



Helping To Keep Our Forests Green

Preventing forest fires is everybody's business; fighting them is the responsibility of the California Division of Forestry.

Santa Cruz County is protected by six forestry division fire stations. The largest of the stations and county headquarters is in Felton, with smaller ones in Soquel, Corralitos, Davenport, Burl and Sandy Point on the Santa Cruz-San Mateo County line.

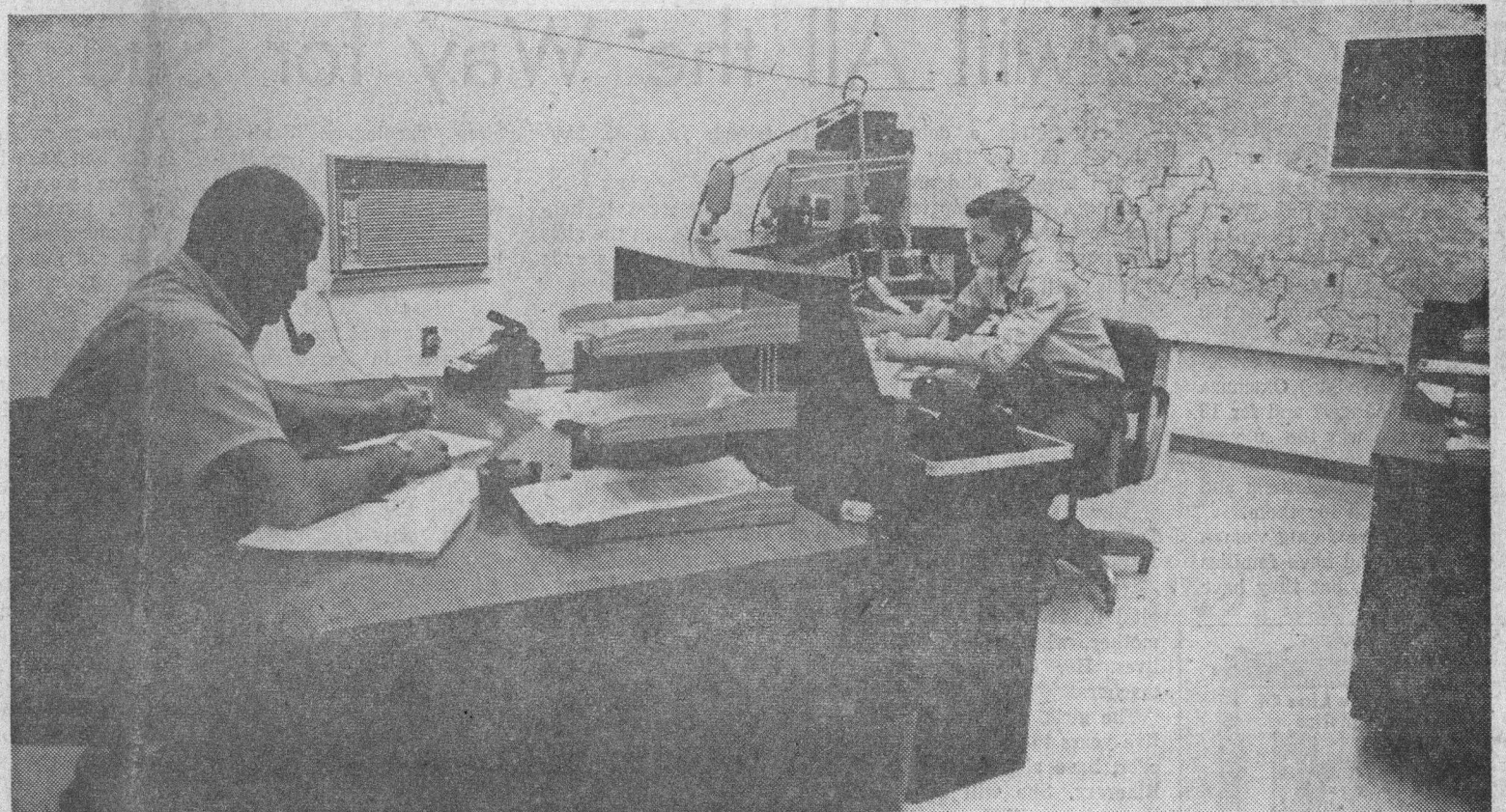
Lookout stations are maintained at Eagle Rock and Bielwaski and are important for spotting fires in the sparsely populated northern areas of the county.

areas. The major fire problem in the county, according to Odgers, is the large amount of fuel per acre created by heavy brush and steep terrain.

