FOREST PROTECTORS

Vol. I - No. 3 - 1953

Maine Forest Service
Augusta, Maine

Oct 14, 1953
OBSERVATIONS AND REACTIONS

Unfortunately I couldn't see all of you during the summer. However, I was pleased to visit many wardens which gave me an opportunity to renew problems and have a chat with them. Possibly some of my reactions and observations will be of interest to all departmental members.

The general interest in your work and area was perhaps the most pleasing of my reactions. I saw training school ideas being used. Better planning and improved relations with other people working in their areas, both public and industry, is making progress in most districts. The gradual improvement of storehouses and living facilities is noticeable.

Initiative on the part of wardens who have planned and carried through new projects with little or no dollar expense, except their own efforts, is appreciated, especially when it is for forest fire prevention or suppression. A number of districts have made their living quarters and furnishings more attractive by repairing and painting used furniture given the department by other State agencies.

As with all inspection trips, not all observations were pleasing. Some wardens have failed to keep their maps available and up to date, no new roads added, fires not recorded. Some trucks lack first-aid kits, accident forms, fire extinguisher, etc. Some wardens have not planned and carried through improvements planned by the department. Because a fire warden's first job is fire, too many wardens use it as an excuse not to plan a few days in advance. Warden districts with work plans have better phone lines, neater storehouses, grounds, and living quarters.

A forest fire warden's work consists of many jobs with the primary one forest fire. He has to be able to change quickly from fire prevention to fire boss, then to carpenter or telephone repair man. In this day of specialization and assembly line work, most workers are nut or bolt turners, riveters, or one job men. They do only a small part of the complete job. Forestry department jobs, whether fire, pest, or management, give the worker a chance to see the job through from beginning to end and can provide the worker the satisfaction of a job well done. Workers interested in their job, doing the best they can, are happy workers.

I hope in the future more of you will pass along ideas and items for Forest Protectors. Is it the type of information you like? Austin and Joel need your ideas and information.

A. D. NUTTING
Forest Commissioner
"Forest Protectors" has just been read with interest and would appreciate being placed on the mailing list for it. I thought that the excerpts from reports, chosen as they were, showed the pulse of the organization. Interesting to new and old members alike."

George C. Sawyer

"I think that your "Forest Protectors" is an excellent idea for keeping your departmental personnel informed and one that we will adopt in the near future. By all means, place us on your mailing list since we are most interested in the happenings in Maine."

William Messick, N. H.

"An item in the Portland Sunday Telegram informs us that the Forestry Department is publishing a quarterly employees' magazine, FOREST PROTECTORS. Will you please place the name of the Maine State Library on the mailing list to receive 10 copies of this publication regularly, as it is printed. Thank you."

Maine State Library

"I acknowledge receipt of a copy of your "Forest Protectors". I was much interested in this and would appreciate your putting my name on your mailing list for future copies."

George Blaisdell, International Paper Co.

"Thank you very much for the copy of "Forest Protectors". I read it from cover to cover, and gained both pleasure and knowledge from its contents. I shall appreciate very much being placed on your mailing list for the next issue. I firmly believe that a publication of this kind does a great deal toward knitting a far-flung organization, such as the Forest Service, together. I realize very keenly that knitting a large and diversified group of men into a close unit is a tough one."

F. M. Crocker, St. Regis Paper Co.

"Thank you very much for your letter of July 2 and for the copy of "Forest Protectors" which you sent along. I would be very much interested in receiving all copies of this and wish that you would put us on your mailing list to receive future copies."

D. B. Demeritt, Dead River Co.

"This acknowledges yours of the 2nd and also copy of your "Forest Protectors" which to date has been read in part with much interest, especially "Pats 'N Slaps" and particularly Editor's Note warning that in future issues of "Forest Protectors", "Slaps" may include actual names of wardens. This should be effective. I would be pleased to be placed on your mailing list."

O. A. Sawyer, Hollingsworth & Whitney Co.

"I enjoyed the copy of "Forest Protectors" and would appreciate your putting my name on your mailing list."

E. C. Melcher, S. D. Warren Co.

"Thank you for your letter of July 2 and the attachment of "Forest Protectors" and "Camp Sites". I enjoyed seeing both of these publications and they appear to be very worthwhile developments.

Four issues a year as planned certainly is a fine undertaking and I believe
PERSONNEL CHANGES

Franklin Sargent is now full time Augusta office radio dispatcher replacing our "Kathy". Frank Dow, Jr., is the new watchman on Bigelow.

Chief Warden Macey Armstrong retired in August. Both Mace and Ethel Armstrong have put in long years of service with the department. We wish them luck. Chief Warden Brud Davis will serve as acting warden for this district for the end of the season.

Harry Mullen is the new watchman on Spencer tower replacing Gene Thornton.

Arthur Reno resigned as seasonal warden in District No. 4 and is succeeded by Lester Munsey.

Milton Anderson was recently employed as new patrolman for the Machias District.

Larry Freeman has been appointed to handle the field work of gypsy and brown-tail moth control work.

We regret to announce the sickness of Thomas Mullins, watchman on Rocky Mt., who was forced to leave our service for the rest of the year. We wish him a speedy recovery to good health. He is replaced by Joseph Rossignol.

Other changes will appear in later issues.

Thirty thousand people, or approximately thirty percent of all wage earners in Maine, are employed either in the woods or in the manufacture of forest products.

On August 27, Farm Forester Supervisor Robert Dinneen attended a banquet at the Poland Springs meeting of the Androscoggin County Supervisors of the Soil Conservation Service. The following day they visited farms in the vicinity illustrating what S.C.S. is doing to benefit the farmers. The following note was received at the Augusta office on September 2.

"Please no flowers, but yesterday and today and maybe tomorrow, slightly out of business. Nothing serious, but have an infected leg due to barb wire entanglements. Think I will live and actually can get around but am supposed to keep quiet (who me?) a little more than usual. I will learn to go on farm tours."

Comment: This ain't no Bull!!!
that there is much to be derived from such a localized means of maintaining communication between personnel and various segments of your organization. All in all it is an idea which can well be carried to other states."

