

CARIBOU HISTORY

I

Early History of the Caribou Area

1. Indian

Southeastern Idaho, Western Wyoming and Northern Utah where the present Caribou National Forest is now situated was a favorite hunting ground for many Indian tribes and sub-tribes and unfortunately for resident tribes the area was at the crossroads of travel routes, from the great plains to the west coast; from the northwest and Canadian regions to the Spanish country to the south. It was therefore the scene of many violent clashes between Indian tribes.

The resident Indians were of the Shoshonean Nation; especially the Shoshoni, Bannocks (known also as the Pannacks and Panaiti) and the Lemhi tribes.

The records of Wyeth, Bonneville, Bridger, Robert Stuart, Hunt, Ogden, Russell, Goodhart, Fremont, Lanier, Farnham and other early white men who visited the area mention the presence of hunting and war parties of many Indian tribes within the area, especially the Nez Perces, Absorokas (Crow Indians), Blackfeet, Flathead, Tukuarika (Sheep Eaters), Bruls, Sioux, Diggers, Utes (Utahs), Arapahoos and Piutes.

Nez Percé

The Indians in the Caribou country were not very prosperous as measured by the red man's own standard of living. Some of them were considered trustworthy and friendly by some early trappers and explorers, while other small groups were described as thieves, cutthroats and uncouth rascals.

2. Coming of the White Man

The first white men to visit the Caribou area were the overland party of W. P. Hunt. There were 66 men in this party who left their 77 horses at Henry's Fort and embarked, in September 1811, in 14 canoes down the North Fork of Snake River, then known as Henry's Fork, past the junction with the South Fork of Snake River, and on to Caldron Linn, the Twin Falls of Snake River, where their boats were lost and abandoned. They proceeded on foot toward the Pacific Coast.

Five men of the 66 in this group; namely, Joseph Miller, Jacob Resner, Edward Robinson, Martin Cass and John Hoback, stayed at Henry's Fort to hunt and trap and await the return of the Hunt party the next year.

These five men, although none of them left a written record, are in all probability the first white men to visit the Blackfoot River, Portneuf River, Bear River, Salt River, Grays Lake, Bear Lake and other parts of the Caribou area, in 1811 and the first part of 1812. They reported being attacked by the Arapahoe Indians near South Pass, losing their horses and property. Cass left the other four and was never heard of again.

They called Bear River "Miller's River" for Joe Miller. They called Portneuf River, "Fall Creek".

Robert Stuart contacted the remaining four men in 1812 and tells us that they decided to guide him back through the mountain passes by way of Bear River. These four men were the first known to trap beaver on the streams of the Caribou National Forest.

The second group of white men to travel over this area was Robert Stuart on his trip from Astoria to Washington and back to St. Louis as a part of the Hunt expedition. Stuart's diary tells us that his party was made up of John Day, Benjamin Jones, Francois Le Clerc, Andre Valle, Robert McClellan and Ramsay Crooks. When they entered the Snake River country from the west they were joined by Miller, Resner, Hoback and Robinson in what is now Southwestern Idaho, but these four men again detached themselves from the main party.

Stuart's route near and over the present Caribou Forest is the first route of white men to be described in detail in a written record and it is therefore considered important enough to be described here. (Also see map).

"September 6, 1812 - Camped on south side of stream". (Portneuf, about opposite mouth of Ross Fork).

"September 7 - Went up south side of (Portneuf) stream." (Camped at mouth of Mink Creek).

"September 8 - To mouth of Marsh Creek, up it 5 miles to camp."

"September 9 - Went due east 3 miles to Portneuf then up the Portneuf on left side 7 miles to an Indian camp and then 3 miles to Dempsey Creek; 3 more miles to Fish Creek. Followed north side of Fish Creek 4 miles; then east over the divide; then 18 miles east to Bear River; up Bear River 2 miles to where we found horse feed." (They recorded that the valleys had recently been burned by grass fire; 42 miles travel this day. Lot of buffalo sign but saw none).

"September 10 - Up Bear River, around Alexander Gap and on 15 miles and camped at Eight Mile Creek."

"September 11 - Went 25 miles up Bear River and camped Georgetown Creek. Saw antelope; trout fishing poor, suckers plentiful."

"September 12 - Went 14 miles southeast to forks then up Bear River 8 miles east and camped". (Now called Camp Stuart, near Dingle, Idaho).

"September 13 - 10 miles east over hills to Thomases' Fork near mouth of stream; then up Thomases' Fork 15 miles and camped where Pruess Creek enters Thomases' Fork."

"September 14 - Continued up the fork (Thomasas' Fork) 3 miles, then ascending the mountains on the right steered a little west of north for 18 miles more, where we found a considerable branch (Crow Creek) running due north on which we stopped for the night". (This camp must have been on the flat just below the present upper bridge on Crow Creek).

"September 15 - Crossed the Branch (Crow Creek) and continued on for 12 miles N, NE to a low ridge (Hardman Hollow Pass) which passing over we found another stream (Tygee Creek) and went north 15 more (miles) to where it cut through the mountain, here ascending (Stamp Creek) 3 miles E, NE, brought us to our night's lodging on the last water course (Stamp Creek above Auburn, Wyoming)."

"September 16 - Our course was 2 miles E, NE and 4 miles NE to a large stream (Salt River) running towards the north, which crossing we found a deep Indian path and followed it for 19 more (miles) due north and encamped on the bank of the river (Salt River between upper and lower Star Valleys) which runs with great rapidity over a stony and gravelly bed".

"September 17 - Leaving our camp late we kept at some distance from the right bank of the river (Salt River for 11 miles north on account of swampy ground (lower Star Valley bottoms); next 9 (miles) W, NW when the path winding to the east we followed it till seeing two streams issuing from the mountains, examined and found the most southerly (Grays River) a water course of considerable magnitude, and the other much greater which from the opinion of those of last fall's party (Hunt's trip westward in 1811) must be Mad River (South Fork of Snake River). Here sending Jones to see if a passage was practicable in that direction (east) we turned our faces to the west, and at the end of 3 miles took up our night's quarters (in a low point) among some small cottonwoods". (This camp would be about where the present highway, U.S. 89 crosses South Fork of Snake River).

"September 18 - Proceeding  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west crossed fork (Salt River) we have followed these two days . . .  $14\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest brought us to where we stopped for the night". (This must be Edward's Creek Flat on south side of South Fork of Snake River).

September 19 - It was at this camp where 20 Absoroka (Crow Indians) attacked the party and stole all their horses.

September 20 - The loss of their horses left the party on foot. They were headed for Fort Henry to obtain assistance and proceed on eastward. The diary says "10 miles northwest to good fishing place and camped". This was probably Calcutty Point.

September 21 - The party proceeded on foot to Yeaman Creek; made rafts to ride down the river.

"September 22 - 20 miles down the river and camped on the low hill (now in the Snake River Ranger Station pasture)."

September 23 - The party continued by raft down the river through Conant Valley and through the canyon below and on foot to Fort Henry and then proceeded on east by the way of Teton Valley, Jackson Hole and Hoback River.

There has always been much confusion about Stuart's route from Pruess Creek to the mouth of Grays River, but his diary seems correct and the route of travel is without a doubt as outlined on the accompanying map.

### 3. The Beaver Harvest

The first extensive beaver trapping of record was in 1818 to 1821, when Donald MacKenzie led a trapping expedition to the area for the Northwest Fur Company. MacKenzie had first visited the area in 1810 with the W. P. Hunt party.

Alexander Ross was a member of MacKenzie's party and Ross Fork was named for him in 1819. Francis Payette, for whom the Payette River was named, was also a member of the MacKenzie trapping expedition to the Portneuf, Blackfoot, Bear River and other upper Snake River drainages.

In 1823 Finan McDonald headed the trapping expedition. Alexander Ross led it in 1824, and John Work came in 1831; all in the interest of the Hudson Bay Company which took over the Northwest Fur Company in 1821.

Jim Bridger and a small party explored the Bear River and north into Blackfoot River in the summer of 1824, and in this same year Jedediah Smith trapped beaver on what is known as the Portneuf and Blackfoot Rivers. The valuable beaver pelts of this area was known rather widely by 1824.

Peter S. Keene, Ogden, representing the Hudson Bay Company, spread his trappers throughout the Caribou County in 1825, and the Portneuf River was named in 1825 for one of Ogden's trappers known as Portneuf who was killed by Indians while traveling along the stream to locate McKay's party of trappers.

In 1827 the trappers' rendezvous was held on the south shore of Bear Lake under the direction of Smith, Jackson and Sublette.

The fall of 1827, Peter Ogden and 16 men camped in the forks of the Portneuf and Snake Rivers. It was a cold, damp winter with deep snow and they lost most of their horses.

May 6, 1828, McKay and his party working for Peter Ogden returned from the Portneuf, Bear and Blackfoot Rivers to the main camp along the lower Portneuf River with 440 beaver pelts, and Peter Ogden records that he collected a total of 2440 beaver and headed back to Fort Vancouver in 1828.

By 1824 the beaver harvest was luring men from all over the continent, and the powerful Montreal Northwest Fur Company began sending trappers into the area about 1812. The rich fur in the Caribou area was prized

highly and by 1848 a parade of fur companies, trappers and traders had roamed the country taking the fur by trapping and by trading with the Indians. This period saw the Northwest Fur Company, the Hudson Bay Fur Company, the American Fur Company, Pacific Fur Company, The Southwest Fur Company, the Missouri Fur Company, the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company, as well as independent trappers and small partnerships competing for the beaver, mink, buffalo robes, and other valuable fur to the point of depletion.

This depletion of beaver and buffalo in the Caribou area was so evident by 1835 that Bonneville remarked upon his return to the Blackfoot River to hunt buffalo that the country was no longer fit for white men to live in because the beaver and buffalo had gone. The depletion of game and fur, however, was not so complete as to end the wanderings of the trapper and hunter. The cream of the crop had been removed but enough beaver remained to make their pursuit profitable.

White traders and trappers continued to enter the Caribou country. George Goodhart, who married Lizzie Pattee, daughter of Joseph Pattee, the foreman at Fort Hall for the American Fur Company, in 1861, says in his "Trails of Early Idaho" that he said Charley Robinson collected, from trappers and Indians, 460 beaver, 210 mink, 300 buckskins in the spring of 1862 on a trip from Fort Hall up the South Fork of Snake River, along Salt River; up Tincup Creek to Grays Lake and on Blackfoot River to Soda Springs. This seemed to be the total catch of all the trappers in the area over the winter trapping season.

Bridger, Fitzpatrick and party along with Nathaniel Wyeth and his party entered winter camp in the Snake River bottoms near where Rexburg is now in 1832. The winter was severe. They decided to move south and in January 1833 they (about 85 men in all) moved to the mouth of the Portneuf River where they could have feed for their horses.

It was at this winter camp where another famous mountain man made his appearance in this part of the country. Bridger says Kit Carson and a companion joined them and it was while attempting to repossess some of their horses, stolen by some Indians, that Carson received the only wound he had ever suffered up to that time in a skirmish up in the low hills on the Blackfoot River.

Nathaniel Wyeth's entry into the historic arena somewhat dominates the pages of history for this period. He, with his party, entered the Bear River, Portneuf, Snake River area in 1832.

