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Michigan Mirror
INTERESTING - THE NEWS
By Gene Alteman

EAST TAWAS—Joseph Valinto, government forest engineer of Czecho-Slovakia, took his head. He had been traveling about the United States and had just arrived in East Tawas for a visit at headquarters of the Huron National Forest.

"The Americans are so wasteful," he said. "I cannot understand it. Over in Czecho-Slovakia we try to plant trees as we cut them. We do not let any part of the tree go to waste. Even small sticks are gathered as faggots to burn in stoves. But in this country—it seems such a pity. You Americans waste so much wood."

Valinto voiced his wonderment in a talk here with John Franson, district ranger.

Franson related it to us when we dropped in for a chat. The chat ended up in a day's inspection tour of a few of the 450,000 acres of federal forests under his wing. After getting a close-up of what Uncle Sam is doing to rebuild our vanishing forests, we were both worried over the future and somewhat reassured. It's hard to explain.

Here's a fast picture, as we got it.

The United States is rapidly becoming a have-not nation in natural resources.

According to the last annual report of the Forest Service, the nation's woodpile has been reduced 44 per cent in the past 35 years. And listen to this: The annual drain on the nation's forest approximates 54 billion board feet, while the annual growth is only 35 billion board feet.

The annual loss is greater than annual growth by more than 60 per cent!

Maybe the Czech forester was right, after all.

And yet the picture isn't all black. There's a silver lining too.

"I believe there is a change of national thinking about our national resources," commented Franson. He is a career man in federal forest work; a native of Boston who went to the University of Michigan. "Congress increased

Tennis Club Invitational Tournament Finals to Be Played Sunday Afternoon

The Birmingham Tennis Club's first annual invitational tournament got under way last weekend with some excellent matches. Tom Martin, of the Birmingham club, displayed superb forward placements, with a strong service to reach the semi-finals. His opponent, Wally Fretsch of Highland Park, extended Martin all the way, and won the first set 6-4. Martin found himself in the second, and went on to win the next two, 6-1 and 6-3.

Frank Skierski, seeded number three, displayed exceptional tennis to defeat Harry Witek of Highland Park in the second round 6-3, 6-8 and 6-1. In the quarter finals he defeated John Blossom, also of Highland Park, 6-2 and 6-2.

Good Tennis Displayed

The two cases of unusually good tennis displayed by Don Mackay and Harry Witek. Playing Tom Martin and Yehoshua Yehoshua of Birmingham, the former team took the set 12-10.

The two cases of unusually good tennis displayed by the women's singles saw Betty Hanson of Gross Pointe eliminate Phyllis Schick of Highland Park 6-2, 2-6 and 6-3. Miss Schick was seeded number one.

Ant Wilson of Birmingham, seeded number two, was defeated by Amy Roosevelt of Pine Lake, 6-0 and 6-1. While the final score makes the match seem easy for Miss Roosevelt, most of the games went to deuce but Miss Wilson could not get the necessary two points in a row to take the game.

The semi-finals of the men's singles saw Tom Martin enter the finals with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Joe Kristofek. Martin displayed a fast service and sharp ground strokes to overcome a steady game played by his opponent.

Don Mackay overcame Frank Skierski 6-1, 6-0 by displaying a fine consistent brand of tennis. This was the first time that Mackay had defeated Skierski this season. The finals of the men's singles will be played Sunday afternoon at 2:30.

The women's singles semi-finals saw Ingrid Reichold defeat Amy Roosevelt 6-2, 6-1, to become the dark horse of the tournament. Miss Roosevelt played an aggressive game, but Miss Reichold

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DRIVING WALKING TAKE IT EASY

A back-to-school reminder to drivers and pedestrians alike to "Take It Easy" is being issued by Automobile Club of Michigan in the form of the above poster. It and others are being distributed as part of a series to Michigan police chiefs and parochial and public elementary schools.

The series will attempt to prevent the traffic death of any Michigan school child crossing the streets during the 1948 opening school days. After rising a third in 1946, traffic deaths of children between ages of 5 to 14 have decreased by 12 per cent in 1947 in the face of greater traffic volumes.

Auto Club encourages school safety patrols, teachers, and police forces to unite in reducing accidents every year. A diligent safety patrol boy in each city is annually given a four-day all-expense trip to Washington, D.C. for the AAA safety patrol convention.

DPW Yard, Offices to Be Surveyed for Future Requirements

City Manager Donald C. Eghert has been instructed by the city commission to make a survey of the DPW yard and offices on Eton road and to report to the commission the present and future needs there.

Several commissioners have previously commented on the need for additional housing for city equipment, which presently must be left outside.