Roy Olson, U. S. Forest Service

"I have just finished reading "Forest Protectors" and think it is a very fine book. I would appreciate it if you would continue sending it along. Thanks."

William Eggleston, Eastern Corporation

"I have received the issue of the "Forest Protectors" and it certainly is a very worthwhile publication. It is a good round-up."

L. J. Freedman, Penobscot Development Co.

"I would appreciate receiving future copies of "Forest Protectors". I have actually read it completely and find it both interesting and instructive."

Norman Gray, Forester

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your "Forest Protectors". I certainly would like to have you put me on the mailing list because the manner of presenting the material is something entirely different from anything I have ever seen. From time to time over the years, in the Conservation Department at Albany, we had tried to put out something but it has never really seemed to jell."

A. S. Hopkins, NEFFPC.

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Courtesy is an intangible commodity that costs nothing, yet pays real, substantial dividends.

Show others a little courtesy and they'll show the same to you.

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Blanche Catches the Bouquet!

Lillian and Ted Tschanier, Harold and Madelyn Bullock and daughter, and Blanche Violette attended the pretty home wedding in Madison of Olive Ouellette and Robert Corson. There were 75 guests present and the couple received many gifts. Olive and Bob had a two weeks' honeymoon in the White Mountains at the end of which time he returned to duty with the Navy and Olive came back to work.

Comment: Where there is faith, there is hope. Best of luck, Blanche.

The rest of the girls never had a chance.
The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission, soon after its adoption, recognized the immediate need for large forest fire organizational training. This was the direct result of the 1947 fire disaster. All fires start as small fires but when "blow ups" occur, highly trained men are required to organize and handle large fire situations. These are commonly known as project or campaign fires. For the past four years, top notch forest fire warden teams from the New England States, New York, and the Province of New Brunswick, have been attending large forest fire organizational training sessions. These sessions were conducted by a Compact training team and the material presented in lesson plan form for the 18 key positions of a large fire set-up.

The time came last winter when it was decided to hold a full dress field exercise to see how successfully a large forest fire organization could be set up and operated. Upon the invitation of Forest Commissioner Nutting of Maine to the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission, it was accepted to hold this practical field exercise at Princeton, Maine, August 24-28.

Through the courtesy of the Eastern Pulp Wood Company, permission was granted to use the Clifford Lake forest fire in Township 26, ED, in Washington County, of 800 acres, as the basis of the problem. State foresters of the Compact, recognizing the value of this specialized training, sent highly trained fire warden teams to Princeton to participate in the school. The first two days were devoted to brief class-room reviews of certain positions of large fire organization.

On Thursday, a full day dress rehearsal was held in the field on the Clifford Lake fire area. The day's procedure, based on a theoretical problem, went something like this:

Chief Warden Kenneth Hinkley was designated as the Fire Boss. With multiple major forest fires going elsewhere in the state, the Commissioner requested Compact help from the other New England States, including New York and New Brunswick, through the Executive Secretary, Arthur Hopkins. Theoretically, Mr. Hopkins complied with the request and provided a full scale large fire organization team of trained personnel for the 18 key positions with the exception of the Fire Boss.

Earl Crabb picked up initial information from the Augusta dispatcher's office concerning the Clifford Lake fire and flew to Rangeley to pick up Ken Hinkley and eventually landed him at Princeton. Actual procedure was carried out whereby Fire Boss Kenneth Hinkley identified himself and became acquainted with members from other states coming to fill in the key positions. Ken, as Fire Boss, then designated where he was going to establish his fire headquarters and charged his staff of Line Boss, Plans Chief, and Service Chief to set up their respective units and report back to him for a strategy meeting of course of action to be taken. Each staff officer actually set up his unit and reported back to the Fire Boss where Warden Bagley, who had theoretically been working on the fire for a day, was called in to relate what went on while he was in charge of the fire up to that time, indicating on the map the amount of line constructed and other pertinent information. From that point on, Fire Boss Ken Hinkley and his staff went into immediate action in the suppression of the fire. Fire Scouts were sent out ahead and reported back by the Thrust Line method their location, condition of the fire, and other useful information.
Princeton exercise cont.

This was done by a series of canned messages tacked on trees around the perimeter of the actual burned area. Sectors were established with Sector Bosses handling definite lines of the fire area.

The actual burn and setting up of a field fire headquarters at Clifford Lake gave a realistic touch to the problem. A CONTROL team kept the problem moving along. Most of the activity was around the fire headquarters and especially at the Message Center. Canned messages were prepared ahead of time so as to bring out certain actions of the fire problem. At the Message Center there were four channels for radio, communication as well as telephones and messengers. Over 150 messages were handled during the course of the day's exercise. Theoretically, men and equipment were dispatched to points of the fire line; food was sent out, crews relieved on an "on shift" and "off shift" basis and even incidents of sickness and injury were worked into the problem. Unfavorable weather conditions prevented the actual use of the plane, although it was originally planned as part of the problem. By 4:30 the Fire Boss declared the fire under control and the field exercise was ended.

The following morning four hours were devoted to a critique in which each person that participated in the problem got up and explained how he received his instructions from his superior and the execution of any orders. It was a pleasant surprise to see how frankly the men admitted weaknesses and errors during the course of the problem and their endeavor to try and correct them in the future when actual situations come up.

In summary there were three chief accomplishments of the school. First, it brought 50 men together, who for the past four years have been attending Compact training sessions and at Princeton had an opportunity to actually set up a large forest fire organization on the 800 acre Clifford Lake fire and work as a team. These series of training sessions have built up among these men a fine "esprit de corps" and they can be counted upon as capable of fitting into any position of large fire organization should a Compact member state request aid.

Second, the school brought out the need for continued in-state training to overcome mistakes which were brought out so strongly during the practical exercise.

Third, the school brought out the need for holding boards of review immediately following the suppression of the fire, no matter how large or small.

During the week of the training session, there were special guests who contributed much towards the school by their presence and speaking to the group of wardens.

