

Men Make Excellent Lookouts In Fire Towers

JANE EADS
 WAYNESVILLE — From a thousand-foot mountain-top lookouts, men scan the forest for the beginning of a devastating forest fire. Lookout stations are not usually manned by men. The Forest Service reports some of the most important fire posts this summer.

Lookouts have telephone contact with each other, reached only by trail or other human being. The Forest Service reports some of the most important fire posts this summer.

she told me. "I found it, all right," she added. "I reached it by climbing a three-mile trail up-hill. It was all walking, no riding, and I had to carry all my own food."

Miss Martin had been teaching English and social sciences in the Center Sandwich, N. H., high school when she saw an ad asking for a "woman to man a lookout tower."

"They say some lookouts take the job so they can finish a master's thesis, read or knit. I don't know when they find time. You have to look for signs of a fire every 20 minutes until sundown. If you give a nice thorough look, following trails and streams and sighting camping areas and such, it takes a good half hour."

Besides, Miss Martin had many other chores. Like most lookouts, she had to do her own cooking and chop her own wood, and she had

no electricity — "I learned how to wash clothes, dishes and myself in about one cup of water, dress early in the morning, when there were no people likely to be around, and show little campers who came a-visiting what a lookout did when he or she was looking," she added.

There were few fires in her mountains, Miss Martin says, and they were all small. Her most excit-

ing experiences were out-staring a moose and preparing a blueberry pie too big to get into her tiny "gold fish bowl" cabin stove.

From Arkansas to Australia Today, zinc ores are dug and smelted from Arkansas to Australia. The United States mines more of it than any other country, yet still must import zinc from abroad.

Big Pile If all the ingots of copper, lead and zinc which the state of Nevada has produced were brought together, the pile would be the size of a 10 to 15-story office building.

Tree Farms The tree farm movement which started in the state of Washington in 1941 has become a national movement with 29 states enrolled in 1950.

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Meet the Paradise Bird With Twin-Feathered Tail
 U. S. ornithologists have the unusual opportunity of studying at home two specimens of the rare ribbon-tailed bird of paradise, a spectacular creature with a trailing twin-feathered tail some three times the length of its body.

The first ribbon-tail ever to reach this country arrived not long ago in the rich haul of the scientific expedition to Australia's primitive Arnhem Land sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Australian Government.

The ribbon-tail, or *Astrapia mayeri*, lives only in the high Mt. Hazen district of east-central New Guinea. Black, with iridescent bluish-green cap and throat, and short black tipped by feather pompon, it is a striking sight trailing two feet and more of white feathers through the deep forests.

Before the remote island region of New Guinea became accessible by plane, following establishment of landing fields used in World War II, none of the ribbon-tails had been seen alive outside the homeland.

It was as recently as 1935 that an Australian patrol officer saw flitting about his more than 8,000-foot camp an unfamiliar bird of paradise, wearing a long ivory-colored train. A few years later, the odd tail feathers, minus the train, were noticed in the headdress of New Guinea natives by a collector working for the London Zoo.

The ribbon-tail is still the latest to be added to the 40 or so species of the bird of paradise family. Ornithologists say it probably will be the last. The uplands where the white-tailed birds are found offered about the only uninvestigated territory of the home of paradise birds in New Guinea, its offshore islands, and northeast Australia.

Increased Cotton Profits Traced to Insecticides
 Tests in which higher cotton yields and greater profits have been gained through an effective insect control program prove that money spent for insecticides is a wise investment, the National Cotton Council reports.

Cited as an example was the yield of 700 pounds of lint, 6000 per acre last year on a Mississippi plantation even though surrounding fields were devastated by boll weevil. Although the cost of 10 to 12 applications of poison amounted to \$16.30 per acre, this 2000-acre operation proved to be a profitable venture at a time when many farmers in the area suffered serious losses from cotton pests. In Mississippi last year cotton insects reduced the state yield an estimated 23 per cent and inflicted damage set at \$124,057,330.

Plots dusted for weevil control in one set of experiments in Arkansas last year produced an average of 1594 pounds of seed cotton to the acre. At the same time dusted plots produced only 345 pounds.

The Alabama extension service points out that on unpoisoned plots the seed cotton yield was 650 pounds per acre. When application of insecticides was made, yields ranged as high as 1000 pounds per acre. The average gain in yield as a result of insect control measures amounted to an increase of approximately \$44 per acre in gross income.

Collecting of Autographs Dates Back to Antiquity
 Maybe no really "hip" bobby-soxer would be without an autograph book on the chance of a meeting with Montgomery Clift or Cary Grant, but we have it on reliable authority that autograph collecting is about as modern as a Roman toga.

Collecting signatures is a "long-hair" pursuit that dates even farther back in history than the heydays of Mom and Dad.

This deflating tidbit comes from the Childcraft reference library, which reports that "With kindest regards, Sophocles" might very well have been inscribed in the papyrus autograph scroll of some ardent fan in about 400 B. C.

Earliest mention of the hobby is in the writings of Piny the Elder (23-79 A. D.), who tells of seeing a collection of autographs of famous men who lived two centuries before; but we also know that the ancient Egyptians had autograph fever. One of the Ptolemies who ruled Egypt in the period 323 to 30 B. C. is said to have offered a large amount of wheat to be permitted to copy the manuscripts of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides.

With people busily collecting autographs down through the ages, there are comparatively few specimens dating from recent centuries that are considered rare or extremely valuable. For example, a Washington or a Lincoln letter that does not refer to an historical event can be purchased for around \$100.

If bobby-soxers hound them for autographs, today's celebrities can attribute it to sheer devotion. The autographs of many motion picture and stage stars, athletes, singers, and writers have very little value.

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