

Department of Forestry

Communique

Volume X, XII

Sacramento, June 1980

physical ability

Sacramento safety members take performance tests

By Bill Weaver

Chief Deputy Director Bob Connelly led off this spring's physical ability testing for safety members at headquarters.

Approximately ninety safety members are scheduled for testing in Sacramento. The battery of physical performance tests, together with a pulse recovery step test will indicate whether the employee has sufficient strength, endurance, and agility to perform the arduous tasks demanded by firefighting or other forestry and law enforcement activities. These tests are designed to determine strength, agility, flexibility and coordination.

The Pulse Recovery Step Test is a good guide to heart/lung conditioning and is a technique which can help predict aerobic capacity - the ability to take in, transport and use oxygen in active muscles while performing work. The test assists in identification of specific limitations, such as inability to

Newsbulletin

CDF Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit competition team won six trophies in the Cal-Rural Education Day, April 27, 1980, held at the Woodlake Inn in Sacramento. The trophies included third place in lay-line and draft; third place in make and break; and first and second place in the bucket brigade.

First and second place winners in the mask race were FAE Monte Wooden and FAE Mike Terwilliger.

perform certain motions because of pain or stiffness or identification of lack of strength and endurance as required by the job class.

After the step test, Connelly reemphasized the desire of this administration to assure a vigorous work force capable of performing the rigorous and physically demanding fire fighting mission of the California Department of Forestry. It is also his plan to get out on the fire line this fire season, to observe fire fighting activities and gain an insight as to the specific types of physically demanding tasks that are encountered.

"I look forward to experiencing the various aspects of fire control operations and having the opportunity to talk with fire line personnel," Connelly said.

Department of Forestry
1416 Ninth Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Pesonen & Staff:

Everyone in CCC is well aware of how important our working relationship is with the people in CDF. The CCC has learned a great deal from your organization and your support was instrumental in our receiving authorization to continue serving this State for five more years. I am grateful for the concern CDF has shown for the real core of our program, namely those young women and men who have successfully completed hundreds of projects and fought fires and floods under the direction of CDF.

Sincerely,

B.T. Collins
Director
California Conservation Corps

1980-81 budget update

Forestry's 1980-81 budget is in the process of being heard by the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways & Means subcommittees. Budget discussions have centered around the issues raised in the Legislative Analyst's report to the Legislature.

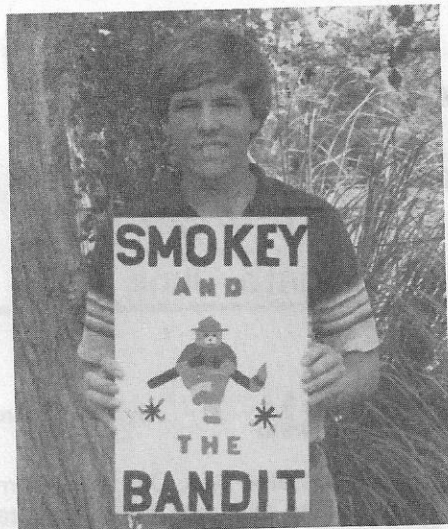
Favorable response was received in both houses for the proposed joint venture with the California Conservation Corps which provides 240 corpsmember Firefighter Trainees and CCC crews for three large helicopters. The three helicopters will be military surplus acquisitions chosen from currently flying National Guard units and will be selected for maximum useful life of airframes, engines, and components.

The Forest Improvement Program continues to enjoy Legislative support. However, recently revised State Forest revenue estimates indicate that current economic conditions will result in a Forest Resources Improvement Fund reduction of \$2.7 million. This reduction will reduce the amount of acreage improved in the budget year, but it is not expected to hamper program implementation efforts. Other items heard have generally been resolved in favor of CDF.

The subcommittees have not completed their budget reviews and further hearings will be scheduled during May and early June. Also, they were quick to point out that final budget recommendations could be affected by the outcome of Proposition 9.