Finally, it can be said that the school was very successful and that the wardens and foresters returned to their respective states much wiser and more experienced in their ability to assist in the smooth running operation of a large fire organization.
The U. S. Forest Service periodically sends out teams to visit and inspect the various states. Such a trip was recently completed in Maine. On August 15, a team composed of E. W. Loveridge, Asst. Chief of Administrative Management and Information, Washington, D. C.; Arthur Spillars, Chief, Division of Cooperative Forest Management, Washington, D. C.; Charles Tebbe, Regional Forester, Region 7, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Dr. Ralph Marquis, Director of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pa., came to this state for a three-day inspection.

The itinerary for this official team of U. S. Forest Service representatives was as follows: Leaving the Eastland Hotel on the morning of August 15, the first stop was at the Maine Forest Service storehouse at Alfred and the Massabesic Forest Experiment Station. Fire wardens and farm service foresters explained their work and plans for the future. Members of the Experiment Station explained their work and conducted a short tour of the area. Accompanied by Forest Commissioner A. D. Nutting as official escort and host, the team in two cars continued to Augusta stopping along the way to see some managed woodlots. After a short visit at the Augusta office, the party continued to Greenville checking in at the famous Squaw Mountain Inn. At Greenville, Deputy Forest Commissioner Austin Wilkins joined the group. Inspection was made of the Greenville Maine Forest Service storehouse and interviews were held with Supervisor Robert Hutton and some of his wardens.

On Sunday morning, August 16, the party was divided and flown in three planes to the Tramway. Through the courtesy of the Fish and Game Department, one of their planes piloted by George Later took one group, and the two Maine Forest Service planes piloted by Earl Crabb and Charlie Coe took the others. Ideal flying weather provided an excellent opportunity for the group to see several points of interest. Some of these were burned areas of last year’s fires, cutting operations of the Great Northern and International Paper Companies, lookout towers, timbered areas, and scenic lakes and mountains. A fine dinner was provided at the Tramway by Chief Warden Bill Smart’s wife, trout being the speciality. While here, interviews were held with Supervisor Robert Pendleton and some of his wardens. Points of interest were visited including a short ride in the put-put up the well known railroad tracks. The group then continued on to Umsaskis for a short visit with Chief Warden Bridges. The return trip to Greenville was made by following along the Maine-Canadian border.

Monday morning, August 17, the group then proceeded to the Bradley Experimental Forest for a short tour, and at noon had luncheon at the Bangor Tarratine Club as guests of a group of landowners and industry representatives. Following the luncheon an informal meeting was held with a discussion of general forestry problems and observations by the inspection team.

In conclusion, the team expressed appreciation to Forest Commissioner A. D. Nutting for a very fine itinerary and that they would take back with them some lasting impressions of Maine and the hospitality shown them.
SAFETY OF FIRE FIGHTERS

(Editors Note: Safety of men is one of the most important orders to be issued by supervisory wardens in forest fire control. The following newspaper items should be a warning to all Maine wardens—loss of life in a forest fire is a terrible tragedy. The recent Sanford fire tragedy brings this home to all of us.)

15 PERISH FIGHTING CALIFORNIA WOODS FIRE

WILLOWS, Calif. — A flash fire driven by a sweeping wind killed 15 firefighters in Mendocino National Forest last night.

Bulldozers worked into the blackened area and recovered the bodies. By mid-morning all but one had been identified.

Thirteen of the dead were members of the New Tribes Mission, a religious organization with Pacific Coast headquarters near here. They were in their camp at Fouts Springs, in the mountains, training for missionary assignments in overseas jungles and mountains.

Charles J. Gleeson, reporter for the Willows Journal, wrote in a copyrighted story that the blaze broke out yesterday afternoon on Powder House Point, in Mendocino forest, 28 miles northwest of Willows. The area is on Alder Springs road in the Coast Range Mountains, about half way between San Francisco and the Oregon border.

The missionaries went to work on the firelines, under direction of Forest ranger Robert Powers, who lost his life.

They thought they had the fire under control at 10 p.m., Gleason wrote in the journal, and sat down to eat their rations.

Within a few minutes Forest Ranger Charles Lafferty ran down to the circle of men. He warned them to leave at once.

Nine men managed to escape, Gleeson said, by climbing the mountain to a fire trail, and thence to Alder Springs road.

But the wind-driven, explosive flames trapped the 15 as they ran toward safety. They died.

FOREST RANGER'S SON ADMITS SETTING CALIFORNIA FIRE FATAL TO 15

WILLOWS, Calif., July 12—A young man who has lived quietly here since childhood confessed early today, Sheriff Lyle G. Sale reported, that he deliberately set the Mendocino National Forest fire that trapped and killed 15 firefighters in a canyon 30 miles west of Willows Thursday night.

He was identified as Stanford P. Patton, 26, unemployed service station attendant, son of a U. S. Forest Service ranger in Trinity county.

Sheriff Sale said young Patton wrote and signed a full confession after he was questioned for eight hours and confronted with ghastly photographs of the burned bodies.

The sheriff quoted Patton as explaining he was out of work and wanted a job as a volunteer fighting the blaze he ignited. He did help fight the tragic fire.
Patton is now in the small Glenn county jail, held on an open charge for questioning. Glenn County Dist. Atty Clyde H. Larimer said the formal accusation will be filed tomorrow.

If he is charged with arson, Patton could be tried for 15 counts of first-degree murder.

Patton is the father of three children, and his wife is expecting another baby.

SPRINGVALE MAN TRAPPED, DIES IN SANFORD WOODS FIRE

Sanford, July 31 - Some 400 firefighters mustered tonight to battle a runaway forest blaze that broke loose after killing one man and injuring another.

Corydon Goodwin, 67, of Springvale, perished when wind whipped flames trapped him after his pumper truck stalled on a logging road at the Sanford fire.

Witnesses said Goodwin was cut off when he spent too much time trying to start the vehicle.

The blaze rapidly spread through an area three miles long and 1-1/2 miles wide. Firefighters concentrated on protecting homes and other buildings in the vicinity.

HOT FIRE TRAPS MEN

Six South Carolina forest fire fighters came close to losing their lives in a terrifically hot fire burning a large area of woodland in Allendale County on the night of February 6, 1950.

