
Record Heat: July 27 - 31, 1928

July 26, 1928 Record Heat Sends Forest Humidity 15
Grants Pass Daily Courier, July 26, 1928.

Six days of record breaking heat, with the mercury at 109 at 2:45 this afternoon, have brought an extremely hazardous forest fire situation. Humidity dropped from around 30 yesterday to just about half that today and forest officials were emphatic in their warnings against any carelessness with fire in the woods. Last night a forest fire on Sexton mountain was put under control but this afternoon it had broken away and was again racing through the dry woods. The fire started at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and by night had burned the whole south side of Sexton mountain. The fire was in a heavy stand of timber and loss has been heavy.

July 27, 1928 County Forest Fire Situation Still Serious
Grants Pass Daily Courier, July 27, 1928.

Forest fire situation in the county was still serious today with the Sexton mountain fire again breaking away from the fire fighters. The Sexton mountain fire had burned over more than 200 acres and was spreading rapidly this afternoon. The Sexton mountain fire had been set, it is believed, as no sooner had one fire been controlled than another one would break out. 106 degrees was high.

July 28, 1928 Forest Fires Still Blazing Inside County
Grants Pass Daily Courier, Saturday, July 28, 1928.

The Sexton Mt. fire was still out of control today, although it has been stopped in two places. Last night the fire went off Sexton mountain and started on Walker mountain. This is one of the worst fires in the county for years and has burned over hundreds of acres of timber. At 2 o'clock today the mercury stood at 104 degrees but there were indications it might go higher.

Hugo (Sexton Mt.) Fire Of 1928

July 30, 1928 3 New Blazes Break Out In Menaced Area
Grants Pass Daily Courier, Monday, July 30, 1928.

- Crew of 70 Fire Fighters Unable to Halt March Of Flames Upon Valley
- 1,500 Acres Already Burned Over By Fire, Nearing Divide On Louse Creek

Sexton Mountain forest fire broke out this afternoon in three new places and was nearing the Louse creek divide at a rapid rate. It was only a short distance from the divide in the early afternoon and it was believed that the early afternoon breezes would whip it close to the city before night.

Although C. A. Hoxie, district fire warden, has 60 to 70 men on the blaze, it has circumvented all efforts to stop its progress. It is no sooner controlled in one place then it breaks out anew in some other spot.

All day yesterday the fire rolled southward, throwing up a dense cloud of smoke and ashes. The ashes were falling in the city all afternoon although the fire is 13 miles away. It had burned from Sexton mountain to Walker mountain and yesterday moved to **Pleasant Valley, threatening the school** and other buildings. So far as known, no buildings of consequence have been destroyed.

Some 1500 acres have already been burned over. This was a conservative estimate of one of the men in charge of the fire fighting and he declared that the burned area might easily be nearer 2000 acres in the one fire.

The fire had been burning since last Thursday. It was stopped during the night but in the mornings it breaks out in some new place. Yesterday the fire crowned and moved so rapidly that the fire fighters could not get in the path.

2,000 Acre ?? Plus Fire Under Control After 5 Days

July 31, 1928 County Forest Fires Brought Under Control
Grants Pass Daily Courier, July 31, 1928.

- Sexton Mountain Fire Stopped Within A Few Miles of City On Merlin Divide
- Louse Creek School Razed Monday, Cochrane and Fay Ranches Day Before

Early this afternoon it appeared that the forest fire situation in Josephine County was returning to normal with all fires well under control. Sexton mountain fire, which burned within a few miles of Grants Pass yesterday afternoon, had been put under control during the night and this morning it appeared that, barring heavy winds, it was definitely at an end.

Dense clouds of smoke rolled up from the fire as it took trees, large and small, that were in its path over a front of nearly a mile. It advanced across the Louse creek valley at a high speed and was only stopped at the summit. Throughout the forest can be seen ineffectual fire lines placed by the fire fighters. There was no stopping the blaze as sparks from the fire set new ones.

Louse creek school was burned yesterday afternoon. A few smaller farm buildings were burned but no residences were lost in the Louse creek section. On Sunday the Cochrane and Fay ranches were burned out and one vacant farm was razed nearer Sexton mountain.

This morning a backfire was set to prevent further spread of the main fire. There was a small fire burning on Walker mountain, which started several days ago from the Sexton mountain blaze.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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1928 Fire Boundary Map by Virgil Witcher
Josephine County Forestry Department

Not Quality Controlled, Nor Edited

Brochure 187 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series

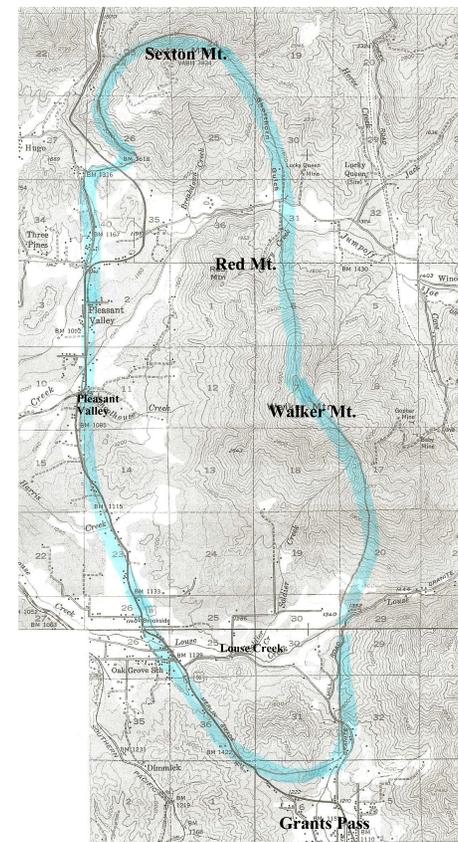
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SEXTON MT FIRE OF 1928



Very Draft
Brochure 187 Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



Sexton Mt. Fire Of 1928

February 6, 2008

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**