FOREST PROTECTORS

Vol. II - No. 3 - 1954

Maine Forest Service
Augusta, Maine
Thus far, we have had a most favorable forest fire season. It has also been an excellent time to get caught up on telephone line repair work, construction projects, inspection, and various other jobs which are usually held over for rainy periods. However, a word of caution to all wardens. There are still seven to nine weeks until the end of the season. Within that time, conditions could dry out and forest fires occur. No one should become complacent that with all the rain we are safe for the rest of the season. It only takes a few drying days for conditions in cut-over areas to become hazardous.

This coming winter the Augusta office will make a thorough revision of all chief warden district fire control maps. It is urged that each warden make sure to bring his map up to date by the end of the season. All new roads should be plotted and discontinued roads eliminated, changes made in telephone lines and other facilities. It is possible these maps may be called in for transferring the information onto control maps. Later they will be sent to Boston for printing.

In preparation for closing out the season, all wardens should exercise care in taking inventories, storing of equipment, winterizing trucks and pumper, filling out forms and reports. Wardens are reminded that they are responsible for all property and equipment issued and charged against them for their respective districts. Faithfully kept records will make it much easier in taking inventory.

As we go to press for this third issue of FOREST PROTECTORS the Augusta office wishes to congratulate all wardens for the excellent spirit in which they have responded to all requests for special assignments and carrying on their regular duties. The Maine Forest Service has been gradually building up a fine esprit de corps among its personnel. Let us all continue to make our forest fire protection program one of the best in the country.

Austin H. Wilkins
Deputy Forest Commissioner
'DETECTO-VISION' SETS IMAGINATION OF NATION ON FIRE

While arsonists have been setting the woods on fire this past month, "detecto-vision" has set the nation's imagination ablaze. That's the name given the apparatus which uses television cameras for spotting fires.

The system works with industrial type television cameras in a plexiglas dome mounted on top of a forest fire tower. The camera is rotated continuously by means of a motor geared to less than half a revolution per minute. In other words the camera eye sees the tree tops exactly as a towerman does but in a more deliberate manner.

It also sees more because it is equipped with a telephoto lens and can pick up a cow munching grass four miles away, as was demonstrated during the test.

Azimuth markings are located on the dome so the camera picks up the degree readings at the same time as it scans the landscape. Because the camera's infinity lens cannot pick the degree readings up unblurred, there is a special bi-focal lens included in the equipment to read the close-up numbers on the dome.

The system was devised and perfected by Carl LeBlanc and Bill Maser of the Louisiana Radio & Television Distributors of Baton Rouge.

State Forester Mixon sees possibilities even in the very near future because "it could well be used to give some towermen, who are now on call 24 hours a day, some rest from tower duties."

Latest improvements in the assembly include remote control of the camera. In other words, after it is perfected, the operator in the control room can stop the camera so as to adjust it on the fire and take his reading accurately. There will be a flip switch for handling the bi-focal lens so the azimuth numbers won't show on the screen until a fire is spotted.

Extract from "Bulletin" Louisiana Forestry Commission.

Some of the activities of our men while attending military camp.

Indispensable Johnnie Walker with his Heavy Mortar

Franklin Sargent and Those damn pushups at 5:30 AM.

Dick Drake and The Manual of Arms!

Earl Crabb: Those new jets are too fast for me!!
"I inspected Friels' pulp works on Township 7, R. 5, found two shackers' camps. They had no fire equipment, and one was using a pasteboard box for a smudge pail. I warned the men against it, also I brought this to the attention of Mr. Wing and he said he would place some fire equipment there."
Chester Coding - June 20

"Busy with Boy Scout Camporee. It was a very nice group. Got some work done on campsite brush removal, etc.; approximately 200 scouts and 20 scouter."
Kenneth Hinkley - June 15

"The P. D. Co., placed a two-way 30 watt radio set in No. 9 Mt. tower. They were unable to reach Medford but I think they will be able to as they plan to have their radio technician adjust the set and place another antenna on the tower.

The P. D. Co. brought two fire houses with equipment and placed them at their two camps in T. 9, R. 3. This should be of great help as with this and the equipment we have at No. 9 Lake it would make it possible to equip approximately 100 men."
Chester Coding - June 13

"Bar Harbor - spent the entire day traveling with Luther Winsor, National Park Service, contacting logging operators and landowners near Bar Harbor, Manset, S. V. Harbor, etc., I talked with several landowners and left folders and business cards. I expect to work with many of them later."
Elwin Macomber - June 14

"May 30 Patrolman Pillsbury called me to a lunch fire left burning on Moxie Gore. Fire was 30" from brush pile and 18" from night's supply of wood; burning index was 40. Waited 2 hours to contact the party. They paid fine of $50 and $5.70 costs."
Isaac Harris - June 6