Poster contests count in fire prevention

By Bob Kutz



Mike England

All across California, community groups have worked with CDF and the public schools for many years to sponsor annual statewide environmental and fire prevention contests. The entries of elementary, junior and senior high school students are judged on originality, design, slogan, artwork and overall effectiveness in this fire prevention information effort.

The California Garden Clubs, Inc. recently announced winners in their statewide contest. Region IV was well represented.

First place in the ninth to twelfth grade class went to Mike England of

Coalinga High School and Kathy Springer of Conejo Junior High School was awarded first place in the sixth to eighth grade class.

Mike and Kathy were both entrants in last years Fresno County Sportsmen's Club Fire and Pollution Prevention Poster Contest.

Craig Hansen, an 11th grade Bullard High School student, won first place in the 26th Annual Fresno County Sportsmens Club's Fire and Pollution Prevention Poster Contest.

Craig's poster titled, "Don't Break The Chain," depicting the linking together of wildlife, forests, air, and water being broken by a forest fire, earned Craig \$50 first prize.

Becky Boswell of Bullard High School placed second with a poster titled "No Dumping," showing pollution in the forest.

Third place went to Valeria Broussaid of Coalinga High School. Fourth place went to Bullard High School's Peter Montero. Jeff McDaniel of Coalinga High School won fifth place.

Honorable Mention Awards went to: Vicki Spradling and Lesa Turner, Coalinga High School; Scott Klimek and Jeff Wilson, Coalinga Jr. High School; Marilyn Briar and Dave Hyatt, Kastner Intermediate School; Kris Mallory, Bullard High School; Lisa Hidalgo, Scandinavian School; and John Martinez and Joel Nunez of Tehipite Middle School.

Legislative Roundup

SENATE BILL 240 (Robbins): Exempts firefighting personnel from headset law.—On Governor's desk.

SENATE BILL 1156 (Johnson): Community colleges registration: preference to fire personnel for in-service courses.—On Assembly Floor.

SENATE BILL 1284 (Campbell): Exemption from jury duty for firemen.—On Senate Floor.

SENATE BILL 1361 (Nejedly): Waste treatment management plan for silviculture required by Section 208 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act. State Water Resources Control Board may report to EPA on any alleged deficiencies found in silviculture or in Board of Forestry's progress in adopting changes in the forest practice rules in response to such deficiencies. They may not propose any specific changes in existing regulations or statutes dealing with water quality in connection with silviculture.— On Senate Floor.

SENATE BILL 1684 (Vuich): Department of Forestry expertise available to local government.—On Senate Floor.

SENATE BILL 1704 (Keene): Controlled burning: brush-covered lands.—On Senate Floor.

SENATE BILL 1851 (Roberti): Requires CDF to purchase two airplanes designed for firefighting and appropriates funding.—In Senate Finance Committee.

SENATES CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 66 (Maddy): Ensures level of public safety services.—On Senate Floor.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2552 (Roos): Requires permits or bills of sale for harvest or transport of minor forest products.—In Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2715 (Mangers, et al): Orange County: reemployment lists and return of unused state sick leave credits.—Passed Assembly. In Senate Committee on Public Employment and Retirement.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2715 (Mangers, et al): Orange County: transfer of real property and facilities and transfer of sick leave benefits.—Passed Assembly. In Senate.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2842 (Norman Waters): CDF seasonal employees: nonindustrial disability benefits.—In Assembly Ways and Means Committee.



Craig Hansen and his winning poster.

Fire fighting down under

By Bill Clayton

During February and March, Rangers Bill Clayton San Diego Ranger Unit, Gregg Pisano Santa Clara Ranger Unit, and Art Hastings Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit spent five weeks in Australia on a personal vacation. Upon their arrival they were met by South Australian Fire Officers and taken on a personal guided tour throughout parts of that state, which is four times larger than California. The South Australians literally rolled out the red carpet. The GDFers were given helicopter tours, fixed wing aircraft rides and free first-class transport via Trans-Australian Airlines to the Northern Territory.

