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THE HUMBOLDT FOREST – A KALEIDOSCOPE OF MEN AND EVENTS IN THE
SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

By Vic Goodwin

AUTHOR'S FORWARD

The passing within recent months of August Rohwer, pioneer Forest Ranger on the Humboldt National Forest, brought forcibly to mind the fact that the ranks of these early day forest Officers and administrators of the U. S. Forest Service are thinning fast. The Forest Service was the first government agency to actively dedicate itself to the conservation and wise use of our American wild lands and their resources, and these pioneer Forest Supervisor, Forest Rangers, and Forest Guards were its action arm.

The prodigious labors of these sturdy men on behalf of their employers, the American people, in the protection and wise management of the national forest resources entrusted to their care have generally gone unheralded and unsung. Surely these men are as much American folk heroes, in their own way, and as colorful as part of the saga of the American West as the Indian, the cowboy, or the miner. To them is dedicated this hasty effort to set down some of their activities, and to mark their places in the Nevada scene during the past 60 years.

The author is indebted for much of his information on the formation and first years of the U.S. Forest Service in eastern Nevada to the recollections, both verbal and written, on some of these old timers. Among those still living are C.S. (Syd) Tremewan, first Humboldt Forest Supervisor; L.E. McKenzie, who served his entire Forest Service career as District Forest Ranger on the Humboldt, retiring in 1951; A.R. Torgerson, Forest Supervisor, retired; Carl Haycock, former Jarbidge District Ranger, recently retired from the Forest Service in Utah; and Lamor [?] Tangren, Humboldt Ranger and Assistant Forest Supervisor in the 1930's, who retired as Forest

Ranger on the Salt Lake District of the Wasatch National Forest in Utah many years ago.

Vernon Metcalf, now retired in Salt Lake City, courteously furnished dates and information on his early years with the Toiyabe and Humboldt Forests in Nevada which helped to clean up many unanswered questions.

Relatives and friends of many of the early forest Officers featured in this story of the Forest Service in eastern Nevada have also shed light in long-dark corners, or have come up with information now lost or unavailable elsewhere. Among these were Martha Bruce, Elko; James Ryan, Reno; Mrs. Paul Bear, Elk; and Sheriff Jess Harris, Elko.

The cooperation, patience, and indulgence of Forest Supervisor W.L. (Slim) Hansen and his successor, Robert A. Rowen, and their staffs, in the preparation of this material is also hereby gratefully acknowledged.

Sixty years ago, in February 1905, a group of men in Washington, D.C. began the work of setting aside from the public domain, principally in the west, much of the land now embraced in the far-flung national forest system. These men were adding the lands to the already existent forest reserve system, with Congress had authorized President Benjamin Harrison to begin withdrawing in 1891, and which had been administered since that time by the Department of the Interior.

Now, as of February 1, 1905, Congress had stipulated that the Forest reserves were to be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. Since the Department of Agriculture had been authorized by the Act to administer the forest reserve lands, the Forest Service was set up in the Department, replacing the Department's old Bureau of Forestry to handle this administrative assignment. The Forest Service has ever since remained in the Department of Agriculture.

This group of men, led by pioneer conservationists President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot (who was shortly to become Roosevelt's first Chief of the Forest Service), did not set about this task lightly or as a mere act of bureaucratic whimsy. For several years forward-looking men all over the nation had been becoming increasingly concerned and alarmed at the headlong, ruthless and heedless assault upon destruction of our nation's renewable natural resources – its splendid forests, grasslands, and water-producing areas.

According to Roosevelt and Pinchot, spearheading this new-born resource conservation movement, had determined to do everything in their power to reserve as many of these areas as possible which were so vital to the nation's well-being. They were particularly concerned with saving for future generations the magnificent forests and rangelands of the West, the sources of its storied and historic rivers, which were literally the lifeblood of that arid land.

The concern over deterioration of wildland resources was not confined solely to heavy-thinking "eggheads" and "double-domes" in the East. All over the West in the period 1900-1906, ranchers and landowners, alarmed over the destructive forays of nomadic sheep bands and uncontrolled cattle grazing on their summer ranges in the western mountains, were petitioning their Congressional representatives for remedial legislation on a national scale, to relieve or eliminate this menace to their very livelihood.