"Ralph Bagley and Bill Wight demonstrated pumpers - 2 Pacific and 1 Hale to Eastern Pulp crew. Just finished testing linen hose; find that I had a lot of bad hose. Have rolled 1900 ft., quite a lot drying. NOTE THIS: Bears out Augusta office suggestion of the need for always testing hose."
Everett Grant - June 26

"Air alert and subsequent fire exercises were clear all day from "Applejack to "Snowman". Very realistic - in late afternoon caught myself gazing the horizon for smoke in direction of exercise. Took radio down Wednesday morning to be sent in for overhaul. Picked it up again Saturday, no cable for big battery. This is a replacement radio, not my old 643 - does not seem to have the range and clearness of 643. Hope I can get it back. Wonder what the trouble is with 643? Flies are bad - in tower all day Saturday, no breeze - hot. Weasel killed one of the chickens Friday A.M. H. C. sent in his dog Sat. A.M. for a month's stay. Saw a cow moose on upper West Ragged Lake."
Donald K. Smith - June 20

"Nothing outstanding, same old grind."
Leland King - July 5

"Maybe it does pay to check slash: Had just turned around and was driving very slowly to examine the area when the tie-rod end in the truck let go. Hate to think of what might have happened had I been going 45 MPH."
Howard Rowell - July 3
Extracts from weekly reports cont.

"Two gentlemen visited the tower this P.M. One of these men was 71 years old which I thought was quite a climb for one so old. Hope I am as spry when I reach that age."

Walter Patchell - June 19
Watchman on Deboulie

"Had fire prevention and suppression meeting at Pauquet's Lumber Camp after supper in kitchen. 54 men, 2 women present. Talk lasted about 2 hours. Warned about lunch fires, smoking, and any brush around camps, who had and who did not have right to build fires, fines, etc., suppression methods."

Charles Lumbert - July 4

"Has been a wet week - did some slash hunting, also checked some slash notices also sawmills. Found out what my truck looks like. Was in Chesterville, found some slash so called to nearest house to get some information on it, was talking with the man that lived there, little boy about 6 years old came running around the house saying, "Grammie don't want any fish today."

Fred Edgcomb - July 5

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LOST AND FOUND

You could all read the newspaper accounts of the long search for little Gary Bailey on Spear Mountain without ever knowing who served in a way that should make the Forestry Department very proud and grateful. It was Bob Stephenson, Car 44. He was on the scene fifteen minutes after I called him on the radio and though he was only one of the many hundreds who searched, he had something very special in the way of confidence and assurance and calm manner as he stayed with the frightened parents all night and, with his gentle understanding kept reassuring them that the boy would be found, that there was no animal in the woods that would hurt him, no open wells for him to fall into, or even brooks of sufficient water to be a danger. Once when the mother was nearly hysterical I overheard the grandmother say, "Didn't you hear that Forestry man say they'd find him?" If Bob can quench fire as effectively as he can dispel fear, the Maine woods are safer for having him in the department.

It was a little disillusioning, after all the publicity I've had of what a feat it is for me to get up Frye Mt. in an old Model A, the only kind that could make it, to have from three to four hundred cars of all kinds up here on Sunday, July 18.

Marjorie Sewell - Frye Mt.

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Ken Day says that enforcement of the slash law has more rewards than a raise in pay. Recently one of his clients visited the judge and paid a $10.00 fine. Ken reports he left the court house with amiable feelings toward all hands, cleaned up the slash the next day, and gave him a hot tip on the horses to be used the next time he plays the ponies at Scarborough Downs.
The construction and erection of a watchman's camp on the very top of Saddleback Mountain, Sandy River PI., in the Rangeley District, marks the start of a new policy of the Augusta office in the location of watchmen's camps. This policy will provide for almost around the clock radio communications if emergency requires and insure a state-wide coverage by 7:15 A.M. of the daily weather report and other essential radio traffic. While this policy is new in Maine, a check shows that it is commonly done with the U. S. Forest Service and especially in the state of New Hampshire.

Much credit goes to Supervisor Robert Hutton and Chief Warden Kenneth Hinkley for the excellent planning of this project. Logs were cut and sawn at a nearby mill. The lumber was then stacked for seasoning. Later, following a set of plans, a 14 x 18' camp was prefabricated and set up at Cupsuptic. The lumber was carried five miles around the base of Saddleback Mountain by tractor to the present old watchman's camp. From there it was packed on back by a crew of 13 men a distance of two miles up over a rugged steep slope to the top.

In view of the difficulty of packing the materials, efforts were made to secure the services of eight burros with the famous Joe Dodge of New Hampshire. Unfortunately, they were not available for this project and the department had to resort to the back breaking work of carrying up by hand.

