a vast area of forest led congress to establish the Division of Forestry in 1881. Little was done by the newly created Division toward the protection of the vast areas of forests in the United States, but it did indicate that there was a growing concern, by some people in our government, for the protection of this national resource.

In 1891, ten years later, Congress authorized that forest reserves be set aside from the public domain. No mention of this act was found in the Yreka Journal, and as will be noted, the fires continued to burn freely in the mountains of Siskiyou County.

June 14, 1883: Fire; "We learned that Mr. Lamb's sawmill on Greenhorn Mountain was consumed by fire. Everything was lost." While the article did not say that the fire spread to the woods it most likely did because the weather preceding the date of the fire had been warm and dry and this was another dry year only 12.16 inches of rain had fallen in Yreka. Up to this time, since 1872, every other or every third year was below the normal precipitation level. But from this point to 1889 precipitation ranged from 18 to 20 inches annually in Yreka.

June 25, 1884: More Rain; "During Monday several brisk showers occurred alternating with sunshine showing these were local."

July 9: Rain; "Heavy rain showers last Saturday and Sunday we were again visited with heavy thundershowers and vivid flashes of lightning. In Scott Valley the storm was even heavier than in Yreka."

July 19: Showers; "Last Sunday we had

another heavy shower which makes our weather quite cool again. Our whole summer seems more like fall weather."

September 3: "A heavy rain visited *Strawberry Valley, Willow Creek and Klamath River, but only light showers in Yreka."

From these news articles the summer of 1884 was probably cool with a number of thunderstorms. No doubt fires were started in the forest by lightning but due to the nature of the weather the fires did not spread or result in much damage in the forest.

*Strawberry Valley was the name of the valley where the city of Mount Shasta is now.

August 1, 1885: Wind; "Heavy windstorm last Wednesday kept the dust flying quite lively, which would have been a bad time for a fire to get started." "Lightning struck at McGregor Ranch."

August 8: Hot Weather; "While we have endured excessive heat for the past week in Siskiyou, the rest of the state has suffered much more, up to 115° in the Sacramento Valley.

August 26: Woods on Fire; "The woods are on fire all along the Sacramento River in various places between Redding and the Siskiyou boundary. Also, fire in the Salmon and Siskiyou Mountains where fires have been raging with great fierceness for some time past."

September 5: "The smokey atmosphere still prevails, like forest fires have obtained great headway since the showers of a couple of weeks ago."

No doubt the hot weather set the stage for these fires and lightning contributed to the ignition. A serious fire year.

The following was found in the published diary of Dan Caldwell of Hamburg Bar. "October 9, Rain showers has put out the fire burning across the river and has cleared the air."

From this statement about clearing the air it most probably can be assumed that the air had been rather smokey and this would indicate several fires had been burning or that the one across the river was 2 or more thousand acres in size, and also that it had been a dry fall, weather-wise. Even as late as the 1930's and 1940's evidence could be observed of this fire scar.

Brief History of State Forestry

1885

Act of March 3, 1885, creating a Board of Forestry. An educational body which reported on forestry conditions.

1887

Act of March 7, 1887, giving the Board and its assistants police powers in forest laws. An appropriation of \$30,000 for the biennium.

1893

The Board of Forestry abolished.

1893-1903

State Forestry at a standstill. Great development in private lumbering and land control by eastern interests.

1903-1905

Extensive studies made of the timber situation at joint Federal-State expense.

June 19, 1886: An article; "Warning -There are too many fires being started in the woods by careless hunters, campers and miners. The Government intends to prosecute guilty parties."

September 3, "The press of the northern part of the state has warned people repeatedly about their carelessness in setting forest fires, but the large number of fires that have occurred this year shows that little attention has been given to these warnings. A report now comes from San Francisco that so many fires are burning in Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties through the carelessness of hunters and others, that the Government intends to prosecute some of the guilty parties. Complaints are being prepared by Mr. Schlessinger, assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Schlessinger was in Siskiyou and took a trip into the western part of the county where he probably gathered some evidence to be used in the complaints."

July 10: "Forest fires are noticeable this year, there is one burning on Forest House Mountain, it evidently had been started by the thunderstorm of last Sunday."

July 17, 1886: "The thermometers around town have been ranging between 95° and 106° the past few days. The fire on the west side of Humbug Mountain has rendered the atmosphere quite hazy. There is also a fire in the mountain toward Mt. Shasta."

July 31: "During the past week Siskiyou County was visited by heavy showers. The showers rendered the weather quite cool. They also exceeded in extinguishing the forest fires, which will check the damage being done to the valuable timber."

August 18: "The atmosphere has again

become quite clouded with smoke for forest fires. These fires are started by campers and thunderstorms that have occurred for some time."

August 21: "Another thunderstorm in the west."

August 28: "The smokey atmosphere has rendered it very close and disagreeable."

September 4: "The recent heavy rain extinguished nearly all the forest fires burning in the county and the atmosphere is now much clearer." Sept. 18: Frost.

From the preceding news items it may be concluded that 1886 was a disastrous year from the standpoint of forest fires. Using 1918, a year when most reports of fires are available, as a guide to area burned in a serious fire year its safe to say that more than one hundred thousand acres of virgin forest was burned over. There is no way of estimating the damage done to timber and other natural resources. I think it is safe to say by today's values the damage in dollars would be tremendous.

July 13, 1886: "The northbound S.P. train out of Montague started several fires in stubble fields.

July 27: Forest Fire Raging in Shasta County, "During the past week numerous fires are burning in Shasta County. No doubt some have been started by the S.P. trains. Siskiyou County has been quite fortunate so far."

The temperature ranged around 100° in August but no further mention of forest fires was found in this year's papers.

July 27, 1887: "Fires along the railroad line north of Sisson have been raging ferociously during the past week. Gangs of men have been engaged in fighting the fires. Four large fires can be seen in different directions from Sisson."

This is the second reference to fires along the railroad which I have found in my review of the newspapers. From the record of railroad fires in later years, it's a good possibility that the railroad was causing forest fires each year but did not receive much attention in the newspapers except on the years when weather conditions was such that they became large. This was also the first reference to men fighting the fires and the work gang might indicate that the men were section gangs employed by the railroad for track maintenance. More about railroad fires will be found in other chapters.

August 3, 1887: "We had a fine shower of rain last Wednesday evening accompanied by thunder and lightning, another thundershower

last Sunday evening. The storm had a cooling effect on the atmosphere making the weather comfortable and delightful."

August 31: "The weather has been quite cool for the past two days, in fact it has been growing cooler ever since the thunderstorm of last Thursday."

No news of smoke in the atmosphere was found. However the lightning must have started many fires in the forest.

July 25, 1888: Terrific thunderstorms; "The extreme hot weather brought on a thunderstorm last Tuesday evening just before dark and continued at intervals during the night, which extended over a large area into Scott Valley and a portion of Shasta Valley."

This is the type of thunderstorm that has been responsible for starting 50-80 lightning fires in the Klamath Forest in more recent years. The issues of papers from August to September 22 were missing so nothing was found about fire or smoke after these thunderstorms.

July 31, 1889: "If these fires in the mountains keep on increasing, our farmers will be able to cure beef, bacon and ham without the aid of a smokehouse."

August 14: "The forest fires are still raging fiercely in the Humbug range of mountains, having crossed to this side of Humbug Creek, also to the Yreka side of the Humbug divide as well as to the head of Deadwood Creek."

August 21: "The weather is somewhat cooler and more pleasant this past week with a fine breeze every afternoon. The smoke in the atmosphere has almost disappeared."

September 25, 1889 - Yreka Journal

FIRE IN THE SISKIYOU

"A report reached Ashland Sunday evening that Dollarhide's sawmill in the Siskiyou was burning, and that the buildings and fences at Colestin Soda Springs were in great danger. The report of the burning of the mill, fortunately, proved to be false, but Colestin was in great danger Saturday evening. The fire swept down toward the hotel under a stiff breeze and the flying embers from the tall trees, blowing upon the hotel, kept Mr. Cole and family hard at work to save their property. A number of men from Dollarhide's mill were helping them for a time,

when they heard the mill was in danger and hurried to it. Mr. Cole says the precaution he took when the hotel was built to have water tanks on the roof, and arrangements for getting about with it, saved the building. Had the wind not been just favorable the heat from the burning forest would have driven the people off the place. The principal damage to the property is the burning of the fine large fir trees near the hotel, but they may not be killed. Dollarhides have been keeping close guard of the mill property and lumber yard. The fire has been very threatening to them, but as yet done no damage other than the destruction of standing timber, and they have kept it off their own timber land thus far." - Ashland Tidings

June 1890 several articles commenting on the cool weather and the effect upon the farmer's crops.

July 30: Hot Weather; "The weather has been extremely hot this past week or more."

August 6: "An extensive fire is raging in the Humbug range west of town, having commenced near Punch Creek. It will reach the summit to go over on the Yreka side."

August 13: "The weather continues hot but a little cooler than last week."

August 20: On this date there was a rather long article telling about showers with hail as large as walnuts. The storm began between 4 and 5 A.M. and repeated in the afternoon. It was apparent from the article that this was a rather extreme thunderstorm and that the weather had become much cooler after the storm. Nothing further was found in the paper about forest fires in 1890.

July 30, 1891: "The excessive hot weather makes travel very uncomfortable."

August 5: "The weather turned quite cool last Thursday. A heavy thunderstorm occurred in the vicinity of Montague and extended down the Klamath River, hail the size of ordinary plums."

August 12: "The weather has been oppressively hot during the past 3 or 4 days, mercury ranging 98° and 100°."

September 6: "Since the rain of last Saturday the weather has been quite delightful."

1891: Congress began to take some action toward management and protection of the forest land. The act of March 3, 1891 gave the President authority to set aside lands as forest reserves in states and territories. Nothing much happened in California from this act but it did indicate that some people were becoming more and more concerned and that this action would soon lead to

the creating of forest reserves.

No reference was found of forest fires or smoke in the atmosphere, although the summer was hot and thunderstorms occurred during the hot weather. No doubt that there were numerous lightning fires started.

June 15, 1892: "Heavy hail storm in the Moffett Creek area. A horse drowned in one of the side gulches after being swept off its feet by the raging torrent of water rushing down the gulch from the thunderstorm in the mountains."

July 6: "A thunderstorm prevailed last Saturday afternoon, during which the lightning broke the electric lights that were at the McNutly ranch."

August 3: "The weather has been scorching hot during the past 3 or 4 days, preparing for another thunderstorm."

August 10: "The days have been oppressively hot and the atmosphere sultry, smokey, and dusty from forest fires surrounding."

September 14: "Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday the mercury registered 90-100 degrees, as hot as any summer day."

A long hot summer with numerous thunderstorms and many forest fires. Total precipitation in Yreka for the year was 14.02 inches.

July 5, 1893: Hot Weather; "The weather is now approaching the usual hot summer days."

July 19: "Since the rainstorm of last week the weather has become much warmer." The article continued telling of damage to hay and grain crops in the valleys. There was no mention of thunder or lightning.

August 1893: The weather was extremely hot with temperatures ranging from 90° to 100°. No reference to thunderstorms.

Yreka Journal - September 6, 1893 - Timber Fires

The Forestry Commissioner, U.S. Marshals, or any other authority are to prevent the burning of our mountain timber and should make an effort to capture the careless hunters, tramps, and emigrants who cause their fires to destroy large areas of valuable timber and choke up the atmosphere with dense smoke. Parties who are responsible for letting their campfires endanger the Forest are reminded that during the hot weather it is impossible to stop the spread of the fire once it has burned into the dense forest. Others in search of deer and other game set fires to drive the game for the chance of easier hunt-

ing. If directions were emphasized, such persons could be captured without much difficulty. Forest fires are becoming quite common in various parts of the county, especially in sections where game abound, which indicates that they are the results of campfires or viciously set fires to drive game into clearings.

Yreka Journal - September 13, 1893

"Since the rainstorm of last Wednesday, the weather has been quite cool, especially last Saturday morning, when the mercury fell nearly down to the freezing point in Yreka, with frost to a slight extent. Since Saturday, the weather has been gradually becoming warmer, and we may have a few weeks more of summer weather yet before the advent of our usual Indian summer of October, the most pleasant season of the year, by reason of the even temperature, without any oppressive heat and just cool enough for comfort."

The only reference to forest fires found is in the Timber Fires article, which shows the concern because of man-caused fires.

July 18, 1894: Thundershower; "Thunder-showers are quite frequent this time of the year, of almost daily occurrence but lasting only a few hours."

August 15: "Last Friday evening we were favored with a refreshing shower, which settled the dust and cooled the heated atmosphere. The flashes of lightning and the loud peals of thunder were not very agreeable, and some of them were really terrifying."

Nothing was found to indicate that any major forest fires occurred during this year. However, from the two articles it may be concluded that this was a summer of many thunderstorms which were sure to have started many a fire, none of which gain any size due to the repeated rain-showers.

This may have been an easy fire year in Siskiyou County but in Minnesota and Wisconsin tremendous forest fires were burning with great amounts of damage to the forests of those two states. Weather records at Hinckley, Minnesota showed that the humidity for the summer of 1894 showed a drop from 10 to 38% below normal setting the stage for the Hinckley Fire of September 1, 1894.

The following comparison of the effect of declining humidity over a period of time setting the stage for the great Hinckley Fire in Minnesota, September 1, 1894, was taken from Stewart Holbrook's book "Burning an Empire."

Month	Ave. Humidity 1894	Past Mo. Averages
June	22.0%	60.5%
July	39.5%	48.0%
Aug.	25.0%	59.6%

By September 1st, the start of the fire, the stage was set with vast areas of dry logging slash and natural forest floor fuel ready to be ignited.

This same year, Wisconsin also had a tremendous series of forest fires.

This weather pattern was not unusual for Northern California and no doubt accounted for the many large fires in forests of Siskiyou county over the years.

1895: On July 12, the Fire Marshal had an article in the Yreka Journal warning people to be careful with fire during the hot weather while in the forest. In spite of this warning, the July 30 issue of the Journal carried this: "Fires are becoming quite numerous in our mountains, most of which are caused by careless campers. There is a large fire in the Humbug mountains just west of Yreka and another one in the north side of Goosenest Mountain."

August 6: "The weather continues very hot and dry, temperatures range from 98 to 100 degrees. The atmosphere is filled with smoke from the forest fires in the mountains."

August 16, 1895: Yreka Between Two Fires; "The immense fires raging throughout the county are doing considerable damage to timber, besides creating a sultry heat which greatly upsets the usually even temperament of our people. The big blaze on the mountain west of town covers hundreds of acres of the heavily wooded land, transforming from an overgrown smoke-house by day into a grand and imposing bonfire by night. As dusk comes on, one can see the spiral flames shooting up the bodies and branches of the large trees, while beneath is the sheet of flame moving through the underbrush and swallowing up the logs. With this forest blaze on the mountain high above us, and the devils brimstone furnace underneath, they say, "Yreka seems to be between the two fires now."

August 19, 1895: "An extensive forest fire is raging near Topsy, which settlers are watching and have worked on from time to time to prevent it from spreading to the ranches."

June 19, 1896: Warning of Forest Fire Danger; "With the warm dry weather the danger of forest fires in our woods is here. Campers

should extinguish their campfires before leaving the camp."

July 10: "The first forest fire noticeable this season is burning on Forest House mountain, it having evidently been started by the thunderstorm of last Sunday.

July 17: "The thermometers around town have been registering 95 to 106 degrees the past few days. The fire on the west side of Humbug mountain has rendered the atmosphere quite hazy. There is also a fire in the mountains toward Mt. Shasta."

July 31: "During the past week Siskiyou County was visited by heavy showers. The showers rendered the weather quite cool. They also succeeded in extinguishing the forest fires which will check the damage to the valuable timber."

August 18: "The atmosphere has again become quite clouded with smoke from forest fires. These fires are started by campers and from the thunderstorms that have been occurring for some time."

August 21: "Another thunderstorm visited the county this past week."

August 28: "The smokey atmosphere has rendered it very close and disagreeable."

September 4: "The recent heavy rain extinguished nearly all the fires burning in the county and the atmosphere is much clearer."

From the reports in the paper, 1896 was a year of many high temperatures followed by many thunderstorms which evidently caused numerous forest fires. There was no mention of any effort being made by anyone to control the fires that were burning most of the summer. From records of severe thunderstorm years in later years it is reasonable to conclude that as many as 300 fires may have been caused by lightning and that several thousand acres of land burned over.

July 13, 1897: Fire in Stubblefield; "The railroad has set several fires in the stubblefield north of Montague. The fires were started by S.P. northbound train."

July 27: Forest fires raging in Shasta county during the past week, but Siskiyou county has been quite fortunate.

Under date of August 10, 1897 the following was published in the Yreka Journal:

"An Act to Prevent Forest Fires on the Public Domain."

"Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of

America in Congress assembled, that any person shall willfully or maliciously set on fire, or cause to be set on fire any timber, underbrush, or grass upon public domain, or shall carelessly or negligently leave or suffer fire to burn unattended near any timber or other inflammable material, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof in any district court of the United States have jurisdiction of the same, shall be fined in a sum not more than five thousand dollars or be imprisoned for a term of not more than two years, or both."

"Sec. 2. That any person who shall build a campfire, or other fire in or near in timber or other inflammable material upon public domain, shall before breaking camp or leaving said fire, totally extinguish the same. Any person failing to do so, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the same, shall be fined in sum of not more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned for a term of not more than one year, or both."

"Sec. 3 That in all cases arising under this act the fines collected shall be paid into the public school fund of the county in which the lands where the offense was committed are situated."

Approved February 24, 1897.

This act surely an indication of the growing concern for the damage resulting from the continuing large areas being burned whenever weather conditions were such that forest fuels became so dry that fires would spread rapidly and burn for days or even weeks, until a weather change would occur or the fire spread into areas of limited fuel. The act does not specify who is to enforce it's provisions, no doubt resulting in little or no effect in the curbing of the carelessness with fire in the forests of Siskiyou county. As one will note from here on large fires continued to be numerous for many years.

July 1, 1898

From the Semi Weekly Journal

"To Prevent Forest Fires"

"As a precaution against destructive forest fire, W.H. Mello, local land agent of the Central Pacific Railroad is preparing to use mounted patrol to discover and suppress any fire threatening big timber district in the McCloud Valley. Mr. Mello states that the 300 men living and employ-

ed in the valley have been organized into a fire patrol and will respond to all fire alarms. With this precaution it is hoped that damage from forest fires will be reduced to a minimum."

It is believed that this is the first organized forest fire protection in Siskiyou County. Every odd section of land 30 miles each side of the railroad right-of-way was granted by the Government to aid the Central Pacific to finance the construction of the railroad. Mr. Mello no doubt recognized the value of the stand of mature pine timber in the McCloud Flats and took steps to protect it from destruction by fire.

September 2, 1898

Forest Fires in Scott Valley

"The residents of Etna on Crystal Creek sections of Scott Valley have been seriously troubled by forest fires and much damage resulted, with many houses narrowly escaping destruction. The woods between the town of Etna and old Etna at the foot of the Salmon Mountain have been burning for several days requiring the citizens to turn out to check it from burning houses along the outskirts of Etna. The house of J.A. Fairchild had a close call the furniture and goods having been removed to safety. The fire extended later toward the north into Crystal Creek section where the Lee sawmill was saved from destruction by hard work of the farmers and others in the vicinity. The fires are still raging. A north wind will check the progress by blowing the fire back over the burned ground, while the north would require more hard fighting to prevent it from spreading to the S.W. quarters. The citizens of the valley wish they could be favored with a drenching rainstorm to extinguish the fires now threatening their farms and dwellings."

August 11, 1899

"Heavy Thunderstorm at Sisson"

"One of the most terrific thunderstorms that ever occurred in the county occurred in Sisson last Monday. Water ran knee-deep in the streets. The storm was widespread and had a good effect in purifying the atmosphere and also extinguished fires along the route of its visitation."

From this article it may be concluded that

forest fires had been burning in the county. However no mention of them nor their location was found in the review of the paper for 1899.

1900

June 15, "Showers heavy in Dunsmuir but only a light rain in Yreka."

June 19, "Thunderstorms, light rain in Yreka, heavy in Sisson and Scott and Butte Valleys."

June 26, "Heavy showers and strong wind which cause some damage to property. Dry gulch ran knee deep in water." There was no mention of thunderstorm.

July 27, "Two fine residences burned in Dunsmuir and two blocks were consumed due to the heavy wind on Florence Avenue."

