

Fire-Season Closure Policy for National Forests Is Announced

The fire-season closure policy for the national forests of Southern California was announced today by Regional Forester S. B. Show, chief of the California region, U. S. Forest Service, who said, "In any but an abnormally dry year, the Angeles, Cleveland, San Bernardino and Los Padres national forests will remain open to the public until midnight of the fourth Sunday in June, starting this year. After that date, all areas of moderate or light fire hazard will continue to remain open, but high-hazard areas will be closed to the public until the end of the fire season, usually about December 1.

"Main highways and roads passing through high-hazard areas in the national forests, together with main roads giving access to areas open to the public, will be available for travel throughout the fire season. Posted and fire-proofed camp and picnic grounds immediately adjacent to these highways and roads will also be open to the public. The boundaries of closed areas will be signed, and maps showing where people may go will be published in local papers and provided free to forest users.

"There is much confusion and misunderstanding as to the reasons for fire-season closures in the national forests," continued Mr. Show. "I hope that this statement will clarify the essential questions involved.

"The legal purpose of these national forests, as stated by Congress nearly 50 years ago in the Act of June 4, 1897, was to insure favorable conditions of waterflow. That meant, then, as now, protection of the natural cover on the mountain watersheds from fire and other destructive elements. Authentic records compiled for decades show that practically all destructive fires in Southern California, both within and adjacent to the national forests, result from human use. This does not mean the people who use these mountain areas for motoring, camping, fishing, hunting and hiking are less careful than the people who use the national forests elsewhere in California for similar forms of recreation. But the brush-covered Southern California forests are so explosively inflammable during the hot, dry summer and fall months that fires start much more readily and spread with greater speed. Under such conditions, human use of these areas increases the fire hazard tremendously.

"For many years the U. S. Forest Service has applied and tested more forms of fire prevention in these Southland mountains than in any other part of California, or in fact of the United States. Singly and in combination these prevention measures have accomplished this much — fires have not increased in number nearly as fast as has human use of the forests. But prevention measures have not eliminated occasional large and costly fires causing great damage to these exceedingly valuable watersheds. So after testing the available methods of curbing fires, while continuing to allow fire-season use of the areas by the public, we have reluctantly concluded that human use of these national forests during the critical fire season must yield to their primary legal purpose. Thus the fire-closures of recent years, which demonstrated their effectiveness in wartime, were actually an inescapable measure adopted as a last resort after a long period of searching for less restrictive precautions.

"Congress has continued to place increasing emphasis on watershed protection that will insure favorable conditions of streamflow, as indicated by the Flood Control Act of 1936 and amendments. It is significant that the first stream in the entire Nation selected for intensive improvement under this act was in Southern California, and another nearby drainage has recently been added to the program. Thus, more than ever, we in the U. S. Forest Service must

Harbor District Chambers to Hear Of Water Survey

A meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce will take place in the Manhattan Beach Community Church at 4 p.m., June 14.

The business session, with President Pat MacDonnell presiding, will begin at 5:15 and dinner is to be served at 6:30.

Joseph F. Poland of the United States Geological Survey, will give observations from his work on a three year survey of the water conditions of all this area.

Distinction Won by Local Woman's Kin

Cpl. Stanley Nietupski, nephew of Mrs. Katherine Fawicki, 2512 Cypress st., is a supply clerk attached to the 50th Fighter Control Squadron, with the U. S. Eighth Air Force fighter wing in England, according to word received this week from the air force.

The squadron was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for its "superior performance of duty" in Eighth Air Force operations during the period following D-Day.

The plaque, equal to a personal commendation for every member of the squadron, entitles Corporal Nietupski to wear a golden-yellow laurel wreath on his right sleeve.

The primary function of the 50th Fighter Control Squadron dealt with furnishing navigational aids to fighter aircraft and maintaining a constant knowledge of each group's position on an operational mission.

The citation accompanying the award read in part:

"Through the untiring efforts of the personnel of the 50th Fighter Control Squadron, fighter pilots were enabled to effect prompt rendezvous with bomber formations, and were safely guided around dangerous artillery zones, balloon barrages, and concentrations of anti-aircraft fire.

"The high degree of technical skill, tireless energy, and devotion to duty displayed by the members of this organization reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the armed forces of the United States."

Corporal Nietupski has been serving overseas for the past two years.

Pacific Electric Would Consolidate All Franchises

Consolidation of all franchises of Pacific Electric owned motor coach lines in order to carry light express and luggage between Los Angeles and seven urban and suburban areas is sought in an application on file Friday with the state railroad commission.

No changes in operating rights are contemplated. Los Angeles Motor Coach Lines, owned jointly with the Los Angeles Transit Lines, is not included in the application.

ASK NEW LAW

A resolution urging passage of a state Fair Employment Practices Act at this session of the legislature will be presented to Governor Earl Warren.

be aware of where our primary duty lies. We would be very happy if the fire record of the Southern California forests justified less restrictive measures, as they generally do in the less inflammable northern forests of the state. But we must recognize and be guided by the fire conditions that exist on the ground, and apply measures to meet them adequately.

LET'S FINISH THE JOB!



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Notice

Friends and patients of mine, who have received quick, beneficial and lasting results from the Palmer & Carver Systems of Adjusting, have requested me to remain until July 1, 1945, before leaving Torrance for a long rest after 31 years in practice. This I have consented to do.

Dr. Katherine F. Siekmann
CHIROPRACTOR

1343 El Prado, Torrance Phone 1090