While in the Northern Territory they were taken by a twin engine government aircraft to visit a 750,000 acre cattle station and view a recently suppressed 350 square mile fire. They were also provided a staff car for use during their stay.

Clayton, Pisano, and Hastings were on several large wildland fires in both South Australia and Victoria and made the initial attack on one wildland fire. The Australians were extremely hospitable and arranged several newspaper and other media interviews.



Art Hastings, Gregg Pisano and Bill Clayton with the Salisbury Volunteer Brigade.

Along with the visits to various fire facilities, government agencies and wildlife parks, the South Australians provided the "Yanks" with a very active social life which included surfing, deep sea fishing, sight seeing and parties.

The fire service in both South Australia and Victoria is organized on a statewide basis and is composed of very disciplined volunteers under a unified communications and command structure. The Country Fire Service for South Australia, which protects both structures and wildland outside the state capitol of Adelaide, has 11,000 volunteer firefighters operating out of some 440 stations. This force is under the command of Director Lloyd Johns who is a Churchill fellow and the previous director of training for the country of New Zealand. The Department is well equipped and their high-side engines are designed for maximum crew protection on wildland fires. The Australians are considerably more fire prevention conscious than we are. Penalties for burning without a permit in Victoria are a maximum fine of \$2,000 and two years in prison.

The most impressive part of the fire service is the large number of volunteers and their dedication to fire service. They are extremely proud, well trained, and purchase their own uniforms. They also receive no pay for their services.

25-year Club meets

By Orville Ingram

Two hundred and ninety-six members and guests attended the annual meeting of the Forestry 25-year Club April 12 and 13th at the Hacienda Inn in Fresno. Robert Ford was elected President for 1980; Bob Keepers, Vice-President; Orville Ingram, Secretary-Treasurer; Board of Directors, Ed Poe, Larry Young, Ted Young; and Ernie Balmforth, Junior Past President.

Introduced: Honorary Member John Callahan; Charter Members Fran Gowell and John Wade; Past Presidents Lew Moran, Bill Jamieson, Gerv Nash, Frank Weatherford, Curley Francis, Jack Burke, Sam Garza, Bart Myers, Dick Ford, Frank Crossfield, John Wade, Gene Cummings and Bob Green; Associate Life Members Julia

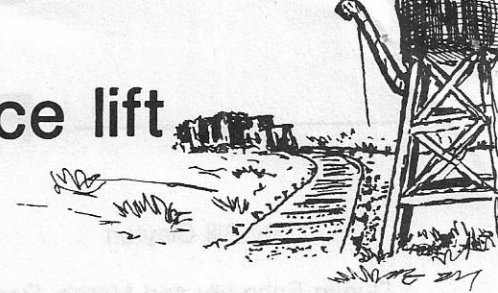
Gordon, Lucille Gum, Eileen King and Bernice Campbell Linton.

Rocking chairs were presented to twenty active members attending for their first time. 1972-Loren Hill and Jim Sigler; 1975-Ed Nelson; 1976-John Ritchey; 1978-Chuck Goold; 1979-Don Davis, Herb Drumm, Jim Graham, Don Holt and Jack Nutter; Class of 1980-Bud Armstrong, Darrell Campbell, Jack Fleckenstein, Bob Kutz, Bob McDonald, Dave McKay, Chuck Martin, Steve Richmond, Louis Sanchez and Will Wade.