An interesting phase of this project was the air lift of supplies for the construction of this camp by means of our two department planes. The two float planes piloted by Earl Crabb and Charlie Coe made 60 drops, both free fall and by parachute, for a total of 2400 pounds. The materials dropped consisted of sand, gravel, cement, water, cable, and other items. It was a difficult task because of the treacherous mountain winds. Both pilots had their hands full to maneuver their ships over the exact spot for dropping. Duluth Wing acted as "Bombardier" in Crabb's ship. Each pass across the mountain top was made within 100 feet. An official staff photographer accompanied Earl Crabb on one of the trips for the purpose of taking pictures with drops being made from Charlie Coe's ship.

A project of this nature involved several problems — drinking water and fuel. Drinking water will still have to be packed by the watchman from the nearest source of supply. All rain water will be caught by gutters and barrels for washing purposes. The fuel problem will be overcome by dropping bottled gas by parachute. This eliminates the back breaking work of cutting up fuel wood and carrying it any distance.

To provide against any danger from lightning, special precautions will be taken to properly wire both the cabin and the tower to prevent any damage in so far as it is humanly possible to do so. Due to the extreme exposure of the camp, precautions have also been taken to properly anchor this cabin to the ledge by means of cables and eye pins into the ledge.

In adopting this new policy every effort will be made for the comfort and convenience of the watchman. This particular camp because of its exposure will be thoroughly insulated. When this project is completed it will mark another progressive step in improving the efficiency of our radio communication system.
VISITORS AT JEFFERSON STOREHOUSE 1954
by Waldo Clark

Jefferson storehouse was built by the C.C.C. boys in 1935. It is a building 24 x 24 feet square. To the south there are large windows. Over these windows are open rafters.

A neighbor is building a new house nearby. When he dug his cellar a family of barn swallows arrived the same day. They started their house building project also. In about a week they carried enough clay to build 34 homes. It is the first time swallows have visited this location to my knowledge. The family is very large now. Each nest is full of little ones. Two times thirty-four is sixty-eight. This makes the adult population. Thirty-four times, I'll guess, four is one hundred and thirty-six children. Total - two hundred and four.

How about a visit some time and meet these guests. By the way, I am charging no rent.

Modern Way of Servicing Watchmen

For the past few years supplies have been dropped by parachute to service watchmen on Little Russell, Bigelow, Kibby, Saddleback, and other mountains. As we continue the department's policy of building camps on top of mountains where towers are located this modern method of service will be on the increase.
During the last week of June, "Smokey", Maine's fire prevention bear, made a successful visit to several pulp camps in northern Maine. Over 100 French speaking woodsmen attended the Smokey show at the Red River Camp west of Winterville Plantation and over 100 men attended the show held at the Blackstone Siding Camp in T. 5, R. 5. Smokey talked to everybody in French, even to singing several French songs. Stress was placed on the fire danger meter board and also for being careful with tea fires and smoking in the woods. The Smokey Show was followed with a French movie "Trees for Tomorrow" loaned to us by New Brunswick.

Congratulations to Lawrence St. Peter of the Madawaska District for doing such an excellent job in assisting Smokey in talking northern Maine French. We also wish to thank Maurice Bartlett and Leo Thibodeau of the Great Northern for assisting and making this program such a success.

All those present agreed that these camp programs were a great success. Plans are being made with Mr. Bartlett to make similar showings at other camps, possibly this coming fall.

76 Gralia Dr.,
Springfield, Mass.,
via Wilbraham P.O.
June 21, 1954

Dear Smokey:

I saw you at the Eastern States Exposition last year. Do you remember going there?

I have seen you in pictures on television. Would you please send me some pictures of you and a copy of the song about you?

Who are the two little bears that are in some of the pictures with you?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kaye Sherry

P.S. Do you remember talking to me at the Exposition?

So far in 1954, Smokey has talked personally to over 3,000 adults and over 25,000 children. Besides this, he has attended 12 different fairs, shows, or parades, with an estimate number of 20,000 adults and children seeing him. He has also been on TV and on the radio a number of times.
Editor's note: The subject of uniforms was brought up at the spring warden training schools. A committee was appointed and a thorough study made of the whole situation. Mimeographed copies of instructions and order blanks were sent out to all the wardens. The voluntary response by many of the men to purchase uniforms has been most gratifying. It is realized that many of the wardens had already purchased field clothes that would last them throughout the season. This, therefore, is in no way any reflection on them for not having purchased a uniform of the selected color and specifications selected by the uniform committee. We are listing the names of those who have purchased uniforms for this season. It is hoped that next year at the start of the season practically all of the wardens will purchase uniforms on the plan submitted by the uniform committee. Uniforms bought to date represents $850.

