

San Marcos FFS Hosts All-Female Station Crew

Women Get Kick Out of Taking Smoke Eaters' Jobs



Their red firetruck polished, San Diego county's first feminine forest fire-fighting unit takes time out to smile for Stanley DeTreville, Tribune-Sun cameraman. The forestry women "man" the San Marcos ranger station for the state division of forestry. Mrs. Gene Pirazzini, in foreground, has charge of the station and is truck driver. Rear, left to right: Miss Doris Tompkins and Mrs. Anita Graves, forest fire fighters, and Mrs. Eleanor Schnurr, assistant truck driver.

From the May 1943 Division of Forestry Newsletter:

"First All-Woman Crew"

Pioneering in the State's firefighting crews is the all-woman fire suppression crew in San Diego County, under the direction of State Forest Ranger E. S. Miller. Forewoman of the crew is Mrs. Gene Pirazzini, wife of assistant State Forest Ranger in that county. This is the first all-woman fire suppression crew hired by the State. Located at San Marcos, the new crew will handle all fire calls for that district.

Featured in the the July 1943 Division of Forestry Newsletter:

"Queens who Quench Fire Never Tire"

From the San Diego Tribune, May 22 1943, by Naomi Baker

"Let's roll, girls," is the equivalent of "Man your battle stations" to San Diego County's first feminine forest firefighting unit - perhaps the first

women forest corps in California.

"Manning" the State Forestry Division's San Marcos ranger station are four women, each with a man in the armed forces, and each with avowed determination to battle the Axis ally, fire, until men come home from war and take over the jobs.

Ask Mrs. Gene Pirazzini, of Valley Center, forest fire truck driver who has charge of the San Marcos station, if it is thrilling to "roll" into action on a red fire truck and she grins and replies, "We haven't been bored yet".

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