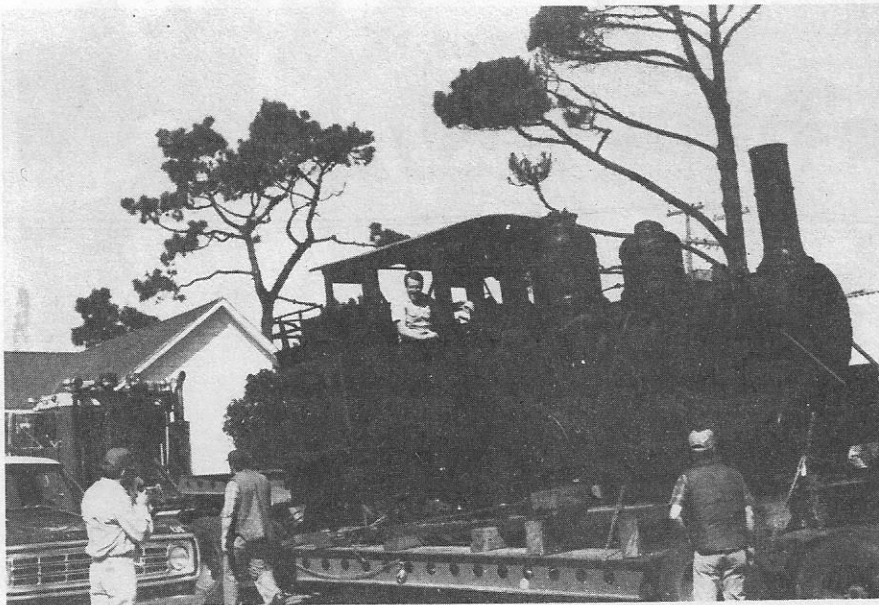
President Ford announced the 1981 annual meeting will be April 4 and 5th at the El Rancho Tropicana in Santa Rosa.



Daisy goes home for face lift



by Forest B. Tilley



Full steam ahead

Parlin Fork Conservation Camp is on the site of the old Caspar Lumber Company's Camp 5 and along the main line of the railroad between the town of Caspar and Camp 20, the end of the line. So Daisy has returned to familiar ground.

The rebuilding of Daisy, projected over the next nine months to a year, will be coordinated by Ron Pape, Forest Practice Inspector from Region I headquarters. Ron has an active interest in the restoration of old railroad equipment and was a member of the Freedom Train group during the Bicentennial Celebrations in 1976.

Daisy was moved through the cooperative effort of personnel from Jackson State Forest, Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, and Region I headquarters.

Upon completion of the restoration project, it is planned to return Daisy to Fort Bragg where she will be properly identified and placed on display.

Unknown to many employees of the Department of Forestry, one of the pieces of equipment owned by the Department is an old steam locomotive known as "Daisy." Daisy was part of the Caspar, South Fork, and Eastern Railroad operated by the Caspar Lumber Company, the former owner of Jackson State Forest.

Daisy first arrived on the Mendocino coast in June of 1885. Until 1940 she was active in the operation of the railroad which was the original log transport system on the property that is now Jackson State Forest. When the State acquired the Caspar Lumber Company holdings in 1947 Daisy was given to the State for a planned logging display at the old Camp 20 location which was the scene of her last activity. However, when the bell and whistle were stolen she was moved to what was the Union Lumber Company's small museum in Fort Bragg where she resided until Saturday, March 28, 1980.

On this date she was given a ride down Main Street in Fort Bragg and then taken to the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp where she will be rebuilt to her original configuration.

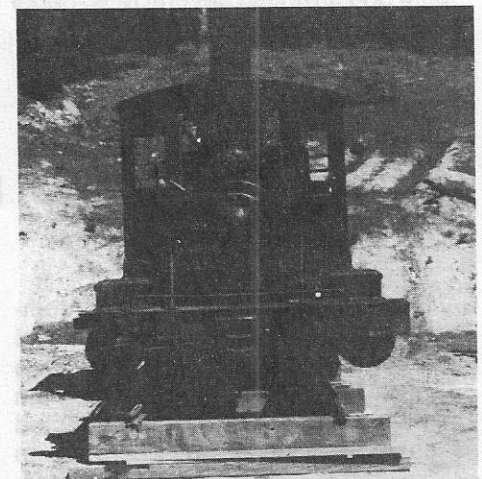
A lot of planning went into moving the old logging train engine. Using mathematical preciseness the loading truck was driven to within six inches of

the train's nose and then its loading bed was dropped on a pre-determined spot. Carefully, the truck cab was unhooked and workers built a 20-foot incline of track and attached a sturdy steel cable to the engine.