The fire occurred early in the night about one mile south of Barton in Allendale County on property belonging to Gair Woodlands Corporation of Savannah.

John Shirer and Cole Page said that the fire was too hot to fight directly. The crew was plowing a fire line with a heavy tractor and plow, and backfiring into the oncoming fire. The tractor hung up on a big log. In order to protect the expensive tractor they burned a protective strip around it. The backfire from the tractor and the head fire roared together and flared up into the tree tops. At the same time the main fire jumped the plowed line and a wall of flame encircled the six men. Fire was burning on all sides of the men, over their heads and around their feet. They expected their clothes to burst into flame at any minute. Page said that they had to keep moving around to keep the fire from burning their shoes and they had to stay close together to keep each other's clothes from catching on fire. The seat on the tractor and the tires on the plow were burned up completely.

John Shirer said that before this fire he had always believed that there was no reason for anyone to get burned up in a forest fire in South Carolina. "Now I have changed my mind. There wasn't a man in the group that didn't think that each minute might be his last. There was so much smoke and it was so hot that we were almost afraid to breathe. The only thing that saved us was little puffs of cool air carried in by the wind. When these came along we all took deep gulps of air. When the fire cooled down we were able to get out," Shirer said.

The fire fighters brought the fire under control at midnight.

They finished the job.
A recent Maine Forest Service lawn party was held at the home of Lillian Tschamler for the benefit of five newlyweds: Olive Ouellette and Kathy Emery of the Augusta office; Steve Orach, Farm Service Forester; Russ Cram, Radio Technician; and Franklin Sargent, now Augusta office radio dispatcher.

Gifts were presented to each couple from the Cheer Fund - chafing dish to Olive, matching English copper mugs to the Crams, silver tray to the Sargents, brass fruit bowl to the Orachs, and a jade bracelet to Kathy.

Over 60 were in attendance. Each family or group brought their own box lunch. Lillian and Ted provided the coffee and cream. All had a good time talking and meeting each other. Some of the field wardens were "adopted sons" by members of the Augusta office to share their box lunches. The highlight of the party was a "Shotgun Wedding" skit put on by members of the office. Principal actors were Fred Holt, deacon; Joel Marsh, bride (and what a bride!); Dot Willis, groom; and Al Willis, father of the bride with shotgun. For amusement the deacon asked the bride for her blood sample, she immediately produced a large bottle containing blue liquid. The father spoke up, "Ha, ha, a Kentucky Blueblood." After the marriage the bride's first gift was a rolling pin.

ATTENTION ALL - Editor's Note:

Joel Marsh is a patient at the Veteran's Hospital, Togus, Maine. Cards and letters will surely cheer him up. He has worked hard in the Keep Maine Green and Tree Farm Programs and has caused us to laugh many times in skits at training schools and social affairs. He also is the artist of FOREST PROTECTORS cartoons and cover pages of programs. Hurry up and get well, Joel.
(Editor's Note: There are now 21 tree farmers who have received certificates under the Tree Farm Program. Below is an inspection record of Mr. Elwell C. McCain's woodlot, recently approved by the Tree Farm Inspection Committee. Mr. McCain received his certificate on September 7, at the Windsor Fair.)

**INSPECTION RECORD**

**Tree Farms System**

**County:** Kennebec

**Owner:** Mr. Elwell C. McCain

**Address:** RFD 6, Augusta, Maine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woodland Area</th>
<th>35 Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Land</td>
<td>25 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved Pasture</td>
<td>3 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area</strong></td>
<td>63 Acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location and Description of Tree Farm**

Pine land on west of Three Mile Pond in Windsor. On both sides of Three Mile Pond Road about 1 mile south of the Belfast-Augusta highway.

**Description of Forestry Practices**

**Protection Measures:**

Town Fire Department. Maine Forest Service organization. Road System in pine stand. Slash has been lopped and piled. Blister Rust control work being done in Windsor this year for first time in some 20 years.

**Forest Cutting Practices:**

Started cutting pine selectively in 1949. Hardwood has been cut selectively for firewood.

**Tenure and Purpose of Ownership:**

Farm purchased in 1943 for retirement home. Farm to be developed for agricultural and timber production for retirement income. Mr. McCain hopes to cut enough pine to pay taxes and hold remainder for future income.

**Description of Forest Types and Stand Condition:**

White pine, 27 acres; hardwood-hemlock, 3 acres; hardwood, 5 acres. White pine stands came in on old pasture, are about 55 years old, in typical old pasture condition with many deformed and some blister rust damaged trees, making excellent growth on plenty of well formed trees. Probably has 350 MBF of pine sawlogs if small trees were cut. Site is good. This is a relatively high value pine area.

Hardwood-Hemlock; site is variable, some is too wet. Hemlock generally slow growing.

Hardwood-Beech is dead or dying from scale-nectria. Other species doing well.

**Forest Products Harvested:**

1949 - 4 cords firewood from dead pine
1951 - 2 MBF logs, 12 cords pine pulpwood
1952 - 5 " " " "
1953 - (to date) 2 MBF sawlogs, 19 cords pine pulpwood

Would be cutting more if labor were available. All cutting is now based on marking by Service Forester.
BLISTER RUST PROGRAM WINDING UP

In spite of the usual labor problems encountered, eradication results promised to exceed the estimated figure of 195,000 acres of control area this year. Indications are that this figure may be somewhere around 200,000 acres for the season.

Dry weather interfered some with the use of chemical eradication. This was due chiefly to the lack of nearby water supply. However, increased use was made of the chemical 2,4,5-T in aqueous solution. This is very effective in the eradication of skunk currants and some varieties of gooseberry.

Control activities have been carried on in sixty-five towns during the summer program, extending from Caratunk Plantation on the north limits of operation, to the town of Eliot, in the extreme southern end of the state.

Beginning about October 1, the fall and winter mapping season will get under way, with each district leader being assisted by one part-time mapper. Examination of control area to determine the existence of white pine and mapping of such areas will be in preparation for the 1954 program.