August 17, "Thunderstorms in the vicinity of Yreka. A house was struck by lightning in Hawkinsville." No mention of forest fires.

August 21, "Another thunderstorm in Yreka, cloudburst on Butcher Hill and in Shasta Valley. Yreka creek ran at wintertime levels and flood gates were opened in Shasta Valley."

August 31, "Another rainshower and lightning" August has been cool and wet."

The paper also gave accounts of rainshowers during September on 4, 5, 7, 10, 16, and 24. It can be concluded that many thunderstorms occurred throughout the county during the summer of 1900, and no doubt numerous forest fires were started but most were rained out and the remaining did little or no damage to the forest. No mention of any large fires was made in the paper.

1901

This was another year of cool weather with showers in every month and few clear days. August 6, Hot weather resulted in bringing a thunderstorm with .95 inch of rain. September had only 13 clear days and 1.24 inches of rain. No forest fires mentioned.

August 10, 1901,

This article in the Yreka Journal

"The Forest Fire Problem"

"The forest fires raging in different portions of the state at the present time bring forward the old question of Government protection. It would seem as though something should be done not

only by the national authorities but by the California government as well, so as to put a stop to the destructive occurrence, says the Post."

"The matter of their origin is well understood, and if systematic supervision was exercised many if not all of the fires could be prevented. It is rare that any man will take the chance of destroying his own property, in an effort to damage his neighbor. They are almost without exception the result of carelessness and is well understood by every person who is acquainted with the subject."

"It ought to be easy to bring the campers to a realization of their obligation, and to take precaution against setting fires, which not only destroy large amounts of lumber, but denude the forest which may become valuable in the future."

"A system of registering persons traveling in the mountains might be effective in preventing forest fires and there should be no difficulty in establishing such a system under National or State supervision."

"It is a little short of ridiculous that millions of feet of valuable timber is destroyed every year through the carelessness of campers, hunters and travelers. The sheepherders used to burn over large areas for the purpose of making food for their flocks in subsequent years, but this practice has will nigh been broken up, and if it continues in any locality may with pressure be prevented."

"In any event some systematic way should be devised to prevent the annual destruction by reoccurring disastrous forest fires."

This article of August 20 is further evidence of the growing concern of the damage being done to the forest by careless caused forest fires. However Government action toward organized protection was still a few years off. But, one only needs to look at the burned area for the first 10 years after forest fire reports were being made to get some idea of the damage being done to the forest at this period of time in the history of Siskiyou county.

In 1901 the Bureau of Forestry was established in the Interior Department and forest reserves were created. The reserves continued under the Interior Department with little or no administration of the forests in Siskiyou. Then in 1905 the forest reserves were put under the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture. That same year the Klamath Forest was set-aside.

June 13, 1902 - Yreka Journal - "Forest Fire"

"About 2 o'clock last Monday afternoon, says the Fort Jones miner, a fire broke out on the Richman ranch on Crystal Creek, and in an interval of an hour, the flames were fanning into a roughing forest fire. All men in the immediate vicinity at once set to work to fight the fire and they soon found that their numbers were inadequate and the flames steadily gained on the fire fighters. The flames threatened to cross the road to the property of Shelley and Walker on the east side of the road. Greenview was called upon for assistance and responded to a man rendering valuable aid. About four o'clock a telephone message was received here, stating that more men were needed. In less than 10 minutes 10 men were on their way to the scene of the fire. The fire burned over about 160 acres of Mr. Richman's land, doing great damage to the timber and 40 cords of wood was destroyed."

This article is further evidence of the growing concern of the people in the county, toward the damage being done by uncontrolled forest fires. It is an excellent example of how neighbors responded as well as communities that were called upon for aid. This article also bears out George Nelson's description of how forest fires were dealt with during this period of Siskiyou County's history. This story will be found in chapter two.

The weather for the summer was warm and dry. June had a mean temperature of 79.7°, July 84.5° and August 85.9° in Yreka. The only precipitation was from a thunderstorm resulting in .81 inch of rain and hail.

August 5, "Lightning struck Rostel's barn at the mouth of Greenhorn, south of Yreka, setting fire to the hay. Seventy-five tons of hay and five wagons and other machinery was destroyed.

August 19, "The thunderstorm of last week was one of the most violent to visit Yreka in many years. Many trees were struck by lightning and set on fire down the Klamath below Oak Bar. Trees were also set afire in the Sisson area, but due to the heavy rain accompanying the lightning the fires were soon rained out."

August 22, "Fire caused by sparks from a steam thresher set grain field owned by H.L. Davis of Little Shasta ablaze. 600-800 sacks of wheat were destroyed."

September 9, "A residence in Humbug gulch was destroyed by fire. There was no one present at the time of the fire."

No mention was found of any major forest fire for this summer. However, there is little doubt but the two thunderstorms of August started many forest fires. But since there is no account of dense smoke in the atmosphere, it may be concluded that none of them became large.

In 1903 no mention was found of either thunderstorms or forest fires. The usual monthly record of weather data was also omitted. However, the following two articles are of interest to the subject of forest fires.

Sept. 1, 1903 - Ash Creek Sawmill Burned

"The Ash Creek Sawmill at Ash Creek east of McCloud was totally destroyed by fire last Wednesday night, August 26, also the drying kiln and over 4,500,000 feet of first class lumber. The Ash Creek store was saved."

In the book "Pine Across the Mountain" a picture of the Ash Creek mill is on page 36 and an account of the fire is given on page 41. There is no mention of the fire spreading to the forest, no doubt the reason being that the mill burned at night and spot fires were few if any even though the mill setting was surrounded by forest covered land.

Sept. 15, - Forest Reserves

"A.F. Porter of Washington, DC, agent of the Bureau of Forestry arrived Monday. He was accompanied by three field assistants, Mr. Kock, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Patterson. Mr. Porter will remain in the county about a week and his assistants will pass a month here. The objective is to make a complete examination of the county as to suitability of creating a forest reserve. Mr. Porter passed a good deal of his time with Mr. C.H. Edward of the Forest Reserve Committee and District Attorney Given. The matter was fully discussed and all data prepared by the committee was placed at Mr. Porter's disposal. He stated that in the creation of a forest reserve the Government would take in consideration the wishes of the people in the part affected, he further stated worthless land would not be incorporated therein. The commission will make its report to the Secretary of the Interior about February 1, 1904, and the matter will soon thereafter be determined."

In the 1907 issue of the Siskiyou Pioneer, Oscar J. Henry has an account of early day mining in the South Fork of the Scott River. He states

that the flume on the Fore Ditch was burned in 1903-04. The ditch was from the mouth of Jackson Creek to Callahan.

June 29, 1904 - Great Fire in Sisson

"A fire started in the rear of the candy store of the block south of Whiskey row about half past three last Sunday afternoon, and within two hours, fifty houses and \$200,000 worth of property was destroyed. Also, destroyed were several businesses."

July 13 - More Thunderstorms

"Last Wednesday afternoon a heavy electric storm prevailed with frequent flashes of lightning and heavy rolls of thunder, accompanied by a deluge of rain which cooled off the heated atmosphere. A cloudburst produced about 5 feet of water in Yreka Creek."

September 28 - Heavy Storm:

"The heavy storm of last week produced slightly less than 1½ inches of rain in Yreka, with heavy amounts of snow at the higher elevations."

No mention was found in the paper of forest fires or smoke in the atmosphere during the summer. No doubt some fires were started by the thunderstorms.

A search through both the Yreka Journal and the Siskiyou Daily Newspapers in 1905 did not produce an article on the establishment of the Klamath National Forest. It appears that the event went unnoticed at that time.

July 26, 1905

There is a very long article about thunderstorms. It gives an account of storms at Fort Jones, Etna, Yreka, and north of Yreka in the Siskiyou Mountains as well as in Butte Valley. The paper states that the storms did little toward cooling and clearing the atmosphere. Charles Fisher, who lives in Humbug at this time, told me that a fire burned in that area all summer and there is little doubt but that these storms were responsible for the fire reported in the next article.

August 23 - Timber Fires Rage in Mountains

"An extensive timber fire has been raging lately at Deadwood, also at the head of Greenhorn and Russian Creek on Salmon Mountain. Another fire has been burning in Kidder Creek in Scott Valley. The atmosphere has been quite smokey in this section in consequence."

September 20, "A heavy rain shower occurred last week along the lower Klamath between Hamburg and Happy Camp, which extinguished forest fires that have been raging for sometime in the timber of the mountains."

1905 has been another disastrous forest fire year, resulting in great damage to the timber resources of Siskiyou county. The fact that many of the fires burned for long periods of time indicates that little or no effort was taken to control them.

The Klamath National Forest was created by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt May 6, 1905. The first Forest Supervisor was L.P. Biglow and his appointment designated that he would have supervision of the Trinity, Klamath and Shasta Forests. I have been unable to find any evidence of any other action toward the establishing of an organization for the administration of the Klamath or Shasta Forests during this year except for the news release of October 11.

First Ranger Examination

This article dated Yreka Journal October 11, 1905 - "Richard P. Bigelow Forest Ranger-in-Charge of the Klamath on Trinity reserves, including a large portion of the Siskiyou, and Shasta county, notified us by circular that there is to be an examination for the position of Forest Ranger to take place in Weaverville and Quincy, California October the 16th. Anyone wanting to take this examination can apply to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C. for application blanks or any other information. All are eligible to take the examination between the ages of 21 and 40. The salary is from \$1800 to \$2500 per year and must be men who have had experience in surveying, woodcraft and general mountaineering work and good business ability."

1905

March 18, 1905, Governor Pardee uses his great influence to put a conservation bill through the legislature. A new Board created, consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and State Forester. E.T. Allen appointed first State Forester, July 12, 1905.

1906

June 30, 1906, Allen resigned; G.B. Lull appointed State Forester, County cooperation was stressed, and ten counties responded. Fire wardens appointed.

burning on the Klamath at the same time. One 700 acre fire in Thompson Creek below Seiad had one 4 man crew on it under Horace Phillips, Guard at Seiad. The most men on any one fire during this period was 53 on a 2,570 acres near the Forks of the Salmon. This general location of all of the 22 fires over 100 acres are shown on a photo at the end of this chapter.

69 fires were reported on in the Klamath for 1910, burning a total of 35,400 acres. The forest had a protection budget of \$13,200, with 22 Rangers and Guards on duty. The total cost of fighting all fires was \$10,900. This total cost would indicate that considerable time fighting fire was contributed by Volunteers. Looking back to this time, it is difficult to visualize the fire fighting of this period when compared with today's practices. Ranger Bill Gott reports on a 480 acre fire in Grouse Creek where only one man worked on the control.

In the following 12 pages, John H. Hatton gives a good review of the reason for protecting both public and private forests from fire and what the Forest Service has done in 1908 and 1909. He also makes a plea for the private holders of timber land to also spend some money for fire protection.

Forest Problems in the United States

Protection of Private Timber Lands from Fire

John H. Hatton,
Forest Service,
San Francisco, Calif.

That our forest resources are inseparately linked with all the other important resources and industries of the west does not admit of debate. We accept the statement as axiomatic. It is hard to conceive of an industry in this country which is not indirectly, if not directly, affected by our forests whether publicly or privately owned. Any injury to these resources, therefore, must necessarily reflect injury to all others even remotely related to them.

The last year or two we have been very diligently taking stock of our resources, both public and private. The results have been brought to our attention in various ways. Fortunately for posterity the wisdom and public spirit of such men as Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Pinchot and others who might be named both in private and public life, have closed the doors upon some of our public storehouses while this inventory has been going on. But we have made the inventory and we know just about where we stand.

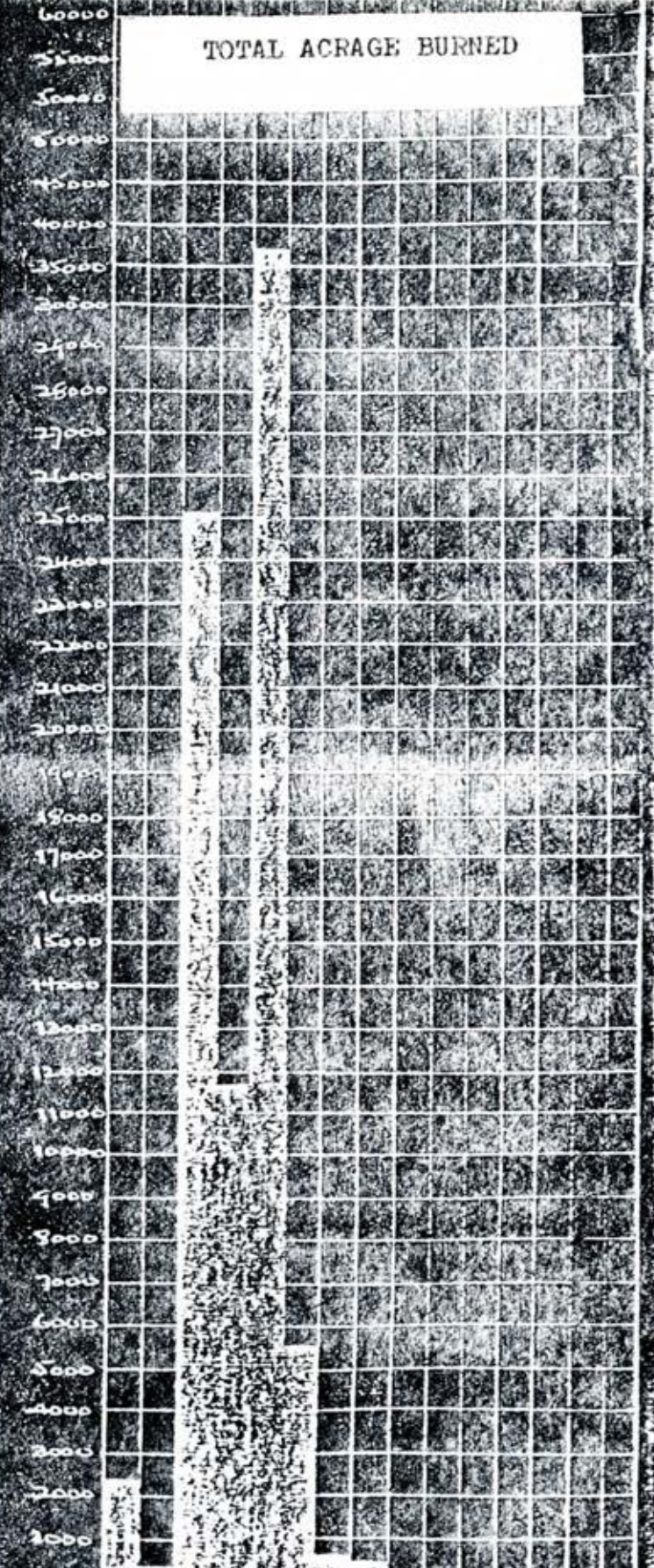
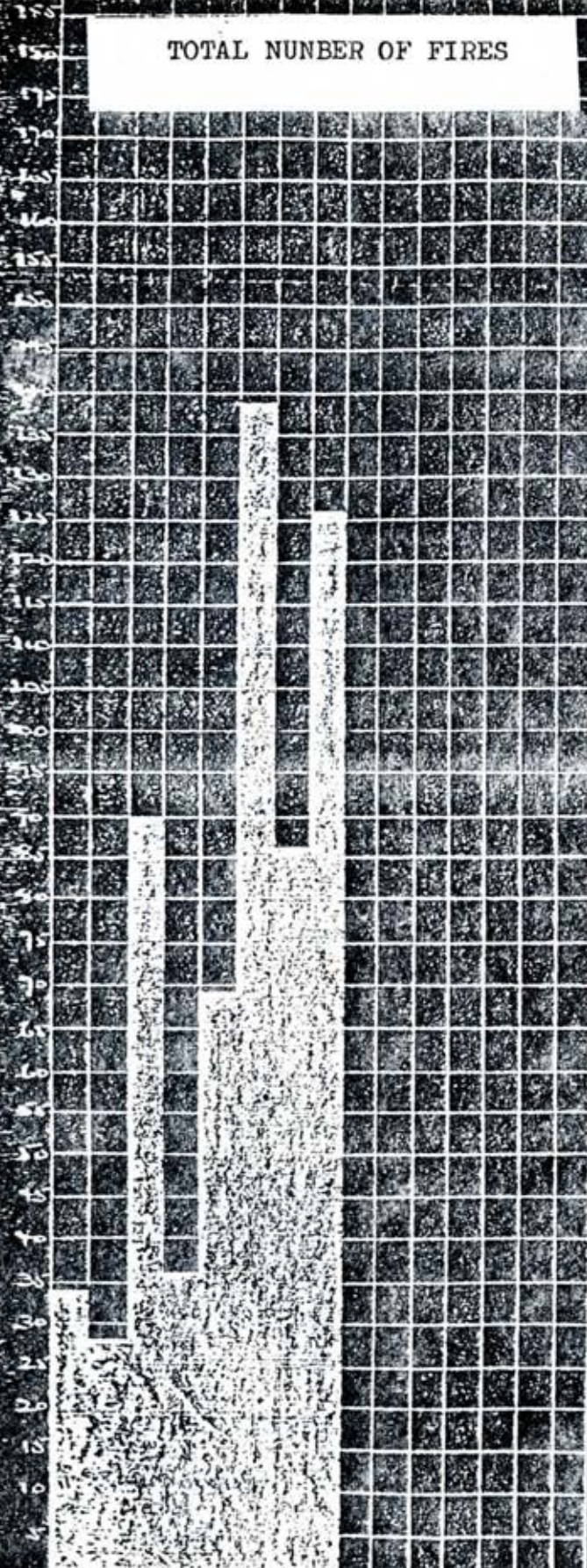
The ledger of our National resources under the item "timber" shows up very badly; so badly, in fact, that it makes little difference to private or public timber interests whether the present rate of consumption, and waste, and loss, will exhaust our timber supply in 20 years or in 50 years, or a hundred years: All of these periods of time must be stricken from the calendar. This country cannot afford either from the standpoint of public or the most selfish private interests, from the standpoint of the present or the standpoint of posterity, to leave them there. It is within the power and the will and the economy, we believe, of private timber owners to make this largely possible. And why?

"The United States," says one of the most carefully tabulated statements recently prepared on this question, "now has 550,000,000 acres of forested lands, or about one-fourth of the total area of continental United States. The original forests covered not less than 850,000,000 acres. Publicly owned forests cover one-fourth of the total and contain one-fifth of the timber standing; privately owned forests cover the remainder of the timber standing. Scientific forestry is now practiced on seventy percent of the publicly owned forests and on less than one percent of the privately owned forests. Not less than 50,000,000 acres of forest land are burned over annually and since 1870 forest fires have each year destroyed an average of \$50,000,000.00 worth of timber. We destroy by fire in one year enough timber to supply the whole Nation for three months. "Ninety-nine percent of the forests in private hands is devastated by destructive use and the scourge of unchecked fires, while less than one percent is properly handled for successive crops or effectively protected from fire."