Another truck, carrying a powerful earth mover, was brought into position and the mover's rear winch unwound more cable. The two strands of steel were brought together, and slowly the winch pulled the engine onto the flatbed. Daisy was on her way.

Arsonist gets six years

The longest prison sentence for arson in Butte County's history recently was handed down to Steven Robert Gravert. Superior Court Judge Lucian Vandergrift sentenced Gravert to six years in state prison and denied probation due to his past record of drinking, child-beating, and use of marijuana. As mentioned in April's *Communiqué*, Gravert was arrested for arson following an investigation by CDF/Butte County Fire Department, and charged with burning the Oroville home of his estranged wife. The fire occurred on December 6, 1979 and caused \$37,000 damage.



Daisy settles in at new home

Note

George Hacker's retirement party has been postponed until further notice. "Mr. Budgets" is awaiting the outcome of proposed legislation on early retirement incentive.

Double graduation at Fire Academy

By Bruce Turbeville

Graduation ceremonies were held in late March for the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Basic Peace Officer Class #25 and Basic Fire Control Class #71. This was the first time in the Fire Academy's history that a basic peace officer class and a basic fire control class have graduated together. There were two other "firsts".

For the first time at the Academy, the POST Basic Peace Officer Class was extended from a six to ten week course. Most importantly, at completion the class was tested by the POST Commission to determine if the academy was meeting the commission's standards. The class average score was 82.7% which is the second highest class average score of any Police Academy Class tested by POST in the State of California.

This was also the first time in academy history that two HFEO's placed in the top three scores in a Basic Fire Control class.

Deputy Director Robert Paulus and Timothy Huff, director of Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention Training, awarded Certificates of Completion to the 22 Basic Peace Officer graduates who were then sworn in by Paulus.

Director of Fire Control Training, Steve Brown, and Deputy Director



Basic Fire Control Class #71—(L. to R.) FAE Michael E. Martin; HFEO Robert L. Longacre; FAE Roger P. Reed; and HFEO Doyle F. Gregory.

Paulus awarded Certificates of Completion to the 22 graduates of the Basic Fire Control class.

Top overall scores in the Basic Peace Officer class were attained by FC Lee Delap, Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit; SFR I Gene Whitten, Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit; and SFR I Virgil Harvey, Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit.

Top achievers in the Basic Fire Control class were FAE Michael Martin, Butte Ranger Unit; HFEO Robert Longacre, Antelope Conservation Camp; HFEO Doyle Gregory, Region, VI, and FAE Roger Reed, San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit.

The Basic Peace Officer Class was composed of 20 CDF employees; Leo M. Monson of the Sutter Creek Police Department; and Danny D. Hamilton, Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Richard J. Smiley of Cal Poly University joined the 21 CDF employees in the Basic Fire Control Class.

Shasta County goes CDF

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors has voted unanimously to contract with CDF for structural fire protection effective July 1, 1980.

The \$580,000 contract has a mixture of Schedule A, Schedule A-Amador and Schedule C funds and covers the following personnel and resources:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • One Battalion Chief - | Schedule A |
| • Six Battalion Chiefs - | Amador |
| • Two Fire Captains (Training) - | Amador |
| • Two Fire Stations - | Schedule A |
| • Three Fire Stations - | Amador |
| • One Office Assistant - | Schedule A |
| • Seventeen Volunteer Fire Companies - | |

The board also appointed Gary Buzzini to Shasta County Fire Warden. Buzzini is Ranger-in-Charge of the Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit.

In Memorium

Charles L. Long

FAE Charles L. Long succumbed to spinal cancer in mid-April. Long had been with CDF for 22 years and fire apparatus engineer at the Blasingame Station in eastern Fresno County. Long had been with CDF for 22 years. He is survived by his mother, Florence Long, of Tama, Iowa.

