

FOREST BLAZE LOSSES LIGHT THIS SUMMER

Fewer Fires Reported by National Service Than in Other Years.

By Times Special
WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—Barring unexpected disasters in the next few weeks, American forests this year will escape with smaller fire losses than for many a year.

"In the national forests this year's losses have been lower than any time since 1923 or possibly even since 1916, and if present conditions continue the losses are likely to be the lowest since the service was organized in 1905," Col. W. B. Greeley, chief of the United States Forest Service, said today.

Col. Greeley says similar conditions have prevailed in forest areas outside the Government reserves. He attributes the low losses to a combination of late spring weather; more than the usual amount of summer rainfall; increased forces of federal and State fire rangers, and greater caution by campers and tourists.

Lightning Not Halted

Most of the damage this year has been caused by mid-summer lightning. In California, where some of the largest fire losses occurred last year, few fires broke out this year before the middle of July, but on July 29 more than 100 fires were set by lightning in the Klamath, Shasta, Trinity and Lassen forests. Most of them were soon extinguished.

In California we have required every party obtaining permits to visit national forests to take fire fighting tools with them. This has had a good psychological effect, we think, in causing campers to exercise more caution," Greeley said.

Reduction Is Great

In Montana and Idaho, where the fire losses usually are greater than in any other Government reserve, the acreage burned up to August 20 this year was less than one per cent of the area destroyed last year.

The largest losses in the West have occurred in the Columbia Forests in Southern Washington. In the South a bad spring drought caused several fires in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina and one of the largest fires took place in Nebraska where 23,000 acres were destroyed.

In 1926 the total acreage of national forests destroyed by fire was 72,000. This year's losses will not exceed one-third this amount, Greeley believes.

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Oklahoma Suspects Poison Murder



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Following the sudden deaths of Mrs. Charles Bailey and her daughter, Mary Jane, 18, End (Okla.) authorities have arrested Mary Atkinson, graduate nurse and companion of the Rev. Charles Bailey, End pastor. County officials suspect poisoning. Helen Bailey, 20, another daughter, recovered from the malady that claimed her sister's life. Above to the left the pastor is shown; on the right is Miss Atkinson; the center panel pictures Helene (above), Mary Jane and Mrs. Bailey.

Card Seeress Holds Boy's Death to Remain Mystery

Dismissal of Murder Charge at Evansville Supports Woman's Words.

By Times Special

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Sept. 13.—Leander's murderer will never confess and so far as the Spirit informs me now, his death will remain a mystery."

Thus spoke Mrs. William Booth, a plump, plain little farm woman, nearly a year and a half ago as she studied the faces of a pack of playing cards in the dining room of her little home north of Winslow, Ind.

The date was April 30, 1926.

Peace and contentment reigned there but wild excitement prevailed in the village of Winslow two miles to the south, townspeople gathered in excited knots on every corner, business was at a standstill and a growing throng flocked to a little undertaking establishment where an autopsy was going forward over the body of Leander Roe, 9, retrieved only that day from the muddy Patoka River.

Missing a Week

Little Leander had vanished on Saturday, April 24, just a week before. Thomas Roe, father of the youngster, his neighbors and friends searched all that night in vain and the next day, weary and worn, sought out Mrs. Booth, whose

strange gift of divination had aided many of her acquaintances in their hours of trouble in times past.

"Your son has been murdered," Mrs. Roe told the elder Roe. "His body will be recovered from the waters of the river and his murderer will confess if those waters are left untroubled.

The next day, Monday, Roe and a neighbor, Mrs. Morton, besought Mrs. Booth for further information.

"Go to the river down by the ball park," she directed them. "There you will find Leander's clothing. Leave it undisturbed and return to me without telling any one of your find."

"As you go through town on your way to the river you will see a group of boys at the corner.

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"You, Morton, approach them and say: 'I surely would like to know if Leander Roe is alive.'

"An overgrown boy, whose name has not been revealed to me, will step forward with an oath and reply: 'Lee will never come back; he's in the river.'