Fighting fires is a sophisticated business and the Division of Forestry is equipped with the latest equipment. Most effective are air tankers, bulldozers and modern forest fire trucks.

The air tankers, maintained at the Hollister airport, have become a valuable tool in helping to keep fires small and in aiding the movement of men and equipment closer to the fire where it can be fought more effectively.

The tankers can reach the middle



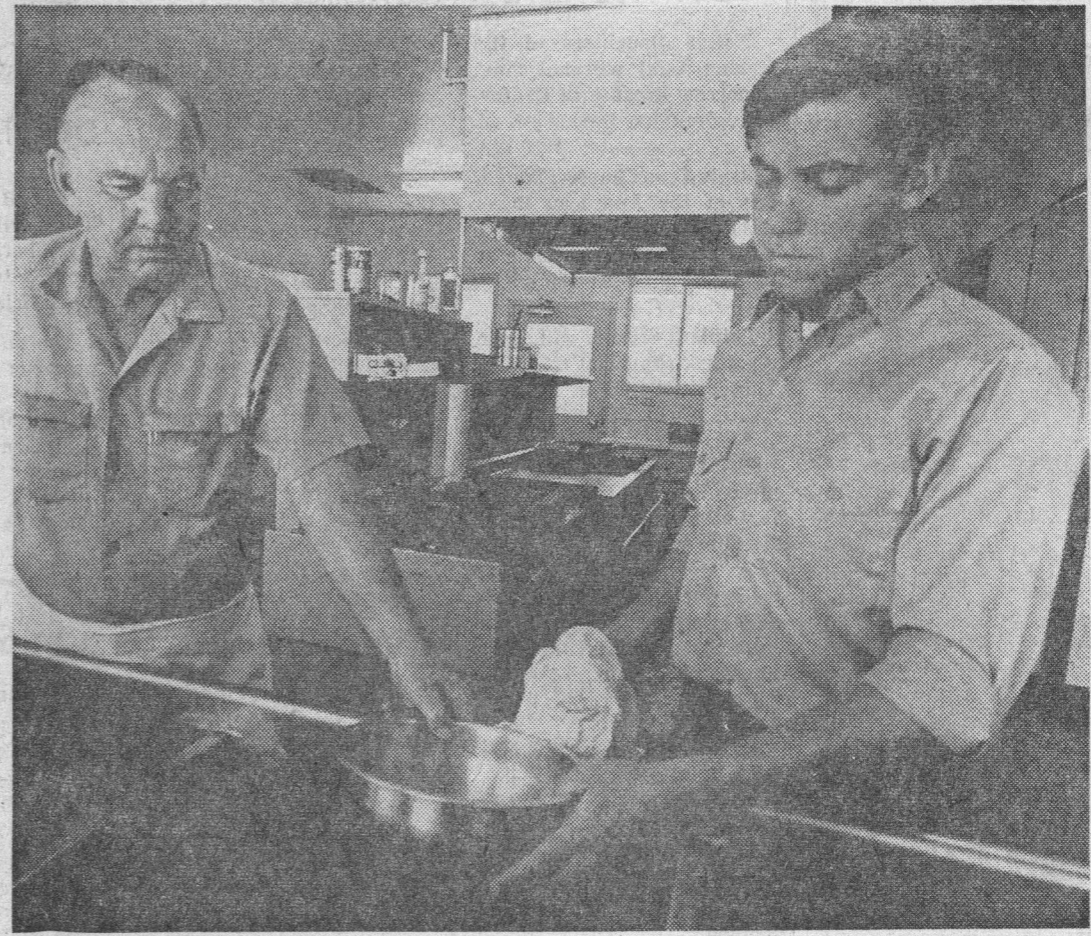
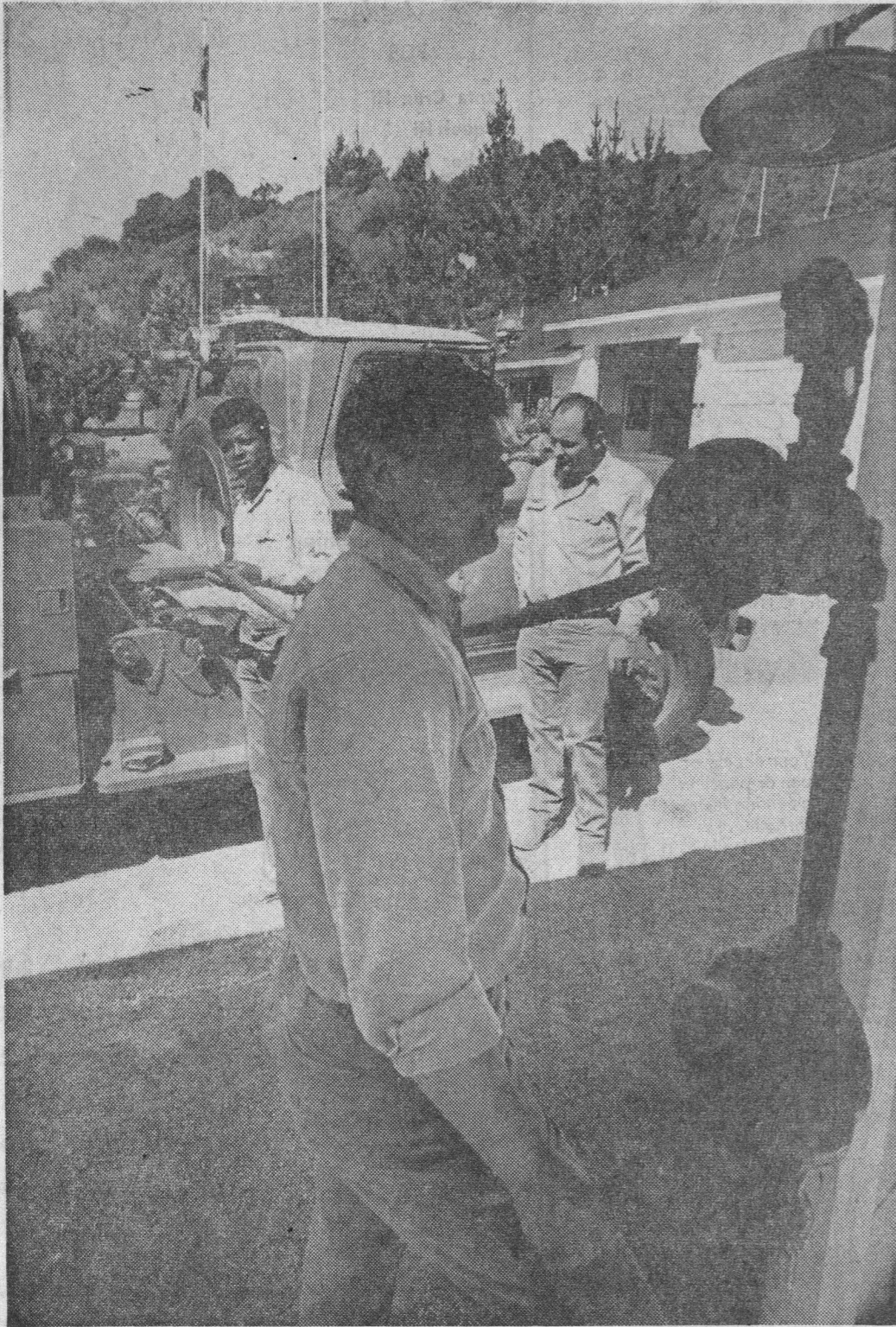
busy keeping up with an active fire season. In the first 120 days of the season, which began May 1, the division has responded to 120 calls, according to Forest Ranger John Odgers.