In central and eastern Nevada, for example, in the period between 1900 and 1904 F.S. Gedney and many other ranchers in Ruby Valley, ranchers in North Fork (Humboldt) Valley, and Paradise Valley landowners all authored such petitions. C.S. Tremewan recalls that the summer range in northern Elko County was in such depleted condition in the fall of 1905 that cattle sold then had to be fed for several weeks before they could be driven to the Southern Pacific railheads at Wells, Deeth and Halleck for shipping. It was estimated that over 500,000

sheep had used the high ranges in northern Elko Country that year for summer grazing.

A further cause for alarm was the increasing incidence of uncontrolled range and forest wildfires, which often burned unchecked for weeks at a time, every year blighting more and more acreage all across the West, as well as seriously impairing the water-producing potential of the mountain watershed areas.

Roosevelt and Pinchot, by their prescience and vision in expediting, the reservation of these areas during the period 1905-1906 from the onslaughts of predation so prevalent then, placed the entire nation in their debt. Their vigorous and timely action removed these land and water resources from avarice and exploitation, at a time when the national conscience had barely begun to twinge at the excesses and depredations being wrought upon the country under the guise of developing its resources. On the national forest lands now included within the boundaries of Nevada's Humboldt National Forest, the thin-soiled range and watershed lands at the heads of the Humboldt, Jarbidge, Bruneau, and Owyhee Rivers were relieved from the destructive crowding of enormous numbers of domestic livestock; nomadic bands of sheep in particular. At the same time, the first systematic efforts were begun to control rampaging forest and range fires.

The Humboldt National Forest as now constituted in Nevada is an amalgamation of several earlier forest reserve and national forest units. The first area, the Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve, was created by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt on May 3, 1906. (According to old Ruby National Forest records, the Ruby Forest Reserve was actually first withdrawn March 29, 1904, in response to the petition of settlers adjacent to the Ruby Mountains. The withdrawal was then made permanent by the Presidential Proclamation of May 3, 1906.)

On July 1, 1908, this forest reserve was consolidated with the Independence Forest Reserve, in the Independence Mountains north of Elko, which had also been set aside in 1906 by President Roosevelt. The new combination was titled the Humboldt National Forest, dropping the "Forest Reserve" name, in accordance with the act of March 4, 1907, which in a nomenclature change, abolished the name forest reserves and replaced it with the term national forests. Headquarters for the new national forest were established at Elko, with C.S. Tremewan as the first Forest Supervisor. Mr. Tremewan, who now resides in Elko, recalls that his first office there consisted of a single 12 by 12 foot room upstairs in the Harrington Building on Railroad Street, above the present Elko Drug Company Store.

On January 20, 1909, by Presidential proclamation the so-called Bruneau addition of over 300,000 acres became a part of the Humboldt National Forest. The addition consisted of lands in the Independence Range on the Owyhee drainage, and the lands at the headwaters of the Burneau and Jarbidge Rivers. Some of the finest range in the west was included in this addition. In the summer of 1909, Forest Supervisor Tremewan moved his office to the second floor of the Hesson Hardware Company Building, on Commercial Street in Elko. (Through the courtesy of Robert Pearce, present owner of Hesson Hardware, the writer had come in possession of a large photograph, probably taken in July 1909, which shows the "U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service" lettering on the second floor office window of the Hesson Building.)

In recent years these rooms were a part of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Work Unit and Area Offices, prior to their removal to the G.S.A. office building constructed in 1961 east of Elko.

In 1910, when E.A. Sherman became Regional Forester (his title was then District Forester) of the Intermountain Region (then called District), he made an inspection of the

Humboldt National Forest. At that time he reached a decision; the Forest Supervisor's office should be moved from Elko to the faded mining camp of Gold Creek, on the national forest lands north of Elko.