The total amount of timber in the State of California approximates 228,480,000,000 board feet, over half of which is privately owned. Rated at \$3.00 per M., which is very moderate stumpage value, the private timber in California,

TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRES

TOTAL ACRAGE BURNED

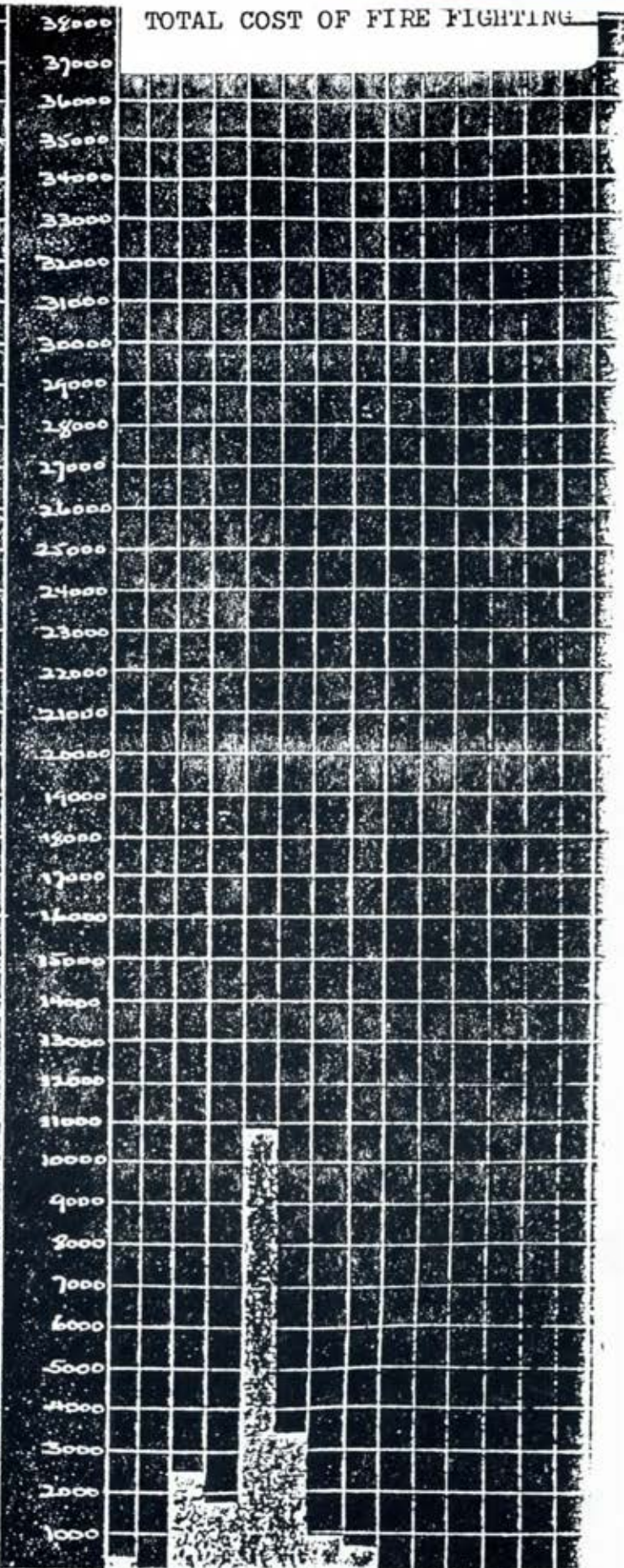
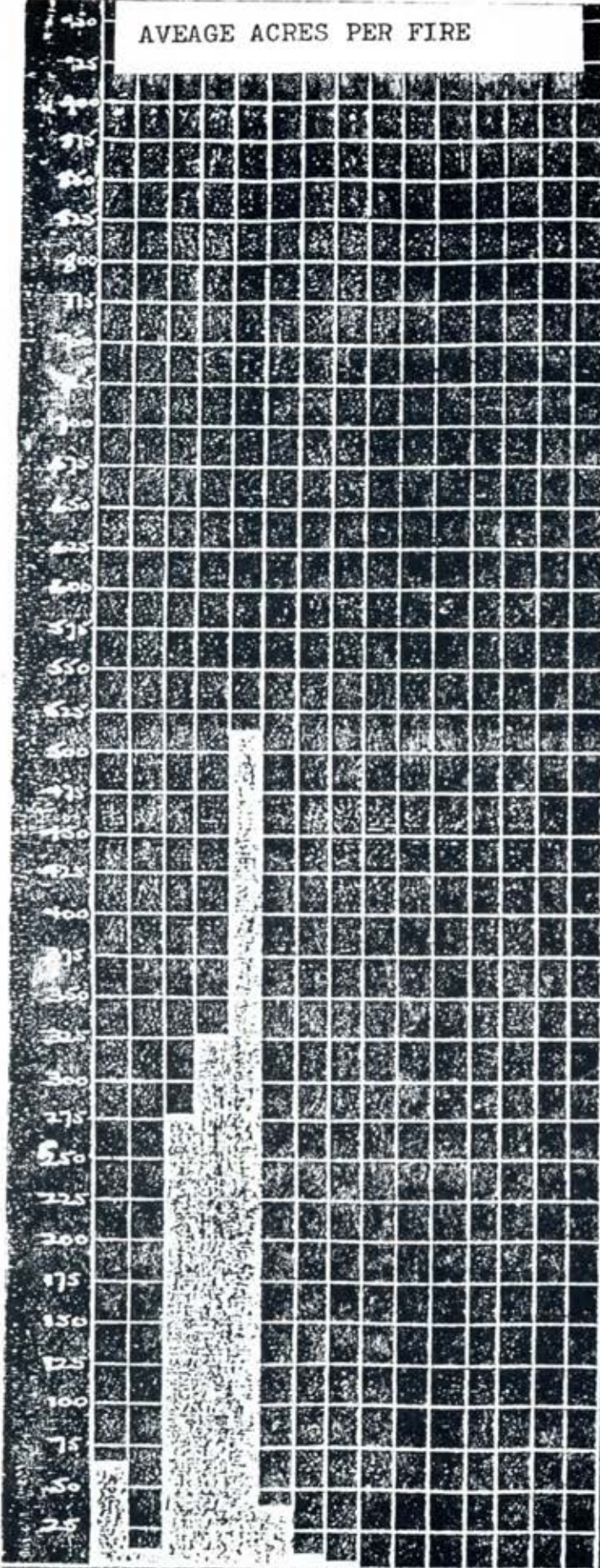


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AVERAGE ACRES PER FIRE

TOTAL COST OF FIRE FIGHTING



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mile. Again Guard Miller was sent and followed by Guard Werter.

A total of 24 men were hired this time and two fire camps were set up to handle the three fires. The lower camp handled the first two fires and the upper camp the other one. The fires were controlled at 360 acres 9-24.

1916 was the beginning of a period of large fires. The largest of the 10 or more being in the Cedar Mt. area. There were a number of fires set supposedly by sheep men to improve the range. Some 10,000 acres was burned in this manner. The Klamath Forest also had trouble with incendiary fires. However, none reached the size of the fire on Cedar Mountain.

200 acres on Butcher Hill on the east side of Yreka burned. No action was taken to control the fire until it began to threaten buildings. Forest Supervisor Rider and Rangers Hill and Finley were among the volunteers who responded to the need to protect property from the brush fire. The State had not yet at this time any organized fire protection in Siskiyou County.

There were more than 260 fires in the County, with lightning being the major cause. However, incendiary was a real problem, in one case 5 fires were set on the east side of McKinney Creek, a short distance up from the River. All 5 burned more than 40 acres but were controlled as separate fires.

Yreka had only 12.29 inches of rain from July, 1915 to the end of June, 1916.

1917 was a disastrous year for Siskiyou County from the standpoint of many forest fires. On the Klamath forest this fire season started on January 22, with two incendiary set fires on the Salmon River District and ended with a fall rain on November 2.

227 fires occurred on the Klamath, 25 of them became fires of over 60 acres and 11 were over 1,000 acres. The largest fire was in Tea Creek caused by lightning. This fire burned over 9600 acres, starting July 19th and being controlled August 14th. The largest number of fire fighters at any one time was 68. Henry Erhart was the fire boss. However, this was not the largest fire in the country that year. Eight lightning fires burned together in the lava beds on the McCloud District and covered 78,400 acres. More details on this fire and others are covered in separate narratives.

In 1917 there were 229 fires on the Klamath. 103 were man caused. Many were deliberately set, the reason is not entirely clear at the time of this writing. A review of the fire reports laid blame on the miners, cattle and sheep men, and hunters. The larger fires were the result of thunderstorms causing fires in the roadless areas. It was not uncommon for the fire fighters to walk from 10 to 20 miles before reaching the fire to begin control action. Most Forest Service employees were required to furnish a horse for transportation.

World War I was at it's peak making man power scarce. Many fires were controlled by 3 to 12 men, even those reaching 600 acres in size. No record was found where any fire had more than 100 men engaged in the control. The lightning storms of July 14, 15 and 16 started more than 200 fires in the County, which really taxed the manpower supply and resulted in a number of the larger fires.

Henry Erhart's Story of the Tea Creek fire of 1917 -

"I went to work as a forest guard for the Forest Service at the Harley Ranch along the Klamath River in 1915 on June 1st. I was required to furnish a horse and feed the horse and was paid \$80.00 per month. It seemed to me that all we did was to fight fire, going from one fire to another.

In July, 1917, I received orders from the Orleans Ranger Station to go to a fire in Tea Creek. We always had two days rations and a blanket tied to our saddle and when we received orders to go to a fire we only had to saddle the horse and we were on our way.

There were no roads in this area at that time and only a few trails. I recruited my two brothers, one 15 and one 17. I was 20 years old. The three of us started up the river trail toward Tea Creek. On the way I picked up Indian boys of the Pepper family. We continued on to Tea Creek and turned up Tea Creek. There was no trail from this point. We had two horses and each man carried an axe and the head of a hoe. We would cut a limb or some other piece of wood and make a handle for the hoe after reaching the fire. The handles were usually rough and hard on our hands.

After turning up Tea Creek we could soon see the smoke from the fire. The going was getting rougher as we followed through brush and timber, over ridges and across gullies. Soon we could go no further with the horses. We took the



saddles off and turned the horses loose and taking our supplies, continued on foot. After crossing more ridges and fighting our way through brush, we reached the fire. We picked out a Camp site and began work on the fire. We had no lights to work by at night and could only work by using the light of the spreading fire. By night we were too tired to work so we returned to our camp. The next morning, after bacon and rice for breakfast we went back to the fire line. This continued for four days, never being quite able to get control of the fire.

One night when we returned to our camp we found that a burning snag had fallen right through our camp. If this would have happened at night we surely would have all been killed. Our safety practices were not what they are today.

When we returned to Camp one night, John Allen with 18 men and a pack horse had made their way to the fire from Orleans. John Allen was

one of the best fire fighters of those days. His daughter later married Wes Hotelling, who took the Ranger examination in 1920 and became the District Ranger at Orleans.

The fire was becoming more difficult to control each day. John Allen took his crew to continue our fire line and I took my two brothers and the two Indian boys and went to control a spot fire. The fire became a crown fire - there was a great roar, something like a thunderstorm. I had never heard nor seen anything like it. By this time the fire had become large, spreading over several ridges into Ukonom Creek.

We had to begin our control action all over again. We moved our camp over in Ukonom Creek. A pack mule train came in once a week with supplies, and we fought fire for 30 days. When I left this fire both my shirts and pants were ragged and torn in many places.

The fire report gives the area of this fire at

9,600 acres. In addition to burning into the south side of Ukonom Creek, it burned out the head of Stanshaw and Sandy Bar Creek and almost up to Haypress Meadows. This fire was started by lightning on July 19th and was controlled on August 14. The total man power was 68 and it cost \$3,101.17. There is no good estimate of the total damage, but snag patches were still in evidence in the 1960's, as well as many brush patches.

1918 proved to be another year with many large forest fires. This fire season was like that of 1917. It began early, with the first fire on record occurring on April 7th, the result of an escaped brush burning. From that date until mid-September there were probably few days that men somewhere in the County were not fighting fire.

Lightning accounted for all of the major fires during 1918. The Klamath alone had 68 lightning fires, of which 16 were over 600 acres in size. The largest single fire was in the Ash Creek Butte area of the McCloud district. This fire was started by lightning on June 12th and burned over 26,000 acres. The second largest burn was in Wooley Creek where two fires in Pleasant Valley, one in Haypress Creek and one on Black Mt. combined with one in Wooley Creek to cover 25,000 acres. Two lightning fires near the town of McCloud covered about 4,000 acres. Two fires in the North Fork of the Salmon combined to burn over an area of 7600 acres. One was from lightning and one was set.

A lightning storm on June 12th set the stage for a summer of continuous fire fighting. There were other storms in July and August. Like 1917, manpower was hard to come by. The fires were fought by small crews who lived on or near the fire line. They would move their camp as the control line progressed around the fire. This method of fire fighting was referred to as "loose herding."

In the records I found a simple statement of policy by the Forest Supervisor "Steps will be taken by every Forest Officer to take whatever action is required to control every fire discovered." Also, the first law enforcement reports found were made by Ranger Harley on fires of the Salmon River district. A brief account of fires 600 acres and over follows:

A lightning storm on June 12th was responsible for starting many fires in Siskiyou County, Ash Creek on the McCloud being the larger, 2600 acres. The fire burned through mostly virgin forest ranging from the Yellow Pine stand

in the McCloud flats to the White and Red fire on Ash Creek Butte.

The West side of the Klamath Forest was hard hit with the following fires burning together and forming a burned area almost as large as the Ash Creek fire. Black Butte, 3940 acres, was controlled June 25th by 24 fire fighters.

Hay Press Creek, 1920 acres, was contained June 27th by 23 men.

Pleasant Valley, 4,000 acres. This fire was not discovered until June 26th. Action was taken by Ranger Perry Hill from Yreka and Woodbury of the San Francisco office. The fire was estimated to be 2,000 acres in size at the time of discovery and was controlled July 12th.

A second fire was also discovered in Pleasant Valley and controlled by the same force used on the first. This fire covered 2560 acres.

1918 was the 3rd dry year, with only 11.08 inches of rain in Yreka.

George Nelson was able to recall some of the details of a fire named Trapper Creek. The fire occurred September 4, 1918 and was caused by one of the bath houses at Cinnabar Springs burning. Cinnabar Spring is located in the West Fork of Beaver Creek and was a mineral spring where people with rheumatic aches and pains went to take hot mineral water baths for relief from such ailments. The springs could be reached only by trail. One had to walk or ride horseback from the end of the road at the mouth of Fish Gulch in Beaver Creek. It was 15 miles from there to the springs. In spite of this isolation, many people went to Cinnabar Spring in those days, either as a vacation spot or for therapy effect from bathing in the water from the spring which was heated by coils in a big drum like stove that was fired with wood.

The first work to be done on the fire was by Mr. Lund who had a homestead near the springs. He sighted the smoke from his house about noon and went to investigate the reason for the smoke. Upon arrival at the fire he found it spreading up slope in a northeasterly direction. He recruited two men at the Springs and with axe and shovels began the construction of a fire line.

In the meantime the fire was discovered by W.P. Fisher who was a lookout fireman stationed on Deadwood Mt. in the daytime. Fisher would ride horseback each day from his home in Humbug Creek to the mountain top where he would watch for smoke and if the fire was within an assigned area he would ride to the fire and take control action. Otherwise, he would return home

each evening. On this day, when he observed the smoke he reported it to the District Ranger. However, the smoke was shown over an intervening ridge and his estimated location was somewhat in error. The fire report mentions this fact and gives it as a reason for a delay in the initial action by the Forest Service on the fire. Just how much delay is not stated.

George Nelson was one of several men sent to the fire by the Forest Service. He rode his horse "Nig", a very fine coal black Mountain horse, to the fire, arriving in the late evening. George found the three men still building fire line. George, still riding "Nig", tried to scout the fire to see how big it was and just where it had spread. He soon realized the fire was 3 or 4 hundred acres or maybe larger. He returned to the spring and found that two more Forest Service men had arrived. This now made a total of 6 men. From the two Forest Service men he learned that as far as they knew no other fire fighters were coming. Mr. Lund had returned to the homestead to look after his livestock and milk the cow. This left only five men. George mounted his horse again and rode back down Beaver Creek to the store on the Klamath River where he put in a request for additional help. From the report it appears that five additional men were sent. After something to eat, George and his horse made the trip back to Cinnabar Springs. He arrived shortly after daylight. It is estimated that he and his horse had covered 45 to 50 miles in the 30 hour period.

At this time there were only 4 men and George to work on the fire. The fire report shows that a total of 10 men were engaged in the control action and cost the Forest Service \$408.98. The report lists the area of the fire as 600 acres and it was declared out on September 11th. George's recollection of the size was something more than 600 acres and when I came to Oak Knoll Ranger Station in 1933 the fire scar was still quite visible. I also thought the fire to be more like 1,000 acres. In studying the reports of those days the fires were not mapped. The practice was to estimate and round off the reported area.

1919 was a year of few fires but probably there was a carry over of the dryness of the heavy fuel for 11 fires became large out of a total of 110 in the County. The McCloud area had 7 of the large fires, with the Camp 1 fire about 25 miles northeast of McCloud becoming 2300 acres. This was a fire caused by logging opera-

tions, a cause which was rapidly becoming one of the principle causes of the larger man caused fires. This, no doubt, was due to the ever increasing area of slash being created by the logging activities. The largest fire on the Klamath was a fire set in Nordheimer Creek on July 2nd. This fire was left as out several times but was either reset or would break out again. It was finally controlled on September 2nd at 5700 acres by 60 men. There was a state fire burning near the Wetzel Mill north of Grass Lake in August. This area, being outside the National Forest boundary at this date, no action was taken until August 25, when Ranger Perry Hill at Yreka and 7 men took action to keep the fire off National Forest land. The fire covered 1200 acres.

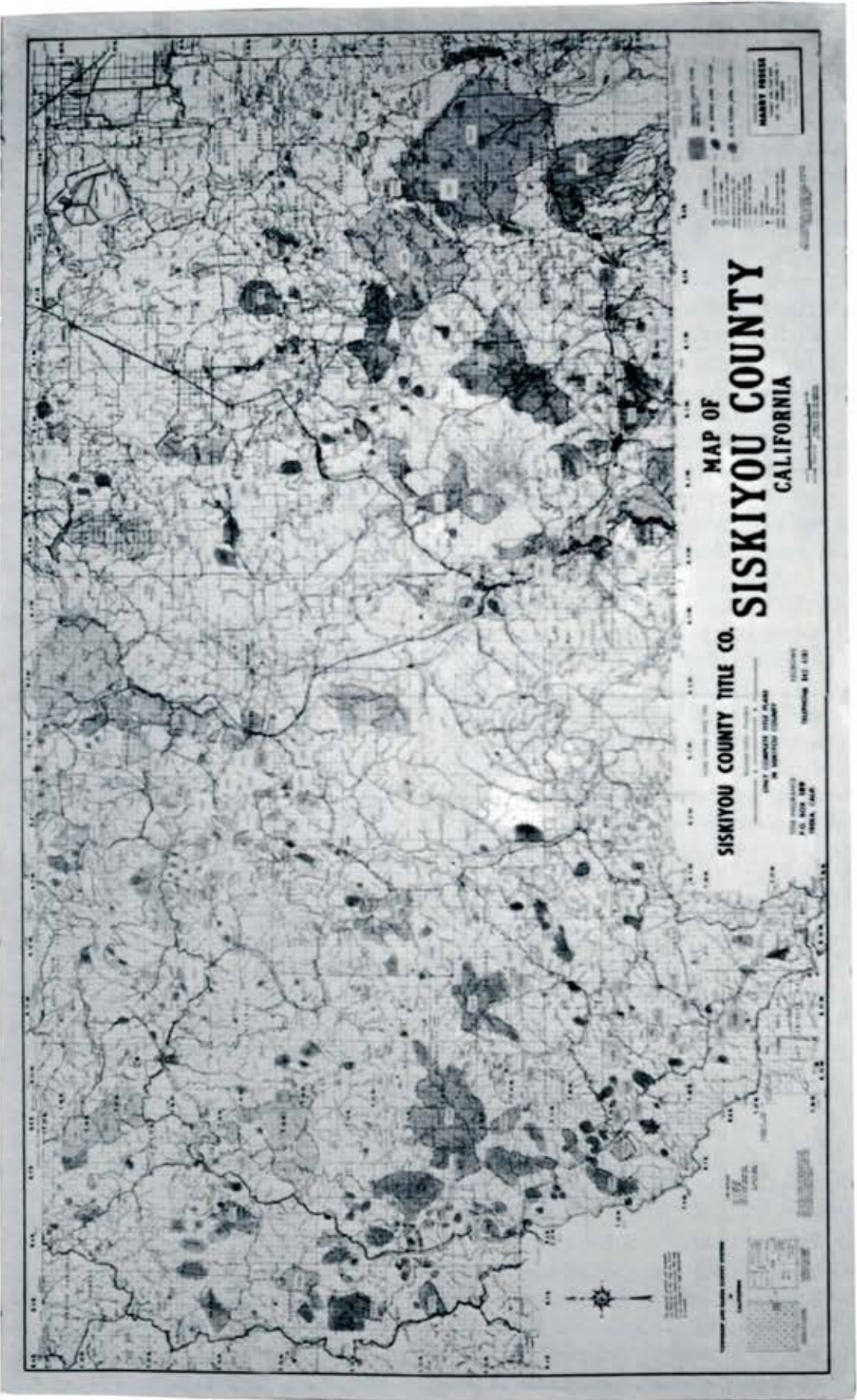
1920 was a long hot fire season. There were about 126 fires in all during the year. The McCloud District had most of the fire action.