In his journal for July 28, 1832, N. Wyeth says, "We crossed Lewis River (South Fork Snake River) in a bull boat without accident and moved west 4 miles where we struck into a deep ravine with a little water in it. This ravine is bordered by high precipices on each side and is small. Three miles up this we encamped for the night. This stream is called 'Muddy'. As there are several of this name it is requisite to distinguish this by the cognomen of 'Muddy that falls into Lewis'".

This easily identifies this "Muddy" as the present Fall Creek on the Snake River Ranger District.

On this same trip, he continued on up Fall Creek up the right fork, down Hell Creek to Grays Lake outlet, on across Willow Creek to Blackfoot River at about the mouth of Grave Creek, to head of Portneuf and onto the Snake River Valley. (This route is shown on map).

Osborne Russell, one of Wyeth's employees, made several trips through the area east of Snake River in 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, and left an interesting journal of his route of travel, some of which is shown on the accompanying map.

#### 4. Big Game and Fur Animals

It is natural that big game, game animals of all species, and fur bearers were the most important resources of the intermountain area both to the Indian and white man. To both, the game meant life itself; food, clothing and a basis for industry.

We today are fortunate to have preserved for us in the diaries, notes and journals of the early explorers, trappers and traders a fairly good account of the abundance and species of the wildlife resources from 1811 to 1860.

The reading of many records wherein the writers describe long periods of hunger and even starvation; the eating of roots, bark, rawhide, leather goods, dogs and even cannibalism gives rise to the erroneous idea that game was very scarce, in fact was almost entirely absent.

We must, however, remember that the men of those times had no way to carry fresh meat. They travelled light; did not provide for the morrow and were thereby subjected to periods of food scarcity. Many were rank "tenderfeet", babes in the woods, and suffered because of their lack of experience and ability to rough it.

It was not uncommon for even one or two men to kill a buffalo for each meal, sometimes two in one day and consume only what they could eat at one meal, depending upon their luck and skill to kill some animal for food for the next meal. This was wasteful but practicable from their point of view at that time.

Robert Stuart mentions very little game on his trip in 1811 and 1812. He was traveling fast and light. He was in unfriendly Indian country and after all he and his party were not mountain men. They were "green-horns", city-raised men and not too well experienced in caring for themselves under the rigorous conditions they experienced. They reported antelope, buffalo, grizzly bear along the Portneuf, Bear River and Salt River, but they were in too great a hurry to hunt.

In 1832 Wyeth describes many buffalo in the Portneuf River Valley. Mountain sheep were present on the Portneuf, on Bear River; grizzly Bear were apparently quite numerous throughout the entire area. They were

killed on the Portneuf, Snake River, Blackfoot River, Bear River and Salt River. Antelope were very numerous and were seen each day along the route of travel. Deer were evidently not too plentiful. At least they did not get much mention in the records. Elk were in about the same category. The fact that game was encountered nearly every day means that the game population and distribution was better than today.

In 1833 Captain Bonneville described the Blackfoot River valleys and the upper Portneuf River valley as "buffalo country" and buffalo were so plentiful there that he and all other exploring and trapping groups, as well as the Indians, made a practice of hunting in this area.

In 1834, on July 9, Wyeth and party camped at Soda Springs (he called it Beer Springs) and met Thomas McKay of the Hudson Bay Company. They went north on July 10 to Blackfoot River Valley and met Captain Bonneville with his party of 23 men who were killing and drying buffalo meat. Captain William Stewart and his party joined the other groups on that day and all hunted buffalo.

Captain Bonneville left with his 23 men on July 11, loaded with dried buffalo, choice meat (which usually meant the tongues and humps), on his way to the Pacific Coast.

Wyeth's party mentioned killing 3 grizzly bear, several buffalo and then they proceeded west to Ross Fork, and then killed a buffalo bull on Snake River, July 14.

July 27, 1832, Wyeth camped on Willow Creek somewhere south of present day Bone, Idaho and remarked in his journal, "Plenty of buffalo here and mosquitoes too".

It is fortunate that Osborne Russell was among the early trappers who made Southeast Idaho their headquarters, if not their home. He was with Wyeth in 1832 and we find that he was at Fort Hall as late as 1845. He was a restless individual and loved to explore and hunt and left a vivid written record. He visited all of the area now in the Caribou Forest and one of his trips is shown on the map of early travel routes.

Russell wrote the first poem written in Idaho when he was camped on the slopes of what is now called Mt. Putnam, probably on the upper Buckskin Meadows now in the Portneuf division of the Caribou Forest. Russell's poem was entitled "The Hunter's Farewell" and his mention of the "ewes" and "timid lambs" refers to the mountain sheep which were evidently plentiful in this area up to 1840. The poem also gives the idea that big game was becoming scarce from the professional hunters' viewpoint.

We know that from 1818 to 1845 the buffalo were literally slaughtered in this area and Russell's poem mentions of this leads to the conclusion

that he was recording facts in poetry.

Adieu, ye hoary icy-mantled towers  
That ofttimes pierce the onward fleeting mists,  
Whose feet are washed by gentle summer showers,  
While Phoebus' rays play on your sparkling crests;  
The smooth green vales you seem prepared to guard,  
Beset with groves of ever-verdant pines,  
Would furnish themes for Albion's noble bard,  
Far 'bove a hunter's rude unvarnished rhyme.

Adieu, ye flocks that skirt the mountain's brow,  
And sport on banks of everlasting snow,  
Ye timid lambs and simple, harmless ewes,  
Who fearless view the dread abyss below,  
Oft have I watched your seeming mad career  
While lightly tripping o'er the dismal heights,  
Or cliffs o'erhanging yawning caverns drear,  
Where none else tread save fowls of airy flight.

Oft have I climbed these rough stupendous rocks  
In search of food 'mongst Nature's well-fed herds,  
Until I gained the rugged mountain's top,  
Where Boreas reigned or feathered monarch soared.  
On some rude crag projecting from the ground  
I've sat awhile, my waried limbs to rest,  
And scanned the unsuspecting flocks around  
With anxious care selecting out the best.

The prize obtained, with slow and heavy step,  
Paced down the steep and narrow winding path,  
To some smooth vale where crystal streamlets met.  
And skillful hand prepared a rich repast;  
Then hunters' jokes and merry humor'd sport  
Beguiled the time, and livened every face;  
The hours flew fast and seemed like moments, short,  
'Til twinkling plants told of midnight's pace.

But now these scenes of cheerful mirth are done,  
The antlered herd are dwindling fast,  
The numerous trails so deep by bison worn,  
Now teen with weeds or overgrown with grass;  
A few gaunt wolves are scattered o'er the place,  
Where herds, since time unknown to man, have fed,  
With lonely howls, and sluggish, onward pace,  
Tell their sad fate and where their bones are laid.

Ye rugged mounts, ye vales, ye streams and trees,  
To you a hunter bids his last farewell,  
I'm bound for shores of distant western seas,  
To view the far-famed Multnomah's fertile vale;  
I leave these regions, once famed hunting grounds,  
Which I, perhaps, again shall see no more,  
And follow down, led by the setting sun,  
Or distant sound of proud Columbia's roar.

It is interesting to note that Francis Ermatinger, agent at Fort Hall for Hudson Bay Company in 1839, stated in his report to the company that the country was ruined; the beaver were gone as well as buffalo getting scarce, and his report stated that the total catch of beaver assembled at Fort Hall was 3300.

The present population of beaver in this same area is estimated to be 15,000 and the catch under state supervision was about 4000 in 1944, and the same in 1945.

As near as old records disclose, the beaver population must be about as great at the present time (1945) in the Caribou area as they were during the 1820's and greater than during the 1830's, after which beaver became more scarce with each passing decade until they were practically eliminated from the area by 1900.

Buffalo gradually disappeared from the country before 1860.

George Goodhart (1842-1927) in his "Trails of Early Idaho" does not mention buffalo as being present in any of the area in Southeastern Idaho. In fact, he states that the Bannock Indians hunted buffalo in 1860, stating that 8 Indians left Fort Hall and proceeded to the Sweetwater River as far as Independence Rock before they were able to kill 10 buffalo each, which they brought back to Fort Hall.

Goodhart reported killing deer (white tail) in Bluk Creek, Bannock Creek; antelope on Birch Creek, South Fork Snake River, and elk in Crystal Creek. He reported seeing a thousand elk calves on a trip from Camas Prairie to Arco.

From all that can be learned deer, elk, antelope, mountain sheep became scarce in the 1870's and continued to diminish in numbers until 1930 in the Caribou Forest area with the complete elimination of mountain sheep, antelope, and buffalo.

Deer and elk have increased since 1930 and now we have an estimated 8600 deer and 1200 elk on the forest.

In 1944, 52 head of antelope were seen in Dry Valley on the forest, but none were seen during 1945. Where they came from and where they went has never been ascertained.

Wolves, coyotes, lynx, bob cats, brown and black bear, grizzly bear, wolverine and puma were present in considerable numbers on the Caribou Forest until after 1900.

The last grizzly bear were seen in 1920; wolverene were unreported after 1925, and wolves have been practically eliminated since 1930.

It is interesting to note that the Fall Creek Basin Cattle Association withdrew their \$50.00 bounty on wolves in 1938, and an old report shows they paid \$400.00, in May 1921, for 8 wolf-pup scalps.

Another new item in the "Caribou Notes" for March 31, 1922 states that, "William Cozzens returned from the Johnson Creek country a few days ago . . . he brought with him the pelts of 7 wolves . . . on the evening of March 25, Mr. Cozzens stated wolves attacked cattle belonging to Austin Bros. at the ranch on Blackfoot River and killed 2 calves in the feed lot". And again in the "Caribou Notes" for September 1922, Cozzens brought in 4 wolf pelts from the Henry Peak area.

News items in the "Caribou Notes" give some interesting items about big game. For instance in 1920, "Seven deer which were seen appeared to be in excellent shape (in Montpelier Canyon, seen by Strong & Sanford). There were eight deer in this bunch last fall", and in 1921 a news item says, "The last Idaho Legislature opened the deer season in Bear Lake County for 1921-1922. Only about 3 bunches of deer are known to run in this county; one bunch of 8 or 9 head having made their headquarters in the mountains for the past several years only about 5 miles from the town of Montpelier".

In a "Caribou Notes" in 1926 the following item appears, "A number of wood haulers report having seen several bunches of deer in Hema Canyon and vicinity. There is no doubt that our deer herd is increasing and the district ranger estimates fully 100 head now range on the south end of the Caribou Forest".

It is interesting to note that starting in 1921 with 8 head of deer and figuring the annual acreage at 30% shows that this 8 head would produce a herd of more than 4000 deer by 1945 and that the 1945 deer herd in this area are now, 1945, estimated to be 3500 head based upon the 1945 spring count.

Lee Twitchell, present (1945) Idaho agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service, trapped the last wolves in Caribou and Fall Creek Basin in 1929. There have been few reported since that time.

The "Caribou Notes" of May 2, 1922 says, "The Dry Valley Cattlemen's Association paid William Cozzens \$130.00 in bounties on eight wolves he killed on their allotment".

Coyotes, mink, a very few marten, some red and cross fox, some bob cats, a few puma are found on the forest, and there are more than a few Canadian lynx on the north end of the forest. Bear are not numerous but are present over most of the area. A few otter are reported along the Snake River and its tributaries but the once crafty fisher is supposed to be entirely absent.

## 5. Fort Hall

In the year 1833 Nathaniel Wyeth, a young Boston merchant, persuaded his creditors and partners back in Boston that they could profit by selling goods and supplies in the fur country, and he had a large amount of supplies delivered to Fort Bridger under contract to Smith, Jackson, Sublett and Company. After the supplies arrived they were refused and Wyeth found himself in a serious predicament. He was resourceful, however, and decided to proceed west and enter the trading business.