District Forester Sherman's reason for this seemingly incomprehensible order was that the national forest headquarters needed to be closer to where most of the users lived – mainly grazing permittees in those days – and where most of the unit's business was transacted. He had assumed – erroneously so, in this case – that most of these users were located near Gold Creek. Accordingly, new forest headquarters were constructed at Gold Creek, and the Supervisor's office was moved from Elko to the new location in April, 1911, according to Mr. Tremewan. Here the office was to remain for the next five years. The forest as constituted at that time consisted of nine Ranger Districts: two on the Ruby Division, and seven on the Humboldt Division north of Elko.

Now, let us turn to certain important events which transpired in 1912. On June 19 of that year, by President Taft's proclamation, the Ruby Division of the Humboldt National Forest was withdrawn from that unit, and set up as a separate national forest. The new unit was named the Ruby National Forest; additional lands north of Overland Pass in the Rubies were added at this time. James M. Ryan, then Forest Supervisor of the old Lemhi National Forest – now part of the Salmon National Forest in southern Idaho – was transferred to the Ruby National Forest as its first and only Forest Supervisor. Mr. Ryan set up his headquarters in Lamoille, in a small white frame building long since removed, which stood immediately south of the Lamoille Mercantile and Hotel Building. (See photograph; the hotel building, later known as O'Carroll's, was destroyed by fire in December, 1963.)

Two Ranger Districts were set up: one on the Ruby Valley side of the Ruby Mountains,

and one on the west side. The Ranger headquarters for these Districts were located in Ruby Valley and Mound Valley (at Skelton, which was later renamed Jiggs).

Supervisor Tremewan continued in charge of the Humboldt National Forest which then consisted only of what is now the Humboldt Division of the forest, north and west of Elko. Headquarters remained at Gold Creek. This area, now embraced in the Mountain City, Gold Creek, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts, was enlarged in 1912, at the same time the Ruby National Forest was created by the addition of 35,000 acres in the Elk Mountain area northeast of Pole Creek.

It was soon evident that Lamoille was not suitably located to serve as the headquarters of the Ruby National Forest. Accordingly, in the spring of 1913, the Supervisor's Office was moved to Elko, and located in a small frame converted residence which stood where the Dyche (Quinn) Pharmacy building on Idaho Street is now located. According to Paul Ryan of Reno and Martha Bruce of Elko, Supervisor Ryan's son and daughter, the Ryan family residence was located a short distance east of the Supervisor's Office on the present site of Lillian's Dress Shop. The office remained in Elko only about a year. In the spring of 1914, it was moved to Deeth, then a bustling cowtown and important livestock shipping point on the Western Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads. The May 29, 1914 issue of the Nevada State Herald at Wells carried an interesting note on that date, announcing the relocation of the Ruby National Forest headquarters from Elko to Deeth, and welcoming the new Forest Service families to the town.

According to both Martha Bruce and Paul Ryan, the new Ruby headquarters were located in space rented from Charles Lewis, old Deeth-to-Charleston freighter. The office was housed in a building which stood just south of the present Deeth general store; Mr. Lewis continued to maintain a livery barn behind the office. Mrs. Bruce recalls that she sometimes filled in as office

clerk for her father when regular clerical help was unavailable, or busy on other assignments.

Matters continued in this wise until 1916 with the Ruby and Humboldt National Forests, but in the meantime other events had transpired which were of import in the development of the present Humboldt National Forest.

After the creation of the Independence forest reserve in 1906, and the Bruneau addition to the Humboldt in 1909, the nomadic sheep bands which had made free with the high summer ranges in those areas were forced to look elsewhere for their food. Many of them migrated westward to the Santa Rosa Ranger, that lofty green island in the desert stretching north from the great bend of the Humboldt River at Winnemucca. This was a very distressing development for the dependent local ranchers in Paradise Valley, just east of the Santa Rosa. A free-for-all developed to see who would get on the Santa Rose ranges first, and stay the longest; the local ranchers were crowded back almost to their fenced lands. As had been the case in Independence, North Fork, and Ruby Valleys, to protect their livelihood and the sources of their irrigation and culinary water supplies, around 1910 the Paradise Valley ranchers petitioned for the setting aside of the Santa Rosa Range as a national forest. Their petition bore fruit; on April 1, 1911, President Taft by proclamation set aside the Santa Rosa as a national forest bearing that name.

