

Helicopters used to help clean forests

Associated Press

JASPER — Helicopters that drop "bombs" on East Texas forests can clear away undergrowth and improve the harvest of timber more efficiently than the usual foot soldiers, foresters say.

According to industry officials, helicopters have become an integral part of the timber business, saving time, labor and money.

Two years ago, the U.S. Forest Service used a giant helicopter to airlift beetle-infested trees from the Four Notch area in the Sam Houston National Forest near Houston.

More recently, large timber companies are using the aircraft to burn off undergrowth much more quickly than workers on foot can do the job.

Specially rigged helicopters with "helitorches" dispense a mixture of fatty-acid soap and gasoline called amalgam. When the pilot presses a lever, a spark plug ignites the gelatin-like capsule, which falls to the ground and starts a fire.

When undergrowth and foliage are reduced, arson is curbed and the chances of a wild fire diminish, said Ken Addy, an area forester headquartered in Bon Wier.

Owner Bob Ewing of Custom Air Service of Jasper says his company's services are in demand during the peak burning season from January through March.

Ewing said one of his helicopters working with a ground crew of professional foresters can burn 1,000 acres in two to three hours compared to the usual three days it takes for a ground crew, which must use hand torches to start the fires.

International Paper Co. used the method first in East Texas, and other timber companies are discovering the tool. Boise Cascade Forest Resources and Kirby Forest Industries also used the helicopter method this season, the Beaumont Enterprise-Journal reported.

What's up

Monday

AGGIES ALLEMANDERS: will meet 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. for class and 8:30-10 p.m. for club in 228 & 229 MSC.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder. All welcome.

CLASS OF '86: has applications available for chairman positions in 216 MSC. They are due Friday at 5 p.m. Interviews will be April 28, 29 and 30. **MSC VISUAL ARTS:** will accept entries 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the MSC Gallery through Friday. Entry fee is \$4 per piece. No photography, please.

OFF-CAMPUS CENTER: will hold a housing/roommate session for summer and fall 1985 at 3 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

STUDENT PEACE ACTION: will meet at 8 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

STUDENT Y: chairman applications are available and due by Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Student Activities Office in the Pavilion. For more information, call 846-1626.

TAMU CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder for officer elections. Everyone welcome.

TAMU PHYSICS CLUB: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 321 Physics Bldg. Dr. George Kattawar will speak.

Tuesday

AMERICAN P.O.W.A.R.: will be in front of the quad taking POW/MIA bracelet orders.

BETWEEN THE LINES: will present "The Night of January 16th" at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazos County Courthouse. Tickets on sale at Rudder Box Office.

COLLEGIATE FFA: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates Hall. Dr. John Hoyle will speak.

LAREDO A&M HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

MSC FINANCE: will hold a financial information session at 7:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Mandatory for all new MSC treasurers.

MSC POLITICAL FORUM: will have South African Consul Johan DeLange speaking on current South African affairs at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

OFF-CAMPUS CENTER: will have a housing/roommate session for summer and fall 1985 at 3 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

ON-CAMPUS CATHOLICS NORTHSIDE: will meet at 9:30 p.m. in A-1 Lounge to discuss church hierarchy.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: is now accepting Pavilion cubicle applications at 208 Pavilion. Deadline for submission is Friday at 5 p.m.

TRAP & SKEET CLUB: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 110 Military Science Bldg.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

GOP candidate search

Clements for governor?

Associated Press

DALLAS — Former Gov. Bill Clements has spent much of the past six weeks talking to people like Roger Staubach and Ross Perot in an effort to find a strong Republican opponent next year for Democratic Gov. Mark White.

Since none of those have given much inclination to run for governor, Clements is still searching for qualified candidates to carry the GOP banner against White next year, the Dallas businessman said in an interview with The Dallas Morning News.

Despite past statements that he wouldn't run for office again, Clements said there is a possibility he himself will oppose White, who stunned Clements with an upset win in 1982.

"Gov. Clements doesn't really want to run, but I think as a last resort he would," one of Clements' closest associates said, according to the News.

Clements met last weekend with some high-ranking Republican officials to discuss potential candidates, including himself, the newspaper reported Sunday.

Asked if the talk that he might run is accurate, Clements said, "With all the ifs and ands and buts, which makes it speculative, I guess you'd have to say that's probably correct. But it's not anything I'm wanting to do or I'm running for."

Clements said his recruitment drive is not aimed at his tabbing one particular candidate.

"I'm not trying to recruit one of my big buddies in order to say this is my candidate," Clements said. "If we can get two or three or four viable, outstanding and highly regarded candidates, why not?"

White is vulnerable because of several things, he said, in particular, advocating union dues checkoffs for state employees.

"Union dues checkoff is as sensi-

tive an issue as there is in Texas, and for Mark White to advocate that is amazing," Clements said.

At his last weekly press conference, White insisted he had no position on the checkoff legislation, although he acknowledged that he had some of his legislative aides survey some of the lawmakers to determine if they would support the bill, which is backed by the AFL-CIO.