The two men hastened toward the river. They encountered the group of boys and Morton put to them the statement that the seeress had directed.

A 12-year-old boy stepped forward with an oath and declared in answer: "Lee will never come back; he's in the river."

Morton hastened on to the banks of the Patoka. There lay Leander's clothing.

Excitement seized him and he ran back to the village, shouting of his find. Every available man turned out to search the river banks and drag the stream for trace of the body. The 12-year-old youngster was seized and threatened and cajoled to tell what he knew of Leander's disappearance. His stories conflicted and he was ultimately dismissed from consideration in the case by authorities.

Meanwhile Morton hastened back to Mrs. Booth for further instructions.

Help Pledge Broken

"You have broken your pledge of silence," the little farm wife greeted him sadly. "Had you obeyed me this mystery would have been solved by confession, within two hours. Now, so far as I can see, the case is doomed to remain a mystery."

And a mystery the case has remained.

Only last week murder charges were dismissed against the 60-year-old father of the murdered lad—charge preferred nearly a year and a half ago.

Alleged Slayer on Trial

By Times Special
TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Sept. 13.—Guy Stark is on trial in Vigo Circuit Court here charged with the fatal shooting of his wife, Daisy, June 15 last. The tragedy followed a quarrel when Mrs. Stark returned home late at night from a dance.

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QUICK SERVICE



WAR ON PARKED CARS

Stickers Greet Motorists in Woodruff Place.

Automobile owners of Woodruff Place awoke this morning to find windshields decorated with stickers, in a delicate shade of pink, warning them against parking on the streets overnight.

Elmer Luscher, town marshal, decorated every automobile parked on the streets.

Motorists were notified they were violating Section 2 of an ordinance passed by the Woodruff Place board of trustees Feb. 1, 1925, prohibiting parking in alleys or on streets between 7 p. m. and 8 a. m., or for any continuous period of more than six hours.

Penalty is a maximum fine of \$10. J. M. Dills town clerk and treasurer, explained today Marshal Luscher was born in instruction by his board of trustees, of which H. T. Graham is president, to take steps to curb parking violations.

Further violations may result in fines, it was stated.

'FIRST DROP' SPURNED

Obey Koran's Injunction by Spilling Liquor on Ground.

MANILA, Sept. 13.—Mohammedan Moros arrested for drunkenness have explained how they escape the Koran's injunction: "Let not the first drop of wine touch thy lip." They carefully spill some wine on the ground, then go ahead and drink the remaining drops.

Now He Works

On the first instance Parry reported tersely:

"There were two trucks, three cars and about fifteen men waiting for a boat back from Gun Cay. About 2:30 a. m. a boat was seen offshore signaling the beach, and after the signals were answered two boats approached through the narrow canal to the yacht basin, one towing the other.

"I jumped aboard the leading boat and seized him, made them turn around and run out without landing, and proceeded to Miami and came alongside the CG-297 and they took off the prisoners."

Both boats were loaded with liquor in bottles bearing foreign labels.

There were 1,000 sacks of liquor. Parry's single-handed capture of five men and two boats established a new record.

Held in \$25,000 Bond

By Times Special
TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Sept. 13.—Steve Ewon, charged with shooting and seriously wounding his divorced wife, Mrs. Julia Ewon, is a prisoner in Vigo County jail here, unable to provide bond of \$25,000. The woman's condition is fair, hospital attaches say.

Elkhart Fair Opens

By Times Special
GOSHEN, Ind., Sept. 13.—Elkhart County's fifty-third annual fair will open here tonight to continue the remainder of the week. By tonight it is expected the sale of season tickets will have reached 5,000.

Laddergram

Climb Down!

ELWOOD, Ind., Sept. 13.—Canning plants here will be inspected today and Wednesday by twenty quartermaster officers of the United States army, on an annual tour. Capt. Robert Wilkie, son of H. F. Wilkie, Elwood city attorney, and Mrs. Wilkie, is in command of the detail.

The officers will be dinner guests of the local Kiwanis Club this evening.

VIEW CANNING PLANTS

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LEARN Evening Law School

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Tiger Foot Tires

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