The fire season started with a bang on May 9, 1920 on the McCloud District. A party had been burning brush in the Southwest corner of the town of McCloud when the wind came up and the fire escaped to a logged over area and burned 400 acres of logging slash and brush. 36 men from McCloud under direction of the Ranger, all volunteers, fought the fire that afternoon and night. Rain came the next day and completed the control job.

On June 3rd lumbering operation near the Benton Mill in Pomeroy Creek started a fire which burned 200 acres of cut over land. The fire was completely controlled by men working for the lumber operation. This was a practice used by the Forest Service when lumber outfits caused a fire. They were responsible for the suppression action and the cost.

June 7th another lumbering fire burned 120 acres near Weed Camp 2, which was located 3½ miles north of Whaleback Mountain. This fire burned 120 acres of mature timber and was controlled by Weed loggers.

The McCloud River Lumber Company logging operation caused a fire near Toad Mountain, which burned for many days and covered 16,160 acres. It burned eastward toward Papoose Hill in the lava beds. This fire caused great damage due Guard stations as such had not yet come into being. A guard usually used his home or a ranch as his headquarters. Communications were limited to a grounded telephone circuit, that is, a single line strung on trees. Some of the lookouts used a heliograph to signal the messages in Morse Code to another lookout which had a telephone.



MAP OF
SISKIYOU COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

SISKIYOU COUNTY TITLE CO.

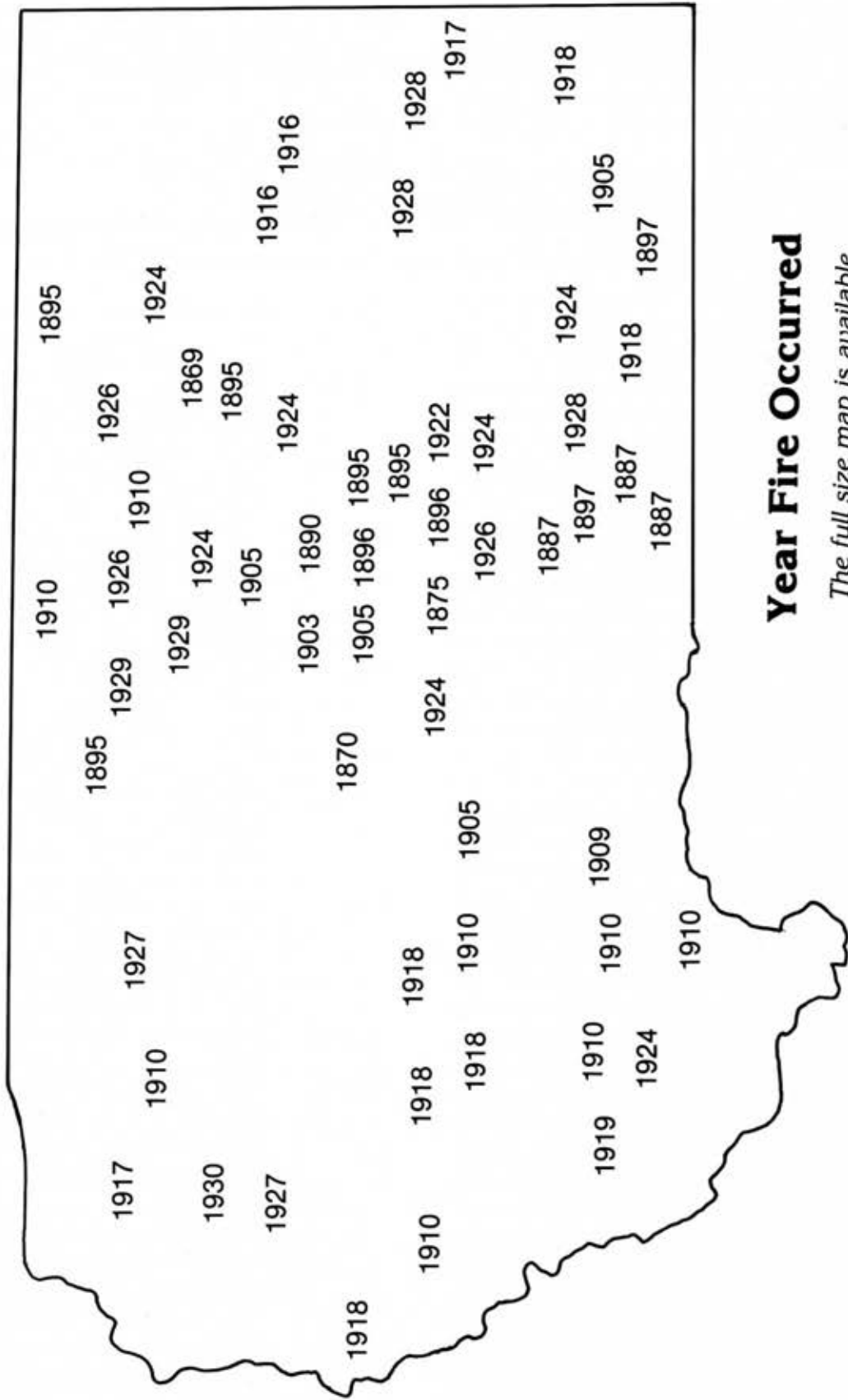
SOLE COMPASS PLOT PLANS
IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

THE HARRY PRESS
P.O. BOX 187
HELEN, CALIF.

ESTABLISHED
1912

WASHINGTON 342 131

HARRY PRESS
PUBLISHER



Year Fire Occurred

The full size map is available
at

The Siskiyou County Historical Museum

One of the recommendations of the 1924 Board of Review was that a dispatcher be assigned who would be responsible for starting the initial action on all fires and to follow up with reinforcements and supplies as necessary. The Shasta Forest assigned this job to the district protective assistant. This may have been one reason why the Shasta had no large fires within Siskiyou County in 1925.

Nineteen twenty-six was the first of three years of below normal precipitation. Yreka recorded only 11.83 inches. This was 65% of normal. For this reason, fire season started early.

The first large fire in the County occurred on June 27th in Guys Gulch south of Yreka on State protected land. The Klamath sent 10 men to assist the California Division of Forestry. The fire burned 10,000 acres and was controlled June 29th.

The following account of the early stages of the Bogus fire was given to me by Mr. Churchill who operated a small sawmill in the area of where five lightning fires were started in the virgin timber land of mixed conifer on July 21st. The Forest Service asked Mr. Churchill to take the initial action on the five fires in the vicinity of the sawmill. They put lines around some of the five fires by going from one fire to another. Mr. Churchill said that it soon became apparent that they had to have some help to hold the fires they had lined and to start control upon the remaining fires they had not reached. He went to the nearest phone and called the Forest Supervisor's office in Yreka and explained the situation and requested reinforcements and a Forest officer to take charge. He was told that there was no help to be sent and for him to do the best he could with his mill crew. To say the least, he was disappointed in the response received to his request for help. He returned to the fires, all of which were beginning to get out of hand. He said without help, we could do no more so we pulled back to the mill with the idea of protecting it if it became necessary due to the uncontrolled fires in the area. All five fires burned together and covered 1984 acres of very fine timber. This area became the famous Bogus burn and brush field with thousands of snags standing in the brush. In due respect for the Forest Service, it should be stated that they still had men on large fires resulting from lightning of July 11th. The Titus Ridge 23,680 acres, Thompson Creek 8,320 acres, South Ukonom 300 acres, Baldy Mt. 200 acres and Cliff Valley 160 acres, plus three incendiary

fires two on July 16th; Lime Gulch 4,296 acres, Clair Hill 490 acres, and Mono Road on July 17th.

The Klamath Forest alone had 27 fires ranging from 100 acres to 23,000 in size during the 1926 summer. The story of the Titus Ridge fire gives a fair account of what fire fighting was like during this season.

The Titus Ridge fire was caused by lightning in the afternoon of July 11, 1926 and resulted in the larger of the major fires in this period of the Forest Service's history. The fire burned over an area of 23,680 acres of mostly virgin stand of timber. The fire report shows a loss of 12,500 million board feet of timber.

The initial action on the fire was good. Baldy Mt. reported the fire within minutes after the lightning struck the tree and set the fire. All of the regular Forest Service employees were already engaged in fighting other fires. R.L. Southard, a local resident, and his two sons were dispatched. After crossing the Klamath River at Ferry Point and walking 5 miles, they arrived at the fire before dark and by morning, had a line around the fire estimated to be 2 acres in size. No additional help was sent so mop-up was limited by the 3 fighters who had worked all night to construct slightly more than one-quarter of a mile of line. Southard sent one of the boys back to Ferry Point crossing for help. Early on July 13th, seven more men and a fire camp was sent. The new crew built line all afternoon and night but were never able to complete a line around the fire.

On July 14th, additional help was requested from Orleans and Somes Bar. Sixteen men were sent. The Baldy Mt. Lookout was reporting a rapid spread and Ranger Carter as an observer in an airplane reported the fire spreading in three directions and that control was an enormous job. Seven more men were sent from the Coon Hollow fire. By nightfall, there were 39 men on the fire. The fire was estimated to be 1,200 acres at this time and burning into Lick Creek, a drainage of Elk Creek. Ranger Suttcliff and Lawrence Roberts were sent to direct the action. As men were being released from lightning fires on other districts, they were being sent to this fire.

July 15th and 16th, the fire continued to be pushed by afternoon winds from the west into Elk Creek. On July 17th, Assistant Forest Supervisor Perry Hill arrived in Happy Camp to assist in directing the action and men were sent from Hap-

py Camp making a total of 80 men and two camps now on the fire.

On the afternoon of July 20th, the west wind pushed the fire downslope across Elk Creek into the side drainage of Stanza and Dolittle Creeks. A new camp was established at the mouth of Lick Creek and another on the ridge at the head of Timkin Creek. Crews of 3 to 5 men continued to arrive in Happy Camp from other districts and were sent on to one of the three fire camps. All supplies and men for the Southard and Timkin fire camps had to be boated across the river at Ferry Point. The fire across Elk Creek was soon placed under control, but on July 25th, a strong westerly wind blew the main fire across Elk Creek in a five-mile wide front from Stanga to Cougar Creeks. Crews were sent from Scott River to build line on the ridge between Dolittle and Cliff Valley to head off the new run. There were now 150 men working on the fire line. The work continued until all fire lines were completed on July 29th. Eighteen days of continuous fire line construction all with hand tools.

The Orleans and Scott River crews were released on July 30th. The remaining forces continued to mop-up until August 19th when most of the forces were released.

Many of the fire fighters had been on this fire for 38 days. All of the camps were supplied by mule packtrains. It was not uncommon for a crew of 5 to 10 men to leave camp and build hand line for 24 to 36 hours without ever returning to the fire camp. The Klamath did not at this time have any formal dispatching system. On the districts, the Rangers wives became telephone operators when the Rangers were on fires. The Forest still was not requesting aid from other forests but rather relied upon their own resources, which depended upon using local men to control many of the lightning fires.

O
January 13, 1927.
Fire - Klamath
Board of Review, 1926.

MEMORANDUM FOR SUPERVISOR:

The following comments represent the high lights of the Board of Review deliberations on your Forest as I see them. The Board will submit a general report later on that will be given to the entire District.

By far the most important points developed

were: (1) The part the Supervisor and his staff should play in fire suppression; (2) The place the District Rangers must fill in such work; (3) The very urgent need for following up the initial suppression efforts of local men; (4) The solving of the incendiary problem; (5) The developing of a comprehensive Public Relations program to see what can be done to change the local sentiment on fires; (6) The need for calling for outside help sooner; (7) The quick mobilization of qualified man power on fires; (8) A full realization of our responsibility to our cooperators.

In connection with the first point, on which your organization failed badly this year, I believe that you or some competent member of your staff should be on every large fire, remaining on the job until control is assured unless you are called away by some more serious situation arising, on some other part of the Forest. To make this possible you will have to develop Chesebro into a real Executive Assistant, trained to act as dispatcher, giving him such clerical help as is needed. Mr. Hill's assignment to the Fire Chief job and the assistance of Mr. Wooldridge with the improvement program will also be steps in the direction of solving the fire difficulties. The value of being on all large fires is that you can know first-hand that everything possible is being done to handle them properly; that you can study the developments with the idea of improving the fire suppression technique; and above all, that you can give the man in charge the backing of some one in whom he has full confidence.

As to the second point, it appeared that Rangers Carter and Hickey did not take much direct action in the field on the supervision of their fire suppression jobs. Ranger Simson, too, erroneously allowed the press of other work to prevent him from getting out onto the Bogus fire as soon as he should have. Here again the only way to handle fires is for the man in charge to get out onto the actual jobs.

The third point is vital in a country that contains such a poor and undependable local population that must be called on for the initial attack at times of lightning concentrations. Your three worst fires were caused from failures on the part of such men, though of course one of these men was on our payroll as a guard. The results secured by Rangers Bigelow and Young in their follow-ups showed clearly the value of this; and if the Ukanom, Titus Ridge and Bogus fires could have been visited by a qualified Forest officer in the early stages, as appeared quite possible in at

members of your force whose work last year was not up to the desired standard, as well as securing a stronger man for Orleans, should mean a lot to you in actual accomplishment on fires this year. We are confidently expecting that it will.

*S.B. Show
District Forester.*

The 1928 summer was another dry one with only 64% of the normal precipitation. Due to the dry nature of the fire season, few lightning fires occurred in Siskiyou County. The Klamath had only 39 fires caused by lightning, far below the average of 80 and the third all-time low in numbers of lightning fires for the Forest. Not so for the McCloud District and that part of the Sacramento District that is in Siskiyou County. The McCloud had dry lightning on August 27th that started 26 fires, two of which were to become major fires. The following is my own account and experience of the two fires.

Panther Meadows fire started just northeast of the Meadows on the side of Mt. Shasta. I was working for the McCloud River Lumber Co. at the time. Assistant Ranger Bill Clifford requested that I be sent to the fire to help him as a crew leader. I had taken over and directed the action on a fire for him the year before when he became ill from being stung by yellowjackets and had to withdraw from the fireline. Ranger Clifford had a lot of respect for my leadership. I arrived at the fire driving my own car about noon with lunches for the 8 or 10 men on the fireline. The fire was about 10 to 15 acres in brush with a road on one side and a line across the upper edge. The west side was open. I took 5 men and pushed the line construction downslope burning out as we went and completed the line tying into the road on the east side. A fire camp had been set up in the meadow and the first meal was being served. With the line completed and burned out but not mopped up, most of the fire fighters went to camp for supper. While in camp, the wind switched from up slope to down slope as it usually did about dark each day. It seemed to be unusually strong this evening. The fire took off in a southeasterly direction toward Signal Butte. It should be pointed out at this time that Stevens Pass fire was making its first major run also.

About midnight, a logging crew arrived and the wind had subsided. I took this fresh crew and

built line the rest of the night on the Signal Butte side.

The next morning, the District Ranger from the Sacramento District was sent in to take over as fire boss. I was burning out the line I had constructed during the night when the Ranger showed up on the line with overhead and fresh men from off-Forest. I was relieved and sent to camp. I rested in camp the rest of the day and that evening, I was released from the fire and returned to McCloud. The next day, I returned to work for the Company.

I later learned that Ranger Clifford and the District Ranger, who was the new fire boss, had an argument over me and that was the reason for sending me back to McCloud.

The Panther Meadows fire, after burning some 2,800 acres and running into a 1918 burn on the west side of Squaw Valley Creek, was controlled 5 days later by 168 men and 4 off-Forest overhead. While all of this was going on, the Stevens Pass fire about 22 miles to the east was burning a much larger area.

The Stevens Pass fire was started by the same thunderstorm as set the Panther Meadows fire. It should have never been anything other than a small fire. This account of the initial action I learned from the records when I was the fire guard the next year at McCloud and my own personal knowledge. I was again loaned to the Forest by the Company when Dutch Sullaway, the District Ranger at McCloud, asked me to take over the mop-up and patrol of the Pumice Stone Mt. division. This was a 6-mile stretch of fire line from Red Cap Mt. to a point about 3½ miles southeast of Garner Mt.

Back to the beginning of the action. The dispatcher at McCloud asked the Long-Bell Lumber Co. to take action on this fire the evening of the storm. They sent a man from the Tennant Logging Camp which was only 8 miles from the fire. The next day by 10 A.M., the fire began to smoke up and Jim Stewart, the lookout on Black Fox Mt., reported this to the McCloud Ranger Station. The dispatcher in turn called the Tennant Logging Camp and he was told that the fire had a good line around it and could not get away. Nothing else was done. The smoke continued to increase and Jim Stewart called the dispatcher again. He was told that the fire could not get away. The following was taken from Jim Stewart's lookout diary: "3:45 P.M.: It looks to me like the fire is already over the line and I pray it really makes a fire." Next afternoon, August

27th, when the fire was running toward the north-east through brush and timber, Jim wrote in his diary, "Dear God, I did not mean like that."

The facts are that when the fire continued to smoke, the Harris-Springs Guard who had been on another fire all night returned to Harris Springs and called in. He was asked to go and check on the Stevens Pass fire but he did not go until he had a nap and rested. It was too late then. For this failure of duty, he was fired from his Guard position a few days later. This may have been one of the reasons I was recruited to take over a section of mop up.

The Stevens Pass fire covered 65,000 acres in a period of five days, becoming the second largest fire to ever have occurred in Siskiyou County.

There were many unburned islands inside the final control line and my crew's job was to go inside the final line and build firelines to keep the fire from spreading into these islands as well as patrolling the final fireline in the division. I started out with 8 men. We worked each day from daylight to dark doing our own cooking before and after working on the mop-up project. The crew was down to five of us by late in September and on October 3rd, it began to snow at our camp. For this work, I received 35¢ per hour for a 12-hour day. The crew members received 25¢ per hour for the same number of hours.

The Klamath fared much better in 1928 having only four fires over 100 acres and the largest of these was an incendiary fire on Slater Creek which burned 1,500 acres at the end of August.

A Board of Review was held on the Shasta Forest resulting, in addition to the firing of the Harris Springs Guard, the assigning of a new Fire Deputy and transferring of the Forest's former Fire Deputy.

In 1929, there was another dry, hot summer. The annual precipitation was only 14.88 inches. Not only was the summer dry, but the dryness continued into the late fall with the first rain occurring December 7th. There were a total

of 236 fires in the National Forest protection area. It is not known how many were in State protected areas.

The first fire over 100 acres in size was an incendiary fire in Tyler Gulch in the south end of Scott Valley. This was the first of 15 fires which were set in the Klamath during the summer and fall that became large. The McGill fire set on August 19th burned 2,867 acres.

The largest fire of the season started from a burning automobile at Badger Creek and burned over Badger Mt. and almost into Hawkinsville. The fire covered 5000 acres the first day and night and was controlled the next day by 161 men. This was the first time fire fighters and off forest overhead were sent to the Klamath to assist in fire suppression.

There is a story about Perry Hill, who at this time was the administrative assistant to the Forest Supervisor in Yreka. He loaded up the fire camp in Yreka and took it down the Klamath to Badger Creek. By the time he got there, the fire was almost to the top of Badger Mountain. So he decided to go to Badger Gap west of Hawkinsville. By the time he reached this point, the fire front had already passed. "Oh, Hell", he said and took the camp back to the warehouse in Yreka.

Nine of the 15 fires over 100 acres in size occurred after October 10th when the regular protection force had gone off duty. The last one was an incendiary fire in Wyman Gulch down river from Happy Camp. It was set on December 2nd and was controlled at 500 acres by 21 men on December 6th.

I closed Grizzly Peak Lookout on December 7th and hiked the 8 miles to the McCloud River in a snow storm.

Since the Klamath had experienced another severe fire season, the District Office in San Francisco scheduled another Board of Review. Part of the problem was on the Orleans Ranger District, most of which was in Humboldt County and those fires were not made a part of this history. It should be noted that the Board of Review was held in October and several of the large fires were yet to occur. A copy of the announcement of the Board and the findings of the Board follow.

FIRES
100 Acres and over

1920

Old Mill Camp

Sec. 1, T. 39 N., R. 3 W.
May 9 Brush burning 400 Acres
Controlled May 10 36 Men

Picayune Cr.

Sec. 6, T. 39 N., R. 12 W.
May 16 Mic. 100 Acres
Controlled May 19 413 Man hours

Pomery

Sec. 14, T. 44 N., R. 2 W.
June 3 Lumbering 200 Acres
Controlled June 4 28 Men

Camp 2

Sec. 23, T. 42 N., R. 2 E.
June 7 Lumbering 120 Acres
Controlled June 8 33 Men

Dillion Cr.