NORTHEASTERN FOREST FIRE CONTROL EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

A fire control equipment demonstration was held at Silver Lake in Hollis, N. H., on July 23. This demonstration is sponsored by a committee appointed by the USFS Regional Forester at Philadelphia to promote the development of better equipment. The area encompassed by this meeting was New York and New England.

Industrial as well as state developed equipment was demonstrated. Two new pumps, the 1 ½ in. from British Columbia and the 27 pound Homelite with 1 in. suction and discharge, brought favorable comments. A slip-on tank unit, using a 3/4 ton Dodge chassis, was shown by the R. I. Forest Service. A Wajex pump unit and linen hose vulcanizing outfit from the New Brunswick Forest Service were shown. Many other items from other states and the National Forests were exhibited. Fourteen men from Maine attended this meeting.

Incidentally, in preparation for the winter Blister Rust mapping program, Paul Simmonds, Leader, collected snowshoes for general overhaul and repair.

The skit catches him coming out of the Norway repair shop with the load of snowshoes. Paul was wearing a woolen jacket and had to walk two blocks with the temperature at 100°. As you can imagine, Paul took quite a ribbing from the public with remarks such as, "Aren't you rushing the season?" and "Kind of poor snow-shoeing in these parts, isn't it?"

Comment: Paul, you should furnish your men tennis rackets in the summer time and reserve the snowshoes for the winter.
FOREST FIRES AND FIRE REPORTS

Our thanks to a B-36 Bomber which reported a forest fire location by coordinates, July 3, 1953, 4:15 P.M. These were radioed to Augusta CAA and telephoned to the Forestry Department.

Noticed by Supervisor Fred Holt in reviewing forest fire reports. Cause - "Lightning", Class - "The man in the sky", Resident - "Part time in town and state."

Remarks on Carthage fire report of July 1, 1953. "Two small boys, aged 7 and 9, while building a play house built a smudge in a tin pail having a hole in the bottom. Fire started through hole in bottom of pail."

Sidney fire payroll, June 30, 1953. "Watching fire 8-1/2 hours." Most people don't get paid for being observers.

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Boothbay Fire, July 4.

How fire was extinguished power pumps
Was any law violated? no
What clues found: bottle where fire started.

Remarks: This was a windy day. There was a spot fire on the mainland that was spotted by a plane that came down close to where the pumps were set up and called out the window "Fire across the river" and we soon found it and took care of it before it got too big - thanks to unknown plane.

Report submitted by Clayton M. Dodge
Boothbay town fire warden.
Maurice Weaver

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"Why not have fire laws, or the most important ones such as Ch. 85, Sec. 35, and Ch. 85, Sec. 39, and Ch. 33, Sec. 72, printed in book form like Fish and Game laws. Wouldn't town clerks, etc., pass them out with hunting and fishing licenses. Two-thirds of people contacted never heard of fire laws. I think if the public knew more about fire laws it would be a good step in fire suppression."

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Arrest and Conviction
Joseph Pitas, Jr., So. Attleboro, Mass., was convicted in Bingham, July 5, 1953, for building a fire at Round Pond, 10,000 Acre Tract, as a non resident and without permission of the landowner.

Chief Warden Isaac Harris and Patrolman Arthur Pillsbury apprehended the violator. A fine of $10.00 plus $9.70 court costs was paid.
Report of forest fire on Bombing Range, T. 18, MD, Wash. County

"I am enclosing this copy of the information on the fire on the bombing range on T. 18, M.D. as given me by Airman 3rd Class James A. Gallagher, 506th Operation Squadron, at the scene of the blaze.

"On June 30, 1953 fire started after flare was fired to warn personnel off the range, aircraft due in hot with bombs at the same time. Fire was put out to satisfaction of Range Officer. Next day some area burst into flames. The next day again in same area fire was spotted and extinguished. On July 3, 1953 at 1640 EDT fire was spotted and reported by aircraft to Dow AFB, Bangor, Maine, requesting local help. At 2030 fire put out again to satisfaction of all concerned. Operation supervised by officers from Dow Air Force Base."

I was allowed to check the area and found fire still in the ground and the man said they would grub it over with the bulldozer and be sure it was all out.

They seen to have adequate equipment for any fire set by flares and I understand something is being done to signal other than by flares until this dry spell is over. They are usually twelve men there, they have a bulldozer, hose, and a tank they can move when necessary.

The fire was in a corner made where two roads cross and was about 50 yards from the barracks which were saved by the intervening road."

Macey Armstrong, July 6.

(Note: One cannot be too careful in checking a fire. Cold trailing in this case might have helped.)

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Don't Be a Flipper

Don't be a flipper, be a crusher instead. Cigarette smoker in 1949 averaged 2435 smokes. Half the cigarettes smoked in cars are flipped rather than crushed.

Around the bend, or just over the hill from where you flipped your cigarette stub may be a home – just like yours – with maw, paw, and the little tots. They may die in the fire started because you thoughtlessly flipped a cigarette stub before you crushed the burning end.

If you can't take time to crush it, you might try one of these alternatives: Put it in the ash tray—you paid to have the tray—spit on it, sit on it, give it to the folks in the back seat, or drop it into your pocket or on the upholstery. Let it burn your own property. Whatever you do, Don't be a Flipper.

Sent in by Fire Chief Dave Sleeper of Bar Harbor
"I believe all the gang in this area get a kick out of the Forest Protectors and look forward to the next issue. It looks to me as though it's a very unique idea of injecting a lot of practical measures into we doughheads, "the field force". Will serve to keep the "pack setters" as well as the camp setters on their toes a little sharper, and some of the rust and cobwebs from the equipment.

Speaking of fires, it seems like blunders occur about one and half per acres burned, higher on small fires and less on larger ones. Where it always takes a small fire to make a big one, possibly we are all thinking in the terms of large fires too much and not pre-planning enough quick action on the small ones. However, the records last year appeared favorable considering the dry season.

Where I am one that would always be quite content just to be a little fire fighter and depend on bigger brass when we play a losing game, decided to run a test last Sunday and count the errors.