At Hams Fork, July 1, 1834 he wrote a letter to Messrs. Tucker and Williams, two of his partners, ". . . I propose to establish it (Fort Hall) on a River called Portneuf on Snake or Lewis River".

July 9th he camped at Bear Springs (Soda Springs), proceeded north to Blackfoot River, where the party hunted buffalo and bear on July 10th. Then proceeded west across the head of the Portneuf River to Ross Fork, and on north and west to Lewis River (Snake River) on July 14, 1834. They travelled down the east shore of the river to a spot where they killed a buffalo bull, and decided that the place was where he would build his fort.

July 15, construction of the buildings and stockade was started. It was rushed to completion and the U. S. flag was raised over the Fort on August 5, 1834. This was an unofficial flag improvised for the occasion.

The Fort was named Fort Hall in honor of Henry Hall, head of the Boston Fur Company, and Wyeth says the Fort was 500 feet south of the bank of Lewis River (Snake River). He gives its location as Latitude 43 degrees, 14 minutes; Longitude 113 degrees and 35 minutes west.

Wyeth seems to have been careless about his record of the exact location because later, October 6, 1834, he wrote from Columbia River to James W. Fenno, Esq. (Boston), "I have built the Fort (Fort Hall) that I mentioned on Lewis River, Long. 112 degrees 30 minutes w. Lat. 43 degrees 14 minutes n."

On the same day he wrote to his brother, Leonard, "I have built a fort as I mentioned in my last (letter) on Snake or Lewis River in Lat. 43 degrees 14 mi. n. Long. 113 deg. 30 min. w", and he wrote this last location on the same day to three other people in the east.

J. C. Fremont visited Fort Hall in 1843 and gave the following location, "Long. 112° 29' 54" west, Lat. 43° 1' 30" north" and determined that it was 4500 feet above sea level.

The exact location as identified by Ezra Meeker in 1906 was surveyed by W. P. Haxner and found to be on the section line between Sec. 5 & 6, T5S, R53E Boise Meridian. The monument marking the site is 27 feet west of the section line. Lot 1, Sec. 6 and Lot 4 in Sec. 5, have been set aside to preserve the site of the old fort.

Fort Hall was the physical and spiritual symbol of empire in the Oregon country.

Jason Lee preached the first sermon here July 26, 1834.

As far as known the soil of Idaho was first analyzed at Fort Hall in 1843 and J. C. Fremont reports these results: silica, 68.55%; Alumina, 7.45%; carbonate of lime, 8.51%; carbonate of magnesia, 5.09%; oxide of iron, 1.40%; organic and vegetable matter, 4.74%; water and loss, 4.26%.

Dr. Marcus Whitman, Henry Spaulding and their wives and William H. Gray and Miles Goodyear reached Fort Hall with the first wagon, on August 3, 1836. They broke the front wheels of their wagon July 28 and made a cart out of the rear wheels somewhere east of Soda Springs where they arrived July 30. They were the first white women to penetrate the area, and they brought the first cattle and the first seed for farming.

Fort Hall was the local point for the early trails; magnet for the first immigrants, and the strategic point for the first wagon roads. The Fort was sold by Wyeth to the Hudson Bay Company in 1837 and they abandoned it in 1855.

In 1840, when the fur trade was on the decline, Joe Meek, Robert Newell, William Craig, C. M. Walker and Calab Wilkins decided to move on west and they left Fort Hall, August 5, with three light wagons which had been abandoned by some missionaries. These men became the first to extend the wagon trail on west of the fort to Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia.

North and a little east of Fort Hall, about 5 miles, Colonel Loring left two companies of mounted riflemen in 1849 and they built the cantonment Loring.

In 1859 and 1860, U. S. troops and Oregon volunteers were stationed at Fort Hall to protect immigrants on the old Oregon Trail.

## 6. Wagon Trails

It is generally considered that 1843 was the real beginning of the westward emigration movement, and this year saw the "Oregon fever" infect thousands of people in the east.

It was in May 1843 that such men as the 8 Applegate brothers Waldo, Nesmith, Burnett, Hill, Martin, McCarter, Ford, and Keizer, with their families, along with 875 others left Independence Rock and moved westward to open the Oregon Trail to the present site of "The Dalles" on the Columbia River. They reached Fort Hall the last part of August and pushed on westward the first day of September.

The emigration in 1844 was twice as large, and in 1845, 3000 people passed westward over the new road.

In 1846 the emigration dropped down to 1500 because of the Mexican War but increased to 4500 in 1847.

The year 1848 saw a decline in travel past Fort Hall to 1000 and the California Gold Rush in 1849 diverted all but 500 who passed through the fort on the Portneuf.

There was a revival to 5000 again in 1850, and 1851 saw 2500 on the march. The big year was 1852 when a total of 15000 people plodded westward over the now worn Oregon Trail. Only 8000 moved westward over the road in 1853, and then the migration declined rapidly.

These estimates totaling more than 43000 were given by Mr. Leslie Scott in 1928.

This vast migration surged through the intermountain area and none chose to settle in the area. They left only their dead and the deep ruts of the prairie schooners in the fertile valleys of the Snake River country (The Lander Trail).

The westward migration up to 1856 had progressed with no assistance from the United States government other than some protection from Indian depredations. It was in this year that the Congress passed an appropriation for "Pacific wagon roads", and specifically for the "Fort Kearney - South Pass and Honey Lake wagon road."

Colonel Fredrick W. Lander was appointed superintendent of an expedition in 1857 to survey, locate and build the section of the road from South Pass to the city of Rocks, south of Twin Falls. This road became known as the Lander Trail or Lander Cut-off.

It is significant that the Lander trail was the first road through the Caribou Forest area upon which federal funds were appropriated, and that parts of this road are to this day a part of the forest road system on the Caribou National Forest.

It is also significant that this route was known as the grazing route over which the immigrants were assured plenty of grass for their livestock, and parts of the route continue to this day as a stock driveway.

The map and notes made by Lander and his men are exceptionally accurate and it is fortunate that a copy has been secured for inclusion in the history of the Caribou National Forest.

The attached forest base map shows the exact location of this famous road which can be easily identified on the ground throughout almost all of its length through Eastern Idaho and Western Wyoming.

The maps of the Lt. George M. Wheeler expedition show many of the old pioneer roads as they existed in 1878.

Harry Richard's Road, Soda Springs to Eagle Rock, was opened in the fall of 1863.

These quadrat sheets are included here to supplement the record of their location as determined by these intrepid engineers.

The Salt Lake - Fort Hall road was surveyed and opened to travel in 1849 by Captain Stansbury and was the main route of travel between these two points for many years.

The Davis road from Montpelier to Star Valley up Montpelier Canyon and down Crow Creek is known to have existed in 1878 and this route continued to be the only wagon road into Star Valley for many years.

The Hubblett road (see map of Lt. Wheeler expedition, 1878).

The "Carriboo City" road--

According to Jesse Moore, the first work on the road from Grays Lake to "Carriboo City" or Iowa Bar mining camp via Morgan Meadows head of Tincup and Jackknife Creeks was done by Wm. Clemmings in 1872 who was in charge of construction. In the summer of 1889, Wm. Winschell secured the contract to haul supplies to the mines over this road and he built the "Winschell Dugway" this same year. The first use of this route was by pack horse train before 1872. The first mail carrier over this road was Major Moore, father of Jesse Moore now living (1945) at Soda Springs.

## 7. Topographic Names and Their Origin

The original names of streams, mountains and other topographic features are listed here so that they may not become lost as time goes forward.

According to F. W. Lander the following names existed in 1858:

1. Stump Creek (named for J. H. Stump) was known as Smoky Creek, (F. W. Lander 1858) and as Scott's Fork (1870 - Goodhart).
2. Tygee Creek - Red Willow Creek (F. W. Lander 1858).
3. Boulder Creek - Kinni Kinnicks Creek (F. W. Lander 1858).
4. Lanes Creek - Flat Valley Creek (Lander 1858).
5. Crow Creek - West Fork of Salt River (Lander 1858).
6. Grays Lake - John Grey's Lake (Lander 1858) and known as John Days Lake in 1906.
7. Montpelier Creek - Tulicks Fork (Lander 1858) Davis Creek (Wheeler 1878).

8. Georgetown Creek - Tolo Fork (Lander 1858). Later known as Twin Creeks.
9. Salt River - Has not changed, at least since 1858.
10. Blackfoot River - First mentioned by Wyeth in 1832.
11. Thomas Fork - Named for Thompson who was a member of Ashley's party.
12. Soda Springs - Called Beer Springs in 1832 by Wyeth.
13. Bear Lake - Known as Bear River Lake in 1827 (Bridger).
14. Tincup Creek - Known as such 1860. Previously called Gardner's River (Goodhart 1860).
15. Fall Creek - Called Muddy (Wyeth 1832).
16. South Fork of Snake River - Lewis River (Capt. Lewis (1806); Mad River (Hunt 1810).
17. Portneuf River - Named in 1825 for Portneuf, a trapper in employ of Peter S. Ogden. Called Fall Creek in 1811 by Joe Miller of the Hunt expedition.
18. Bear River - Known in 1811 as Miller's River for Joe Miller of Hunt's expedition.
19. Alexander, Idaho, Alexander Gap - Named for Charles Alexander who later moved to Boise River for whom Alexander Flat on the Boise Forest is named.
20. Pruess Creek - Named for William Pruess who was a member of Fremont's party in 1842.
21. Toponce Creek - Named for Alexander Toponce in 1863.
22. Robbers Roost - Named in 1865 because of stage holdup led by Jim Lockhart, Frank Williams the stage driver and accomplice of Lockhart was hanged at Malad for his part in the robbery of \$60,000 in gold and killing of three passengers.
23. Ross Fork - Named for Alexander Ross in 1819.
24. Goodhart Creek - Named for George Goodhart who camped on the stream in 1860; later homesteaded there.
25. Dempsey Creek - Named for Bob Dempsey, a squaw man, who lived there in 1860.
26. Gibson Jack Creek - Named in 1861 for an Indian, called Gibson Jack, raised by Jack Gibson who with Joe Meek (a cousin of President Polk) built Meek's ferry on Snake River in 1860.
27. Inman Creek - Named for the Daman Mining Company.
28. Harkness Creek - Named about 1880 for Henry O. Harkness, founder of McCammon, Idaho.
29. Michaud Creek - Named for Michaud LeClaire who was a carrier for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Hall.
30. Kinport Peak - Probably named for Harry Kinport, a railroad foreman at Pocatello in 1904.
31. Mink Creek was known by the same name in 1904.
32. Williamsburg in Lanes Creek - Named for Thomas R. Williams, who resigned as postmaster there in 1904; succeeded by Wm. J. Knaz.
33. Old Salt Works, Stump Creek - Known as the Onida Salt Works in 1858 (Lander).
34. Brockman Creek - Named for Dan Brockman, a negro, who settled there in 1835. He was a former slave of Charles Martin, an early Idaho Falls cattle man. Brockman sold out, and with Ed Henry went to Alaska.
35. Henry Peak - Named for Ed Henry who settled at Henry, Idaho.
36. Poker Peak - Named by Thomas, Doc and Joe Rowberry (brothers) in 1900.