John Walker  
Harvey Saunders  
Albert Willis  
Howard Rowell  
Luther Davis  
Manley Bragdon  
Fred Edgcomb  
Robert Allard  
Herold Weeks  
Albert Gagnon  
Paul Chamberlain  
Lawrence St. Peter  
Emery Lyons  
Laurence Lowell  
Elmer Smith  
Ralph Bagley  
Donald Chambers  
Philip Bradstreet  

Robert White  
Harry Noble  
Kenneth Hinkley  
Burton Walker  
Gilbert Peterson  
Walter Benson  
Clayton Weymouth  
Lionel Caron  
Albert Gibson  
Lyman Graham  
Edmund Emery  
Fred McLean  
Howard McCafferty  
Earle Williams  
Helen Taylor  
Reginald Tucker  
Leo Thornton  

Ewen McPherson  
Amnas Bridges  
Laurence Motivier  
Robert Pomerleau  
Kilby Jeffison  
Henry Gourde  
Philip Bean  
Horace Remick  
Harvey Beach  
Omer Seamans  
Harold Burgess  
Isaac Harris  
Chester Coding  
Manley Nelson  
Robert Lawrence  
Leodore Ouellette  
Stanley Greenlaw  
Arnold Shaw

We are pleased to quote from a letter from Roy Olson of the U. S. Forest Service, Philadelphia, on uniforms.

"The desirability of uniforms is well outlined in the memorandum and we are wholeheartedly in accord with the views expressed. It is encouraging also that the favorable attitude of the wardens on the matter was apparently voluntary. No doubt that attitude stemmed in part from the very fine training sessions that have been held over the past two or three years.

The plan worked out for procurement seems to have been well prepared. Similar plans, using commercially available items of clothing, have been successful in some other states and should do as well in Maine. We are sure it will prove to be a progressive and worthwhile step in improvement of your organisation, and if it develops that some State financing is needed we believe it would be money well spent."

"Never a dull moment on Johnston Mt. Guided 5 boys safely out of the woods. They belonged at a camp on Pemaquid Pond so sent them down the trail with directions to reach camp via the highway."

Lucille Bangs
There stands a barren graveyard. From east to west it spreads A monument to wastefulness this forest of the dead.

Each corpse stands black and naked While stretching toward the sky Against this sin of carelessness each one does seem to cry.

One time God's bright green carpet O're these hills gently rolled Then fire struck with vengeful wrath. They now stand bleak and cold.

The denizens of this forest here once did romp and play. They starve here now, the lucky died, upon that fateful day

A glowing match, a puff of smoke, a flame that curls on high. A fanning breeze spurs forth the flame its apex blights the sky.

From tree to tree this hellion leaps in its path naught is spared. The spruce, the pine, the mighty oak. In turn each one's laid bare.

It rages on its force unchecked destruction in its wake the trees, the shrubs, the wildlife there. The nation's strength it takes.

Will man not see his folly? His erring ways repent Before a national heritage the forest lands are spent.

A WALKING STICK!!

Early in July Joel Marsh donated to the Entomology office a young walking stick about 1/2" long.

Under Doc's careful care she is now full grown and has already laid over 100 eggs.

Written by Kenneth Judson and sent in to the Forest Commissioner by Mrs. William Judson.

Doc PEIRSON'S Baby!
MY MOST INTERESTING EXPERIENCE ON A FOREST FIRE

Editor's Note: Many of our forest fire wardens have had interesting experiences on forest fires and it was felt by the editor that these experiences should be shared with the other wardens. At random, the following chief wardens were selected and asked to contribute a story: Ralph Bagley, Kenneth Hinkley, Emery Lyons, Harold Weeks, and Stanley Drake. The editor expresses his sincere appreciation to those who have willingly volunteered to write their experiences and it is a pleasure to print them. It is the hope that this will be the start of a series of human interest accounts of our warden force. From time to time, others will be called upon to relate their experiences. A.H.W.

Ralph Bagley, St. Croix District

While working in the organized town district around 1936 I had the pleasure of joining Everett Grant on a fire in his district. Everett had dispatched his deputy and a crew from that area to the fire, he and I arriving later.

We looked the area over and as everything was cut clean the whole slash area had to burn. There was a heavy growth on the east side and we should make our stand there with all the crew available, also do some backfiring.

I suggested he go to the east side and I would backfire the northwest corner.

At the time we arrived on the fire one of the deputies was locating a better water supply. I was down on my knees and had a fire started good when a bucket of water came over my shoulder, giving me a shower, also extinguishing the fire. I raised up rather provoked, turned around face to face with Everett's deputy just as mad as I was, his first remark was, "Haven't we fire enough now without some fool like you starting more." Thoroughly disgusted, he walked over to one of the other men and asked who I was and had Everett arrived. He told him that I was a state warden and Everett had left for the east side of the fire.