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS

By John Swanson

- The CDF benefits Task Force is taking a look at the way certain benefits are publicized and serviced throughout the Department. Goals: Install possible improvements immediately and recommend others to the Director by July. Make your needs known to Task Force members Gary Gilbert, Region I, Jack Trapp, Region II, Kathy Ross, Region IV, Warren Ristow, Region V, Glen Newman, Region VI, John Swanson, Headquarters, Hank Weston, CDFEA, or Al Riolo, CSEA.

- You and your working spouse should take another look at the Deferred Comp Savings plan. Great Western is currently paying 15.72% and guarantees 8.47% for at least 10 years. Other investment options are available. All offer immediate tax shelter advantage.

- Interest on your PERS contributions and the State's portion is increasing $\frac{3}{4}\%$ to $6\frac{3}{4}\%$ on July 1. If you were contemplating redepositing previously withdrawn contributions, or buying prior service credit, now's the cheapest time to make such requests.

- The PERS health insurance program is one of the best in the country. Soon you will have the expanded choice of seven new carriers (Health Maintenance Organizations) embodying 14 new plans beginning August 1, 1980. All to the end of getting you better care in the face of increasing costs.

- While CDF firefighters are not directly affected by the new Volunteer Fireman Program their co-working volunteers will be interested. It's called the Volunteer Firefighters Length of Service Award System and is administered by PERS through a contracting fire department. The intent is to provide an incentive to respond to emergency calls and attend meetings and training drills. Awards begin at age 60 after ten years of service and increase to a lifetime benefit of \$100 per month with 20 years service. The System Manager can be reached at P.O. Box 1953, Sacramento 95809.

- The constant concern of us all, but especially retirees on a fixed income, is the spiralling cost of living. Since 1965 the California Consumer Price Index has increased 124%. In that same period retired state members have received eight special legislative increases amounting to 77.3%. These were in addition to the annual 2% compounded increases since 1968; another 24.3%. The PERS Board is recommending 1980 legislation to restore and preserve the purchasing power of retired state members on a regular formula basis.

- Other PERS legislation you may want to support or follow includes:

AB 2837 Permits the state to pay all or a portion of a member's normal contributions and have such payments credited to the employee's account.

AB 3185 Permits participation in a rehab program and still retire.

AB 1555 / 1556

Increases the 1959 Survivor Benefit (mandatory for non-Social Security members) to a maximum of \$1,076 (now \$538). Also increases member contribution from \$2 to \$3.94 per month.

- In these restive times when public employees must consider changing jobs voluntarily or involuntarily, it's good to know your accrued retirement benefits are protected. Any member of PERS who moves to another PERS-covered agency retains all the rights of current membership. Under reciprocity, also, (such as with Orange County) service credit is totaled at the highest three years compensation average in either system. Even though you separate from public service entirely, if you have over five years service you can leave your contributions in PERS ("Vesting"). This insures a lifetime allowance when you do retire, paid at 20-6 odds including interest by the state. If you ever return to employment with a PERS agency you can pick up those years of credit at the new, usually higher, salary. So figure carefully before withdrawing your contributions. Even with high interest rates on investments it's hard to beat a better than three to one payoff.

Bautista Exercise cancelled

The heavy rainstorms of the past winter and the subsequent damage to much of the California Department of Forestry's fire road system in Southern California have resulted in the cancellation of one of the department's most important training exercises.

Director Pesonen announced that the annual Southern California Bautista Fire Preparedness Training Exercise will, of necessity, be cancelled this year.

The Bautista Exercise, normally held in May of each year, was designed 15 years ago to test hand crews and engine companies from the Department of Forestry Conservation Camps to insure readiness for the summer fire season.

In later years the exercise was expanded to include participants from other firefighting agencies such as Los Angeles, Ventura County and the USFS.

"All CDF crews which normally would be participating in the Bautista Exercise are being assigned to the massive job of digging out and restoring the severely damaged fire road system to useable condition," Pesonen said.

"Preliminary damage estimates indicate a large portion of CDF's fire roads in Southern California have sustained severe damage and will be impassable without major rehabilitation work," he continued.