37. Lanes Creek - Named for J. W. Lane whose grave is on Lanes Creek.
38. Pocatello - Named for Chief Pocatello (sometimes spelled "Pokatello") of the Shoshone Indian tribe who signed the Fort Bridger treaty with the U. S., July 30, 1863.
39. Yeaman Creek - Mike Yeaman and his wife, Sarah, and family settled on Yeaman Creek 1888.
40. Fourth of July Ridge - Named to commemorate a Fourth of July party in 1900 by Sim and Joe Raty, Charles and Cyrus Grow, Earl and Ray Anderson, John Laird, Jack Peterson and Jack Berry; all sheep herders on the Caribou Forest.
41. Blacktail Canyon - Named by John F. Jones on account of presence of mule deer.
42. Deadman Creek (Snake River Ranger District) - Named in 1901 because of the death of a French shepherd employed by Joe Aichant. He was buried at the corral southwest of the top of Big Elk Mountain.
43. Bear Creek (Snake River District) - Named by Mike Yeaman and Thomas Hainline (first owner of the present H. Hill ranch) who killed a bear at the mouth of the creek in 1890. In 1908 Bear Creek was called Pyramid Creek on the original proclamation map.
44. Gibson Creek - Named for Robert Gibson, one of the first cattlemen to run cattle in Fall Creek about 1885. He fenced the present area of the Fall Creek Ranger Station pasture for his headquarters.
45. Bates Canyon - Named for Dan Bates, a trapper, hired by the Fall Creek cattlemen to trap wolves in 1898.
46. Haskin Creek - Named for "Fatty" Haskin who grazed sheep in Fall Creek Basin when the forest was created in 1907.
47. Russell Creek - Named for the Russell family who lived at its mouth 1905.
48. Commissary Ridge - Named because a sheep wagon owned by Henry L. Finch was abandoned and left there in 1905.
49. Sawmill Canyon (Snake River District) - Named because of a sawmill placed there by Jack Dehlin in 1920.
50. Tax Creek - Named for Tax Turner reportedly imported from Texas by local cattle rustlers to kill "Old Dutch John" in 1892. He was supposedly shot and killed by Turner who later was reported killed in 1898, in Lost River, for rustling horses.
51. Bonneville Peak - Named for Captain Meriweather Bonneville.
52. Meade's Peak - Named for General Meade who led troops in the area to punish Indian marauders.
53. Caribou Mountain - Once known as Mt. Pisgah and as "Carriboo Mtn".
54. McCoy Creek - Named for F. McCoy, one of the discoverers of gold in Caribou Basin in September 1870.
55. Haderlie Canyon - Named for L. H. Haderlie.
56. Goodenough Canyon - Named for John Goodenough who took up ceded Indian land on the bench along the creek in 1903.
57. Rich Creek - Named for Roscoe C. Rich.
58. Angus Creek - Named for Angus Stocking who homesteaded on the drainage.
59. Draney Peak and Draney Creek - Named for Samuel Draney, elder brother of Ranger Jesse E. Draney.
60. Della's Basin - Named for a "shady lady" named Della who had a cabin there during the gold rush in 1875.

61. Malad River - Stansbury tells us in 1849 it was called "Malade Creek" because some trappers who ate beaver caught on the creek became sick and called it "Malade Creek" or French for Sick Creek.
62. Johnson Creek (R2) and Johnson Ranger Station - Named for Forest Ranger James H. Johnson, first ranger on the Georgetown Ranger District in 1907-1913.
63. West Bob Smith and Bob Smith Creeks - Named for an Indian who had a ranch at the mouth of these Creeks along the Portneuf River.
64. Old Caribou City - Known as Iowa Bar in 1889. It was known as "Carriboo City" many years later, and after 1920 as "Caribou City".
65. Scout Mountain - Until about 1930 known as "Scab Mountain", so named because of sheep held up there for dipping to eliminate scabies at the old McCammon dipping vats.
66. McCammon - Named by H. O. Harkness for General James K. McCammon under whom Captain Harkness served in the Civil War. General McCammon visited Harkness and he decided to change the name of Portneuf Station (an old stage road) to McCammon.
67. Hawkins Basin - Named for an early settler, Joseph Hawkins.
68. Potter Creek - Named for an early settler, Francis Potter.

## 8. Pioneer Graves

The most interesting graves are the three graves on Lanes Creek along the Lander Trail.

These three graves are on the level top of a small grassy ridge where the old Lander Road emerges from the Lanes Creek Canyon and crosses Lanes Creek.

All three graves are marked by rectangular piles of flat sandstone, with head and foot stones set in the rich black earth. The graves are about ten feet apart in a row extending north and south with the headstones in a line to the east.

The two graves at each end of the row have no markings on the head or foot stones, but the head stone and foot stone on the center grave both bear inscriptions.

The head stone is clearly marked:

"J. W. Lane  
Died  
July 18, 1859 AD - 50 ys.  
2 ms."

(The third and fourth lines are interpreted to mean - (age) 50 years and 2 months).

The foot stone bears the inscription "J. W. L."

Both the head and foot stone are expertly shaped and the inscriptions are cut in the manner of an accomplished artist.

An unmarked slab of sandstone was found in 1945 by Assistant Regional Forester, John M. Kinney, among the sandstone slabs covering the Lane grave which had "D. Nichols" deeply cut on one of the flat sides. Did this stone come from one of the now unmarked graves? Was it the work of meddlers long after the original burial? Who knows?

Local tradition gives several versions of the story of these graves, and they only add confusion and deepen the mystery, because there is no doubt that the death, burial and identity of these three men is an unsolved mystery.

One version is that General J. W. Lane was in command of a protection company of soldiers patrolling the newly constructed Lander Trail and that they advanced westward on the road the evening of July 18, 1859, and with the "General" in the lead of the group they approached the brow of the 20-foot high bank along willow-lined "Lanes Creek" where a group of hostile Indians lay in ambush awaiting any travelers who might be moving westward on the new road.

The mounted men were unaware of the hidden Indians until a fusillade of arrows and musket balls hit the advance line of men killing "General Lane" and two of his men.

The three men are supposed to have been buried by their companions where they fell and there is no explanation of any resulting battle with the red men who are credited with stealthily escaping through the willows along the creek during the confusion.

This version of the affair seems very improbable because the willows now present would not offer adequate protection for the unseen escape of even one attacker. The country is smooth, open grassland and the species of willows growing along the creek are probably the same as existed in 1859 and never grow to any appreciable height. The willows surely would not have offered protection sufficient to hide horses so the attackers would have to have been on foot, which would leave them at the mercy of mounted and armed men.

It seems unlikely that a planned attack would have been made at this exposed spot by Indians, when much more suitable cover and terrain existed only a mile or so east of the spot where the road traversed a canyon floor with pine timber covering both the bottom and slopes of the defile.

Mr. Miller S. Benedict, Forest Supervisor of the Caribou National Forest, decided, in 1936, to clear up the mystery of General Lane and the two men interred on either side of him in so far as any possibility existed that the dead were employed by the government or members of any military force. Mr. Benedict wrote the following letter:

War Department  
(through The Forester)  
Washington, D. C.

July 17, 1936

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly let me know if you have any record of "General" J. W. Lane, supposedly in charge of a military scouting force on the Lander Trail in 1858-59.

Local tradition has it that General Lane was killed by the Indians, and was buried where he fell. The gravestone is marked as follows:

J. W. Lane  
July 18, 1859 60 U. S.  
2 M S

The grave is in bad shape and we wish to fence the plot, etc. besides erecting a suitable marker.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ M. S. Benedict

M. S. Benedict Forest Supervisor

The Acting Secretary of Agriculture, R. G. Tugwell, transmitted the request to the Secretary of War:

August 4, 1936

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of War

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I will appreciate advice concerning any record you may have of "General" J. W. Lane, supposedly in charge of a military scouting force on the Lander Trail in 1858-59.

Local tradition has it that General Lane was killed by the Indians, and was buried where he fell. The gravestone is marked as follows:

J. W. Lane  
July 18, 1859 60 U. S.  
2 M S

His grave is in the Caribou National Forest, in Idaho. It is in bad shape and I wish to fence the plot, etc. besides erective a suitable marker.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. G. Tugwell

Acting Secretary

The Secretary of War, Harry H. Woodring answered as follows on August 13:

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of Agriculture.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of August 4, 1936, in which you requested information relative to the service of J. W. Lane, said to have been in charge of a military scouting force on the Lander Trail in 1858-59.

No record has been found of the service as a commissioned officer or an enlisted man of a man named J. W. Lane during the period in question.

However, an investigation is being made to determine whether or not the man in question served as a civilian employee, and I will write you further at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry H. Woodring  
Acting Secretary of War.

and again on August 28:

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of Agriculture.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reply to your communication of August 4, 1936, in which you requested information relative to the service of J. W. Lane, said to have served with a military scouting force on the Lander Trail in 1858-59.

A search of all records on file in this Department likely to afford the information desired has failed to elicit any record of the service during the period in question of a man named J. W. Lane.

It is possible that information relative to J. W. Lane may be obtained from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, and your letter has been forwarded to that official for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry H. Woodring  
Acting Secretary of War.

September 21, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture:

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of Agriculture.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Be reference from the Office of the Adjutant General we are in receipt of your letter of August 4 requesting information concerning "General" J. W. Lane, supposedly in charge of a military scouting force on the Lander Trail in 1858-59.

It will be necessary for us to have a search made in old files for this data, and as soon as the search is completed you will be advised of the result.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Oscar L. Chapman.  
Assistant Secretary.

On October 6, he again wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture:

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of Agriculture.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In further reference to your letter requesting information concerning "General" J. W. Lane, we have had a thorough search made in our files.

We do not find therein any reference to Mr. Lane, with the exception of the fact that there is an article entitled "The Choctaw Nation," by John W. Lane, Special Agent, contained in Extra Census Bulletin, The Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory; the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole Nations.

A copy of this publication is in the Library of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Oscar L. Chapman,  
Assistant Secretary.

Thus ended the search of government records, without any clue as to the identity of the "J. W. Lane" who lies buried under the primeval prairie sod of Lanes Creek.

The mystery continued to be more of a mystery because there seemed no probability that J. W. Lane or the two men buried beside him were members of the armed services or in the employ of the government of the United States.

Some time in the late 1880's, Johnnie Kunz settled on Lanes Creek and built a log house and other buildings on the opposite side of Lanes Creek not more than 1000 feet from the three graves.

Johnnie Kunz and his family lived here for many years and conducted a dairy making cheese which was sold to people in the settlements 50 miles to the south along Bear River.

The land continues to be owned by members of the Kunz family, but Johnnie Kunz had spent his declining years back in the Bear River communities.

During the quest for information about the graves on Lanes Creek, Johnnie Kunz was interviewed. He stated that when he settled near the graves he met a trapper who told him that he came to the country and saw the graves in 1869 or 70, about 10 years after the date on the headstone. The graves were just as they are today, except that the inscription on the headstone was comparatively new and that he heard from people traveling the road that J. W. Lane and the other two men were members of a crew patrolling the road to do maintenance work where needed and that they were killed near where they are buried by Indians hiding in the willows along the creek.

This seems to be a logical explanation but even if correct it leaves the mystery just about as baffling as before.

Who was J. W. Lane? Where did he come from? Who were the men buried beside him as if to protect him for eternity? Why was J. W. Lane's grave so carefully marked while his companions in death were interred without identification to remain forever unknown?

The secrets of the grave are surely well preserved, and time continues to deepen the mystery of the graves on Lanes Creek.