I contacted Everett later and mentioned the incident. Everett said he came to him saying he was sick and had better go home. I have never tried a backfire since.

Kenneth Hinkley, Rangeley District

This experience occurred on a fire that had "blown" up the night prior to my arrival. The men had certainly put in a very bad night keeping the fire out of the camp. When I flew over it at sundown it looked very unlikely that there would be any camps there by morning, but the camps were saved.

We left town at 4 A.M. the next morning, drove several miles in a pick-up truck and then shifted into a Jeep for the next five miles over an un-bulldozed tote road, part of which the fire had swept across the previous night. Travel was slow on this road as it was very rough and we were continually cutting out and winching out trees that had fallen across the road.

In the process of saving the camps several Pacific Marine pumps had been set up in the camp area. The labor was mostly "fire bonds" or Canadians that had been brought in to fight the fire. These men were rather nervous and every time the fire would pick up the least bit they would start the pumps and proceed to drench the camps and especially the "out house" that was only a few feet from
the cook room door. I honestly believe that this "out house" got more attention than all of the other buildings combined, and it was not surprising considering the food that was served to us.

We finally pulled out of the camp area all of the pumps except one, much to the disgust of the Canadians, this gave them only one hose line to concentrate on the "out house".

The second or third night that I was there we had a bad break out on the fire some three miles to the west of the camp. All of the area between the breakout and the camp had been thoroughly burned over, but the men were exceedingly afraid that they were going to be burned out, especially one small portly Canadian. He pulled some of his pals out of bed, got the pump started and proceeded to wet down the "out house" once more. He woke up what few men that were sleeping. We had to order him back to bed so that the crew would settle down and get some rest for the next day. We found the best way to control the use of this pump was to remove the nozzles.

Later when I stepped out of the plane on another fire the first person that I saw was this same Canadian. On this fire he was working as a cookee and I must say doing a much better job than he did as a fire fighter.

Emery Lyons - Passadumkeag District

The year of 1944 we had a lightning fire in the south end of 4 N.D. in an old burn. The woods were very dry. Men were very hard to get for fire work. I picked up five or six men and twelve or fourteen boys and started for the fire. We went to Nicatous Lake then up the lake two miles by boat. We walked three miles to Duck Lake. Went across the lake by boat, then a half mile south of lake to the fire.

It was burning quite brisk with a strong wind when we arrived. I took the crew to some high ground in the old burn to look the fire over.

This was the first experience of fire fighting for some of the boys. They were quite nervous. The smoke was going into the air and looked like an atomic bomb explosion. The noise of crackling brush and roaring flames was a little more than they could stand. Someone yelled "run", some of them threw their jackets and tools and took off for the lake. We had quite a time to get them rounded up and back to the fire.

Harold Weeks - Aroostook Waters District

Have just been reading some special correspondence of the Bangor Commercial, list of appointments for Aroostook County, by State Forest Commissioner Colby April 9, 1917. Having worked with a number of these fire generals and knowing most of them it's very interesting and brings back both pleasant and unpleasant memories. Such names as H. E. Buck, James M. Pierce, Claud Austin, Rex E. Gilpatrick, James Brown, S. C. Cummings, Charles L. Weeks, W. H. Hinkley, Grover C. Bradford, Harry C. Tingley and others. These chief wardens, who were in charge of their districts, which in many cases have been renamed, boundaries changed, and what not, played a part in bringing our Maine Forest Service to what it is today.

I was commissioned that same spring as a patrolman, salary $2.25 per day, find myself, and furnish a canoe. To do what? That was the sixty-four dollar
question. Never had seen a forest fire, only smoke from a distance. When the
spring run off was gone, began to feel a sense of responsibility and felt
terribly overpaid. No literature to substitute experience so hoped for the best.

Just after noon, July 4, got a phone call from the Chief. He seemed quite
concerned. Told me to get "down river" as quickly as possible, we have a fire
starting up Machias River on 11, R. 8. This was five years B.M. or before motors.
Down river meant 34 miles by canoe and 20 more by Model T. By 3:30 A.M. the
following morning twenty-two of us with tote team, wangan, supplies and fire
equipment, aboard the steel shed wagon were walking over corduroy and boulders
into the Machias area. Our fire equipment consisted of 12 qt. pails, pole axes,
D. handle shovels, and grub hoes which weighed 7-1/2 lbs. each. With sixteen
miles behind us, we left the open road and cleared out the next five miles of
road used eight years previous.

We finally reached the fire twenty-six hours after reported. It had built
up to 35 or 40 acres in size. Although it was hot and dry with little wind, it
was not crowning too badly. Our chief, after telling us what to do, made a
hasty trip around the border. My first assignment was to hike back three miles,
hook up a telephone box which we had left at the line and call for Harry Hasey
and his road crew; twelve of them arrived late the following P.M. We had cap-
tured the four fishermen who had started the fire on their way home and took
them back with us. In all we were thirty-eight strong.

