

PERSONNEL - Fremont

Armstrong, F. H.

Lakeview, Oregon

May 19, 1945

Smith, John B.

Hadley, Herbert L.

Powell, Harold G.

District Ranger

Bly, Oregon

Dear Spike:

The tragedy caused by the explosion on your District May 5 called for immediate and carefully decided action by you and your staff. You showed good judgment and a cool head by promptly and properly reporting the incident to this office, by going immediately to the scene of the accident to render first aid if possible, and by guarding all entrance roads to the area.

Lt. Col. Bisenius of the U.S. Army was very complimentary of the manner in which the Forest Service handled this incident. He stated that this was the most prompt and effectively handled case they had experienced. This was remarkable especially as the loss of six lives was involved.

We have today received a letter from Col. Bisenius in which he says in part, "The assistance and cooperation rendered by you and your staff is greatly appreciated."

I know that three of the boys killed were members of your 4-H group and others involved were close friends of yours. This made the part you had to play more difficult. We all appreciate what you have done and I want to compliment you and Jack Smith, Herb Hadley, and Harold Powell for outstanding service that will long be a credit to this organization and to the Forest Service.

Very Truly Yours,

L. K. Mays
Forest Supervisor