Forest Ranger Jesse Draney and a troupe of Boy Scouts from Freedom, Wyoming constructed a durable fence around the three graves in 1944 and the Forest Service has set up the maintenance of these graves as a continuing project.

There are a few graves, nearly all without permanent markers, at isolated spots on and near the forest.

The unmarked grave of a French sheepherder is located just southwest of the old Joe Aichant sheep corral at the top of Big Elk Mountain. The herder shot himself accidentally in 1901 while climbing over the log corral.

Five unmarked graves were found in October 1944, by Ranger Draney and Assistant Supervisor McNutt, above the road and northwest of the ruin of Anderson Gulch near the ghost town of "Cariboo City".

Charlie Robinson, a trapper, was accidentally shot and killed in 1862 while riding with George Goodhart, and was buried at the southeast end of the Three Mile Knoll on the west side of the Conda railroad tracks north of Soda Springs.

Captain John Grant, the last factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Hall, died in August 1862 at the age of 95 years, and was buried near the Steamboat (Soda) Springs on Bear River. His bones were removed in 1924 at the time the spot was to be covered by backwater of the Wilson Power reservoir and reinterred in the Soda Springs' cemetery. The Pioneer League of Caribou county erected and inscribed a suitable monument. He is, as far as known, the only Hudson's Bay factor buried in Idaho.

9. "Caribou" - Origin of the name.

The origin of the name Caribou has been clouded with considerable uncertainty.

July 2, 1908, Clyde Leavitt sent the following to John T. Wedemeyer, the first Supervisor of the Caribou National Forest:

"The enclosed is a brief statement of the significance of the name adopted for your forest. If you can extend or correct this statement please send it, as revised, to the Forester".

The statement was as follows:

"Caribou - Named from the Caribou or North American reindeer; of Indian origin."

Supervisor Wedemeyer replied on September 9, 1908:

"The statement enclosed with your letter as to the explanation for the word 'Caribou' adopted as the name for this forest is, I think, not the proper and original meaning of the word that this forest range was always called.

I have investigated, especially since receiving the circular, and find that in the old maps of Idaho in the Britannica encyclopedia, Werner & Co. of Chicago and New York, edition of 1898, Vol. 12, page 696, this mountain range is known as 'Carriboo Mts.' and the old post office is also spelled 'Carriboo'.

I have heard this matter discussed ever since have been in charge of this forest and from what I can learn from the old timers I find that years ago a Frenchman by the name of John Carriboo came in to the country and prospected and did some mining in the locality of Grays Lake and that undoubtedly the post office was named after him and also that range of mountains.

I enclose a newspaper clipping that appeared in the Soda Springs Chieftain of August 8, 1908. . . . I have been unable to find anyone that actually knew the old Frenchman.

The clipping reads - Soda Springs Chieftain:

'More or less comment and some roasting has been done by visitors and others over the spelling of the word 'Caribou' in this section of the country.

The Chieftain has endeavored to spell the word as locally used, but recent maps now give it the uniform spelling as the name applies to the animal called the caribou.

An old map, however, gives the old post office in the Caribou mountains as 'Cariboo', and the same spelling is used in the name of a hotel in this city. We are informed that this spelling was copied from the name of a Frenchman, John Cariboo. Since the government has adopted the uniform word 'Caribou' it is in order for citizens to drop the old form and be up to date.' Probably Chief Inspector Reed could throw some light on the subject as he laid out the boundaries and probably in his reports he spelled it Caribou.' "

Barzilla Clark says - "Carriboo" was named for Jesse Fairchild, from Carriboo British Columbia, who was one of the discoverer's of gold in McCoy Creek Basin, and that James S. Miller states that soon after Fairchild's death at Soda Springs in 1881, a monument was erected on top of Caribou mountain and in it was placed a tin can holding a manuscript giving an account of Fairchild's gold discovery and death, and that this can and manuscript was there when Clark's book was written in 1941.

Ranger Arthur Peterson gives the following information concerning the origin of the name "Caribou" and "Carriboo":

"The story of Jesse Fairchild's was told to me by Abe C. Anderson, and George M. Goodhart who spent his summers around Soda Springs for a good many years after I was stationed here. I have also heard this story from others who were familiar with the early history of Caribou Basin including Jesse Moore who told the same story to me in 1945. Mr. Moore is the son of Major Moore who took an active part in the gold mining in the Caribou Mountain country after the discovery of gold in this region.

As far as I can ascertain the origin of the name 'Carriboo' is authentic, and the story told by these men is as follows:

In the fall of 1869 a man by the name of Jesse J. Fairchilds arrived at Rocky Bar, Idaho from Carriboo in British Columbia, Canada. Mr. Fairchilds spent the first night at Rocky Bar in a saloon. He was quite a talker and many of his stories were disbelieved, so in order to impress his audience he often repeated, "It is so. I will let you know I am from Carriboo". After this oft-repeated expression he was nicknamed "Carriboo Jack".

As he was one of the first three men to discover gold in this region it generally became known as Carriboo mountain to the miners working in and around it.

It was in September 1870 that gold was discovered by F. S. Babcock, F. McCoy, and Jesse F. Fairchilds.

Fairchilds was attacked by a grizzly bear along the Bear River south of Soda Springs on September 15, 1881. This bear had been wounded the previous day by J. J. Call and it seems that the bear was hidden in the willows along the bank of the stream and that Fairchilds got too close to use his rifle. He was taken back to town after the bear was shot by Mr. Call who was with him at the time. It was necessary to get a doctor from Malad, therefore, he did not receive medical care for several hours after he was wounded. He had a bad wound on his leg which developed blood poison and he died a week later at Soda Springs where he is buried.

This version of the origin of the name "Carriboo" has all the earmarks of the true origin of the name as applied to the "Carriboo" mountain range, "Carriboo City" and "Carriboo" mountain which appears on the early maps of the Caribou National Forest.

In 1922 Thomas O'Daniel, now deceased, who was raised at Rocky Bar, told me about Fairchilds and his wild yarns of his exploits in the mining camps of British Columbia.

Miners of the early days in Idaho often were known only by their nicknames and many of their contemporaries never even knew their full names, and in line with this custom of the times Fairchilds was more than likely known only as "Carriboo Jack" in the early days of the gold camp and it seems reasonable that in 1908 when Wedemeyer made inquiries people would deduct that was derived from "John Carriboo", the legendary Frenchman."

Forest Ranger Frank M. Butler, (now deceased 1945), told the same version of the origin of the name "Caribou" in 1923.

There is, of course, no doubt whatever about the original spelling of "Carriboo". All of the maps even as late as 1920 carried the spelling "Carriboo City" for the old ghost mining town on Anderson Creek on the east base of Caribou Mountain. The earlier maps used the spelling of "Carriboo" for the range of mountains, the mining town, and the prominent mountain around which the first gold mining was developed.

In all probability the spelling "Caribou" was inadvertently substituted for "Carriboo" by some of the early forest officers at the time the forest was created and that the new spelling gradually became substituted for all the features originally identified as "Carriboo". This is evident by the fact that as late as 1920 the maps showed "Caribou" as the name of Caribou Basin; Caribou Mountain; Caribou County (created in 1919 from Bannock County), and carried "Carriboo" as the spelling of the old mining town. The old hotel in Soda Springs was known as "Carriboo" in 1920.

The spelling "Carriboo City" changed to "Caribou City" when the map edition of 1921 was published and constituted final elimination of the original spelling of "Carriboo".

#### 10. Creation of the Caribou National Forest.

The original "Caribou Forest Reserve" was created by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt, January 15, 1907. (See map).

The boundary of the original Forest Reserve was selected by Inspector F. W. Reed in 1906 and had an area of:

	733,000	acres in Idaho
	<u>7,740</u>	acres in Wyoming
Total area	740,740	acres

The name was changed to "Caribou National Forest" by an act of Congress dated March 4, 1904.

May 6, 1910 the second proclamation (#1028) eliminated 33,894 acres (see map) which reduced the area of the forest in Idaho to 699,828 acres and 7,018 acres in Wyoming.

A recomputation January 1, 1911 showed:

Area in Idaho	695,000	acres
" " Wyoming	<u>7,360</u>	"
Total area	702,360	"

Added by act of Congress, April 13, 1914, 16,630 acres in Idaho (see map):

Area in Idaho	711,630 acres
" " Wyoming	<u>7,360</u> "
Total area	718,990 "

A third proclamation (#1534) of August 21, 1919 eliminated 12,463 acres (see map) leaving:

Area in Idaho	699,267 acres
Area in Wyoming	<u>7,240</u> "
Total area	706,507 "

The fourth proclamation (#1583) of December 9, 1920 added 40,954 acres in Idaho.

Area in Idaho	740,221 acres
" " Wyoming	<u>7,240</u> "
Total area	747,461 "

A recomputation of June 30, 1922 showed the area as:

Idaho	734,714 acres
Wyoming	<u>7,271</u> "
Total area	741,985 "

Another recomputation made June 30, 1937 gave an increase of 1 acre in Idaho and a decrease of 2 acres in Wyoming leaving:

Area in Idaho	733,681 acres
" " Wyoming	<u>7,267</u> "
	740,948 "

By executive order dated February 11, 1939, 142,508 acres (Portneuf and Pocatello divisions of the Cache National Forest) were added to the Caribou National Forest by transfer from the Cache National Forest, making the total area of the forest 883,456 and added one ranger district to the forest.

The area was recomputed June 30, 1939 and reduced the area in Idaho 2928 acres.

The Hateman Watering Place Donation in Wyoming in 1939 added 2 acres, leaving the forest total 880,530 acres - 873,257 acres in Idaho; 7,273 in Wyoming.

By executive order of April 7, 1942 (effective July 1, 1942), 129,357 acres were added to the Caribou by the transfer of the Malad Division of the Cache National Forest which made total acreage of the Caribou Forest 1,009,887 acres - 993,519 acres in Idaho; 9,095 acres in Utah, and 7,273 acres in Wyoming and extended the forest into 3 states and 11 counties.

The first headquarters of the forest was at Idaho Falls, Idaho; established there in one room, number 215, in the Crow and Changnon building at Broadway and Shoup Streets, July 9, 1907 and the rental was \$12 per month.

The supervisor's headquarters was moved (in the night), June 2, 1911 from Idaho Falls to Montpelier, Idaho, occupying three rooms in the Bank of Montpelier building at a rental of \$300 per year.

The following article of June 9, 1911 tells the story of the move:

"The Examiner is pleased to be able to announce that the supervisor's office of the Caribou forest reserve has been removed from Idaho Falls to Montpelier. An attempt was made two years ago to remove the headquarters to this city but through the efforts of the Idaho Falls Commercial club, which took the matter up with Washington officials through Congressman Hamer, the removal was blocked.

However, at that time, M. S. Snell, who was then supervisor of the reserve, stated that it would be only a matter of time until the change was made, for the reason that Idaho Falls is so far distant from the reserve as to make it very inconvenient for the supervisor to properly handle the business. In fact, it is fifty miles from Idaho Falls to the nearest point on the Caribou reserve, while the southern boundary of the reserve comes within a few miles of Montpelier, and then the forest service telephone line, which covers a good portion of the reserve is connected here with the Bell company.