Most of the small fires have occurred in clumps in the Corralitos, Summit and San Lorenzo Valley-Bonny Doon

San Juan County (San Lorenzo area) in 45 minutes and can drop ammonium sulfate fire retardant solution every five minutes.

Other important aspects of modern fire fighting are a complex communications network housed at the Felton

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Top—Drennan Stewart of the California Division of Forestry surveys the vast mountain area below his lookout station at Eagle Rock on Empire Grade. Lookouts, such as the one at Eagle Rock, are needed to spot fires in sparsely populated areas.

Above — John Rosasco (left) and Dennis Perry (on phone) dispatch forest fire trucks after receiving call of a fire. The communications room in the new station office in Felton keeps the division in touch with all fire departments in the county forestry units in the district and the state headquarters in Sacramento.

Middle left — Forest fire truck driver Lee Walley bundles up the laundry in the barracks at the Division of Forestry station in Felton. Fire crews stay in the bunkhouse during their shift periods, which for fire fighters is a 120-hour duty week.

Far left—Forest fire fighters spend much of their time keeping their equipment in running order. Leonard Negro (foreground) cranks the pump for Ernie Veal who is shown here topping the gas tank on the Sequel station's 500-gallon pumper. Foreman Fred Fehn observes the operation.

Left—Fire fighter Dennis Fullington helps Bill Gambelin, a cook, clean up after a meal prepared in the kitchen facility in Felton. Like many other fire fighters, Fullington is working his way through college.

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