Called Patrolman Gagnon about 8:30 A.M. at 25 Mile Camp, "Got your Sunday clothes on?" "No". "Put on your power pump 100 ft. of hose, go to Billings Brook, test run your pump five minutes, see how much pressure you can get on the gage, return and give me the gage reading, use the small tip and you better get started as Patrolman Libby at Oxbow Road is going to Trout Brook same distance, same mission (approximately 3 miles). I am clocking your time against his until I hear from you." Gagnon returned in 29 minutes gage reading 175 — Libby called in 38 minutes, gage reading 375 and he forgot to bring back his gas tank. (Nice section of hose to keep next to pump). Libby thinks he would have won but got his gas line shut-off turned wrong and lost several minutes trying to start up without any gas flow. He will know next time so we accomplished something besides the pump test. "Congratulations, men, good time and glad you had everything to start with including the "intake hose".

About 11:30 A.M. Libby and I piled up about a half ton of dry grass and bushes along with a lot of tar paper which we got from an old hovel, set it on fire. We expected about six tower reports on this and got one from Oak Hill, six miles away, in two minutes and that was it. But the breeze picked up about the time it puffed and very little smoke got up over the trees longer than four or five minutes. Don't smile at our efforts, the camp grounds have to be cleaned anyway." (Editor's Note: Good work, Harold, keep it up. Let's hear from other wardens on dry runs and tests.)

Charlie Coe, Air Warden Pilot, was at the Maine General Hospital in Portland for two to three weeks to have some gallstones removed.

He has made a good recovery.

Glad to have you back with us, Charlie.

Comment: Some Gall!!
ENTOMOLOGY

On August 8 the survey and control work for the gypsy moth and browntail moth were transferred from the Department of Agriculture to Forestry. Larry Freeman has been appointed to handle all the field work. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, and has had experience in pest control with the Federal Bureau of Entomology and U. S. Forest Service. To date all areas reported have been inspected. The Federal Division of Gypsy Moth Control has aerially mapped all infestations which shows over 142,000 acres were defoliated 50 percent or more, of which 58,000 acres had complete stripping of foliage. These areas range from Kittery to Veazie and from the N. H. line to Beddington. Browntail moth infestations are localized in a few areas. A Federal agent is now giving us training in the latest scouting and control methods.

Hardwoods in general have looked poorly all season due primarily to severe winds early in the year tearing and browning the foliage.

Findings of the Dutch Elm Disease this year remain limited to the southern tip of York County with only a few additional cases.

A wheelbarrow type mist blower machine for applying concentrated sprays has been purchased for use in testing insecticides for control of various pests and for control work where use of such a machine is the only practical method.

Analysis of the detailed data on spruce budworm infestations which was taken cooperatively by the Federal Bureau and this division is now being made. From this data, predictions of the severity of infestations in 1954 can be made as well as determinations of any need for spraying specific areas.

Ranger Harry Dyer has resigned, effective September 1, to accept work with the Brown Company. Replacement for him will probably not be made until next season.

Recent Injury Report

On July 29, Ed Grove, Shade Tree Specialist, stopped his car in a dooryard in South Berwick to obtain permission from the owner to look at the trees. While walking from car to house, dog attacked him. He turned but could not get out of dog's way. Dog's teeth broke flesh on back of left leg.

A year ago, Farm Forester Bill Adams had a dog remove a section of his anatomy.

This year a goose did the same to him. The goose made a lasting impression for now, whenever he hears a sound behind him, he jumps a foot.

Comment: One must always be prepared to leave when not wanted. Return another day when things have quieted down.
BEGINNING NEXT SPRING a new feature of forest fire training will be started. The plan is to have wardens and men from towns and industry complete certain courses of training in specialized forest fire jobs. Some of these will be pump operators, Crew and Straw Bosses, etc. Chief Wardens, District State, and Seasonal Wardens, and Supervisors will serve as trainees and issue "Certificates of Completion" to those successfully fulfilling the specified job. This plan will serve several purposes: (1) Stimulate forest fire training program; (2) Qualify men for certain key forest fire positions; and (3) Establish a better trained and organized forest fire protection force.

(Sample 2"x4" Certificate of Completion Card)

STATE OF MAINE
MAINE FOREST SERVICE

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This is to certify that:

______________________________________________ has successfully completed the forest fire organization training course as ______________________________

Date _______________________________________________________________________

State Fire Warden

A. D. NUTTING

Forest Commissioner

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) This certificate of completion qualifies the individual for the fire organization job indicated on the front. Whenever called to a fire, he shall first report to the Fire Boss and work under his direction.

(2) Once assigned by the Fire Boss, he shall immediately proceed to handle the specific duties of the job for which he has qualified.

(3) He shall be subject to any and all regulations of the State Forestry Department, such as rate of pay, hours worked, immediate superior, wangan deductions, travel time, subsistence, and protection in case of personal injury.

(4) He shall remain on the job until released by the Fire Boss.

(5) It shall be the primary responsibility of the holder of this certificate to cooperate at all times in prevention and suppression of forest fires.
EXCERPTS FROM WATCHMAN QUESTIONNAIRES

Some of the most common questions asked by visitors:

- How many hours are spent in the tower?
- How are fires located?
- How does a watchman get his supplies?
- Is it fun in the tower during a thunderstorm?
- How many lakes can you see from here?
- Do you stay up here all winter?
- Do you get lonesome up here all alone?
- How many fires do you have during the season?
- How many towers do we have in the state?
- How high is the tower?
- What is that lake over there?
- What is the fire danger station for?
- How far can you see?
- Do you use the radio much?
- What is the highest mountain you can see?
- How often do you go into town?
- Are you on steady, or does someone relieve you?
- How long does it take to walk from camp to tower?