The new unit was divided into three Ranger District, and the Supervisor's Office was located in the town of Paradise Valley. W.W. Blakeslee was appointed Forest Supervisor.

At this juncture we leave Paradise Valley in 1911, and return to Gold Creek in the year 1913. In the spring of that year Syd Tremewan relinquished the reins as Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest. His place was taken by S.B. "Doc" Arthur, who came over from the District (Regional) Forester's Office in Ogden to take the job. Mr. Arthur was not a trained forester – few of these early Forest Service people in the West were – but was, of all things a

dentist by profession. The Humboldt headquarters remained at Gold Creek. There has been some supposition that Arthur's headquarters were moved to Elko from Gold Creek at this time. However, Mrs. Bear and Sheriff Jess Harris, relatives of Arthur's, state positively that the Humboldt Supervisor's Office remained at Gold Creek until the big consolidation of national forest units in 1916, when Dr. Arthur left the Forest Service.

A few interesting facts have recently come to light regarding Dr. Arthur and his early association with James Ryan, the Ruby National Forest Supervisor, when they both lived in Idaho, prior to coming to Nevada. In the early 1900's Dr. Arthur had practiced dentistry at Mackay, Idaho; he gave up his dental practice and went to work for the Forest Service in Mackay, the headquarters of the old Lemhi Forest Reserve, about 1906. According to Paul Ryan, James Ryan's son, his father first became acquainted with Dr. Arthur at Mackay in February 1907, when he called on the doctor one evening in an effort to learn more about the Forest Service, with the thought in mind of going to work for the new resource management outfit.

Paul Ryan, who was with his father at the time, recalls that they were enroute to their ranch on Salmon River from Ogden when James Ryan made the stop at Mackay to see Dr. Arthur. Paul states that his father was impressed with Dr. Arthur's description of the work of the Forest Reserve, and with what it was setting out to do. A short time later Mr. Ryan took the Forest Ranger Civil Service examination, passed it, and went to work in July 1907 on the Lemhi. His first duty station was at the old mining camp of Gilmore, Idaho. After their initial meeting at Mackay, the two men became good friends during their subsequent association in the Forest Service, both in Idaho and Nevada.

The next event of moment in the history of the Humboldt National Forest occurred two

years later, and it was a momentous one indeed. On July 1, 1916, the Ruby, Santa Rosa and Humboldt National Forests were abolished as individual units, and combined into one administrative whole. They retained their old respective unit names, however, until June 6 of the following year (1917) at which time a Presidential Executive Order, effective July 1, 1917, made the combination official. By this order, the old individual forest names were finally dropped, and the entire 1916 combination was given the title of Humboldt National Forest. Each of the old national forest units became divisions of the Humboldt (Ruby, Humboldt, Santa Rosa Division).

Headquarters for the giant new combination were located in Elko in 1916 on the second floor of the Title Guarantee and Trust Building, still standing on Idaho Street, just east of the burned-out shell of the J.C. Penny Store.

Ruby National Forest Supervisor James Ryan was offered the post of Forest Supervisor of the new national forest. He turned it down, according to his son and daughter, because he thought the job of administering such widely separated units would be too difficult, as it no doubt was in those days of primitive automobiles and even more primitive highways, where travel by horse-drawn vehicles was still the most dependable way of getting around, even though painfully slow.

Mr. Ryan did, however, agree to stay on for awhile as Forest Ranger on the Ruby District following the 1916 consolidation, in order to help Vernon Metcalf, the new Forest Supervisor, become oriented in his new job. (Mr. Metcalf had been Supervisor on the Toiyabe National Forest at Austin since 1915, and in July 1916 took over the Humboldt assignment after James Ryan had declined it.)

According to Paul Ryan, his father finally left the Forest Service early in 1919. At that time he took out a homestead in Secret Valley, close to the scene of his labors on the old Ruby

National Forest. The Ryan home there was later to figure in one of Elko County's most macabre murder cases – the White-Lavelle affair – in 1925.