Individual crew training will be ongoing at all CDF Conservation Camps on a local basis.

Department of Forestry
Communique'

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PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS

Southern California Region

Transfers - FAE's Frank Orr and Michael Sowards to Riverside; SFR II Mike Harris and FAE Lyle Drenth to San Bernardino; FC Carl W. Vogt and Herbert Eberhardt to Riverside; and Jr. For. William Britton to Riverside.

Separation - SFR II William Clayton, San Diego.

Retirement - Carp. Superv. Daniel Jackson, Hq.

25-Year Award - FC David L. Westover.

Sacramento Headquarters

Appointments - Paulette Brown and Nancy Pimental to OA II (T); Juanita Self to Programmer; and James Lee to OA II (G).

25-Year Awards - Dep. Director Robert E. Paulus, and Arch. Assoc. Charles W. Thomas.

North Coast Region

Transfer - FF, CDF James N. Roller to Lake-Napa.

Appointments - Dana W. Cole to LT For. I, Jackson State Forest; Jimmie D. Draper to HFEO, Parlin Fork CC.

Separations - FCS Karl E. Niemeyer, Parlin Fork CC; For. Cook II Harold L. Birka, Humboldt Fire Ctr.; and FF, CDF David G. Meyers, Sonoma.

Retirement - FAE Jack W. Fleckenstein, Sonoma.

Sierra Cascade Region

Transfer - HFEO Gary N. Dean to Tehama-Glenn.

Separation - FAE Ronald Hanks, Siskiyou.

25-Year Award - SFR I Donald J. O'Connell.

South Sierra Region

Transfers - SFR I William Alderson to Tuolumne-Calaveras; FEM I James Kidwell, Hq.; FAE's Gerald W. Carpenter, Michael E. Abbott, Roy Mancuso, and Duran Bowersox, all to Fresno-Kings; FF's CDF Craig M. Roberts and James Benson to Fresno-Kings; and HFEO Loyd V. Delay to Mt. Bullion CC.

Promotion - Franklin F. Frank to LT SFR IV, Tuolumne-Calaveras.

Appointment - Bette A. Giese, to LT OA II, Hq.

Separations - Sr. Steno, Corinne Cathcart, Fresno-Kings; FF's CDF William F. Champlin III and Michael J. Rollins, Fresno-Kings.

Retirements - FC Clifford Kidder and FAE Alvin Leita, both Fresno-Kings.

25-Year Award - SFR IV Carl Armstrong.

Central Coast Region

Transfer - SFR I Frank D. Borge to Santa Clara.

25-Year Award - FC Arthur R. Adams.

EXAMINATION CALENDAR

Title	Final Filing Date	Examination Date
Fire Apparatus Engineer (open, nonpromotional)	Examining for this is being delegated to the Dept.	To Be Announced After 1980 Fire Season
Forestry Equipment Manager I (open, nonpromotional)	April 3	Orals - July 16,17&18
Fire Prevention Officer I (promotional)	April 3	Orals - Early August
Fire Crew Supervisor (open, nonpromotional)	July or August	To Be Announced
Firefighter, CDF (promotional)	April 3	Orals - Mid-June

Do **Not** submit applications for examinations until the bulletin has been released. Use Form 678 (1-77) printed in **Green** ink.

Butte honors Paulus



More than 150 firemen, public dignitaries and guests, including fire chiefs from Butte County's five cities, honored Bob Paulus (left) recently at a farewell dinner in Chico.

Before his January appointment as Deputy Director, Paulus headed the Butte Ranger Unit and County Fire Department for 4½ years. Here, Paulus is presented with a plaque of appreciation from Arlen Cartwright, new Ranger-in-Charge of Butte.

SAFETY BULLETIN

Protective gear and a burn fatality

Last year a tragedy occurred when four CDF firefighters died from burns received on a wildlands fire. With fire season fast approaching, it is well to review what can be learned from this disaster in relation to safety gear.

One of these men fought a losing battle over several months, finally succumbing to the effects of his severe burns. By considering his burns in relationship to his protective gear, the importance of using safety gear becomes very apparent.