"I simply wanted to find out what the status of the bill was," White said.

Sen. Phil Gramm, once a conservative Democrat and leading Boll Weevil before changing parties and winning election to the U.S. Senate, has made overtures toward former Rep. Kent Hance, suggesting that Hance oppose White as a Republican in 1986.

Hance wouldn't rule out a switch of parties, saying he'd learned "never to say never," but indicated such a strategy is not in the cards, the News reported.

Group seeks to halt program to cut timber

Associated Press

BEAUMONT — Although the Sierra Club has filed a suit to halt timber cutting in national wilderness areas of Texas, U.S. Forest Service officials say the conservation group is split over the issue.

In Louisiana, for example, Dr. Pat Sewell of Shreveport, La., immediate past chairman of Louisiana's state chapter of the Sierra Club, supports the forest service's program of cutting trees in Louisiana's only national wilderness area to slow an epidemic of pine beetles.

Sewell, who represents Louisiana on the national council of the Sierra Club, said he can't speak for what is best for Texas because "Texas may be a totally different deal."

But Sewell said forest service officials convinced him that cutting trees was necessary in Louisiana, where the forest service is battling the worst pine beetle outbreak on record.

"Perhaps if we had a larger wilderness and the beetles weren't on the border, threatening private and other national forest lands, my position might be different," Sewell told the Beaumont Enterprise-Journal.

Sewell, a physician, said that during an inspection of the 8,700-acre, pine-dominated Kisatchie Hills Wilderness in Louisiana this past winter, he found an incredible infestation.

"The question was, do we let the beetles kill the trees, or remove them?" he said. "In my opinion, the outcome would have been the same."

Bruce Jewell, forest service spokesman at the regional headquarters in Atlanta, said Sewell's position

pleases him because it shows "there is another side to this issue."

Ned Fritz, chairman of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, said, "No one has the right to give up more than 1,000 acres of wilderness for the next 50 years or more merely to prove they're responsible."

Fritz and other conservationists fighting to stop beetle cuts on the 34,800 wilderness acres in East Texas argue that control cutting doesn't work and does more damage than the beetles do.

George Russell of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter said that, in all 60 forest service control cuts that he has inspected in Texas, beetles had jumped the buffers and were attacking neighboring trees.

It would be better, Russell said, to let the beetles kill even a majority of pines in part of a wilderness area, leaving some stonger pines and the hardwoods, than to level a section of the wilderness.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, on behalf of the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and Texas Committee on Natural Resources, asked a federal judge in Tyler to halt beetle control cutting in the five East Texas wilderness areas. A hearing has not been scheduled.

The request for a preliminary injunction contends that the forest service cutting program violates the federal Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

The request does not attempt to restrict the forest service's beetle control program on non-wilderness national forest lands in East Texas.

Bill would require pools to be fenced

Associated Press

DALLAS — When his 22-month-old son fell into the family swimming pool and suffered permanent brain damage, University Park oilman Jim Francis thought he was alone with his tragedy.

But after spearheading a statewide effort to compile statistics on similar accidents, Francis learned that as many as 250 children either die or suffer severe brain damage after falling into neighborhood swimming pools in Texas each year.

In an attempt to reduce that toll, two Dallas legislators have introduced a bill in Austin to require fences around residential swimming pools.

"Young children are like unguided missiles, zigging and zagging their way to the pools," Francis told The Dallas Morning News. "People put their children in playpens because it keeps them there. We want to make pools secure, like playpens."

The bill is being modified by members of two legislative subcommittees, but in its original form it would require pools at single-family residences and apartments to be surrounded on all sides by fences.

Under the proposed state legislation, a fence with a locked gate would have to separate the home from the swimming pool if a window or door opened from the residence to the pool.

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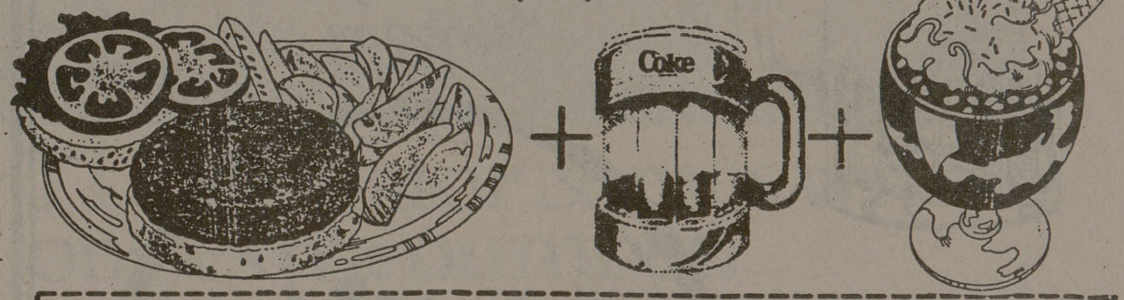
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