Going back to the 1916 combination of the Humboldt and Ruby National Forests, “Doc” Arthur, the dentist-turned-forester who was Forest Supervisor on the Humboldt prior to the consolidation, drops from our story completely. According to Paul Ryan, Dr. Arthur at that time was offered the post of Forest Supervisor of Utah's Dixie National Forest. He curtly declined the offer, and immediately resigned from the Forest Service.

Following this, Dr. Arthur went to work as general “trouble-shooter” and handy man for John G. Taylor of Lovelock, at that time the largest sheep operator in Nevada. He stayed with Taylor until 1920, according to Sheriff Harris, when he resigned and worked in an electrical supply shop run by the Sheriff's brother, Harold B. Harris, where the Commercial Hotel barbershop is now located in Elko.

In 1922 the Arthurs finally left Nevada, settling in Huntington Beach, California, where Dr. Arthur resumed the practice of dentistry. He soon moved to Los Angeles, and about 1932 retired from practice. During his retirement years he lived in La Mesa, a suburb of San Diego, finally passing away there in 1938. His ashes are buried in his wife's plot in the Carson City cemetery, according to Sheriff Harris.

W.W. Blakeslee, the first – and last – Santa Rosa Forest Supervisor, was transferred at the time of the consolidation to the Toiyabe National Forest in Austin, to fill Vernon Metcalf's former position as Forest Supervisor there. Forest Ranger Paul Travis stayed on at the Lamance Creek Station in Paradise Valley, becoming the first Forest Ranger on the single enlarged Ranger District resulting from the combination of the three former districts of the old Santa Rosa National Forest. The new district became known as the Santa Rosa Division of the new forest.

During the period 1938-1951, the Santa Rosa Division was transferred to the Toiyabe National Forest at Reno. It continued under Toiyabe administration and management until July 1, 1951, at which time it was returned to the Humboldt National Forest. Paul Travis continued on a District Forest Ranger at Paradise Valley during all these shifts and changes, finally retiring there in 1943 after having spent his entire Forest Service career on the same area.

Vernon Metcalf, who now resides in Salt Lake City, served as Forest Supervisor for two years. In July 1918 Mr. Metcalf was transferred to the Forest Supervisor post on the Lemhi National Forest in Idaho. He was succeeded by Charles DeMoisy, who served in the Humboldt Supervisor position for only a year, until July 1919, when he was succeeded by Clarence Favre, who had been Vernon Metcalf's Deputy Supervisor most of the year 1918, prior to joining the Army in May of that year. Mr. Favre continued as Forest Supervisor until January 1923, except for a break in 1920-1921 to serve as District (Regional) Forest Inspector, with his headquarters remaining on the Humboldt at Elko. It is of interest to note that Mr. Favre and Mr. Demoisy were destined to meet again, when they worked together in the 1930's and 1940's in the Division of Range Management at the Ogden Regional Office.

While Mr. Favre was serving as District Forest Inspector at Elko in 1920-1921, Oscar Mink, District Ranger at Jarbidge in 1919, was promoted to serve as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Humboldt, handling the administrative chores ordinarily falling to the Forest Supervisor.

During the Favre regime on the Humboldt, in 1919 the last significant addition of land was made to the Humboldt Division of the Forest, north of Elko. In 1912, as previously noted, the Elk Mountain area east of Pole Creek was added to the Forest and administered as an isolated portion of the Pole Creek District. It was often referred to in those early times as "The Island." (As such, it should not be confused with that large segment of land lying between East Fork and

the West Fork of the Jarbidge River, which is frequently alluded to by the same name).

A two-mile strip of non-national forest land was left between this Elk Mountain addition and Pole Creek, to serve as a driveway for cattle from the north to the railhead at Deeth. In 1919 this 28,000 acre strip of land was added to the Humboldt, and the old Jarbidge, Pole Creek and Elk Mountain (Island) Districts were combined, to form the present Jarbidge Ranger District. As previously noted, Oscar Mink became the first Ranger to administer the newly combined district.

When Mr. Favre finally left the Humboldt in 1923, he was succeeded by a little redheaded Scotsman, Alexander McQueen. (Mr. Favre, now deceased, after who Favre Lake in the Rubies was named, went on to become Assistant Regional Forester in charge of the Division of Range Management in Ogden in the late 1930's and 1940's. He retired as Forest Supervisor of the Toiyabe National Forest in Reno in 1950.)