First let's look at what he was wearing: nomex trousers over his uniform trousers and undershorts, nomex shirt

Warning on butane lighters

Recent tests by reliable sources, along with substantiated experiences, show that butane cigarette lighters are extremely hazardous, according to Robert E. Paulus, deputy director of Fire Protection and Technical Services.

The Rockford Illinois Fire Department reports their tests indicate no more than mere contact with a candle flame can cause lighters to rupture. The flame tip of a propane torch directed to a lighter for less than ten seconds caused explosions and scattering of jagged debris. The Illinois fire department concludes that any "normal flame" when in contact with lighters can generate temperatures high enough to cause an explosion in a matter of seconds.

One butane lighter manufacturer states the lighter should not be exposed to temperatures over 120°F. In one instance, a lighter exploded when accidentally dropped onto a concrete floor from a height of 26 feet.

"Considering these findings and the exposure of artisans and fire fighting personnel to sources of ignition, it will be the Departmental policy for these persons not to have butane lighters in their possession while at work," Paulus said.

NOTE

The Safety Bulletin is being combined with *Communiqué* in order to provide more timely information. Safety items will continue to be compiled by Safety Coordinator Cassius Hooper.

Every attempt will be made to keep safety articles on one page for easy "pull-out" reference.

with no undershirt, a cotton kerchief around his neck, hard hat with the nomex shroud fastened in front of his face, Bouton ski type goggles, leather gloves with four inch nomex cuffs, and regulation boots.

With this in mind, his condition after running through fire was as follows: His nomex shirt was burned to a char and was sticking to burned flesh on the front part of his upper torso; his arms were deeply burned, extending from his glove cuffs on up to his shoulders; his gloves provided adequate hand and wrist protection; apparently his lower legs and feet did not suffer flame impingement as they were not burned; his upper legs were less severely burned because of the double layers of cloth; his genital area and buttocks were not burned, because of the double layers of cloth and his shorts. While the front part of his nose was burned off, the rest of his face was burned only slightly; his hair and head were well protected by the shroud and hard hat (which was badly melted); and goggles saved his eyes from any damage.

From the above it can be seen that the various safety items did provide significant protection. However, the importance of wearing cotton underwear needs to be emphasized. It provides added insulation and reflects radiant energy as well. This is the reason the CDF Manual of Instructions recommends cotton or cotton blend tee shirts and briefs or shorts.

We can't speculate whether or not a cotton tee shirt would have made a difference in this young firefighter's

life; but burn center physicians will tell you that underwear does reduce the severity of burns. Often the outline of burned from unburned flesh is very distinct where underwear begins and ends.

Finally, from statements made by this firefighter, it seems he thought nomex should have provided more resistance to flame than it did. Firefighters must be made to realize that nomex is not an asbestos suit. It will burn if it gets hot enough from flame impingement. Nomex clothing was not developed for getting closer to the fire; but rather to provide a little more protection for normal fire fighting activities. Recognize that as soon as he got out of the fire, nomex ceased burning and did not bubble and melt like polyester materials.

Can you help get the message across to our firefighters, especially seasonals, the reason why the wearing of protective gear is so important as well as its limitations? And don't forget the importance of cotton blended underwear in combination with nomex outer garments.

Nylon rope may be unsafe

LeRoy Taylor, assistant chief, Region II, reports a lost-time injury accident occurred when a work crew at one of the camps was using nylon rope to lower an extremely heavy object.

Upon reviewing the accident and the cause, it was determined that the most significant contributing factor to the accident was a soiled nylon rope.

"When nylon rope becomes soiled with oils, powders, and soot, the rope becomes very slippery," Taylor said. "When work gloves are similarly soiled, it is nearly impossible to maintain a grip on the rope when heavy weights are involved.

Nylon ropes may be used to advantage when tying down loads but Taylor strongly recommends that hemp rope be used for projects involving lifting, lowering, holding, and moving heavy loads.

From:

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