Sec. 33, T. 15 N., R. 5 E.
July 5 Lightning 640 Acres
Controlled July 10 357 Man hours

Chovel Cr.

Sec. 35, T. 48 N., R. 3 W.
July 25 Camp Fire 320 Acres
Controlled July 31 1,837 Man hours

Indian Cr.

Sec. 14 & 15, T. 44 N., R. 9 W.
August 13 Unknown 307 Acres
Controlled August 14 898 Man hours

Wooley Cr.

Sec. 29, T. 12 N., R. 7 E.
August 14 Smoker 1,200 Acres
Controlled August 22 1,500 Man hours

Toad Mt.

Sec. 8, T. 41 N., R. 2 E.
August ? Lumbering 16,160 Acres
Controlled by rain in September

Bear Foot Cave

August 15? Lightning 300 Acres
Controlled August 25 133 Men

Oro Fino

Sec. 6, T. 43 N., R. 9 W.
September 4 Smoker 510 Acres
Controlled September 5 414 Man hours

Grass Lake

September 11 Incendiary 150 Acres
Controlled September 13 21 Men

1921

Dow

Sec. 3 & 4, T. 41 N., R. 5 W.
July 19 Lightning 800 Acres
Controlled July 22 106 Men

1922

Shackleford

Sec. 7 & 12, T. 42 N., R. 11 W.
August 20 Camp Fire 100 Acres
Controlled August 20 538 Man hours

Meise Lake

Sec. 15 & 16, T. 46 N., R. 2 W.
July 7 Burning Building 1,000 Acres
Controlled July 8 12 Men

Barkhouse

Sec. 23, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
July 7 Incendiary 5 Sets
Controlled July 8 6 Men

Fly Stain

Sec. 22 & 15, T. 48 N., R. 8 W.
August 1 Smoker 200 Acres
Controlled August 2 32 Men

Spring Hill

Sec. 5, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
August 10 Incendiary 640 Acres
Controlled August 12 113 Men

Hilmuth Mill

Sec. 2, T. 44 N., R. 8 W.
August 18 Lumbering 150 Acres
Controlled August 22 46 Men

Stenga Gulch

Sec. 29, T. 15 N., R. 8 E.
August 23 Lightning 300 Acres
Controlled August 28 35 Men

Thompson Cr.

Sec. 3, T. 18 N., R. 7 E.
August 24 Incendiary 166 Acres
Controlled August 28 9 Men

Walker Cr.

Sec. 19-24, T. 46 N., R. 11 W.
August 26 Incendiary 200 Acres
Controlled August 27 53 Men

Kelley Lake

Sec. 28, T. 18 N., R. 6 E.
August 26 Incendiary 190 Acres
Controlled August 30 24 Men

Kelley Lake #2

Sec. 33, T. 18 N., R. 6 E.
August 27 Incendiary 130 Acres
Controlled August 30 9 Men

Mt. Shasta #2

Sec. 18, T. 42 N., R. 4 W.
 September 18 Smoker 210 Acres
 Controlled September 22 43 Men

Sand Creek

Sec. 30, T. 42 N., R. 4 W.
 September 18 Smoker 3,000 Acres
 Controlled September 27 39 Men

Evans

Sec. 30, T. 42 N., R. 4 W.
 September 18 Railroad 4,000 Acres
 Controlled September 29 106 Men

Fork of Elk

Sec. 29, T. 16 N., R. 8 E.
 September 23 Burning Building 160 Acres
 Controlled September 26 18 Men

1923**Doggett Ridge**

Sec. 4 & 5, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 May 4 Lightning 135 Acres
 Controlled May 8 53 Men

Holy

Sec. 12, T. 43 N., R. 4 W.
 July 12 Railroad 640 Acres
 Controlled July 13 19 Men

Rush Cr.

Sec. 7 & 12, T. 37 N., R. 11 W.
 July 27 Smoker 400 Acres
 Controlled July 29 28 Men

Panther Rock

Sec. 5, T. 45 N., R. 3 W.
 July 29 Incendiary 150 Acres
 Controlled July 30 16 Men

Chase Creek

Sec. 8, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 September 7 Lightning 4,130 Acres
 Controlled September 12 162 Men

1924**Bear Creek**

Sec. 27 & 28, T. 15 N., R. 8 E.
 April 25 Lightning 1,200 Acres
 Controlled May 10 25 Men

Thompson Gulch

Sec. 23 & 10, T. 37 N., R. 10 W.
 April 26 Smoker 500 Acres
 Controlled April 27 16 Men

Kidder Creek

Sec. 15 & 22, T. 42 N., R. 10 W.
 May 11 Lightning 600 Acres
 Controlled May 13 23 Men

Etna Creek

Sec. 32, T. 42 N., R. 10 W.
 May 11 Lightning 160 Acres
 Controlled May 15 8 Men

Thompson Cr. #1

Sec. 32 & 29, T. 18 N., R. 8 E.
 May 16 Lightning 1,200 Acres
 Controlled May 22 52 Men

Walker Ridge

Sec. 36, T. 46 N., R. 12 W.
 May 31 Lightning 200 Acres
 Controlled June 2 41 Men

Thompson Cr. #3

Sec. 35, T. 18 N., R. 7 E.
 June 4 Lightning 200 Acres
 Controlled June 8 30 Men

East Fork

Sec. 20, T. 18 N., R. 7 E.
 July 3 Incendiary 120 Acres
 Controlled July 3 43 Men

Power Line

Sec. 29, T. 48 N., R. 2 W.
 July 3 Lightning 1,700 Acres
 Controlled July 12 45 Men

Clear Creek

Sec. 23, T. 46 N., R. 8 W.
 July 9 Lightning 800 Acres
 Controlled July 16 38 Men

Cantara

Sec. 29, T. 44 N., R. 4 W.
 July 11 Smoker 10,000 Acres
 Controlled July 20 505 Men

Lime Gulch

Sec. 29, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 July 11 Lightning 2,059 Acres
 Controlled July 18 153 Men

Horse Cr.

Sec. 7 & 17, T. 46 N., R. 2 W.
 July 12 Smoker 2,450 Acres
 Controlled July 17 153 Men

Soap Cr. #1

Sec. 35, T. 45 N., R. 8 W.
 July 14 Incendiary 140 Acres
 Controlled July 15 31 Men

Leslie Jones

Sec. ?, T. 39 N., R. 4 W.
 July 17 Smoker 1,000 Acres
 Controlled July 18 259 Men

Spencer

Sec. 31 & 6, T. 46 & 47 N., R. 6 & 7 W.
July 17 Incendiary 980 Acres
Controlled July 18 27 Men

Walter Gulch

Sec. 25, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
July 17 Burning Building 125 Acres
Controlled July 17 12 Men

Poor Man Bar

Sec. 15 & 16, T. 45 N., R. 10 W.
July 22 Camp Fire 600 Acres
Controlled July 23 66 Men

Crystal Cr.

Sec. 5, T. 42 N., R. 9 W.
July 23 Smoker 8,960 Acres
Controlled August 8 42 Men

Mac Garin Pk.

Sec. 5 & 6, T. 47 N., R. 2 W.
July 24 Incendiary 200 Acres
Controlled July 26 26 Men

Lee Ranch

Sec. 15, T. 45 N., R. 8 W.
July 24 Lightning 560 Acres
Controlled July 27 56 Men

West Fork

Sec. 2, T. 47 N., R. 8 & 9 W.
July 26 Smoker 5,401 Acres
Controlled August 1 272 Men

Parks Creek

Sec. 4, T. 45 N., R. 2 W.
July 29 Smoker 2,400 Acres
Controlled August 13 102 Men

Orr Mt.

Sec. 9 & 10, T. 44 N., R. 1 W.
August 5 Smoker 1,320 Acres
Controlled August 6 161 Men

Crawford Cr.

Sec. 36, T. 11 N., R. 5 E.
August 6 Incendiary 100 Acres
Controlled August 9 47 Men

Saurkraut

Sec. 34, T. 11 N., R. 7 E.
August 9 Smoker 600 Acres
Controlled August 10 34 Men

Shasta Prize

Sec. 32, T. 41 N., R. 4 W.
August 9 Smoker 10,000 Acres
Controlled August 17 306 Men

Tate Creek

Sec. 36, T. 39 N., R. 1 E.
August 12 Smoker 1,700 Acres
Controlled August 25 305 Men

Dry Gulch

Sec. 18, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
Aug. 31 Incendiary 500 Acres
Controlled September 1 55 Men

Sambo Gulch

Sec. 19 & 20, T. 46 N., R. 10 W.
September 1 Lightning 600 Acres
Controlled September 10 33 Men

Long Prairie

Sec. 25 & 26, T. 45 N., R. 1 E.
September 2 Lightning 920 Acres
Controlled September 13 30 Men

Mill Cr. #1

Sec. 16 & 19, T. 43 N., R. 10 W.
September 2 Lightning 2,000 Acres
Controlled Sept. 9 59 Men

Boulder Cr.

Sec. 2, T. 43 N., R. 11 W.
September 2 Lightning 120 Acres
Controlled September 5 17 Men

Mill Cr. #2

Sec. 29 & 30, T. 43 N., R. 10 W.
September 2 Lightning 670 Acres
Controlled September 8 29 Men

Fort Goff

Sec. 33+, T. 18 N., R. 8 E.
September 2 Lightning 7,000 Acres
Controlled September 20 118 Men

Bishop

Sec. 25, T. 15 N., R. 7 E.
September 2 Lightning 200 Acres
Controlled September 4 21 Men

Deadwood

Sec. 18, T. 45 N., R. 8 W.
September 3 Lightning 684 Acres
Controlled September 16 ? Men

Grouse Creek

Sec. 25+, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
September 6 Incendiary 604 Acres
Controlled September 11 62 Men

Rodgers Creek

Sec. 12, T. 12 N., R. 6 E.
September 10 Lightning 100 Acres
Controlled September 13 9 Men

Ball's Creek

Sec. 27 & 34, T. 42 N., R. 5 W.
September 12 Smoker 600 Acres
Controlled September 13 33 Men

Baldy Mt.

Sec. 25+, T. 17 N., R. 6 E.
 September 12 Incendiary 1,920 Acres
 Controlled September 18 23 Men

Huey Mine

Sec. 13+, T. 18 N., R. 6 E.
 September 13 Incendiary 2,000 Acres
 Controlled September 18 61 Men

Island Lake

Sec. 24 & 25, T. 16 N., R. 4 E.
 September 15 Holdover Lightning 360 Acres
 Controlled September 23 28 Men

1925**Gibson Mine**

Sec. 30, T. 47 N., R. 6 W.
 July 13 Smoker 115 Acres
 Controlled July 13 44 Men

McCoy Gulch

Sec. 36, T. 47 N., R. 11 W.
 July 15 Incendiary 160 Acres
 Controlled July 17 44 Men

Dry Creek

Sec. 34, T. 48 N., R. 6 W.
 August 8 Lightning 200 Acres
 Controlled August 9 10 Men

Granite Lake

Sec. 30, T. 14 N., R. 8 E.
 August 13 Lightning 160 Acres
 Controlled August 18 7 Men

Coon

Sec. 34, T. 15 N., R. 6 E.
 August 13 Incendiary 2,500 Acres
 Controlled August 19 109 Men

Tee Creek

Sec. 17, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
 August 16 Incendiary 300 Acres
 Controlled August 17 29 Men

Cade Creek

Sec. 5, T. 16 N., R. 8 E.
 August 29 Incendiary 125 Acres
 Controlled August 30 21 Men

C.O.P. #2

Sec. 18, T. 40 N., R. 10 W.
 October 23 Brush Burning 160 Acres
 Controlled October 31 8 Men

1926**Blue Gravel**

Sec. 32, T. 47 N., R. 6 W.
 May 27 Smoker 260 Acres
 Controlled May 28 12 Men

Brushy Gulch

Sec. 9, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
 June 5 Incendiary 320 Acres
 Controlled June 6 24 Men

Dutch Creek

Sec. 13, T. 47 N., R. 7 W.
 June 7 Grass Burning 9,011 Acres
 Controlled June 12 115 Men

Flanagan Field

Sec. 13, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 June 26 Incendiary 440 Acres
 Controlled June 27 59 Men

Guy's Gulch

Sec. 12, T. 43 N., R. 7 W.
 June 27 Smoker 10,000 Acres
 Controlled July 2 10 Men

Baldy Mt.

Sec. 12, T. 16 N., R. 6 E.
 July 11 Lightning 200 Acres
 Controlled July 14 27 Men

Titus Ridge

Sec. 27, T. 15 N., R. 7 E.
 July 11 Lightning 23,680 Acres
 Controlled August 28 151 Men

Thompson Ridge

Sec. 8, T. 18 N., R. 8 E.
 July 12 Lightning 8,320 Acres
 Controlled July 25 42 Men

Lime Gulch

Sec. 8, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
 July 16 Still Explosion 4,296 Acres
 Controlled July 22 75 Men

Classie Hill #2

Sec. 23, T. 18 N., R. 6 E.
 July 16 Incendiary 640 Acres
 Controlled July 18 49 Men

Mono Road

Sec. 16, T. 45 N., R. 7 W.
 July 17 Incendiary 2,500 Acres
 Controlled July 18 37 Men

Cliff Valley #2

Sec. 9, T. 44 N., R. 12 W.
 July 18 Lightning 160 Acres
 Controlled July 21 30 Men

South Ukonam

Sec. 14, T. 13 N., R. 7 E.
 July 20 Lightning 300 Acres
 Controlled August 18 33 Men

Shaff Rock

Sec. 8, T. 47 N., R. 7 W.
 July 21 Lightning 100 Acres
 Controlled July 22

Wiskiyou Point

Sec. 18, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 August 2 Incendiary 100 Acres
 Controlled August 3 21 Men

Tee Bar

Sec. 15, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
 August 3 Incendiary 150 Acres
 Controlled August 4 18 Men

Lime Gulch #2

Sec. 22, T. 45 N., R. 8 W.
 August 12 Cause ? 210 Acres
 Controlled August 13 36 Men

Waldell Ranch

Sec. 9, T. 17 N., R. 7 E.
 August 15 Incendiary 360 Acres
 Controlled August 17 28 Men

McClure Cove

Sec. 12, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 August 17 Incendiary 122 Acres
 Controlled August 17 50 Men

Doggett Ranch

Sec. 2, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 August 24 Incendiary 1,098 Acres
 Controlled August 27 50 Men

Vesa Creek

Sec. 11, T. 46 N., R. 8 W.
 September 8 Smoker 1,193 Acres
 Controlled September 14 35 Men

Momanent Gulch

Sec. 24, T. 46 N., R. 10 W.
 September 15 Incendiary 100 Acres
 Controlled September 16 25 Men

1927**Witheral Field**

Sec. 25, T. 44 N., R. 9 W.
 July 8 Children Smoking 160 Acres
 Controlled July 9 60 Men

Bailey Hill

Sec. 26, T. 48 N., R. 7 W.
 July 15 Smoker 275 Acres
 Controlled July 15 22 Men

Soap Creek

Sec. 22, T. 44 N., R. 8 W.
 July 23 Still ? 400 Acres
 Controlled July 24 43 Men

Frying Pan

Sec. 20, T. 16 N., R. 8 E.
 July 24 Lightning 1,300 Acres
 Controlled August 8 78 Men

East Fork Elk

Sec. 17, T. 45 N., R. 12 W.
 July 24 Lightning 200 Acres
 Controlled July 29 25 Men

Preston

Sec. 16, T. 16 N., R. 5 E.
 July 25 Lightning 4,500 Acres
 Controlled July 30, again August 23 69 Men

Cedar Camp

Sec. 32, T. 14 N., R. 5 E.
 July 29 Lightning 3,500 Acres
 Controlled August 26 80 Men

Pony Peak #2

Sec. 14, T. 14 N., R. 5 E.
 July 29 Lightning 250 Acres
 Controlled July 31 17 Men

Collins Mine

Sec. 23, T. 46 N., R. 10 W.
 August 16 Incendiary 350 Acres
 Controlled August 17 ? Men

Grouse Creek

Sec. 30, T. 46 N., R. 8 W.
 August 23 Incendiary 500 Acres
 Controlled August 24 65 Men

Shasta Trail

Sec. 10, T. 41 N., R. 4 W.
 August 29 Lightning 3,848 Acres
 Controlled August ? ? Men

Rattlesnake

Sec. 3, T. 44 N., R. 9 W.
 September 22 Camp Fire 250 Acres
 Controlled September 23 26 Men

1928**Oak Knoll**

Sec. 3, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 August 14 Blasting 200 Acres
 Controlled August 14 33 Men

Bailey Hill

Sec. 24, T. 48 N., R. 7 W.
 August 15 Smoker 300 Acres
 Controlled August 15 84 Men

Panther Meadows

Sec. 22, T. 40 N., R. 3 W.
 August 28 Lightning 2,800 Acres
 Controlled September 2 168 Men

Stevens Pass

Sec. 17, T. 41 N., R. 1 E.
 August 28 Lightning 65,000 Acres
 Controlled September 10 318 Men

Wooly Creek

Sec. 18, T. 42 N., R. 12 W.
 September 19 Lightning 220 Acres
 Controlled September 22 22 Men

1929**Tyler Gulch**

Sec. 23, T. 44 N., R. 10 W.
 July 9 Incendiary 160 Acres
 Controlled July 9 85 Men

Flanigan Field

Sec. 24, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 July 10 Incendiary 6 Sets 240 Acres
 Controlled July 10 98 Men

McAdams Creek

Sec. 25, T. 44 N., R. 9 W.
 July 13 Burning Building 520 Acres
 Controlled July 13 128 Men

Little Humbug

Sec. 20, T. 46 N., R. 8 W.
 July 14 Incendiary 2,447 Acres
 Controlled July 17 214 Men Cost \$538.65

Mill Creek #4

Sec. 7, T. 18 N., R. 7 E.
 July 25 Incendiary 150 Acres
 Controlled July 26 73 Men

Hiyou

Sec. 36, T. 45 N., R. 9 W.
 August 2 Incendiary 540 Acres
 Controlled August 3 158 Men

Badger Creek

Sec. 23, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
 August 8 Burning Auto 5,000 Acres
 Controlled August 10 161 Men

Crawford Creek

Sec. 36, T. 15 N., R. 6 E.
 August 10 Incendiary 1,000 Acres
 Controlled August 12 100 Men

McGill

Sec. 12, T. 46 N., R. 10 W.
 August 19 Incendiary 2,861 Acres
 Controlled August 20 212 Men

Panther Gulch

Sec. 35, T. 47 N., R. 11 W.
 September 12 Incendiary 160 Acres
 Controlled September 13 59 Men

Seiad Creek

Sec. 4, T. 46 N., R. 11 W.
 October 4 Incendiary 212 Acres
 Controlled October 6 44 Men

Fire Season Ended or Did It?**Oak Flat**

Sec. 24, T. 16 N., R. 6 E.
 November 2 Incendiary 2,000 Acres
 Controlled December 3 36 Men

China Creek

Sec. 31, T. 42 N., R. 12 W.
 November 7 Debris Burning 300 Acres
 Controlled November 13 27 Men

Hay Press

Sec. 21, T. 13 N., R. 7 E.
 November 13 Incendiary 1,120 Acres
 Controlled November 21 33 Men

Granite Peek

Sec. 17, T. 13 N., R. 7 E.
 November 13 Incendiary 577 Acres
 Controlled November 19 18 Men

Kelsey

Sec. 24, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
 November 13 Incendiary 240 Acres
 Controlled November 19 35 Men

Albers Trail

Sec. 14, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
 November 13 Incendiary 820 Acres
 Controlled November 17 36 Men

Gypsy John

Sec. 11, T. 15 N., R. 7 E.
 November 15 Incendiary 100 Acres
 Controlled November 19 11 Men

Slinkard Peak

Sec. 20, T. 46 N., R. 11 W.
 December 1 Brush Burning 200 Acres
 Controlled December 3 41 Men

Wyman Gulch

Sec. 35, T. 15 N., R. 6 E.
 December 2 Incendiary 500 Acres
 Controlled December 6 21 Men

Indian Wells

Sec. 28+, T. 45 N., R. 4 E.
 1,200 Acres
 No further information found

**The light burner's had a field day.
 Not so light burning!**

First Fall Rain December 7.

