



**NO ACCIDENT:** Paul Owenby looks over an area where the N.C. Forest Service used controlled burning to remove brush left by clear cutting. Although the appearance is that of a tragic fire, the area is actually one which has been harvested by employees, cleaned by the Forest Service, and planted with thousands of young white pines.



John

## FOCUS: CHALLENGES OF CHANGING TIMES

The Brevard plant enjoyed a number of relatively calm years and predictable growth prior to the energy crisis of 1974-1975. Since that date our nation has faced one crisis after another - all of which has resulted in political and economic upheaval. Energy costs have continued to rise contributing to inflation and higher costs for vital raw materials such as silver. The photographic industry, a major consumer of silver, has been caught in the middle of this turbulence. These disruptions have had a serious impact on the Brevard plant and are likely to be felt for a long time. While no one can accurately predict our economic and political future, I am convinced the remainder of 1980 will continue as a period of uncertainty.

For the near term our challenge is to successfully manage an uncertain order demand. Customers will continue their efforts to tightly control inventories which, in turn, necessitates similar action at the plant. The requirement to provide good customer service will not change; therefore, maintaining good service will require the close attention of every employee.

Over the long term our x-ray business will continue to feel the governmental pressure on the medical profession to reduce radiation exposure and trim medical costs. The impact of electronic imaging devices will continue as well as stiffer competition from competitors. What does this all add up to? It means more prudent management of our resources of both people and money. This means increasing productivity through process improvements and balanced manpower and limiting expenditures to those things yielding the greatest return.

This message may be a bit unpleasant; but, in my judgment, our near and long term challenges must be met successfully if we are to maintain our position in the marketplace. I am confident the employees of this plant will do their part in continuing to make this plant a successful operation.

*John Golden*

Plant Manager

## CLEAR CUT WOODLANDS BURNED BY FOREST SERVICE

What goes on here? DuPont and the Forest Service are setting fires instead of trying to prevent them! Ranger Jim Hill brought in Don Seagle and Jesse Owen of the Forest Service to explain the program.

Strange as it may seem at first, fire plays an important part in some of nature's life cycles. When burning is controlled, it's a tool, not a terror.

"Controlled burning isn't like a forest fire," says Forest Ranger Don Seagle. "And you can believe we control it when we burn."

"In a burn like we've done on your land, we don't just set the fire and watch it. We mark out small areas within the designated area, and we burn one piece at a time.

"We have a fairly complex set of conditions which must all be satisfied before we start a burn. Without trying to explain them all, just let me say that if everything isn't exactly right, we won't burn; that's all. We don't ever set a fire if there's any question. Wind, moisture, atmospheric conditions, lots of things have to be perfect.

"And we bring in lots of people. The perimeter of each fire area is closely tended. We have water trucks and all the necessary equipment at the scene before we start. In addition to that, Channing Hubbard has provided for extreme precautions, including firebreaks

which are much better than the ones we require."

"We don't do that much burning, really," said Jesse Owen; "I think you should mention that we were able to burn this area because of the beautiful job DuPont woodcutters did in clear cutting it."

"From a forester's point of view, KG (knife graded) areas are better than burnt ones," said Seagle. "But from the wildlife angle, burning is the best. Second growth and newly germinated vegetation come out quickly, and it all gets a boost from the nutrients, particularly potash, which burning returns to the soil. Although all this new growth competes with our seedlings, it also provides great browse for deer and habitat for other wildlife. KG'd areas are more expensive to prepare than burnt ones, so there's a savings when we find an area where we can use controlled burning."

"This has been the first time we've used burning, at least as far as I know," said Jim Hill. "There probably won't be that much of it done very often, either. But the way these fellows do it, you can bet that Smokey the Bear won't mind a bit."

Fifty acres were burned to eliminate brush left from clear cutting. This area has been replanted with white pine seedlings as part of the continuing reforestation program.

## DERA LAKE OPENS

DERA Lake has opened, Jennifer Saunders and Don Essenburg have been hired as attendants, and the stage is set for summertime relaxing.

All visitors must check in and out with the attendant; so be sure you have your DERA membership card with you when you arrive. Remember, too, that only members of the cardholder's household will be admitted with the card. If a person has no card, or presents a borrowed card, admission will likely be denied them.

Guests are allowed, of course, but the DERA board and members want to assure that you need not compete with the general public for your spot on the beach. Accompany your guests for their day at the lake, and have a good time!

If you would like your own copy of the Lake rules, you may get it from the DERA office, which is open from 10 a.m. until noon each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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