We worked all the daylight there was for the next seven days and I mean
worked. Sacking two pails of water up that fire line through a smoke barrage
after the soles had burned off our shoes was something to write home about. I
remember a young fellow, who showed up in Mr. Hasey's crew, saying he never heard
of such a hard way to make a little easy money. They called that boy Annas
Bridges.

I was left in charge of four others when the last team left to see this
fire out. Four days later we cut out little 7x9 tent in puttees to serve as
shoes, stockings, and pant legs, and sore footed it back to town. By then, felt
I had learned part of the answers and was certain I had not been overpaid for
the last thirteen days at least.

Stanley Drake – Allagash District

When I received Austin's letter relative to writing this article I thought
back over the thirty-one years that I have been working for the Maine Forestry
Department and enough experiences came to my mind to fill a book which might
not be very interesting reading to my fellow workers.

One incident that happened on T. 17, R. 11, on July 9, 1952, will be
remembered as somewhat different from the ordinary routine. At one o'clock P.M.
I had a crew of 20 men, Y pumper and equipment, with hand tools, back pumps, and
a bulldozer on a sector of the fire. The wind, which had reached gale propor-
tions, caused the fire to cut off this crew from the main crew. Another sector
crew came on the run and met me on a graveled road leading to our headquarters
camp at Meadow Brook. The boss of this crew told me that the cut off crew, bull-
dozer, and equipment would be lost. A bull moose charging through the pulpwood
slash behind the headquarters bound crew probably added to the panic of these
men.

As this crew had been working nearly all night the night before, I told
them to go to camp and take it easy. I went to the cook and told him to have
supper for the whole crew at four o'clock. During the supper hour a bear appeared in the camp yard and took his own time in leaving. This caused amusement and helped to calm down the panic of the fire behavior.

In the meantime, the cut off crew kept on working, under the direction of two of my regular men, and saved the bulldozer, men, and most of the equipment.

After supper we reorganized, replacing a few bosses, and as the wind gave us a break we had the whole fire again under control and thereafter it was simply a case of mopping up and patrol.

One of the Game Wardens, who helped us on this fire, told me later that he and the men working with him had seen four deer that had lost their lives in this fire.

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PATS

...to Bob Hutton for planning three Western Division meetings with Arthur Evans to discuss better radio operator dispatching and service.

...to Charlie Coe (702) for cooperation with Chief Warden Stan Greenlaw flying three trips into Carr Pond in one day.

...to Donald Norris for reconditioning his camp and tower grounds and improving the trail at Harris Mt.

...to Eliab Shepardson on Atherton Hill for improvement around his tower, camp and trail.

...to all wardens who have cooperated with Smokey programs throughout the state.

...to District 1 and 2 wardens for assisting on gypsy moth spray project.

...to Ken Day for finally washing his truck.

...to all farm foresters for assisting in Tree Farm inspections and dedications.

...to Bert O'Neill for an excellent job of improving the grounds at living quarters and storehouse.

...to Clarence Clark for improvement of grounds around camp and Storey Hill tower.

...to Al Willis for assistance with Smokey and exhibits.

...Congratulations to all wardens who have finally realized that the only way they can get their slash problems cleaned up promptly is by issuing 30-day notices.

...Our congratulations to Olive upon the arrival of a baby girl.

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As a follow up to the blister rust program given during the spring fire training meetings held at Rumford, Waterville, and Ellsworth, field trips were held in the Bridgton, Vassalboro, and East Holden areas. Those attending were: - Bridgton, Messrs. Libby, Weymouth, Noyes, Judkins, Day, and Eastman; at Vassalboro, Rowell, Clark, Edgecomb, Larrabee, Moody, York, Stevenson, Weaver, Ellis, and Nelson; at East Holden, Wight, Wilson, Saunders, R. Merrill, C. Merrill, Bagley, Davis, E. Grant, D. Grant, Bragdon, Remick, and King.

Area Leader Simmonds was assisted by district leaders Pike and Bradbury. Prior to examination of areas, a general review was given covering blister rust problems and procedures, also pine standards, control area mapping, eradication methods, follow-up examinations, education and information work, and cooperative financing.

During the field trip, men were shown areas of white pine under control and immature pine showing damage from blister rust infection. Commercial damage was pointed out on areas where infection has been present for over 25 years with resulting dead and dying timber caused by advance stages of the rust.

Men were given the opportunity to identify ribes (currants and gooseberries) under natural conditions and observe infection in this stage of development.

Blister rust literature and field manuals prepared for blister rust foremen were distributed to forestry personnel.

In spite of best laid plans, the field trips ran well into the lunch hour but everybody seemed to survive and they were able to make it back to the trucks.