Mr. McQueen remained as Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt until 1938, when he was replaced by A.R. Torgerson, who served until his retirement in 1957. Supervisor McQueen, now deceased, moved to Reno early in 1938, where he became Forest Supervisor of the newly recreated Toiyabe National Forest. He remained there until the Mono and Toiyabe National Forests were combined in 1944. Mr. Torgerson since his retirement has lived at Jarbidge, in the heart of his beloved Jarbidge Mountains.

The final regrouping which brought the Humboldt National Forest to its present size and area occurred on October 1, 1957. On that date, the old Nevada National Forest, originally established by Presidential Proclamation in February 1909, and headquartered at Ely since that time, was split between the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests.

In this consolidation, the Humboldt acquired the Ely Ranger District, including the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area and the Schell Creek and Moriah Divisions. The White Pine Ranger

District, embracing the White Pine, Quinn, and Ward Mountain Division, also went to the Humboldt at this time. L.A. Dremolski, last Forest Supervisor of the Nevada, became the first boss of the new Humboldt-Nevada combination, and remained in charge until his retirement in April 1961.

Wilford L. (Slim) Hansen succeeded Mr. Dremolski at that time, and served as Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt until April 1965, when he retired and was replaced by the present incumbent, Robert A. Rowen, who came over from the Division of Range Management in the Ogden Regional office to his new assignment.

If present day recreationists, irrigationists, range users, and other multiple-use participants in the largesse of the scenery, water, wildlife, range and other natural resources of the national forests owe a debt to the pioneer leaders in the conservation movement and to the early-day administrators of the infant Forest Service, they owe perhaps an even greater debt to another group, too often unsung and unappreciated. Reference is here made to those hardy, self-reliant, Forest Rangers and Forest Guards of the new conservation agency. These men were on the firing line – literally so, at times – in the pioneer efforts to bring order out of chaos in regulating the many uses, often directly in destructive conflict with one another, on the national forests.

They bore the brunt in posting and marking forest boundaries, in the assignment of grazing allotments to those users entitled to them, and in the elimination of both range and timber trespass. In the process of this conversion from untrammelled use to a system of custodianship and management of the national forest resources, theirs was not an easy task. Then, as now, a Forest Officer was required to deal tactfully with all classes of people, but at the same time have the firmness and intestinal stamina to see to it that the Forest Service rules and

regulations were observed. This was often very difficult; many of the former users of these resources recognized the need for a change from the old wild, free ways; other recognized no needs but their own. Friction, trouble, and even violence often resulted, and it was up to the early Rangers and Forest guards to settle matters on the ground, with only a rudimentary set of rules and regulations to serve as guidelines for their decisions. Chief Gifford Pinchot had entrusted this on-the-ground custodianship and care to them, and in them he had instilled his own zeal for the great tasks at hand.

The work was arduous and difficult, it was necessary that all Forest Officers be strong, healthy, capable of enduring hardships, and of performing hard labor under the most trying of conditions. It was essential, and required, that a Forest Service field man be able to take care of himself and his horses in regions remote from settlement and supplies. Long absences away from his home station, sometimes for weeks at a time, were the rule rather than the exception.

Even when in residence at his base location, a Forest Officer's living conditions were primitive in the extreme, compared to present Forest Service standards. His Ranger Station or Guard Station headquarters, if he was lucky enough to have such, in the years prior to 1908 were as likely as not to consist of a tent platform and frame with a wall tent stretched over them. Here he was expected to live with his family, often yearlong. (Beginning in 1908, cabins were furnished, or were built at Government expense by the personnel themselves. However, by Congressional edict, no more than \$500 might be spent on an individual building.)