The order to remove headquarters to this city was made from Washington last week, and G. G. Bentz, who has been in the division office at Ogden for two years, was named supervisor. Accordingly Mr. Bentz went to Idaho Falls, quietly packed the office fixtures and shipped them to Montpelier. He has secured elegant office rooms on the second floor of G. C. Gray's new bank building. The office force consists of Supervisor Bentz, Forest Assistant E. F. McCarty and Thomas F. Myers, stenographer.

Mr. Bentz, whose appointment as supervisor of the Caribou reserve took effect June 1, has been in the service for 11 years, beginning as a range rider. He is a married man and his family will join him here in a couple of months.

As soon as Idaho Falls learned that the office was to be removed from there, the Commercial club got busy and sent telegrams to Senators Borah and Heyburn and Representative French, protesting against the removal without giving that city a change to be heard.

The Montpelier Commercial club also got busy, when it was appraised of what Idaho Falls was doing, and sent a number of telegrams to Washington protesting against the order for removal being revoked. Inasmuch as Supervisor Bentz is here with "bag and baggage" and has closed the lease for office rooms there isn't any likelihood that he will have to move back to Idaho Falls.

The Caribou is the largest reserve in southern Idaho, and that the supervisor's office is worth something to a city, is evidenced by the fuss Idaho Falls has made over losing it. While a great deal of the business between the supervisor and patrons of the reserve is transacted through correspondence, yet during the course of a year, a great many sheep and cattle men visit the supervisor in person. Then from time to time the forest riders visit headquarters, and all these men will spend more or less money here. There are other ways by which Montpelier will also derive a benefit by having the forest headquarters here."

The forest headquarters remained in Montpelier until March 27, 1939, when it was moved to the Federal Building in Pocatello. The office space at that time was rooms 301 and 303 with one storage room in the basement.

#### 11. Mining.

The first mining activity, the discovery of placer gold, was made on McCoy Creek, September 1870, by F. S. Babcock, F. McCoy and Jesse Fairchild. This discovery started a gold rush in 1870 and placer gold was found in Iowa Creek, Anderson Creek, City Creek, Barnes Creek and Bilk Creek. Before the end of 1870 the mining town of Keenan (now a ghost town) named for John Keenan, who discovered gold on Upper McCoy Creek, had more than 500 population and a "Chinatown" was located a short distance below with a population of about 400 Chinese.

The first placer claims along City and Barnes Creeks were, by agreement, only 200 feet in length along both banks of the Creek and the average "haul" was one ounce of gold per man.

Iowa Bar, later known as "Carriboo City", was opened in 1870 and is credited with a population of 1500 people during the 1870's.

The town of Herman along the Grays Lake meadow came into existence about 1875 to serve as a supply center for the gold camps. There are three old buildings, two saloons and an old residence still standing on the old Herman townsite.

The "Carriboo" gold dust was normally very fine. Some called it flour gold of \$21.00 fineness. Many mining men consider that it is the source of the flour gold along Snake River.

Quartz mining developed on the ledges on Caribou Mountain about 1875 and flourished for many years with sporadic activity continuing up to the present time.

The ores found here produced gold, silver, and copper. Several carloads of copper ore was mined as late as 1943 and used during the second World War.

Placer mining in the Caribou country reached a low ebb by 1900 but placer mining has continued on a small scale up to the present time. Barzilla Clark reports that the production of gold was reported to exceed 50 million dollars.

Two dredges were operated in Upper McCoy Creek after 1900, but both proved unsuccessful because of the shallow ground and rough bed rock.

Around 1900 many prospectors dug for coal throughout the Caribou National Forest and finally discovered that the coal was phosphate.

The Caribou Forest is credited with having at least five billion tons of high grade phosphate ore in places. An exhaustive study by Dr. Mansfield of the U. S. Bureau of Mines substantiates the fact that the Caribou phosphate beds are the largest known to exist in the world.

There has been considerable mining of phosphate in the area, mostly near Montpelier, where the Waterloo mines, open pit developments, and Conda phosphate mines have been under production for more than 30 years. These mines supply raw phosphate rock for the Anaconda phosphate fertilizer plant at Anaconda, Montana and for the Simplot fertilizer plant built at Pocatello in 1945.

Much of the forest area in Salt River Drainage is overlaid with salt and some mining of salt was done on Crow Creek around 1900. There are many salt springs in Crow Creek, Tygee and Stump Creek where saturated salt water flows to the surface and the salt, 98% pure, crystallizes on the surface.

The Oneida Salt Works, on Stump Creek, was established 1866 by Benjamin White (later governor of Montana) and J. H. Stump. The daily output of salt was 6000# and sold for \$30.00 per ton at the works. The output was 100,000# in 1866; 300,000# in 1867; 500,000# in 1868; 650,000# in 1869; 750,000# in 1870; 850,000# in 1871. The output increased during the 1870's to 1000,000# a year. Mr. White left the salt works in 1879 and went to Montana. Three hundred teams were used to freight the salt to Montana, Boise Basin, Oregon and Washington.

John H. Stump, for whom Stump Creek is named, operated this old salt works.

It is interesting to note that F. W. Lander in his "emigrant guide" of 1858 mentions that this is a good place for emigrants to hold up, rest their stock and collect salt.

The Lt. Wheeler expedition of 1877 notes this salt works as the "Old Oneida Salt Works" which indicates that the salt works was old even at that time.

Ranger Jesse Draney, in 1915 to about 1918, supplemented his yearly income by boiling salt at the Upper Tygee Salt Springs. The salt water from the springs was run into vats made from plank with sheet metal bottoms which were set over a pit. The water was boiled away and the salt recovered for sacking and transporting to market.

Ranger Draney says the old saying, "that a man is or is not worth his salt" can have more than one meaning because he tried it and it is mighty hard work for a man to "boil" salt enough to keep from starving to death on the fruits of his labors.

These salt beds crop to the surface in many places and in other places they are overlaid with several hundred feet of earth and rock. The beds of pure salt have been found to be 400 feet thick at some places where drilling has been done.

## 12. Oil.

Oil has been suspected to be present under much of the "old" Caribou Forest. 1919 to 1921 a deep hole (reported to be 2400 feet deep) was drilled in Tygee Valley for oil by a local promoter named Everett Sloan. Oil was reported to have been found, but no further development was done.

Various oil companies and individuals have filed on land on and near the Caribou Forest throughout the past 25 years, and in 1944 filings were made to prospect on about 15,000 acres. In 1945, the recorded oil prospecting leases were in excess of 200,000 acres.

### 13. Forest and Range Fires.

The first record of fire on and near the Caribou was made by Robert Stuart, September 9, when he mentioned that a recent fire in the country between the Fish Creek divide and present Alexander Gap had destroyed all the horse feed.

The pioneer settlers report that forest fires, during the 1870's and as late as 1888, burned uncontrolled all summer long in the Caribou Forest.

The Caribou Forest, especially the original forest unit, is one of the largest burned areas in the intermountain area. The even-aged lodgepole pine stands show that they were seedlings from 1855 to 1890.

A news item in the Pocatello Tribune July 18, 1901 states, "A big timber fire is burning on the mountains east (Portneuf Division) and south of Pocatello (Pocatello Division). It seems to have started in Portneuf Canyon yesterday morning and during the afternoon burned up over the mountains on the south side of the canyon. Sometime during the day the fire crossed the canyon and burned up Rapid Creek. All afternoon great clouds of smoke rolled up from the range just east of the city. Last night the fire burned down over the side of the mountains that face the city (Blackrock Hills) and a great ring of fire blazed fiercely in plain view all night and the smell of smoke was all prevailing. The fires are still burning, both up Rapid Creek and south of the canyon, and this morning it is reported that the fire is working up Mink Creek".

A further note of interest was a weather report the same day that, "A blazing sun all day yesterday drove the mercury up to 98 degrees. At 1 p. m. this afternoon the thermometer marked 97 and observer Kelliher says it will go to 100 by 4 o'clock (p. m.)."

The past history points to severe fires during the past 100 years which almost completely destroyed the most of the old fir timber stand.

### 14. Grazing.

The earliest observations recorded on forage were by Bonneville in 1832 who remarked "abundant bunch grass" was found along Blackfoot River and he, as well as Wyeth and Osborne, mentioned the Blackfoot River, Portneuf and Grays Lake country as "buffalo country", which implied good forage cover in the area.

In 1858, F. W. Lander in his "Emigrant Guide" mentions much grass at the many camp sites along the Lander Trail. In fact this trail was recommended as the route with forage sufficient for the emigrants' stock.

Alexander Toponce says there was an abundance of grass in the Portneuf Drainage, stating that he and John W. Kerr trailed 9,000 cattle from Texas to the Upper Portneuf Drainage, with headquarters at Toponce Creek, in 1872 and sold this outfit to Sparks and Tiernan in 1879.

The first extensive use of forage was by cattle and horses. Many thousands of them trailed through the Caribou area over the old Oregon Trail starting in 1836, and later the livestock trailed west over the old Lander Trail.

Cattle were the first livestock grazed in the Caribou country. It is known that there were some cattle in the Bear Lake settlements in 1863 also, as well as along the Portneuf and in Malad and Cache Valleys.

The larger range cattle outfits entered the area about 1868, coming up from Utah and Nevada and by 1875 there were large numbers of cattle.

One of the first large cattle outfits to come into the area was Burke and Lonegen, "70" brand. "The War Bonnet" owned by H. G. Rand had 15,000 head.

Sheep first appeared on the scene about 1883 when a Mr. Booth grazed sheep along Snake River. The Ricks Brothers, Thomas and Natan, and Ted Arnold and Son brought 3000 sheep into the country in 1885, and by 1893 there were large numbers of sheep.

The country now in the Caribou Forest was fully overstocked by sheep by 1900, and overstocked by 1905.

A news item in the Pocatello Tribune of June 22, 1905 states, "McCammon - Sheep shearing closed today, some 85000 head having passed through the pens".

The early cattle outfits had very little winter feed reserve in the form of hay and 85% of the cattle numbers were lost during the winter of 1888-1889. This terrible loss almost eliminated the cattle from southeast Idaho ranges.

The following information was submitted by Ranger Peterson:

#### RANGE HISTORY AND HISTORICAL DATA

Reference is made to our conversation relative to obtaining data regarding the past history of grazing in the vicinity of Soda Springs. The following information has been secured by contacting various stockmen in this locality.

The first grazing of domestic livestock in this vicinity was probably the riding horses and pack animals used by Captain J.C. Fremont who was sent by the Government to explore the northwest. It is a known fact that he camped for sometime near the Bear River below town at a point near or at the famous Steamboat Spring since he gave the following account of its action: "In an opening in the rock, a white column of scattered water is

thrown up, to a variable supply, its greatest height is only attained at regular intervals according to the action of the force below. It is accompanied by a subterranean noise, which, together with the motion of the water, makes very much the impression of a steamboat in motion; and without knowing that it had been previously so-called, we gave to it the name of Steamboat Spring." It was in the year 1843 that Captain Fremont visited this section.

In 1852 Ezra Meeker passed over the Old Oregon Trail which extended from St. Louis to Portland. He made the following comment: "The most attractive natural phenomena encountered on the whole trip are the Soda Springs near Bear River and in fact right in the bed of the River." One of these, Steamboat Spring was spouting at regular intervals". It must be assumed that Mr. Meeker and his outfit stopped and grazed their riding and pack stock in this vicinity. However, no comment is available as to the abundance or density of the forage cover.

By 1847 and a number of years following long trains of emigrants stopped at Soda Springs, and grazed their oxen and horses. It is reported that they would stop for several days and rest at this point while enroute to California and Oregon.