This was an excellent example of cooperation between the Maine Forest Service and the blister rust division. Those responsible for conducting the trip wish to express their appreciation to all concerned for the interest shown.

Reports coming to the Forest Service office from some of those present were quite favorable. One man stated he learned more about blister rust from the time spent on this trip than from all the previous indoor meetings on blister rust which he attended. Since this was the objective, we, of the blister rust division, are quite pleased with the results.

Editor's Note: The following men from our department have recently completed their regular Army two-week summer training camp period.

Earl Crabb - Army National Guard Encampment - Camp Drum, N. Y. - June 26- July 10
Richard Drake - National Guard - Camp Drum, N. Y. - June 26-July 10
John Walker - Heavy Mortar Company Army Reserve - Camp Drum, N.Y. - July 11-24
Franklin Sargent - Depot Maintenance Company - Fort Belvoir, Va. - August 14-29
Probably a little known fact is the large amount of work which goes into the inspection of material, such as Christmas trees, lumber, pulpwood, nursery stock, stone and quarry products for shipment out of the state's gypsy moth quarantine area. In 1953, the value of the products shipped from the regulated areas in Maine approximated $4,710,000, with an additional $2,898,000 of additional products certified for shipment into Canada. Douglas Seavey of the Maine Forest Service gives full time to this project along with two Federal inspectors and George McGinley spends several months during the Christmas tree shipping period in eastern Maine.

Many favorable comments have been received in regard to the gypsy moth spray program which gave complete control in the sprayed areas. Particular appreciation goes to the fire wardens and farm foresters who cooperated so splendidly. They were all right on the job. Radio communication played an important part in both this job and the spruce budworm spray project. The latter gave better than 99% control. It is a pretty well established fact that the Northeast Air Lines is going to run a caboose so that Bob Nash can grab the tail end as it leaves the airport.

The exhibit "Tale of Two Towns", constructed by Ed Grove and Stan Hood, depicts one miniature village where shade trees are cared for and another where they have been neglected. The contrast is striking. One town is named Groveland and the other Hoodsville. Stan, with his usual good nature, took the "lemon". It is planned to use this exhibit in sections of the state where the Dutch Elm Disease is showing up.

Dr. Donald Welch, a well known forest pathologist from Cornell, has spent a month with the entomologists of tree disease problems. He was most helpful and proved a great asset.

In spite of almost daily downpours, the rangers have covered their districts well. Continual soaking brings up the question of furnishing them with umbrellas that can be inverted between showers for insect collections.

Even Mark Trail is helping us on our Budworm project!

You're A LOT of Company, Fella, And I've Got to Find Something to Feed You!

I don't know What It will Be...Unless How About Some SPRUCE BUDWORKS?

Mark Manages to Gather a Handful of the Budworms for Tidbit

You're a Friendly Little Cuss...I've an Idea SOME Camper Has Fed You BEFORE!
The two most efficient communication aids for the Forest Service are the telephone and radio.

The installation of the new frequency modulation radio system was started in July 1949. Today, the department owns and operates nearly 300 units. During 1949, surveys were conducted and a plan worked out for complete radio coverage of the entire state. At this time, construction permits were applied for from F.C.C. and land for a headquarters station site was purchased on Windsor Neck Hill. In the fall of this year an 85-foot antenna tower and the first small building was erected. The following winter mobile units were installed in many warden and official cars. Experiments were made with portable two-way units and battery operated equipment for remote tower sites.

The first fixed station went into operation April 13, 1950 at Ossipee Mountain. The next installation was at Blue Hill on April 29. These were followed by Augusta, with transmitter remote controlled at Windsor, and Medford on May 4; Cooper May 11; Squaw Mountain May 18; Priestly June 5; Chase June 28; Bigelow July 12; and Hedgehog August 1.

Since that time new equipment has been added, including installations at Deboulie and Cupsuptic. A new laboratory with a garage has been built at Windsor to facilitate service and installation. This is being equipped with modern test and service equipment as fast as funds are available.

The entire system is maintained by one Radio Communication Supervisor and two Technicians. A system of this size requires the cooperation of every operator and advantage taken of every geographical location that lends itself for better service conditions.

Surveys are being constantly made in sections of the state where it appears improvements are needed.

A good communication system is one of the keys to a successful forest fire protection program.

Hurricane "Carol"!!
August 31, 1954
I'm getting out of here!!
Now I see where the Government is going to regulate rain. The President has signed a bill creating an Advisory Committee on Weather Control, and it ought to be quite a relief to the weatherman. From now on, when it pours on Sunday, people can blame the Administration.