The following are some of the interesting experiences that our watchmen have had in the tower:

During the war from Aziiscoos Mountain when I helped locate a B17 Bomber that crashed on Deer Mt.
Having the experience of operating the radio efficiently.
The time when I got caught in a thunderstorm in the tower.
During 1947 when the Brownfield and Fryeburg fires were in full swing.
Watched a fight between a coon and a fox. The fox won.
The time I spotted two forest fires at one time.
Just watching the seasons change.
The time I saw five deer at foot of tower and the time the big moose came close by.
Observed a young lady taking a sun bath in a patch of poison ivy.
Watching jet planes flying at low altitudes around the tower.
When our pilot, Charlie Coe, dropped supplies by parachute.
Had a large hawk land on my tower window sill.
Watching a large bear two miles away on Fletcher Peak through binoculars feeding on raspberries.
During World War 2, a Bi-motor plane just missed the guy wires on tower and low enough for me to see on top of plane.
75-100 weasels migrating or traveling along stone wall.
The most interesting work that has to be done is painting the tower cab with nothing to stand on, but air.
"Took pump and hose to Albany for replacement of that loaned to N. H."
Ken Hinkley, July 4.
(Editor's Note: Good work and fast action, Ken, in filling in behind. Bob Hutton also made an assist by sending from Greenville to the Augusta storehouse 5 pumpers and 10,000' of hose for fill in for equipment sent from other areas to the N. H. forest fires.)

"Fixed Roland Sanborn's Pacific pump. Later in the week it saved his buildings."
Clifford Chapman
(Editor's Note: Good work, Cliff. These contacts will always pay off.)

"Awful rainy today, I was sick, something I ate, I guess, - my own cooking? Could be! Ha, ha, ha!"
Joseph Parker, Jr., Saddleback Mt.

"Car X to X Mt. Fire under control. Burned 1/4 acre in slash. Caused by boys in swimming."
Alfred Larrabee, July 6.

"At Long Falls, Fire under control and pretty well out. Got together with Gobiel's crew and bosses and gave them on-the-job training. Also bulldozer operator. Only large fire in the district. We have a hotshot crew at the Stratton Mill that is available for any fire for the first 24 hours. (all have been trained.)"
Earle Williams, July 13.

"It might be well to send out a general letter to all chief wardens asking what color they marked their tools. We had four outfits on one fire all with green paint."
Robert Pendleton, July 11.
(Editor's Note: Let us hear from other wardens for ideas on this matter.)

"We lost about 2,000 ft. of hose (not burned but leaky from use), 15 H. pumps, and a few shovels and axes. Some of these may turn up later. We also lost 17 blankets that belonged to Mr. Landry. We lost plenty of small tools from the pumper tool boxes and I think that the best way to handle a like situation another time is to rig up the Pumper Specialist with a tool kit to service all pumps and not allow any tools to the pump operator and just give him a starter cord."
Stanley Drake, July 12.

"The guy who first said "A good beginning makes a poor ending" must have been a former watchman on Barren Mt. Plane went over at 1 P.M. and dropped 6 parachutes of groceries and supplies. The first one landed 30 ft. from the camp. Next one hit the exact geometric center of pond. I recovered it by removing clothes and taking a long, cool, swim. My wife recovered another by executing an impromptu but highly skilful barefoot ballet on the rocks. Had there been a talent scout nearby, I fear I would have lost her to the movies. Had to cut 6 large trees to recover another. Crawled back to tower at 4 P.M."
Lloyd Shaw, August 8.

"A fire at West Forks, Friday, started from a chain saw back fire. Burned approximately 7 acres and 15 cords of pulp sawed and partly piled."
Isaac Harris, July 20.
Extracts from Weekly Reports Cont.

"I enclose, herewith, fire payroll and report of the long lost Fall Brook campfire. The boys went within 500 ft. of it several times before they eventually found it Sunday last. I do not wonder much as it was in the ground and in such a jungle that it was hard to even wiggle around in the hair tangle in that area.

I was fit to be tied, though, and mad as a wet hen to think that old woodsmen could not find it before. I told them that if they could not find it I would take a Game Warden and go with him and show them where it was. That must have made them a little mad, too, for they found it and put it out."

Stanley Drake, August 18.

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OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

"Here is a little sketch I thought you might like for the FOREST PROTECTORS.

Went with Clayton to check on a fire that had taken place in Parsonsfield, Sept. 7. Being in the woods about one half mile and quite steep, we stopped for a breather upon reaching the scene of the fire. Clayton was pointing out some landmarks and when I next looked back Clayton was a hundred feet away with a swarm of bees trying to break through his waving hands, to light on his bald head."

P.S. Weymouth won again. Not a bee succeeded. Contributed by Clifford Chapman
PATS 'N SLAPS

Pats

.... to Mike Ferguson for an excellent job on Ossipee tower in handling the tremendous volume of traffic during the Sanford forest fire, July 31-Aug. 3.

.... to Paul Chamberlain for exceptionally clean storehouse, tools kept sharp and in neat arrangement.

.... to State Police, Augusta Barracks, for reporting a forest fire by a trooper who was first to arrive at scene of fire.

.... to Supervisor Robert Hutton for reporting location of fires by the Thrust Line method.

.... to W.A.B.I., Bangor Broadcasting Company, for cooperation in broadcasts of daily weather, class danger day, and fire conditions for eastern Maine as far north as Greenville, Millinocket, and Danforth.

.... to State Police, Game Wardens, Joe Flynn and his inspectors, and others, for cooperating in distribution of warning cards to motorists pertaining to new law, stating that it is unlawful to throw lighted materials from vehicles along Maine roads. 30,000 cards from an order of 50,000 have already been distributed.

.... to those wardens who assisted as attendants at the following forestry exhibits - Bangor, Skowhegan, Windsor, and Cherryfield.

.... to Chief Warden Ralph Bagley and his men, and other wardens, in preparation for the Princeton Compact "Dry Run".

.... to Chief Warden Stan Drake and others for an excellent job on the T. 18, R. 11 fire.

.... to District Warden Howard Rowell and Seasonal Warden Manley Nelson in using wetting agents on fires.

.... to Chief Warden John Smith for an outstanding job on White Cap Mt. fire.

Slaps

.... to certain wardens. In spite of a letter from the Forest Commissioner about cleaning up around the storehouses and camps, very few have complied. This was especially embarrassing during the recent U. S. Forest Service inspection team trip of men from Philadelphia and Washington, D. C.