"Once we were all across the river we reorganized and started the 8 mile hike up the trail. It was mid-afternoon when we reached the fire. There was no one in sight but there was evidence of a fireline on top of the ridge. The main fire seemed to be down the very steep slope. I selected a spot for a temporary camp where we left our packs and then sent the Oak Bottom Guard with his local crew to the other side of the fire to see if there was any line there, if not to start one. I started my crew building line down a ridge. I then scouted the fire and found it to be rolling down the very steep rock slope. The whole area was becoming blanketed with dense smoke from the other fires on the Orleans District. Cargo planes had been flying overhead, going to those fires with supplies. We had no light for night work so I pulled the crew back to our temporary camp. When we arrived we found the other crew already there. They had lost all of the line on that side of the fire. Bud and his crew were with them.

We moved to a more flat area and set up to spend the night, sharing our rations with Bud's crew. In the morning we ate the last of the rations, and after discussing the plan of attack with the other two leaders we returned to the fire to construct and burn out the line as we went. Before dark we returned to Camp. No food. Water we had from a spring along the fire line where we had filled our canteens.

Morning came, with dense smoke everywhere. Still no food. I decided to send one of the Indian boys as a runner, with a note to Lee Morford, who I had heard was dispatching in Orleans. I just wrote on the note "Lee, not for your sake but for God's sake, send us some food! Signed Jim McNeill." Before dark that evening the Indian boy was back with four others, all with back packs of food.

That day we had done little in the way of line construction but rather spent our time mopping up the line we had already constructed. However, after eating our fill and a goodnight's rest on hard ground, we returned to the fireline with new determination. We made good progress building line down hill and leading the fire toward the bottom of the gulch. When we returned to our Camp that night the pack train had been in and a cook had our first hot meal, in three days ready for us. Oh! yes, we also had blankets that night."

On July 20, after a long hard day of holding the fireline in the bottom of the gulch, we declared the fire controlled. Jim's story is a good

example of the method used to control isolated lightning fires and the hardships endured by the fire fighters during the early days of the Forest Service. With the coming of aerial cargo delivery, fire fighters were supplied more readily in remote areas of the forest.

Fire fighters controlled 327 fires in the County during the season. Only four reached 100 acres or more. The largest of the four was on the Goosenest District, burning 8300 acres. It started in the afternoon of August 31st and was controlled September 2nd by 919 fire fighters. This fire and one in Wildcat Creek, which covered 550 acres, were both the result of careless smokers.

During the 1938 fire season, a method of measuring fire danger was put into operation on a trial basis. Weather factors together with the measurement of fuel moisture were combined and by using charts which had been prepared by the Southwest Experiment Station, resulting from studies that had been started on the McCloud District in the early 1930's, an index was obtained on a range of 1 to 100.

The range of indexes were divided into five classes of danger - one, two, three, four and five. Class one, the low free danger and Class five, the highest danger. There was also a lightning index. One of the problems was that as soon as a fire started the observers either went to the fire or got busy with other fire duties and did not take the necessary weather and fuel moisture measurements to compute the danger. So, there was no way to compare the fire behavior with the measured danger in the fire area.

During the 1939 fire season the number of man caused fires increased at an alarming rate. There were 110 fires, several of which were set fires. Along with these man caused fires, lightning was responsible for 179 fires. The Deer Creek, west of Mt. Shasta City, was a holdover lightning fire that burned along the east slope from Mt. Shasta City past the town of Weed. This fire became the largest fire to burn in the County since the Stevens Pass fire of 1928 on the McCloud District. The Deer Creek fire started to spread on August 24 when the Shasta Forest was involved in controlling the Dwinnell fire of 5,000 acres, also on the Sacramento District. Mr. Adams, the Dispatcher for the Shasta, makes the following remarks about these fires:

RE THE RAINBOW-RIDGE FIRE OF 1939.
"The official name was "Deer Creek" as this fire

was started in a small drainage west of Rainbow Ridge.

Bill Petersen was acting District Ranger on the Sacramento R.D. at the time. Art Cooper was the F.C.O. on the District.

If you will recall, 39 was a tough fire year. We had just completed control of the Dwinnel fire, 5,000 acres, the morning the Deer Creek fire took off. I had just gone to bed that morning and was sound asleep when Audry woke me and told me to look out of the bedroom window. I did and all of Rainbow Ridge was a fire. I called Ken Fox, who was on the dispatch desk and he told me to go back to bed and to come in for the night shift. I went back to bed and the next I knew was George Schroder shaking the hell out of me as the wife had gone into town. This was about 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

I went to the office, checked on the details and by now the fire had jumped the Dietz road.

During the Dwinnel fire the town of Chiloquin, Oregon and its mill had burned so we had a ready supply of tough loggers to draw on. They came in by the bus loads.

Oscar Barnum and Dutch Sulloway turned the fire away from Weed, which we were preparing to evacuate and when the fire reached Parks Creek the south wind driving the fire met the north wind that was coming down thru Little Shasta Valley and this caused an east wind in Parks Creek.

Mel Barron was on the Parks Creek Division and when this weather phenomenon happened, he fires Parks Creek and put the stopper on the fire head.

Can't remember the figures but millions of feet of timber was burned on the Eddy Mt. slope, in Wagon Creek, Eddy Creek and Parks Creek drainages."

The Deer Creek fire was caused by a hold-over lightning fire from the thunderstorms of August 23. Almost two days later it broke out and was discovered by Black Butte Lookout at 10:38 A.M. August 25. There were 14 men in the initial attack force who had to walk one and one-half miles to reach the fire at 12:30 P.M. The fire at this time was estimated to be 10 acres in size and spreading at the rate of 10 acres per hour. All the initial attack forces could do was to control the spread on the south side. The fire continued its rapid spread all afternoon and into the night.

There were four fire camps located at Pack Camp, Wagon Camp, Deitz and Parker Creek.

There were 1395 men recruited for this fire and became the largest number of fire fighters ever used on a single fire up to this date in Siskiyou County. The fire was controlled after burning 19,410 acres, mostly timber covered land, on August 31.

The fire bugs became active again. All districts of the Klamath had at least a few fires set. An example of the incendiary problem faced by the district fire control forces can be seen in the story of the Cutoff Road fire in Barkhouse Creek on the Yreka District.

The first of three sets was discovered by Buckhorn Lookout at 12:22 P.M. on a hot day, August 21st. The Oak Knoll Fireman was dispatched, (1 man) followed immediately, the Humbug, Yreka and Hilt firemen in that order. Before the Oak Knoll firemen reached the fire first reported, the lookouts had reported two more sets about ¼ mile south of number 1. These sets were in heavy brush about one eighth mile below the road. The fireman picked up 5 more men enroute to the fire and the 6 men began building line at 12:45 P.M. from the road toward a small gulch below the road, thinking that it might be possible to hold the fire on the road and to get a line on the lower side in the gulch. About this time he observed the two other fires and pulled back to the road. By 1:45 P.M. 26 more men had arrived and a stand was made to hold the fire. The back fire along the road only served to slow this spreading fire long enough for the fire fighters to pull out of the way as the fire jumped the road and continued to spread up the slope. By this time the fires had burned together and covered about 20 acres. The fire fighters retreated to the west and east side. After regrouping on each side the split forces started flanking actions. By mid afternoon additional reinforcements had arrived. Fire lines were run north and south from the cutoff road. Crews were able to pinch off the south end in Little Barkhouse Creek but the fire spread over the ridge and down the slope to Heglar Ranch on the Klamath River slope. All lines were completed by 4:00 A.M. on the 22nd. 281 fire fighters were used to control and mop up the 1045 acre burn.

This kind of action was repeated three more times on incendiary fires on the Klamath during the summer. In order to cut down on the travel time into remote areas when thunderstorms threatened, 3 to 6 men were sent to places like Lake Mt. Lookout, 8 miles by trail, English Peak, 16 miles by trail, Marble Valley, 8 miles by trail,

Cuddahy Cabin, 12 miles by trail, and many of the Lookout stations; preceding the beginning of the lightning activity. All Lookout stations were stocked with fireline tools and rations to equip a five man crew. This practice prevented many lightning fires from becoming large fires. However, this practice did not prevent the Thompson Creek fire of August 23rd from becoming a large isolated fire.

The first crew dispatched to the Thompson

Creek failed to find the fire when small, resulting in a long delay in the initial attack. A crew from Scott Bar, who were supposed to be reinforcement, took the first action. The fire at this time was about five acres and fire brands were rolling down the steep slope, causing a very difficult control problem. This fire burned 1500 acres of mature timber and required a force of 456 men supported by 3 fire camps, all of which were supplied by strings of pack mules.

Fires 100 Acres or over

1930

Bald Butte #3

Sec. 36, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
July 8 Incendiary 220 Acres
Controlled July 10 by 53 Fire Fighters

Ethelyn Mine

Sec. 12, T. 46 N., R. 11 W.
July 11 Burning Building 655 Acres
Controlled July 12 123 Fire Fighters

Sandy Bar

Sec. 26, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
July 22 Incendiary 160 Acres
Controlled July 23 56 Fire Fighters

Grimm Ridge #1

Sec. 33, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
August 1 Incendiary 200 Acres
Controlled August 6 38 Fire Fighters

Monte Cr.

Sec. 12, T. 12 N., R. 6 E.
August 8 Incendiary 520 Acres
Controlled August 9 42 Fire Fighters

Swillup Cr.

Sec. 4, T. 14 N., R. 6 E.
August 10 Lightning 150 Acres
Controlled August 13 36 Men

E. Fork Elke

Sec. 4, T. 15 N., R. 8 E.
August 10 Lightning 1,000 Acres
Controlled August 14 65 Fire Fighters

Dillion Cr.

Sec. 27, T. 15 N., R. 5 E.
August 10 Lightning 5,500 Acres
Controlled August 26 150 Fire Fighters

Ukonom

Sec. 19, T. 14 N., R. 7 E.
August 10 Lightning 1,500 Acres
Controlled August 20 80 Fire Fighters

1931

Ukonom

Sec. 27, T. 14 N., R. 7 E.
May 29 Lightning 707 Acres
Pre Fire Season Protection Force
Called to Duty and used
Controlled June 3 62 Summer Force

Brushy Gl.

Sec. 16, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
July 2 Incendiary 301 Acres
Controlled July 3 127 Fire Fighters

Moffit

Sec. 29 & 32, T. 43 N., R. 1 W.
July 7 Incendiary 400 Acres
Controlled July 9 118 Fire Fighters

Big Humbug

Sec. 21, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
July 9 Camp Fire 3400 Acres
Controlled July 11 350 Fire Fighters

Janeion

Sec. 13, T. 41 N., R. 5 W.
August 31 Camp Fire 300 Acres
Controlled September 1 204 Fire Fighters

1932

McConnel

Sec. 16, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
July 4 Burning Building 100 Acres
Controlled at 5:33 P.M. July 4
45 Fire Fighters

Brown's Resort

Sec. 1, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
July 29 Incendiary 758 Acres
Controlled Midnight Same Day
204 Fire Fighters

Round Mt.

Sec. 11, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 September 1 Incendiary 292 Acres
 Controlled Same Day 108 Fire Fighters

Dillon Cr.

Sec. 15, T. 14 N., R. 5 E.
 September 15 Camp Fire 705 Acres
 Controlled September 19 121 Fire Fighters
 Total Cost \$3,145

Dobbin's Cr.

Sec. 5, 6, 7, 8, T. 13 N., R. 6 E.
 September 27 Incendiary 5 Sets 495 Acres
 Controlled September 29 90 Fire Fighters

Bear Springs

Sec. 16, T. 40 N., R. 3 W.
 August 24 Lightning 1,800 Acres
 Controlled August 28 207 Fire Fighters

Secret Springs

Started in Oregon
 Sec. 16 & 17, then burned into Siskiyou County
 August 25 Burning Building 1,000 Acres
 Controlled August 28 ? Fire Fighters

Oak Bottom

Sec. 1, T. 11 N., R. 6 E.
 September 8 Camp Fire 265 Acres
 Controlled August 9 134 Fire Fighters

1933**Everill Gulch**

Sec. 27, T. 46 N., R. 10 W.
 July 20 Smoker 110 Acres
 Controlled July 21 118 Fire Fighters

Andersit

Sec. 22, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
 August 2 Railroad 1310 Acres
 Controlled August 3 334 Fire Fighters

Soap Cr.

Sec. 25, T. 44 N., R. 8 W.
 August 15 Incendiary 981 Acres
 Controlled August 16 192 Fire Fighters

Limestone

Sec. 16, T. 38 N., R. 12 W.
 September 10 Burning Building 212 Acres
 Controlled September 11 82 Fire Fighters

1934**Greek Mill**

Sec. 6, T. 41 S., R. 2 E.
 July 25 Smoker 273 Acres
 Controlled July 25 102 Fire Fighters

Anderson Ranch

Sec. 20, T. 44 N., R. 10 W.
 August 8 Smoker 105 Acres
 Controlled August 8 158 Fire Fighters

East Fork #1

Sec. 24, T. 39 N., R. 10 W.
 August 11 Incendiary 116 Acres
 Controlled August 12 98 Fire Fighters

Big Gulch

Sec. 32, T. 42 N., R. 11 W.
 August 12 Incendiary 140 Acres
 Controlled August 14 102 Fire Fighters

1935**Antelope Wells**

Sec. 33, T. 45 N., R. 1 E.
 July 9 Lightning 773 Acres
 Controlled July 12 172 Fire Fighters

White Cloud

Sec. 1, T. 46 N., R. 11 W.
 August 17 Incendiary 960 Acres
 Controlled August 18 102 Fire Fighters

Jillson Mine

Sec. 31, T. 47 N., R. 6 W.
 September 8 Smoker 100 Acres
 Controlled September 9 64 Fire Fighters

1936**Loeck**

Sec. 15, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
 March 19 Debris Burning 2,655 Acres
 Controlled March 22 295 Fire Fighters

Gold Digger

Sec. 1, T. 45 N., R. 3 E.
 July 6 Camp Fire 1,793 Acres
 Controlled July 7 305 Fire Fighters

Ash Creek

Sec. 2, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
 August 5 Lightning 520 Acres
 Controlled August 7 110 Fire Fighters

Iron Creek

Sec. ?, T. 47 N., R. 4 W.
 September 27 Hot Ashes 1,793 Acres
 Controlled October 1 341 Fire Fighters

1937

No Fires over 100 Acres in Area

1938

Steinaker #1

Sec. 2, T. 11 N., R. 7 E.
July 13 Lightning 100 Acres
Controlled July 20 97 Fire Fighters

Mile Post 400

Sec. 16, T. 8 N., R. 7 W.
July 29 Railroad 120 Acres
Controlled August 2 58 Fire Fighters

Wildcat

Sec. 30, T. 40 N., R. 8 W.
August 24 Smoker 550 Acres
Controlled August 25 325 Fire Fighters

Mt. Hebron

Sec. 29, T. 45 N., R. 1 W.
August 31 Smoker 8,300 Acres
Controlled September 2 919 Fire Fighters

Deer Mt.

Sec. 10, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
August 31 Smoker 770 Acres
Controlled September 1 162 Fire Fighters

1939

Black Butte

Sec. 18, T. 41 N., R. 4 W.
May 13 Children Playing 375 Acres
Controlled May 14 234 Fire Fighters

Cottonwood

Sec. 12, T. 47 N., R. 7 W.
May 14 Smoker 100 Acres
Controlled May 14 66 Fire Fighters

Bolan

Sec. 6, T. 44 N., R. 3 W.
July 23 Smoker 333 Acres
Controlled August 24 269 Fire Fighters

Miller

Sec. 16, T. 17 N., R. 7 E.
July 30 Incendiary 152 Acres
Controlled July 30 161 Fire Fighters

Logan Gulch

Sec. 11, T. 10 N., R. 7 E.
August 6 Incendiary 1,200 Acres
Controlled August 7 492 Fire Fighters

Printers Gulch

Sec. 6, T. 46 N., R. 6 W.
August 8 Smoker 2,535 Acres
Controlled August 14 187 Fire Fighters

Black Butte Y

Sec. 7, T. 41 N., R. 4 W.
August 9 Railroad 819 Acres
Controlled August 9 458 Fire Fighters

Shiltos

Sec. 26, T. 41 N., R. 12 W.
August 12 Incendiary 800 Acres
Controlled August 13 283 Fire Fighters

Cutoff Road

Sec. 14, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
August 23 Incendiary 3 sets 1,045 Acres
Controlled August 22 281 Fire Fighters

Middle Cr.

Sec. 1, T. 44 N., R. 12 W.
August 13 Lightning 1,500 Acres
Controlled August 27 456 Fire Fighters

Dwinnell

Sec. 7, T. 42 N., R. 4 W.
August 23 Lightning 3,406 Acres
Controlled August 25 511 Fire Fighters

Deer Creek

Sec. 14, T. 40 N., R. 5 W.
August 25 Lightning 17,410 Acres
Controlled August 31 1,395 Fire Fighters

Shadow Cr.

Sec. 19, T. 39 N., R. 10 W.
October 14 Smoker 950 Acres
Controlled October 17 216 Fire Fighters



Mapledson Ranch Fire — Taken from Collins L.O. about 20 minutes after start.

24th. The fire was controlled the first night by three hundred men showing the rapid recruiting of local fire fighter recruiter.

Precipitation was back to normal during the winter of 1947 and 1948. However, the summer was cool and thunderstorms were few; only 91 lightning fires occurred in the County during 1948. The number of man-caused fires was also less than half of the usual number.

However, the season got off to an early start with a debris burning fire escaping on the Mt. Shasta District on January 8th. It was controlled at less than ten acres. There were no fires over one hundred acres in size and the Klamath National Forest had only four fires over the ten acre size.

The 1949 season started out with early season thunderstorms. The first storm occurred on April 22nd and resulted in a twelve acre fire on the Scott River District. The next storm was on May 8th and started several fires on the Salmon River District. The Mt. Shasta District started the season early also with a 190 acre fire on April Fool's day.

Precipitation was well below normal and the

summer was warmer than usual, with a number of thunderstorms. There were 264 lightning fires and 168 man-caused fires. The California Division of Forestry had three fires over 300 acres and one over 100 acres.

The Mapledson fire on May 26, 1949 resulted from brush in which was left unattended during the noon hour. A strong west wind came up and blew the fire out of control. It spread rapidly to the east in a narrow band about one quarter mile wide. It covered more than a mile in the first hour and a half. The head of the fire was stopped on a ridge checking the forward spread. Reinforcements continued to arrive during the afternoon and by dark 130 men were constructing fireline. Another 57 men were added during the night and the fire was under control after covering 187 acres the next morning. A total of 217 men were used on this fire. The picture was taken from Collins Bally Lookout 20 minutes after start and shows the smoke column bending to the east.

