More Woods Fires Already

fire, particularly during the servors had no modern com- to provide all the comforts of Spring and Fail fire seasons, is munication systems as 'are in home, today's modern fire towa time consuming task for the use today. Department of Forests and Waters' Division of Forest Protec- was necessary to ride several electric heater to take the chill tion.

been more fires than during the if fanned by high winds or fed tion with the telephone. entire year of 1967.

tremely prevalent there are no control over thousands of acres. the following locations: "days off" for personnel involv- ϵd in forest protection. They are the danger subsides.

problem, the Division of Forest matter of minutes. Protection has at its disposal various modern pieces of equipment designed for the suppress'on of forest fires This includes aircraft for surveillance and water drops on going fires

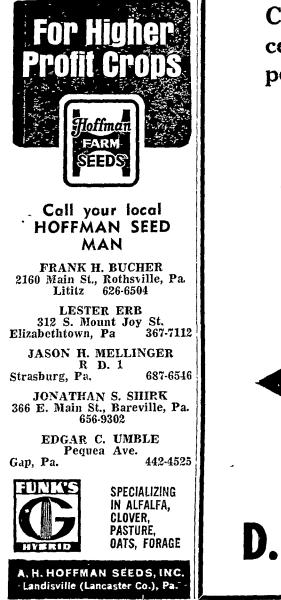
In addition to salaried personnel, there are about 3,000 volunteer fire wardens who are trained and equipped to assist in file fighting Not included are the lonely ones, both men and wom en, who operate the network of fire towers which span the Commonwealth

It was in 1905 that the first fire tower, a wooden structure, was erected in Franklin County by what was then known as the Department of Forestry This replaced the old tree tower, one of which was erected by students of the State Forest Acad emy at Mont Alto about 1903

As early as 1884, fire was a big problem and a Luzerne County man who owned 40,000 acres of woodland maintained a lookout station on the roof of a building overlooking his property At the first sign of smoke the watchman using a megaphone, would call to a waiting fire brigade in a nearby settlement and the men would spring into action

Today there are 130 radio equipped towers in the state each manned by trained observors who are on duty from sunrise to sunset during the two fire seasons whenever the fire danger demands their observations During those early years when

a fire tower was just a platform



Protecting Penn's Woods from attached to the top of a tree, ob-

miles on horseback to report the out of the air, and a two-way Already this year there have blaze to the forester. By then, radio which is used in conjuncby dry underbrush, the fire had

Years after the first telephone made its appearance, lines were Game lands northeast of Dau- rounded by a four foot wide cat- welcome to attend. Persons at eq in forest protection. They are built to the towers and tele- phin; Kinton Knob, southwest of walk. The latter was installed tending the meeting are invited phones were installed to make Bedford; the Prospect tower, for the convenience of the ob- to express their views on the

Unfortunately most of these early day towers provided no protection for the observor. They were open top structures, about individual farmers are expected 50 feet high, equipped with a to attend. ladder for climbing.

Although they are not designed ly scheduled are as follows: ers furnish the operator with a When they spotted smoke it roof over his or her head, an

When the danger of fire is ex- a good chance to spread out of during 1967, are in use today at

To cope with this state-wide the matter of reporting fires a east of Smethport in McKean servor although it may be used size and direction of the 1969 Co ; and the Mauch Chunk tow- by visitors at their own risk.

Meetings Set

(Continued from Page 1)

Meetings and dates tentative-

May 1 - Knoxville, Tennessee; Denver, Colorado; Amarillos, Texas; and Fargo, N. Dakota. May 2-Lincoln, Nebraska and

er east of Jim Thorp in Carbon Co

A far cry from those used dur-Four new towers, constructed ing the early 1900s, the new towers rise to a height of 82.5 feet. There is a seven by seven foot ing is open to the general pub Stoney Mountain, on State crow's nest perched on top, sur- lic and all interested parties are

Billings, Montana.

May 3 - Harrisburg, Pennsyl. vania; Hutchinson, Kansas; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Spokane, Washington.

Informal hearings will begin at 10 a.m. at locations in respec. tive cities to be announced by State ASC Committees responsible for arrangement.

The meeting scheduled for H_{dr}. risburg, Pennsylvania, will be held on Friday, May 3rd, at the Capitol Motel. This meeting will include representatives from the States of Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. The meetnational wheat allotment.

MEET.. CHARLES E. BAIR OF WRIGHTSVILLE



This outstanding poultryman, student and FFA member is holding the dozen eggs that won him "best of the show" honors at the 1968 PA. FARM SHOW for the Vo-Ag Division. Charles is president of the Eastern High School FFA Chapter and a member of the National Honor Society. Recently he was honored as one of the two outstanding FFA poultry boys in the state.

CONGRATULATIONS...CHARLES

for you're outstanding record. Keep up the good work. The Agricultural Industry needs young men like yourself.



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