.... to Manley Nelson and Howard Rowell for failure to carry a cross cut saw in their side boxes. This neglect caused delay in felling some dangerous burning stubs on the Fairfield fire. (Wardens - check your side boxes and set up a check list of items carried.)

.... to certain wardens. Too many blank sheets on Weekly Reports with no comments whatsoever or work accomplished.

.... to Perry Judkins for failure to mix gas and oil for a Pacific pumper on the recent Mechanic Falls fire. (Costly error as men had to abandon pump and hose because it failed to start and fire was too close.)
Slaps Cont.

.... to those wardens who continue to ignore filling out transfer slips at Building No. 25 at Augusta Airport.

(Editor's Note: It is the intent under Pats 'n Slaps for the wardens to sharpen up and do a good job, to compliment those on good work, and call attention to errors and mistakes. Below is how the Louisiana Forestry Department handles Pats 'n Slaps.)

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TAKEN FROM LOUISIANA FORESTRY COMMISSION BULLETIN - APRIL 1952

Pats

.... to Assistant Ranger Fontenot in Evangeline parish for his mastery of map reading.

.... to Sheridan tower in Washington parish for a cleaner than-usual tower.

.... to District One for having exceptionally clean motors in almost all trucks.

.... to Assistant Ranger Cooley and crew in Beunregard parish for their efficiency on a recent fire.

.... to Assistant Rangers Williams, White, Parker and Casanova for good appearance of vehicles in District One.

.... to Ranger Stimpson in St. Tammany parish for forethought in standing crews by in hot-spot areas.

.... to Towerman Bennett at Lorraine tower for a clean and well-kept site.

.... to District Forester Rowland for improved appearance of warehouse at District Two headquarters.

Slaps

.... to District Forester McDaniel for the generally run-down condition of Liberty Hill tower.

.... to Assistant Ranger Reon Shirley of Allen parish for running out of gas on a fire of short duration.

.... to Assistant Ranger Smith of Rapides parish for choosing to use a tractor to fight a small fire when hand tools would have been sufficient.

.... to District Four for failure to deliver tractor to District Three at appointed time.

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The most important part of the Mechanic Falls storehouse started floating away last spring when the Little Androscoggin River was on a rampage. Perry Judkins came to the rescue.

Comment: Was this building insured for flood damage?
THIS AND THAT

Reported by Bob Nash. Freak lightning hit. Salem, Maine - One small fir near a big white pine with top of fir interlaced in pine branches. Fir completely shattered by lightning. Pine untouched. (Let's have your theory on this.)

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Can any of you wardens top this for years of watchman service? Our records show Jesse Harriman on Passadumkeap Mt. is rounding out 30 consecutive years of service. Possibly Omer Seamans on Pocomoonshine and Bert Morrison on Trout Mt. are not far behind. (Let us hear from others.)

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Clayton Weymouth and Austin Wilkins welcome Cook Hill Watchman, George Ellis, into the power saw injury fraternity. All joking aside, George Ellis had the misfortune to lose the middle finger of his right hand in a planer. George is definitely on the mend.

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Refer to Forest Protectors, Vol. I, No. 2, 1953, bottom of page 8, skit on "Where the office morning newspaper may be found".

Our office business manager has discontinued this practice as the Superintendent of Buildings put in a weak electric light bulb in our "Chic Sales Booth" after reading Forest Protectors. Comment: You will have to read the K. J. at home.

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Chester Hathaway and his wife invited anyone who cared to attend to a beanhole bean supper at Mountain Hill on August 1. They furnished the beans and the rest of the meal was furnished by those attending. (Note - Waldo Clark ate most of Mrs. Simmonds' large cake while Arthur Evans enjoyed swinging on the kids' swing. We understand that Ted Tschamler may ditch Lillian for Mrs. Leland King's apple pie. Some fun!)

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Recently heard over the radio by our poet laureate and wit on Bluehill tower. Diagnosis given by Bluehill to Car 62 upon hearing that 62 didn't sound too good. "Take a regular thermometer and insert bulb end in mouth. Leave for two hours. If your temperature drops to 19° below zero, go in and go to bed immediately, you have Siberian Flu."

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At the Piscataquis County Keep Maine Green meeting held on August 13 in Dover-Foxcroft there was considerable discussion on the value of contacting teachers, especially now that "Smokey", Maine's Fire Prevention Bear, is available for school use.

George Merrill got up and said, "Ever since last spring the schoolmarm have been after me"—Someone interrupted and said, "How old were they, George?" George never did finish.

Comment: Remember that song - "You're never too young or too old."
(Editor's Note: Under terms of Northeastern Forest Fire Compact, the Executive Secretary, A. S. Hopkins, alerts Compact member states of any serious situation. The following telegrams were received.)


(Editors Note: Special contribution by Bill Pratt. Let us hear from others.)

One day just as I was about to go home to dinner an Aroostook Tree truck drove in the yard - a fellow got out quite excited and told me he was up in a tree taking it off the New England cable and a moose came up to the butt of the tree. He said he hollered and whistled and finally the moose went away a little ways. We talked for some time and he said he was going to dinner.

I said to Bernard Steeves, "let's go have a look," it was about a mile and a half up the road. When we got there sure enough there was the moose. We came back and got a camera but when we got back the moose was gone. We started to track him to see where he went, we started him right near where we left him before. Steeves said, "do you suppose if I went down in there I could drive him back out so you could get a picture of him." I laughed and said it might be worth a try. Soon I could hear him hollering, "Come down here!!" I started down all the while he was whooping, soon he said he was coming out right where I was. I stood still, the moose came up through the woods just like a cow with Steeves right behind. I took a picture but I guess he got tired of this because he got away where we couldn't find him.

When we looked at the tree the fellow was taking down I don't think he wanted dinner half as bad as he wanted to get away from where the moose was because he came back and finished the job while we were there.

A fire started on June 18 back in woods where a Standish farmer had dumped a load of eggs and shells from hatchery on own land. It was far from water and burnt deep. Heat from fire hatched out lots of chickens that the boys took home.

Comment: This is a story for the birds!!