It was necessary that Forest Officers know the rudiments, at least, of land surveying, timber cruising and estimating, land laws, mining, and practical livestock and range management. (In Nevada, this last requirement was particularly important.) At the beginning, it was practical men of experience which were needed; recruitment to fill all the administrative

positions, from Forest Guard up to Forest Supervisor, was by means of a simple written Civil Service examination indoors, followed by an intense, vigorous practical-application examination outdoors. Candidates were screened from the ranks of ranchers, cowboys, loggers, etc. (and even dentists and physicians, as we have seen in the cases of Dr. Arthur and Dr. Asdale on the Humboldt.)

Forester Pinchot was quick to see that the administration of these lands should not be centered in Washington, but decentralized and located at the grass roots, where the Forest Officers could deal directly with the Forest users in the solution of problems.

It is to the credit of these Rangers and lower echelon administrative personnel that they succeeded in their assignment, and it was largely through their efforts that the Forest Service was placed on a sound footing, and has come to occupy its present high status in the esteem and respect of its employers, the American people.

The U.S. Forest Service has long since passed from the custodial type of management with which these first Forest officers were involved into scientific multiple use of the national forest resources. However, without the frequently unremitting toil and the unstinted vigilance of these men in the protection of the resources from fire, insects, predation, avarice and unwise use, there would now be little left as a basis for scientific management.

The names of these early Forest Officers on the Ranger Districts are legion, but among those which come most easily to the writer's mind are such men as Travis, Rohwer, Haycock, and McKenzie, already mentioned in these pages. Others of note on the northern reach of the Humboldt were C.J. "Chet" Olsen, Jarbidge District Ranger, 1919-1921, who went on to eventually become Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service before he retired; L.L. Lindsay, first Jarbidge District Ranger staying long enough to grapple with the

District's problems; genial old Charles Butler, Ranger at Jack Creek who retired in the mid-1930's; Maurice "Fuzzy" Cross, first Gold Creek Ranger; Charles Keas, Meadow Creek District Ranger; Paul Schultz, first Mountain City District Ranger; Oscar Mink, first Ranger to administer the combined Pole Creek-Elk Mountain-Jarbidge Districts in 1919, who, as previously noted, served as Deputy Forest Supervisor 1920-1921; Joseph "Doc" Andale, graduate of a German medical school, who was the first Ranger on the Pole Creek District; Sterling Justice, who started his Forest Service career in Idaho, and retired as Ranger on the Santa Rosa District.

On the Ruby Division were such men as Lee Jones, so far as may now be ascertained the first Ranger on the Mound Valley (Jiggs) District, Bert and James McNamara and James Sharp, the first administrative personnel to man the Ruby Valley Ranger District; Vivian "Viv" West, the first long-tenure Ruby Valley Ranger, who finished his career as District Ranger on the Pleasant Grove District, at that time on the Wasatch National Forest, Utah, and who for many years after that was Mayor of Pleasant Grove; Forrest R. "Sax" Castle, an early Assistant Forest Ranger or Forest Guard in the Lamoille area of the Rubies, and for whom Castle Lake above Favre Lake in that mountain range was named.

In conclusion, tribute should be paid to two men who were instrumental in the examination and setting aside of lands in the Ruby and Independence Forest Reserves from 1904 to 1908, and who held the fort, so to speak in those areas from 1906 to 1908, when they became the Humboldt National Forest. Reference is made here to Franklin W. Reed, Forest Inspector, who was assigned to the Ruby and Independence Forest Reserves in the spring of 1907, and to C.N. Woods, who succeeded Reed in late 1907 or early 1908. Before he left in the summer of 1906 to take charge of the newly-created Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho. Mr. Woods helped

orient Syd Tremewan in his new assignment as the first Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest.

Not much is known of Mr. Reed's subsequent history, but Mr. Woods went on to become Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region, from which position he retired in 1944. Mr. Tremewan had great respect for the integrity, honesty and unimpeachable character of both these men, and credits them with being a great influence for good in his own life.

Epilogue

So, with a tradition of loyal service to the American people, and a long line of men stretching into the past of who have personified that service, the Humboldt National Forest, holds forth in its fine new headquarters on the Mountain City highway in Elko. In these quarters, which the forest has occupied since July, 1953, the Humboldt National Forest people will continue to see to it that the American citizen and taxpayer gets the best job of scientific management and protection on his Humboldt National Forest that can be provided.