

1-21-60
(Date of issue)

L. J. Donnelly
(Sent by)

St. Joe National
(Stationed at)

Will plan for "Big Burn" observance

Planning for a memorial observance of the 50th anniversary of the great forest fires of 1910 will start in St. Maries next week.

George Weyermann, supervisor of the St. Joe forest, announces that offices of this forest will be the meeting place Monday and Tuesday for supervisors of the Kaniksu, Coeur d'Alene, Clearwater and Nez Perce forests of northern Idaho and the Lolo forest in western Montana. They will be joined here by Mr. Weyermann and other workers of the St. Joe forest and delegates from the regional forest service headquarters in Missoula.

This group will make at least tentative plans for an appropriate observance in remembrance of the great disaster which struck this area in 1910. A number of plans have been suggested, Weyermann said, but at present it is not known what form the observance will take.

Foresters deem it fitting that St. Maries should be the center for such planning and for anniversary observances next summer. It is in the center of the vast wooded area so greatly ravaged by the fires of 50 years ago. Pioneers of the St. Joe valley recall the terror they experienced as the roaring flames consumed vast forests and threatened the town of St. Maries. In Woodlawn cemetery at the edge of the present city is a circle of carefully tended graves — the last resting place of 26 firefighters who lost their lives in that conflagration.

Fifty years have not been long enough, the woodsmen say, to replace the losses of 1910. It is proper that residents of today should pause to consider the lessons learned and the progress made.

The supervisors will also discuss slash disposal in the protective districts, and other related topics during their two-day session.