The first permanent settlement of Soda Springs was made May 23, 1863, at a point on Bear River below the present site of the town. These people came from Utah, and were lead by General Connor. A fort was established shortly after their arrival. The settlers numbered about 325 men, women, and children. Their cattle and horses were grazed in the immediate vicinity of the settlement.

In 1884 Oneida County embraced about one-third of Idaho Territory with Malad as the county seat. Southeastern Idaho at that time was entirely grazed by cattle. It was not until about 1889 that sheep were grazed in this area. Several large cattle outfits, of which the War Bonnet was probably the largest, grazing from 12,000 to 15,000 head of cattle on land south of the Blackfoot River. H. G. Rand was the owner and manager of this outfit. As many as three or four thousand calves would be marked and branded at one time during the fall roundup. A large amount of the beef was shipped to England. In connection with this shipment Mr. J. W. Woodall, tells an interesting story. He said that this outfit had special cars made in which the cattle were shipped to New York provided with such modern facilities as drinking fountains, feed racks, etc., in which the cattle were fed and watered, and never unloaded from the time they were loaded at Soda Springs until they reached their destination. This special cattle train was equipped with a coach and sleeping car for use of the employees accompanying the shipment. The fall roundup of this outfit is supposed to be the origin of the noted War Bonnet Roundup or Rodeo held annually at Idaho Falls. The War Bonnet Cattle outfit had their summer headquarters on Corral Creek where they built the bull corrals and the log cabins. The first Hereford cattle imported into this country was by this outfit in the summer of 1887.

Another large outfit operating in this country about the same time as the War Bonnet outfit was owned by Burke and Lonagan; known as the Burke or seventy outfit because of the fact that they used 70 as their brand. These cattle summered north of the Blackfoot River, and were wintered on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and the Snake River Valley.

The first band of sheep to enter this region were trailed from Oregon and owned by Morgan & Houtz in May 1889. These sheep were summered on range north of town around what is now known as Hooper Spring. The following year according to R. C. Rich, President of the Woolgrowers Association, three bands of sheep summered in about this same area. At that time sheep were never shipped to market but were trailed in bands of 6,000 to 10,000 head, plenty of feed being available along the route of travel. Mr. Woodall said that you would have thought a circus had come to town the first train load of sheep that arrived at Soda Springs and were unloaded at the site of the present stockyards. The agent told some of the stockmen that a train load of sheep would arrive at Soda Springs in the evening, and about every man, woman, and child in the town was at the depot to see the sight. To indicate the amount of country a sheep outfit expected to operate on during the summer months can be judged by the following story: A prominent sheepman who grazed his sheep south of Grace, Idaho came into Soda Springs one day and offered his outfit for sale. Someone asked him the reason for selling out and he replied, "It's getting too crowded to operate sheep in this section of the country". (The nearest band was located approximately twenty miles away from his outfit.) Following the advent of the first three bands of sheep more came each year until in 1894 about 50,000 sheep summered north of Soda Springs on what is now the Soda Springs Lease (State Land). These sheep grazed on some of the cattle range, and while no battles occurred between the two classes of stockmen, sometimes feelings between them were pretty strong, and cowboys have been known to have a sheep outfit move in the night.

It was in the fall of 1894 that A. J. Knollin first entered the sheep business in the state of Idaho. That fall he purchased 10,000 head of lambs and the next summer ranged them on open public domain north of Soda Springs. Mr. Knollin stated that the price paid for these lambs was around \$1.15 per head. The following year he purchased 60,000 head of sheep. In talking about feed conditions at that time, Mr. Knollin said, "In the early days it is my recollection that grass and weeds grew to an approximate height of 2 to 2½ feet." About the same statement was also made by both R. C. Rich and J. W. Woodall--that forage in the sagebrush type would actually reach a height of about two feet. To indicate that they had dry seasons about that time Woodall told me that he had packed his raincoat on the back of the saddle during an entire season without using it while he was herding cattle along the Blackfoot River.

It is estimated that about 150,000 to 200,000 head of sheep ranged on the area around Soda Springs in 1905. At this time the Knollin and Finch Sheep Company had a total of 450,000 head of sheep grazing in Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. In making his range inspection Mr. Knollin said that he was able to stop at one of his camps each night, which would indicate that the distance was approximately fifteen to twenty miles apart, since he made his inspection by saddle horse.

No one has any data relative to the number of cars of lambs shipped from Soda Springs in 1905 which is supposed to be the peak of the sheep business in this vicinity. The largest number shipped in later years was in 1917 when 1700 cars were shipped to points east. At the present time about 800 cars of lambs are being shipped according to Mr. Pickren, local Railroad Agent.

In talking to Mr. Woodall regarding the density of the forage cover in 1889, at the time the sheep first started to graze this country, and at the present time he said, "I rather believe that the density of the plants are about the same, the difference in forage production is in the amount produced."

The country north of Soda Springs was used as a public domain until about the year 1912 when an association of sheepmen leased this tract of land from the State and put it under a form of regulated grazing. This area has since been known as the Soda Springs Lease.

At the time of the creation of the Caribou Forest most of the sheepmen resented the efforts of the Forest Service in what they determined to mean, how, when, and where they could graze their sheep, and in limited numbers according to the capacity of the allotments. Mr. Woodall said, in 1907 he thought that the creation of Forest reserves would about put the average sheepman out of business. "However," he added, "can you visualize what this country would look like if the government had not taken over the supervision of the high mountains in this Region."

The public domain north of Soda Springs was used for sheep grazing until about 1908 when a few homesteads were taken and the sheep trailing to the Forest were compelled to trail for a short distance through the first lane. By 1914 the major part of the country north and east of Soda Springs had been taken by homesteaders, and fair crops of grain were raised for a number of years. During the period following the homesteading of the public domain the sheepmen became concerned with the problem of spring and fall range, which resulted in the leasing of all the State Land adjacent to the Blackfoot River and its tributaries.

The drought of 1883 and 1889 left stockmen with a limited amount of hay, and during the winter of 1889 the stockmen ran out of feed and had to import corn from Nebraska to save their stock. The railroad transported this corn free of charge in an effort to save the livestock in this section. However, large numbers died on the feed yards, and many on the trail from Grays Lake to Soda Springs. In March of that year these stock were taken to the Wilson Ranch in Paradise Valley where the south and west exposures of the hills offered a lot of dry forage on which the animals were able to live until the advent of green forage in April and May.

/s/ Arthur Peterson  
Forest Ranger

The statements of "old timers" L. S. Smart, Eph Ricks, H. H. Thomsen, and A. J. Knollin are given here for their historical value--

"I came to Bear Lake County in 1901 and have been engaged in the sheep business continuously since that time. My father used range in what is now the Cache National Forest near Mt. Sherman as early as 1890, and soon after used range east of Bear River in the vicinity of Big Basin, now included within the Caribou National Forest. It was on this latter range about 1901 I started in the sheep business.

I recall at that time the range was very poor both in quality and quantity of forage production. Range competition was very keen every foot of available range being overstocked to the extent that it had a very low carrying capacity.

Due to such competition the range was abused other than being over-grazed as excessive trampling occurred when various outfits would race for a choice spot of range. Other abuse occurred when sheep would get onto the range as soon as the snow was gone from the lower areas, and would follow the snow back as it receded. Under such conditions of use and abuse it was impossible to fatten our lambs and mutton, and such as we sold had to go for feeders. This procedure continued over a period of years until the range became a dust bed. Feed was killed out and by 1905 or 1906 it was a question whether we would have to move on to other ranges or go out of business.

About this time the Caribou National Forest was created which placed the range under regulated use with first definite periods of use and later subdivision of the range into allotments. Recovery of the range was slow but in my opinion it improved progressively thereafter reaching its peak of production during the period 1925 to 1926. I believe that the forest range had greater carrying capacity and produced a better quality of forage during this latter period than at any other time during my 35 years connection with it. I am sure that similar outside range that has not been similarly

managed does not come close in forage production. My observation has been that game animals have not in any way influenced the condition of the range although there has always been a few big game animals on that part of what is now the Caribou Forest which I have been connected with.

I believe that the so-called grazing homestead has been a distinct detriment to the sheep business. Through the operation of this act all our spring lambing and fall range has passed to private ownership. In order to make these lands available it has been necessary for the stockmen to purchase it outright. This has added to our already top heavy land investment, and to our tax burden. The grazing homestead has reacted to our disadvantage in that claims were allowed on what has become well established trails which had been used for many years in crossing between winter and summer ranges. It is now necessary to practically buy our way over these driveways.

/s/ L. S. Smart"

"I came to Rexburg in 1883. At that time there were a few settlers at teton; two or three trappers on lower Teton River; about three families at what is now Moody; two settlers west, on the North Fork of Snake River; three or four families at the south of Lyman Creek.

In 1883 there were no sheep in the county; probably 500 head of range cattle and 100 head of range horses. At that time practically all lands in the upper Snake River Valley was Public Domain, open to homesteaders and unused. In the fall of 1883 and the summer of 1884 there were a lot of people came into the valley and filed on land (squatters rights).

The first people coming into the valley brought a few head of milk cows and two or three teams to the family but practically no range stock. During the first two or three years most of the people got their hay by grubbing out sage brush and cutting the natural grass. This grass crop yielded about a half ton per acre.

In 1885 or 1886, Thos. E. Ricks and Natan Ricks, and Ted Arnold and son went into the sheep business. Previous to this time, a man named Booth run about 1200 sheep west of the river on what was later the Carrier ranch. The Ricks and Arnold outfits began with about 3,000 head. Following this time sheep began coming into this vicinity quite rapidly. These outfits ranged on the foothills to the east of Rexburg and as far east as Thousand Springs Valley on District 7 of the Targhee. All early day lambing was done on the range. The lambing runs about 80% or less. The predators (wolves, coyotes, cats and a few mountain lions) caused very heavy losses.

By 1893 to 1895 there were more sheep in the valley than at the present time, and the herds were being taken to the higher mountains for summer range. By this time, also, the larger part were taken to the Utah deserts for winter. When the herds were so numerous as to crowd the range the common practice was to get the choice range first, (resulting in too early use) and stay as late as possible. Owners did respect prior location of herds, ie, if one owner got on a creek he was recognized as lawful owner of that range for that season, but he usually had a dry herd with which to protect his wet herds.

By 1896, range deterioration was noticeable. The bluebells, broadleaf and the better forage plants were being replaced by grasses and inferior weeds. By 1896, the cattle had accumulated in proportion to the sheep. In the first years the cattle were ranged in the lower country, (foothills and river range). Practically no cattle were run on what is now National Forest land until after the dry farms took away so much of the open range.

At the time the Forest Service was created, there was very noticeable overgrazing on all lands, Private, Public and Forest. A large number of the sheep in the country at that time were transients who did not care whether or not the range was preserved and got everything out of it that they could.

When the forests were created, a great many of the stock were excluded from the areas included in the forests; range was allotted; timbered areas and areas of less desirability were forced into use and more stock were thrown on the Public Domain and Private Range. This extra burden on private range and public domain lasted for a year or two, or until the owners had a chance to cut their numbers. The transients saw the futility of depending on forest range and began dropping out.

For two or three years little change was noticed in the forage on all classes of range, then for a few years an improvement was evident. It is my thought that now the forest lands are at least holding their own in density of plant cover and quality of forage; that generally, the public lands and private range is still being depleted.