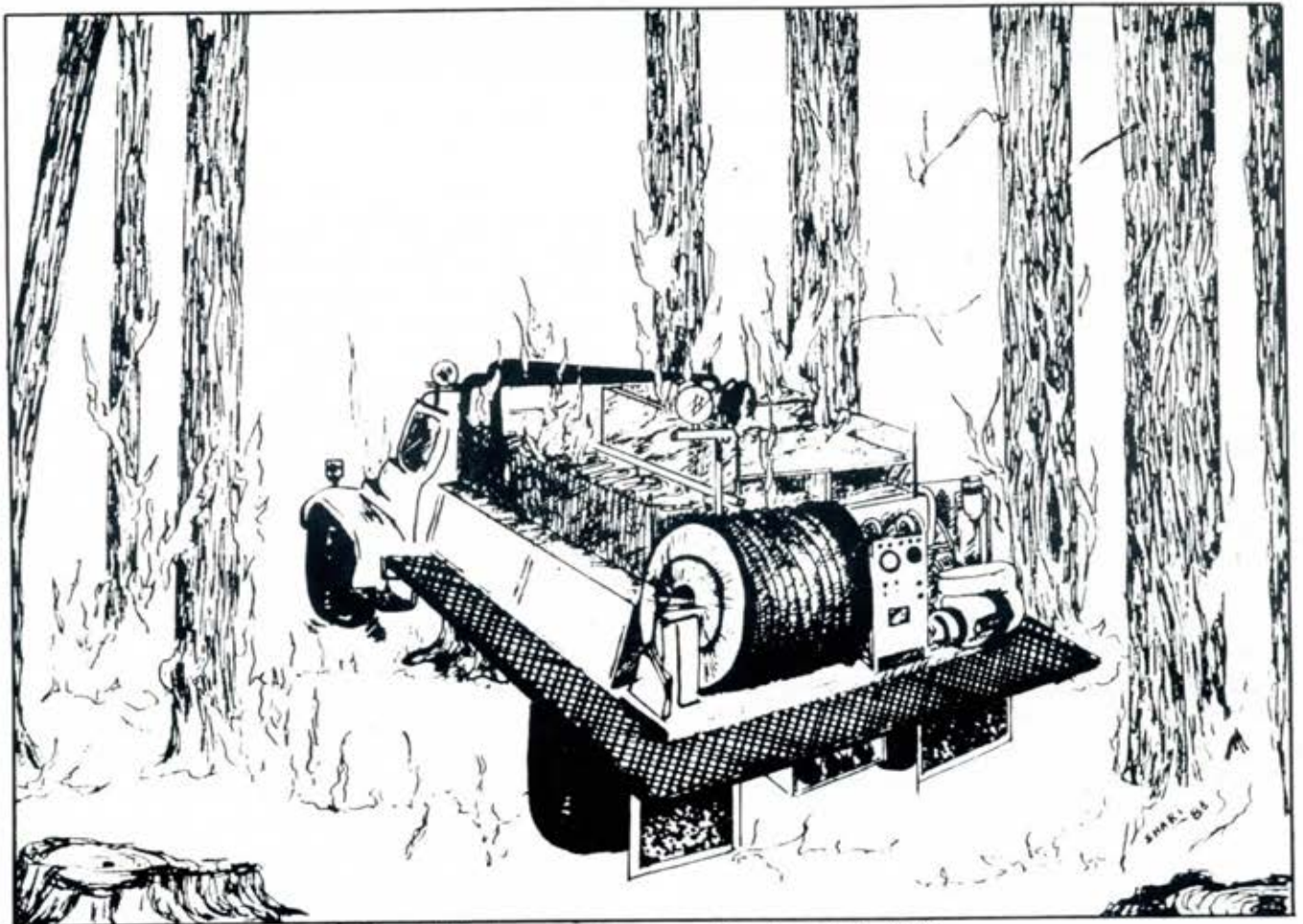
On August 19th a fire started at Sheep Well on the Goosenest District from a campfire. It took off running and burned 12,485 acres.

The following is Bob Marshall's account of the action on the Sheep Well's fire from his point of view. "I remember that the fire danger was predicted to be lower than it had been running, and they finally let me off to go to Klamath Falls to get some groceries and to get a much-needed haircut. We also needed to get some clothes for the kids. When I was returning from Klamath Falls I saw a fire camp sign on the Red Rock road. It was the first inkling that I had that anything was wrong, and when I got back to my station at Tennant and my tanker was gone, I thought oh well, I'll catch up with it, but when I caught up with it, they had burned it up. They got it hung up on a stump in front of the fire and couldn't get it off. There wasn't anything left of it or my fire gear or my clothes or anything. The fire ran from a southwest wind clear over into the Modoc. It was mostly on the southeast flank. It

went out and crossed the Niggerhold road, and on to the lava beds and toward the black lava flow, past lava camp on toward Schanchin Butte. There were four divisions on the fire, one Sheep Wells, another on the south side, one on the north and the Modoc had the one at the head of the fire. I was on the fire for two or three weeks."

The Sheep Wells fire started at 9:03 A.M. on August 20th and was 25 acres in size when the initial attack arrived at 10:10 A.M. The fire was declared controlled at 9:02 P.M. on August 22nd after covering 12,485 acres. Eight hundred ninety-two men were engaged in the control effort.

There were nine fires in the County that burned more than 100 acres. A very busy fire season.



Hung up on a Stump and Burned in Sheep Well's fire, caused from a campfire - August 19, 1949.

Fires 100 Acres And Over In Size

1940

Garner Mt.

Sec. 2 & 10, T. 43 N., R.1.E.
June 6 Smoker 120 Acres
Controlled 6-10 122 Fire Fighters

Badger Mt.

Sec. 23, T. 46 N., R. 7 W.
June 17 Smoker 129 Acres
Controlled 6-17 100 Fire Fighters

Underpass

Sec. 22, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
June 29 Debris Burning 275 Acres
Controlled 6-29 122 Fire Fighters

Etna

Sec. 22, T. 42 N., R. 9 W.
July 15 Smoker 260 Acres
Controlled 7-15 200 Fire Fighters

Deer Mr.

Sec. 28, T. 44 N., R. 3 W.
July 22 Railroad 360 Acres
Controlled 7-23 132 Fire Fighters

Miller Mt.

Sec. 20, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
August 16 Smoker 240 Acres
Controlled 8-18 305 Fire Fighters

Barkhouse

Sec. 22 & 27, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
August 19 Incendiary 2390 Acres
Controlled 8-21 375 Fire Fighters

1941

Barn Top

T. 45, 46 & 47, N., R. 3 & 4 E.
July ? Lightning 86,700 Acres
Controlled ? Men ?

Oak Bottom

Sec. 1, T. 11 N., R. 6 E.
October 4 Exhaust 540 Acres
Controlled 10-5 110 Fire Fighters

1942

Cougar

Sec. 27, T. 43 N., R.3 W.
August 10 Railroad 290 Acres
Controlled 8-11 200 Fire Fighters

Orr Mt.

Sec. 15, T. 44 N., R. 1 W.
August 19 Railroad 430 Acres
Controlled 8-19 116 Fire Fighters
2 Fires Same Day

Ten Mile

Sec. 18, T. 16 N., R.6 E.
August 10 Lightning 95 Acres

Erickson

Sec. 17, T. 44 N., R. 2 W.
September 19 Railroad 157 Acres
Controlled 9-20 101 Fire Fighters

Louie Lane #2

Sec. 18, T. 44 N., R. 1 W.
September 24 Railroad 1130 Acres
Controlled 9-26 463 Fire Fighters

Deer Mt.

Sec. 4, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
October 9 Railroad 2534 Acres
Controlled 10-10 235 Fire Fighters

1943

Black Butte

Sec. 19, T. 41 N., R. 5 W.
June 15 Railroad 441 Acres
Controlled 6-16 ? Fire Fighters

Iron Creek

Sec. 17, T. 47 N., R. 4 W.
July 18 Lightning 450 Acres
Controlled 7-20 240 Fire Fighters

Walker Gl.

Sec. 8, T. 46 N., R. 11 W.
July 18 Lightning 100 Acres
Controlled 7-19 49 Fire Fighters

Sharp Mt.

Sec. 31, T. 45 N., R. 2 E.
July 19 Lightning 590 Acres
Controlled 7-21 250 Fire Fighters

Blue Mt.

Sec. 3, T. 45 N., R. 12 W.
September 9 Lightning 1680 Acres
Controlled 9-15 351 Fire Fighters

1944

Eastman

Sec. 12, T. 40 N., R. 5 W.
April 2 Debris Burning 210 Acres
Controlled 4-3 ? Fire Fighters

Graham Gl.

Sec. 28, T. 39 N., R. 12 W.
March 31 Debris Burning 150 Acres

Dome Mt.

Sec. 29, T. 46 N., R. 3 E.
July 20 Lightning 12,845 Acres
Controlled 7-24 258 Fire Fighters

Cougar

Sec. 22, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
September 12 Railroad 176 Acres
Controlled 9-12 166 Fire Fighters

Peach Orchard

Sec. 26, T. 44 N., R. 8 W.
 September 20 Debris Burning 125 Acres
 Controlled 9-20 32 Fire Fighters

1945**Portuguese Peak**

Sec. 30, T. 46 N., R. 12 E.
 July 11 Lightning 280 Acres
 Controlled 7-13 41 Fire Fighters

Black Mt.

Sec. 4, T. 46 N., R. 6 W.
 July 11 Lightning 110 Acres
 Controlled 7-12 35 Fire Fighters

Whiskey Butte

Sec. 35, T. 42 N., R. 11 W.
 August 8 Lightning 160 Acres
 Controlled 8-9 96 Fire Fighters

Jap Camp

Sec. 14, T. 45 N., R. 5 E.
 August 16 Debris Burning 5,382 Acres
 Controlled 8-17 State Fire 178 Men

Juniper Flat

Sec. 22, T. 43 N., R. 4 W.
 August 6 Lightning 1693 Acres
 Controlled 8-8 168 Fire Fighters

Thomas Ranch

Sec. 31, T. 46 N., R. 12 W.
 September 6 Burning Building 313 Acres
 Controlled 9-7 210 Fire Fighters

1946**Boulder Gl.**

Sec. 28, T. 40 N., R. 12 W.
 June 12 Burning Building 1620 Acres
 Controlled 6-24 462 Fire Fighters

Big Canyon Spur

Sec. 24, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
 August 21 Railroad 107 Acres
 Controlled 8-22 ? Fire Fighters

Twin Sisters

Sec. 29, T. 45 N., R. 3 E.
 November 6 Railroad 5,382 Acres
 Controlled 11-6 5 Men

1947**Cayuse Gl.**

Sec. 24, T. 45 N., R. 8 W.
 September 24 Smoker 1300 Acres
 Controlled 9-25 340 Fire Fighters

Teenor

Sec. 19, T. 45 N., R. 2 E.
 August 19 Smoker 781 Acres
 Controlled 8-20 189 Fire Fighters

1948

No Fire 100 or More Acres

1949**Whithorn**

Sec. 10, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
 April 1 Smoker 190 Acres
 Controlled 4-2 26 Fire Fighters

Mapledson

Sec. 11, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 May, 26 Brush Burning 187 Acres
 Controlled 5-27 217 Fire Fighters

?

Sec. 20, T. 47, R. 5 W.
 July 12 Exhaust 640 Acres
 Controlled 7-14 34 Fire Fighters

Captain Jack Stronghold

Sec. ?, T 45 & 46 N., R. 4 E.
 1,700 Acres
 No further information found

Speepy Peak

T. 46 & 47 N., R. 4 E.
 July 17 Powerline 4,885 Acres
 Controlled 7-20 State Fire ? Men

Big Springs

Sec. ?, T. 44 N., R. 3 W.
 July 21 Lightning 200 Acres
 Controlled 7-22 ? Fire Fighters

Sheep Wells

Sec. 10, T. 44 N., R. 2 E.
 August 19 Camp Fire 12,485 Acres
 Controlled 8-22 892 Fire Fighters

Brush Cr. #1

Sec. 31, T. 38 N., R. 10 W.
 September 18
 Mule stepped on package of matches
 110 Acres
 Controlled 9-19 107 Fire Fighters

Rush Cr.

Sec. 32, T. 10 N., R. 37 W.
 September 21 Smoker 200 Acres
 Controlled 9-22 145 Fire Fighters

Horse Peak

C.D.F. Fire
 September 22 Smoker 160 Acres
 Controlled ? Fire Fighters ?

White Point

Sec. 19, T. 40 N., R. 2 W.
 November 4 Lumbering 160 Acres
 Controlled 11-6 29 Fire Fighters

for above average precipitation during the summer months which also resulted in many lightning fires in the County. The California Division of Forestry had a busy fire season, mostly man caused. They had two fires of 300 acres in size.

Neither the Shasta nor the Klamath had a fire reaching more than 100 acres until late August. The largest of these fires was near Signal Butte on the McCloud District. It was caused by the McCloud River Railroad. Due to the rapid recruiting of 300 fire fighters by the McCloud Ranger District and the Railroad Company, the fires were controlled the first night at 300 acres.

The fire season lasted into November when an escaped slash burning fire was controlled after burning 12 acres. By this time the three agencies had handled 190 lightning fires and 122 man caused. In areas burned and damaged it had been a very successful season.

Weather played an important part in the number of fires occurring in the County during 1953. There were several thunderstorms during the summer, resulting in many lightning caused fires. The Klamath had a total of 206, which was 64 above the ten year average. The California Division of Forestry also had a busy year. However, their problem was man caused, rather than lightning. They had a total of 71 man caused and 6 fires reaching 100 acres or more in size.

Temperatures were below normal for all months during the summer, except for September which was 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation was about 8% below normal, in spite of the thundershowers during the summer.

The fire season began early on the Sacramento District, with a 36 acre debris burning fire on March 9th. The Klamath also had a similar caused fire on the same day but it was controlled in the Class B stage. The man caused number of fires remain near average for the County as a whole at 124. 241 lightning fires brought the total number for the County up to 365 fires for this year. Klamath, nor the Shasta had a fire reach a hundred acres in size.

The fire season started on January 4, 1954 with a 277 acre brush fire near the Mott Airport. It was caused by a broken power line. The moisture content of the brush being very low at this time of the year, together with a dry December, set up the condition for this unusual fire at this time of year. Action was taken by the Forest Service at Mount Shasta soon after the fire was reported by residents in the area. Recruiting fire fighters at this time of the year is a slow pro-

cess. However, the fire was under control the first night. The mop-up was taken care of by rain which began the next day.

With this kind of a start on a fire season, it might appear that another year of many fires might occur. This was not the case, however. January had the usual amount of precipitation and the only dry month during the summer was July. An unusual rain of about 2½ inches in many places in August tended to bring the peak of the season to an end. The only month when temperatures were above normal was May. For the rest of the summer the temperatures ranged from 2 to 4 degrees below normal. Because of these weather conditions, the County had a 25% reduction in the number of fires as a whole. This was not true for the California Division of Forestry. Their total number went up by 21 fires over the past two year totals. The probable reason being that due to the cool and rainy period during the summer people became more careless with fires.

Only two fires reached more than 100 acres in size and the total number of fires fell to 233. The lightning fire dropped to 50 after running at about 200 or more each year. When you turn to 1955 it was only the lull before the storm. A year of fire and flood. The winter of 1954 and '55 was the driest in record. Only 7.01 inches of rain had fallen in Yreka from July, 1954 to June, 1955. At the Mount Shasta Weather Station the precipitation for January through March was only 32.2% of normal. Temperature ran below normal for June and July. Then the weather began to warm up and continued to be dry. Forest fuels were very dry, even to the heavy fuels. The spring time had been so deficient in moisture that the annual grasses and weed growth was very limited. Due to the very light cover of annuals, there was not enough light fuel to carry the ground fire into the brush fields. However, just the opposite was true in the timbered areas. Due to these conditions, the large fires in the County were in the Timber resulting in a great amount of damage to both Virgin and second growth timber stands.

The stage was set! The season started with a thunderstorm on March 15 with lightning starting several fires, one of which reached 83 acres in size.

Lightning caused fires on March 15, June 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, and again on the 18th. The next storm was on August 7, 8, and 9. Then the storm of September 14, Labor Day, set the

Western part of the County afire. The lightning had to have its last fling on October 10.

The first fire to reach more than a hundred acres resulted from the June 10 lightning, burning 350 acres on the Happy Camp District in the Jacob Ladder area. The first man-caused fire also in the Happy Camp District to reach more than one hundred acres occurred on August 13 at Richardson's Bar, burning 620 acres.

The Klamath Forest was selected by the Washington, D.C. office to receive additional funds to increase the protection forces. The money did not become available until after July 1st. A recruiting program was started to man vacant Lookout stations and to increase the initial attack and fire prevention forces.

There was little time to train these new employees but rather they were pressed into the battle of keeping lightning and a few man-caused fires small. In the meantime the McCloud and Sacramento District of the Shasta Forest, as well as the California Division of Forestry, were busy keeping man-caused fires under control.

In spite of the severity of the season, no great loss of area had occurred by the first of September. But things changed. On September 3rd a fire in logging slash started on the Seiad District. It was Sunday and all fire force had been held on duty. Crews were sent from all districts on the Klamath. By midnight the fire had been controlled at 54 areas. Recruiting mop-up forces for the next day was difficult due to the Labor Day weekend. The fire was held.

This was only the beginning for someone in Indian Creek on the Happy Camp District decided to set a fire on East Fork. Initial attack had been weakened to man the fire on the Seiad District. By nightfall the East Fork fire was over 500 acres. All available man power was dispatched and by morning of the 5th it was under control.

Back to the 4th of September.

Recruiting of fire fighters continued all day. All Forest personnel that could be reached were called to duty. Replacement of initial attack crews were being arranged. Fruit Growers Supply Company at Hilt had put their Fire Department on alert and furnished five men for the Forest Service at Hilt. Recruiting continued to be difficult due to the Labor Day Holiday. The day dawned unusually warm. The temperatures ranged from 100° to 110° over the forest. The 2:30 P.M. weather observation at Oak Knoll recorded Temperature 105°, Humidity 8%, and fuel moisture of 1½%. Cumulous clouds were form-

ing West of Scott Valley, over the South Fork of the Salmon River, West of Yreka and North along the Siskiyou. The first thunder was reported shortly before five o'clock.

The Fire Control Officers, dispatchers, and many fire fighters had little rest since the night of the second. All were tired.

The first lightning caused fires were reported West of Hilt. Lightning started a fire in a mature stand of timber in Deer Creek. Walt Trim and the Fruit Growers Crew were dispatched. Then lightning struck the logging landing of the Fruit Growers Supply Company on Stirling Mountain. The Company dispatched a crew of their employees, there being no available Forest Service personnel to direct or assist the Company in handling the control action the first night and most of the next day until the Region One Fire Team arrived and took over the control action on this fire, now 600 acres.

By dark on the 4th lightning had started 26 fires on the Klamath and several on the California Division of Forestry area. Many fires were started in other Forests of California. No rain reached the ground from the thunderstorms in the Klamath. Every lightning struck observed by the lookouts started a fire.

By mid morning of September 5 it was evident that the Klamath had eight major fires. Only two of which were under control. The Happy Camp District had one, the Salmon River and Scott River Districts two each and the Yreka District had three. The names and location of the eight fires are listed at the end of the chapter.

Proctor Ault's story of the Taylor Creek fire gives an idea of fighting fires in a remote area.

The Taylor Creek Fire was one of 26 fires resulting from a very dry lightning storm that occurred on Labor Day, September 4, 1955. Seven of the 26 fires became major in size from over 100 acres up to 48,000. A total of 85,000 acres was burned in the next 14 days on the Klamath Forest.

PROCTOR'S STORY BEGINS HERE:

The telephone line near the Forks of the Salmon was out of order and I was down near the Forks looking for the telephone line trouble when the lightning storm started. When those lightning strikes occurred, I got the word from Bill Campbell on Eddy Gulch Lookout by radio. I left for Crawford Creek immediately, and when I got there some men had been sent from Fort Jones and Scott Valley area. Otto Brichacek was heading up these men and I went up to the gap at

the head of Crawford Creek to meet him and lead him and the crew to the Lookout and on to Grasshopper Point. There was a fire burning on a slope down the ridge. As I remember it, there were 26 men in the crew. There was a pretty sharp point above the fire on the ridge and I thought it could be caught in the gap if we got there in time. I helped Otto get his men outfitted with tools and we put a local man, who had done good work for the Forest Service, in charge of the men—can't think of his name now. He took the crew down the ridge to the fire.

We could look across the country and see the Taylor Creek Fire burning. It was dark by that time and we could see that the fire was not of any great proportion at that time but it was making progress. The smokejumpers were on that fire the next day. I returned to Crawford Creek after midnight from Grasshopper Fire and went to bed.

About 4 A.M. Vern Lewis arrived with some men from Scott Valley. I got up and we decided to put these men on the Taylor Creek Fire by helicopter since it was about a seven mile hike by trail and then a tortuous climb up from the trail to where the fire was. We decided to fly the men in from the old Farnsworth Ranch. It was about five miles from Crawford Creek to the ranch, and by the time we got them there it was 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning. We had to bring them by bus over a very narrow crooked road. Then the air soon became so turbulent that the helicopter pilot refused to take any more men to the fire. We had all of these men on our hands so we decided to move them by car to the end of the road and walk them up to the fire. The men struggled into camp during the afternoon and on into the evening, as near as I remember. We had sent quite a number of men up there by now—I don't remember how many, but there was a couple of bus loads. Two men were put in charge of the men. The 'copter pilot told us the fire was spreading around but was not doing too badly.

I did not go in to the fire until the next day. After the last of the men had headed out, I went by helicopter to look the fire over. The pilot would not take any men to the fire but he did take me up to have a look at it. This was the roughest ride I ever had. I don't know how pilot Bob Trimble ever held on to that ship. The tail of the 'copter was fish-tailing like a big old salmon going up a shallow river and bouncing up and down something dreadful, and I really had a rough ride. We also went over the ridge to the Six Mile Fire and arrived just in time to see the Six Mile Fire

blow up. It was sort of a wind-fire storm and the flames were going up those big pine trees 200 feet into the air. It was hell on wheels up there. The temperature stayed hot at night at high elevations. This is why the fire burned so good at night and one of the reasons why it was so hard to stop. It never stopped spreading.