It seems that weather has been getting out of hand ever since they started to make rain by seeding clouds with silver iodide. A lot of clouds simply can't handle the stuff, and sometimes a young cumulus-cloud formation will get loaded and stagger aimlessly across the landscape, shooting off bolts of lightning and dousing Sunday-school picnics. It's all very well for a farmer to create a private rainstorm in order to sprinkle his lower 40, but when he succeeds in washing out a couple of bridges in the adjoining county it's high time the Government stepped in.

The first thing Congress will have to figure out is what kind of weather people want. This is going to be hard. I took a little poll last night coming home on the train, and the man next to me said he hoped it would be clear tomorrow because he had just washed the car. The man across the aisle said he hoped it would rain, because otherwise his wife was planning to drag him to a lawn party. Another man said he didn't care what it did as long as it stayed cool so he would not have to put up the screens, and the man beside him said that he was counting on a warm day to get in some golf. The conductor said all he wanted was for the weather to make up its mind one way or the other because his corns hurt, and by the time the train got to the station nobody was speaking. So you can see what Congress is going to be up against.

Consider the pressure that a Congressman will be under once weather gets into politics. His agricultural constituents will bombard him with demands for a wet growing season, while the summer-resort people will fight a rainy spell tooth and nail. A delegation of umbrella manufacturers will present a petition, signed also by the slicker people, urging him to vote wet. A rival lobby representing the bathing-suit industry, backed up by the makers of sun-glasses, will threaten to bolt him in the coming election unless he votes dry.

A bill sponsoring ice and blizzards will win him the loyal support of the long-woolen-underwear industry, the ski and skate interests, not to mention the crutch people, the splint people and the younger members of the medical profession who are trying to build up a practice; but it is bound to antagonize elderly ladies and postmen. The kite people, supported by the manufacturers of straw hats, will demand wind, but they will be vigorously opposed by ladies with knock-knees, and garden-club members who don't want to see their peonies knocked flat.

About the only people who will be satisfied either way are wives. A wife doesn't care what the weather is like on a week-end. If it's clear, her husband can (a) mow the lawn, (b) take down the storm windows or (c) finish painting the garage that he started last week but it rained. If it rains, he can (a) straighten up the attic, (b) get at that mess in the cellar or (c) paint the kitchen that he didn't finish the week before because the sun came out so he started the garage instead.

One solution for Congress, of course, is to do away with weather entirely. Unfortunately this would also do away with virtually all conversation in this country. People wouldn't even say "Good morning" any more, because there wouldn't be any other kind. Newspapers would have to get along without those little
feature stories about a freak twister in Kansas that blew backward, unwinding all the clocks and straightening spiral staircases, or a bolt of lightning in Texas that chased a farmer clear across his pasture and snipped every button off his suspenders. Golfers couldn't blame their score on the fact that the sun got in their eyes. Old folks would have nothing to predict with their rheumatism. Postmen would not be halted on their accustomed rounds by snow nor hail nor sleet. Nobody would save up for a rainy day.

But there are other solutions that the Committee on Weather Control might consider:

1. Substitute something else for weather.
2. Leave the weather the way it is but arrange it a little differently, so that the summer months would fall in the middle of winter when they'd do more good.

Taken from "Reader's Digest"

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THE OFFICE'S ONLY ELIGIBLE BACHELOR IS ON THE LOOSE

Larry Freeman, Entomologist, took on a worthwhile side line over week ends during this past summer instructing mermaids how to swim.

Comment: Nice work, if you can get it!

P.S. This sketch is slightly outdated as we understand that he only has one girl friend now.

Are you serious, Larry?
Editor's note: The following seven rules were taken from a circular printed by the Maine Publicity Bureau at Portland, giving advice to their personnel on how to greet the public who come to the various information bureaus seeking information. It is being printed here with the thought that the application is just as important in public relations with forest fire wardens as with the traveler and summer tourist. All of us can gain some valuable points from these seven basic rules.

SEVEN BASIC RULES

1. Be courteous. Greet all visitors with a friendly smile; and, in so far as it is possible, give each visitor your undivided interest and attention.

2. Before attempting to answer a question, be sure that you know exactly what the inquirer wants.

3. Always, whenever possible, offer a choice and let the inquirer make his own decisions. (This is especially important when servicing inquiries about routes, accommodations, etc.)

4. Guard against making derogatory statements, comparisons, or insinuations.

5. Don't guess! If you don't know the answer, admit it, and suggest where the requested information might be found, or offer to get it for your inquirer if time and circumstances permit.

6. Make note of unusual inquiries; and, if you find them repeated, obtain the information for your permanent files.

7. Never hesitate to call the Headquarters Office for information assistance, or advice when needed.

At the Rumford training school Patrolman Waylan Williams carved out of wood a model of "Smokey" and built a miniature fire tool cache complete with hand tools. This set was presented Forest Commissioner Nutting and is now on his desk in the Augusta office for all visitors to see.