

# The Raging Brush Fire Des House, Races to Coun

## 800 Men at Blaze Hope Favorable Weather Will Aid Battle Today

Raging through dry, thick brush at unparalleled speed, the big brush fire west of Fallbrook yesterday reached the Riverside County line after blackening more than 5000 acres, destroying one ranch house and threatening several others.

By the time the wind slackened and the fire's progress slowed last night, there were 800 men on the lines. Given good weather conditions, the fire-fighters believed they could have the blaze controlled this morning.

### BUILDINGS BURNED

Major property damage was at the Guy Bisbee ranch, where the frame ranch house and two small outbuildings were burned. Only fast work by fire crews prevented loss of other ranch buildings in the path of the roaring flames.

The little hamlet of De Luz was threatened, as were a number of scattered ranches in the sparsely settled area. At the A. L. Bryant ranch, the fire burned all around the buildings, leaving them unscorched, but destroyed a pig pen and five hogs. Bryant liberated his flock of several hundred turkeys and they scattered before the flames.

### FIRE BREAKS OUT

The fire broke out Monday morning near the Camp Pendleton reservation boundary, about 7 miles northwest of Fallbrook and 4 miles south of the De Luz postoffice. By last night it had traveled northward about 10 miles from the point of origin in a path varying from 1 to 2 miles wide.

There is only one road into the area, and the fire swept along it, burning off both sides.

### PROGRESS SLOWED

Deputy Sheriff Howard Robinson, of Fallbrook, said the fire reached the Dale ranch on the Riverside County line north of De Luz and southwest of Murreletta by the time the wind died and the fire's progress was slowed last night.

Firefighters included nearly 600 Marines from Camp Pendleton, and crews from the State Di-

vision of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service.

E. S. Miller, state ranger in charge of the forestry division's La Mesa headquarters, was at the scene. He said the dozen bulldozers in action along the line would spend the night building a broad fire trail north of the fire line in the hope it would contain the fire when the expected morning breeze springs up.

De Luz Canyon, which the fire followed, is the usual grazing area of both large herds of deer and cattle. Hundreds of the animals fled before the flames, and others took refuge in the small "islands" by-passed by the fire, fire fighters said.

Smoke from the blaze hung low over Fallbrook all day. It was particularly heavy about noon, when the fire was at its height.

## Raging Fire Causes Ban on Vacationists

By The Associated Press

Fires raging out of control in Idaho's Payette National Forest yesterday caused the area to be closed to vacationers, while in Maine a dozen brush and timberland blazes were reported.

A fast-moving fire in the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota also got completely out of hand tonight, according to forest rangers. About 1000 acres of woodland are estimated to have been destroyed. There are no towns in the immediate forest area.

### HIGH WINDS HURT

Three big fires and a smaller one in Payette were whipped by high winds after a few showers of rain brought some hope to weary fire fighters. Seven new blazes were touched off by lightning.

In Maine, Austin H. Wilking, deputy forest commissioner, said the State fast was approaching the extreme drought conditions of 1947. At that time forest fires cost 16 lives and caused 30 million dollars damage in the State.

The biggest of California's 118 week-end forest fires flared suddenly out of control on three sides late yesterday in Stanislaus National Forest.