The next day when I went to the fire we took a pack train and it was seven miles by trail to where we set up the camp. Men continued to trickle into the camp all of that day. When I got to the fire it had not burned down to the creek yet and had not spread up the creek very much. It seemed to be contained on top of the hill and didn't look like it was going to be too bad. Then something else began to happen. The hill was very steep and logs began to roll and slide endways down the slope and they were all afire. Some of them came clear down to the creek. They created a problem in the creek because we wanted to keep the fire on that side of the creek, and we did. As time went along more logs slid and rolled, making more trouble in the bottom. In the meantime it was creeping around on the upper side, going up the creek. The men on top attempted to build a line down through there but were not successful. They lost their line several times and finally it took a run on them and they had to get out. This fire I judged to be about 100 acres in size at this time. It seemed to burn just as hot at night as it did in the daytime. These terrific burning conditions at night made it a tough one to do anything with. Up on top of the ridge, where the first men to go into the fire were camped, the fire was easy to hold because the wind was blowing over the ridge toward us and continued to do so most of the time, and that was a big help because it probably would have spread over the ridge and gone out the other way.

When the fire got up to where the creek turned south and about opposite our camp, this was when we had many fearful moments. It looked like the fire was bent on crossing over the creek no matter what we did. There were large cinders, big sparks, cones and what have you in the air. All of these sparks were falling on the other side and in the camp, and it looked like our camp would burn out. It was quite a battle for awhile, but we finally kept it from crossing the creek and saved the camp. From then on the fire burned on the southerly side and was not so much trouble in the creek as it was before. It took several runs to the top but as soon as it would reach the ridge, the wind would be blowing

against it and that would be all there was to the run. After that point it wasn't too bad a fire to handle. By this time the fire was getting to be pretty good size - about 600 acres - and it wound up at about 1200 acres when it had burned out to the head of Taylor Creek on the south side. Our main objective was to keep the fire on one side of the creek and not let it get across and burn out the whole drainage. We were successful in doing just that. The camp we had in the creek was located at Barkshanty, a name given to this spot by the old-timers of the area. It is also the name of the little stream that ran into Taylor Creek from the northeast. It was a fairly decent place for a camp but it wasn't too handy because it developed into quite a camp with about 200 men in camp at a time, making conditions rather crowded.

What I want to tell about is our communication problem. I had a good old reliable SX radio set, low powered and line of right path only. This one was one of many that were reliable and I packed it around like a baby. When I rode horseback I would carry it on my back in a pack sack. During the time the camp was being set up, I scouted around trying to find a place where I could get out of the canyon with it, which usually posed a problem in a deep canyon. I tried up the hillside and all around with no success. Finally I walked on up the trail above camp, (this trail went right through the middle of camp which resulted in lots of traffic in the camp) for some distance and set the radio up on a big old log in the trail and made a call to any station or set and Cecil Point Lookout answered. That became our radio shack from then on and we never moved the set five inches from that time to the time when the camp was finally moved out at the end of the fire. Naturally there was always something doing over that radio but it never failed us and bore up like a good piece of machinery.

At the beginning of the setting up of this camp we did not have people who had been assigned as timekeepers, Camp Boss, Chiefs and what have you. They just came as a bunch of people and we had to pick out people and assign them to jobs. The first ones I picked out were two fellows for timekeepers. They didn't understand the job but they were pretty bright and soon caught on and did a very good job. And for Camp Boss we got another fellow and had him take care of things in that respect. Plans had to be organized and picked out of the crowd of men and it was quite an adjustment to make.

There was no panic when the camp was threatened by the fire, and it was definitely a threat, but everyone pitched in and worked and did a good job of keeping things going and the camp was saved, and we came out on top. When the fire was making the run around the turn to the south, it was very difficult to keep it on one side of the creek. The ranger sent in a message for us to pull out and abandon the fire. (The Six Mile fire had blown up and gone to hell) and I guess he thought we could not handle it all right with no danger of being trapped. I told him so and that if he would come down and let us do what we had to do everything would work out. Well, he finally agreed. It's easy to see his concern for if it had got across the creek there was about six miles of the headwaters of Taylor Creek that would have burned out. We were fortunate in holding it.

Up to this point most of the people on the fire were locals and about this time off forest overhead began to arrive. In fact, the Fire Control Officer from Modoc brought in 14. I considered the crucial part of the fire had passed unless we got something we didn't look for. The overhead arrived in camp in the evening and we had a little powwow and I told them that each one of the men would have a tool the next morning, which would be about 4:00 A.M. and they would go on up to the head of the fire. On their way in they were to assist the men already on the line to improve the line and make it safe. Some of these men didn't like this too much. Most of them were officers high up on their forests and did not like to bow down to the level of the pulaski, but they did, and that was all that was said about that. The next morning they each had their tools and I put a fellow by the name of Mason in charge and told him to take over the fire from the camp on top. There was a lot of food and equipment brought into this camp by helicopter. Later on that night about 50 Zuni Indians from the SW came in and were sent to his camp so the overhead soon had some firefighters to work with. The Indian crew cut the line through to the top as they went up to the camp and it was held and everything worked out pretty good.

Along the upper side of the fire that was along the backbone ridge that went clear on down into Taylor Creek, a Cat had worked its way up to the head of the fire and had constructed the fire line across the top of the fire. This was the only line built by dozer on the entire fire. There were many chains of line built by hand on spot fires both across the creek and up around the turn in

the creek above the main fire. I don't know how many spot fires were put out, but I would guess nearly 100, counting the two places where the fire tried its best to outdo us. This dozer line was later to give us a lot of trouble because the operator had pushed the fuel into piles on the fire side instead of outside of the fire. In fact, the mop up was completed on all of the hand line and we were still fighting the fire in the cat piles.

We had two main camps on the fire - the first one on top where the smokejumpers had landed and the other one in the creek. The camp on top was later moved on up the ridge toward the head of Taylor Creek. This was a much better location for a camp. The camp on top was serviced by helicopter and the one at Barkshanty by mule train. This worked out good in both places and service was never a problem, and most of the time the cooks were happy.

The mop up continued until, I think it was Sept. 13, when a cold rainstorm blew in and wet both the fire and the firefighters down. We moved most of the men out, leaving a few to look after the camps and some to patrol the fire lines should it clear up and dry out, which it did. After a few days it turned warm and those dear old cat piles all came to life again and we were still working on them until the next rain came.

I want to say here that everyone on the fire seemed to realize that the chips were down in the early part of the fire and although we were short handed in both the camp and on the fire line, few complained about the long hours and missing a meal now and then because they had to stay on

the line to hold the work they had done. This fire could have easily burned out the entire upper drainage of Taylor Creek. There were times when the air was so full of smoke and cinders that you wondered if you could make it. One thing we did have was plenty of water and everyday we could pull off our boots and soak our feet in a cool pool of water in the creek. The only place where water was in short supply was on the ridge along the dozer line and walking here was not too bad."

By the night of the 5th the Haystack fire had spread over Haystack Mt. into Little Humbug and reached the ridge between Little Humbug and Main Humbug. It had also spread west into McKinney Creek. The Dutch Creek fire on the North side of the Klamath had also made a run toward Dry Lake Lookout. The Kidder Creek fire in Scott Valley was spreading toward the Forest boundary and was being fought by the California Division of Forestry.

The weather continued to be very unfavorable, with high temperatures, very low humidity and unstable air conditions. A fire storm during the day of September 6 caused the Haystack fire to cross the Klamath River in the vicinity of Beaver Creek. It also spread through the South Fork of Humbug and came over the ridge west of Yreka. The Dutch Creek fire crossed Beaver Creek and spread toward Buckhorn Lookout. Both Deadwood and Buckhorn Lookouts had to be abandoned. However, neither structures were burned, even though the fires burned all around them.



*Advancing Fire Front
Haystack Fire
Sept. 6, 1955.*



1956 photo from left to right: Robert Dasmann, Forest Supervisor Mendocino NF; Floyd Nolte, Original Tanker Pilot; and Joseph B. Ely, Fire Control Officer, Mendocino NF standing by the first aircraft converted for Borate Dropping.

In the meantime, the East Fork, Sterling Mt., Hays Creek, McKinney Creek, as well as other smaller lightning fires were under control.

By September 10 the weather conditions had moderated and the mop-up stage began on all fires except Six Mile, which was not controlled until the 14th when the first fall rain came. The fire season did not end here. Because of the extended dry season forest fuels were still very dry. Patrol of the larger fires continued into October. It was not until the lightning fires of the October storm had been put out that the season came to an end.

By then, 138 man caused fires had occurred and 145 lightning fires in Siskiyou County, making a total of 285, of which 12 were over 100 acres in size. Nearly all the area of 97,277 burned area was in timbered lands. Damage was great due to the intimacy of the fires. The timber kill was 100% in a good portion of the larger fires. As if the fire season had not been enough of a disaster for the County, it began raining just before Christmas and by Christmas day all roads in Western Siskiyou were closed by flooding streams. But that's another story.

1956

In spite of the tropical storm of December, which caused the floods, the total precipitation for the winter was below normal. However, the thunderstorms in May, June, July and August produced above average rain fall for that period. Temperatures were near normal all summer except for September, when the average temperature dropped 13 degrees for the month.

The flood in December did considerable

damage to roads and some bridges in the Klamath. The fire season began with many areas isolated because roads were closed by slides and washouts. To offset this problem, the new Experiment Manager fund (I M E) were used to increase the number of Smoke-jumpers and to have a helicopter on standby.

The first fires of the season occurred along the S.P. railroad in the Mt. Shasta area on April 7th. The railroad continued to be a problem throughout this season for all three agencies. Children playing with matches caused a 200 acre fire near McCloud in May. Lightning was responsible for getting the fire season on its way early, with two storms, one on May 18 and another on May 30, resulting in 37 fires. Lightning occurred four more times during the season, June 29; July 12 and 25th, and August 19. The storm of July 25 resulted in 73 fires on the Klamath. When the season ended, 304 lightning fires had been recorded in Siskiyou County. When the season came to a close, 418 fires had been controlled in the County. Three fires had reached more than 100 acres and the largest being in C.D.F. area.

During 1956 fire protection was to enter into what I call the third phase. First it was the horse and mule stage. Then, in the late 30's and early 40's, it was the motorized period where the motor vehicles, pumper truck and bulldozer came into use. Although up to this time aircraft had provided some services such as transportation for smoke-jumpers, detection and cargo delivery by plane. A new use was to be developed for initial attacks, and support using aircraft as tankers to drop a retardant on the fires from the air. Joseph Ely, Fire Control Officer of the Men-



*Advancing
Fire Front
Bogus Fire
1957.*

docino N.F., working with people at the Willow's Airport, had converted N 3 N airplanes to air tankers. Their capacity was 100 gallons of retardant. The idea was to reach a fire while still small and either cool it or buy time for initial attack ground forces to reach the fire and gain control.

By this time the Region had acquired an Air Force of its own, with a Chief pilot in charge. His duties were to coordinate the Regional use of aircraft in the Forest Service and so the air phase was born.

Airtankers Birthday

"On September 12 and 13, the Mendocino National Forest and the Willows Chamber of Commerce will jointly present the fourth Annual Fly-in and the 25th Anniversary of the Airtanker program.

The program will consist of a day and a half of air operation activities. The opening ceremony is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., at the Willows Airport. At that time there will be a dedication of a permanent display commemorating the Airtanker Program. We are planning to have Chief Max Peterson, Congressman Gene Chappie, CDF Director Dave Pesonen, Regional Forester Zane Smith, and Glenn County Board Chairman George Edwards, as speakers." Taken from a new release.

The fire season started on April 20, with a railroad fire along the S.F. track on the Sacramento District in 1957. But the weather changed and May had three times the normal rain fall. Late in the month the weather turned to thunderstorms and the Klamath had 7 lightning

fires on May 29. June, July and August were very dry months, but temperatures were from 2 to 3 degrees cooler than normal. September had 7 times the normal rain fall. The season should have ended early but the Klamath had crushed 500 acres of brush in the 1926 Bogus burn and constructed a wide dozer fire line around it. Weather had been favorable for burning for several days and the weather forecast for September 24 indicated all factors would be within the guidelines. The crews were in place by 5 A.M. to burn the 500 acres. A weather observation was taken but burning factors were not computed. Firing was started. At 7 A.M. the fire weather Officer at Redding called and said that there had been a major change during the night. Temperatures were rising and humidity would be much to low for safe burning of the planned controlled burn. Their warning came too late. Firing was well under way. By 8 A.M. the forces were having trouble holding the prepared control lines. By 9 A.M. it was declared an escaped fire and additional fire fighters and equipment were being dispatched. The burning of dry crushed brush had created a fire storm. Whole Manzanita bushes were carried aloof 6000 feet and were falling outside of the control area. By that afternoon the fire had spotted 6 miles to the north and set many spot fires in Oregon. Besides the Klamath there were now three other agencies fighting the fire. The California division of Forestry, the Klamath Protective Association, and the Oregon State forestry. The first major fall storm brought rain during the night of the 26th and the spread was stopped after covering 12,831 acres in two States.

1950

Porcupine

Sec. 30, T. 40, R. 4 E.
 September 2 Railroad 5760 Acres Shasta,
 6403 Acres Modoc
 Controlled September 9 Approx. 600 Men

Spring Hill

Sec. 5, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
 September 2 Smoker 1200 Acres
 Controlled September 4 Approx. 450 Men
 Total 6960 Acres

1951

McIntosh Well

Sec. 30, T. 40 N., R. 2 E.
 April 1 Railroad 200 Acres
 Controlled by midnight 9 FS plus R.R.S.C.

Twin Creeks

Sec. 27, T. 41 N., R. 11 W.
 August 4 Lightning 120 Acres
 Controlled August 7 135 Men

West Height

Sec. 25, T. 43 N., R. 2 W.
 August 21 Lightning 297 Acres
 Controlled September 17 Holdover lightning
 fire
 Discovered September 12 No. Men ?

Bishop

Sec. 23, T. 15 N., R. 7 E.
 August 18 Lightning 610 Acres
 Controlled August 27 718 Men

Devil's

Sec. 19, T. 47 N., R. 10 W.
 August 18 5 Lightning burned together
 10,610 Acres
 Controlled August 26 496 Men

Alder Creek

Sec. 25, T. 43 N., R. 2 W.
 September 18 Lightning 807 Acres
 Controlled September 27 302 Men

East Fork Elk

Sec. 33, T. 16 N., R. 8 E.
 August 19 Lightning 513 Acres
 Controlled August 24 166 Men

Pony Peak

Sec. 18, T. 14 N., R. 5 E.
 August 20 Lightning 6400 Acres
 Controlled September 3 609 Men
 Total Acres 19,557

Sheep Camp

T. 45 N., R. 3 E.
 June 18 Lightning 680 Acres
 Controlled June 19 No. Men ?

Signal Butte

Sec. 34, T. 40 N., R. 3 W.
 August ? Railroad 180 Acres
 August (next day) 300 Men

Ash Creek Sink

Sec. 22, T. 40 N., R. 1 W.
 September Hunter 160 Acres
 Controlled First night 250 Men

Yellow Butte

Sec. 16+, T. 45, R. 3 E.
 September 15 Lightning 470 Acres
 Controlled September 19 36 Men

Mill Creek

Sec. 16, T. 45 N., R. 10 W.
 September 17 Power line 103 Acres
 Controlled September 18 89 Men

1953

No Fires over 100 Acres

1954

Rifle Range

Sec. 5, T. 40, R. 2 W.
 April ? Children playing with matches
 200 Acres Controlled first night 150 Men

Tiger Fork

Sec. 11, T. 40 N., R. 9 W.
 July 27 Equip. Exhaust 466 Acres
 Controlled July 28 93 Men

CDF.

1 Class E 300 Acres plus
 No other information available

Bald Hornet

Sec. 20, T. 17 N., R. 6 E.
 July 31 Equipment Exhaust 100 Acres
 Controlled August 1 106 Men

Speepy Pea

Sec. ?, T. 38 N., R. 3 E.
 Date ? Cause ? 1277 Acres
 Controlled ? No. Men ?

Mott

Sec. 35, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
 Date ? Power Line 177 Acres
 Controlled ? No. Men ?

1955**Jacob's Ladder**

Sec. 16, T. 14 N., R. 7 E.
 June 10 Lightning 350 Acres
 Controlled June 15 101 Men

Richardson

Sec. 1, T. 16 N., R. 7 E.
 August 13 Smoker 620 Acres
 Controlled August 13 218 Men

East Fork

Sec. 9, T. 17 N., R. 7 E.
 September 4 Incendiary 713 Acres
 Controlled September 5 305 Men

McKinney Creek

Sec. 34, T. 46 N., R. 4 W.
 September 4 Lightning 100 Acres
 Controlled September 5 60 Men

Sterling Mt.

Sec. 19, T. 48 N., R. 8 W.
 September 4 Lightning 957 Acres
 Controlled September 6 248 Men

Hays Creek

Sec. 6, T. 42 N., R. 10 W.
 September 4 Lightning 127 Acres
 Controlled September 5 22 Men

Kidder Creek

Sec. 7, T. 42 N., R. 10 W.
 September 4 Lightning 14,562 Acres
 Controlled September 14 603 Men

Taylor Creek

Sec. 10, T. 38 N., R. 10 W.
 September 4 Lightning 1110 Acres
 Controlled September 14 247 Men

Six Miles

Sec. 22, T. 39 N., R. 10 W.
 September 4 Lightning 5272 Acres
 Controlled September 14 416 Men

Dutch Creek

Sec. 22, T. 47 N., R. 9 W.
 September 4 Lightning 9122 Acres
 Controlled September 10 490 Men

Haystack

Sec. 36, T. 46 N., R. 9 W.
 September 4 Lightning 63,507 Acres
 Controlled September 13 1096 Men

1956**Racoon**

Sec. 18, T. 39 N., R. 1 E.
 Date ? Logging 200 Acres
 Controlled next day 300 Men

Steelhead

Sec. 33, T. 46 N., R. 10 W.
 July 18 Powerline 281 Acres
 Controlled July 19 132 Men

St. Claire

Sec. 2, T. 37 N., R. 12 W.
 July 26 Lightning 170 Acres
 Controlled July 29 240 Men
 Total 651 Acres

1957**CDF**

Date ? Cause ? 4131 Acres

Mile Post 362

Sec. 29, T. 43 N., R. 3 W.
 July 8 Railroad 704 Acres
 Controlled July 10 353 Men

Bald Hornet

Sec. 20, T. 17 N., R. 6 E.
 July 31 Equipment Exhaust 100 Acres
 Controlled August 1st 206 Men

Mott

Sec. 35, T. 40 N., R. 4 W.
 Power line 177 Acres Total Acres 2,617

Speepy Peak

T. 48 N., R. 3 E.
 1,277 Acres

Mile Post 364

August 29 Railroad 296 Acres
 Controlled August 30 182 Men

Bogus

Sec. 23, T. 47 N., R. 4 W.
 September 24 Escape Control Burn
 11,945 Acres
 Controlled September 26 1091 Men

3 Agencies Fire, Klamath

CDF & KPA Total 13,431 Acres

Gold Digger

Sec. 26 & 27, T. 45, R. 3 E.
 600 Acres Modoc Fire

**INFORMATION ON CALIF. DIV. FIRES
VERY LIMITED.****1958****CDF**

Class D 280 Acres

CDF

2 Class D 445 Acres

Schulmery G.I.

Sec. 29, T. 44 N., R. 7 W.
June 30 Lightning 510 Acres
Controlled July 2 278 Men

CDF

Class E 622 Acres

CDF

Class E 1580 Acres

CDF

Class E 1200 Acres Total 3,632 Acres

1959**Bolan**

Sec. 12, T. 42 N., R. 4 W.
June 5 Smoker 533 Acres
Controlled June 6 Est. 150 Men

Sulphur Ranch

Sec. 12, T. 47 N., R. 7 W.
July 27 Debris Burning 1600 Acres
Controlled July 29 531 Men
Joint Fire CDF & Klamath

Lava Bed

Five lightning in Sec. 1 & 11, T. 41 N., R. 3 E.
August 8 13,800 Acres
Controlled August 18 No. Men ?