In the early days, the high range was not eroded. It is true there were places where snow slides and cleared strips of timber and brush, but there were no eroded areas. At the peak of stocking, 1896, and 1898, considerable erosion was evident. It seems that there is considerably less erosion now and I believe this to be a result of forest regulations -- bedding out system; deferred and rotation grazing, and elimination of trailing.

Generally, over public ranges, the grass species have changed from the finer to the coarser species. Porcupine grass has taken the place of the wheat grasses and buffalo grass.

The losses today are far less than they were years ago -- I would say our losses are 25% or more, less than they were years ago. This is the result of predatory animal control, less use of old bedgrounds, and better supervision. This saving is not a pure profit as considerable moneys have been expended in its creation on such items as more expensive overhead and predatory animal control. The running expenses are much greater now than in early days. In the early days no forest fees were paid, no taxes on private range lands, no hauling of water for spring-fall range, less taxes, no automobile expenses, about one-third as much for hay and about 30 per cent as much as at present for wages. In early days the herds of sheep ranged from 1800 to 2000 head. Herders were hired for about \$30.00 to \$35.00 and herded the larger herds, while at the present they are being paid at the rate of about \$45.00 and herding 1000 to 1250 head herds.

During the first years I was here, there was little difficulty in getting a deer or elk, but there were not so many but that it was necessary to hunt for them. There were quite a number of antelope on the desert country to the north and west. It was not too uncommon to see as many as 500 head of antelope in a herd, 100 head in a herd was common. There are probably as many deer in the surrounding country now as when I first knew it. In a 100 mile radius there may be as many elk, but both have been pushed back farther. The antelope were almost exterminated in early years by market hunters. There was a period between 25 years and 35 years ago when heavy inroads were made in the game supply by hunters. Since that time deer and elk have increased.

There was never any hunting, or killing of game by other means than with a rifle. The migrations of game have always been local -- foothill to mountain movement in the spring and return in the fall. The migration has merely been shortened by civilization preventing the game from coming into the valleys as they did in early years.

Eph Ricks"

"I came to Table Rock (now Chokecherry, Idaho) in the fall of 1898. At that time there was one farmer on Antelope Flats, three farmers in the vicinity of Archer and Sunnydell, and three farmers on Rexburg Bench. Through this area ranged two herds of sheep, each herd ranging in number from 1500 and 2000 head, and about 50 head of horses, and approximately 200 head of cattle.

In 1899 and 1900 more stock came into the locality. During 1900, about four bands of sheep and some 400 head of cattle and horses ranged through the South Fork of Snake River Range. The numbers of stock increased rapidly on this range during the next few years. There were probably 2,000 head of cattle and horses and ten herds of sheep here during the 1905 season.

The Forest Service took an active part on this range in 1906 and many reductions in numbers of stock was made. The Forest Service (under A. C. Payge, Homer Fenn, L. W. Hasting) at the outset, informed me that this range was being overgrazed and that Forest regulations would prohibit the heavy use that was the custom.

With little exception, there were no farms north and east of Eagle Rock (now Idaho Falls) in 1898. The balance of this country (now the north-east half of Bonneville, the eastern half of Jefferson County and the eastern half of Madison County) was mostly Public Domain. Many of the people locating in the vicinity came in 1898 and a few in 1888. No large stock holders were here as early as 1898.

During the fall of 1898 and in 1899 there were thousands of acres of land over the Rexburg Bench, along the South Fork of Snake River and Antelope Bench and the foothills east of Idaho Falls that would cut upwards of a half ton of hay where sagebrush would permit cutting. For the first two years I cut all my hay from grass stands along the flats near Table Rock and in Table Rock Canyon. From 1908 to 1912, practically all of Antelope and Rexburg Bench were filed on and dry farmed. Just previous to this dry farm stampede there were several hundred herds of sheep and several thousand herd of cattle and horses ranging during some part of the season, through the areas of the above named counties. One of these outfits, Smart & Webster, owned 96 herds, most of which ranged through this locality.

For several years following the establishment of the Forest Service several herds of sheep ranged lambed on Forest lands. Previous to this time spring lambing was done on Public Domain lands farther to the west.

By 1905 there were so many stock in this locality, and so many dry farms taking away range, that the cattle came off in very poor condition.

Following the establishment of the Forest Service, the range seemed to recuperate to some extent and then when the drought began the range deterioration of the range was very noticeable. This deterioration is more noticeable than on forest lands. The country between Table Rock and Sunnyside would cut one half, or better, tons of hay in 1898--today this land, Public Domain and Private Range, would be very near barren if the sagebrush and rabbit brush were removed.

When I first knew the country there was no June grass here. Today, over the public domain and private range the principal forage is June grass. During the first years I was here we fed stock for about three months during the winter. We now feed six months. This has resulted in the loss of most of the profit in the cattle business through this locality.

The deer and elk were plentiful when I first came here. The deer ranged the foothills and the elk the higher ranges and the foothills farther up the river. They did not seem to migrate to any great extent--merely from higher ridges and flats to the foothills along the river. The range habits of the game have not changed to the present time. However, the numbers of elk are less and the deer have increased. There has never been enough game in this country to have any effect on range deterioration. The early hunting practices were just the same as now, excepting that everyone had wild meat whenever they wanted it.

When I came to Table Rock there was not a ground squirrel. Today there are millions of them and we spend considerable money in squirrel control -- we have to in order that we may raise a crop.

H. H. Thomsen"

"I first went to Texas in 1868 on a buying expedition and bought thousands of sheep in Texas - there were no lambs sold in those days. In those days sheep men would say they had so many muttons to sell; a mutton meant a fat wether.

In 1890 had chance to buy an outfit in the Pecos Valley; the post-office and railroad station was named Langtry after the "Jersey Lily".

Roy Bean, quite a noted and eccentric character was Justice of the Peace and also operated a saloon in Langtry; he was known as the "Law West of the Pecos". An interesting story of Roy Bean and his method of meeting out justice is related; it is not known how true the story is, but it is as follows: A man was found dead out on the range and Roy Bean held an inquest. Among the dead man's possessions were a revolver and a ten dollar bill. Roy Bean disposed of the case by fining the dead man \$10.00 for carrying a concealed weapon.

About this time the Southern Pacific Railroad was building the railroad through Texas. Roy Bean had a whiskey shop which he used to move along with the construction work of the railroad and of course some of the men employed were Mexicans. During an altercation between a Mexican and a white man, the white man killed the Mexican. Roy Bean held an inquest and his verdict was that he had no knowledge of any law to condemn a white man for killing a Mexican and the white man was turned loose.

I sold out my ranch in Texas in 1893, the year of the World's Fair at Chicago; there was quite a panic on at the time. One of my reasons for selling out was that the State and the Southern Pacific Railroad notified me that in order to run my sheep on their land, I would have to lease it. It was costing me 50¢ a head to run my sheep then and I figured with the cost of leasing, it would jump to 75¢ per head. I felt that this was too much.

I located in New Mexico in the Pecos Valley there near Roswell and continued ranching there until about 1922, when I sold out my interest there. In the meantime, however, I had continued my sheep operations up into Utah, first going into Utah about 1902 while I still had my other outfit in New Mexico. The sheep I bought there were run in the San Pete Mountains near Mt. Pleasant Utah and Ephraim, Utah and were wintered on the west desert.

In 1894 made agreement to purchase lambs and put up check and contract in escrow until I could examine lambs; the price was \$1.15 per head with 10% cut back or 60¢ per head. The lambs were to be brought to Soda Springs with their mothers. I came up to examine the sheep in the summer of 1894 and went with parties to examine the sheep. Took wagon to Rasmussen Ranch located near Tin Cup. Took saddle horses and saw two or three bands and said I would take the lambs. Quite a percentage of the lambs were fat enough to be slaughtered but the market was very low. Knollin thought shipment on market now would not make much so put them all on feed; corn cost about 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢ per bushel and oats about 10¢ and hay about 2.50 per ton and after that deal if he had bought all at 60 cents a head he would have made money. \$4.35 per hundred in Chicago was highest price at that time.

The country looked good and Knollin notified man taking care of sheep in Utah to move to Idaho next spring. The Utah sheep were brought to Idaho in the spring of 1895. At that time Knollin stated could start out in any direction from Soda Springs and get feed any place - outside of a few ranches everything was open.

Knollin believes that the first sheep came into southeast Idaho in the 80's. John Houtz of Ogden and Nate Ireland of Malad are believed to be the first who brought sheep into southeast part of Idaho.

They tell story that Jim Morgan who was foreman for the Houtz outfit thought that Ireland's outfit was infringing on the Houtz range. Morgan rode horseback for a considerable number of miles to notify Houtz of this infringement although at the time there was considerable range not being used at all.

Another early sheep man was Tom Mercer who brought sheep in from Utah and other parts of Idaho.

Three brothers, Jim, Ock and Lew Sampson run sheep over around Oakley and wintered them in the Nevada desert. On a buying expedition Knollin bought their wethers and lambs; the lambs were small and Knollin told them how big the lambs were in Soda Springs country, so the next spring the outfit came over into Soda Springs country.

Knollin relates that there were lots of deer in Idaho when he first came in and he believes there were quite a few elk, although he only actually saw one. There were plenty of bear but not as many coyotes as there were after.

There were a good many Utah sheep men came into Southeast Idaho shortly after and continuing for some years after Knollin's arrival. In Utah the sheep were held for long periods on mountain range and whole mountains in Utah became brush pastures through overgrazing. The sheep would do alright but the lambs would not.

Knollin was asked as to the condition of the vegetation on his arrival in Idaho. His only remark was that "bluebells would reach up to theommel of my saddle." No further information in this regard could be elicited by further questioning.

Knollin's principal business was buying sheep and lambs and he purchased a good many outfits around Soda Springs and other parts of State. Had one ranch near the town of Bruneau south of Mountain Home and run those sheep near Mountain City, Nevada. Had a ranch at Emmett, Idaho. In 1898 bought a ranch on little lost river and established sheep outfit over there.

During all this time there were a great many sheep trailing from Oregon, Washington and western Idaho. They were put up in bands of about 5500 to a band. During the first few years of trailing there were mess wagons with water barrels, later on when valleys were taken up, this custom was transferred to pack horses. Each one of these outfits would have two herders with a saddle horse each and the camp mover, his saddle horse and three pack horses and a few horses extra in case of emergency. They would start from the west slope of the Cascade Mountains near Oregon near the middle of May after shearing and trail clear through to (Ogallally or Odally, Nebraska - check on name), would load up there and ship to feed lots in corn belt of Nebraska and Kansas. The trail followed pretty much the old Oregon Trail and the Lander Trail. Knollin brought the last outfit through in 1902.

During years from 1896 on up to about 1904 Knollin had established a chain of sheep commission houses in Kansas City, Chicago, Omaha, St. Joe, and Denver, Colorado and operated them up until about 1922. Mr. Knollin was in favor of National Forest control of grazing but due to his string of commission houses, could not say much about it without hurting his business as most of the sheepmen at that time were opposed to it. However, he did talk on the

subject in some of his addresses before the National Woolgrowers Association meetings, Mr. Knollin having held the office of treasurer of that organization in previous years.

Knollin said his land in Texas outside of the Pecos River just had a few water holes he had taken up here and there and had spent a lot of money building cement reservoirs to hold water. Believes now he would have been better off had he stayed there and paid for lease previously mentioned. Pay to Mexican sheep herders was about 12 dollars in Mexican money which was worth 65¢ in United States silver. He figured 10 acres to a sheep in Texas, the terrain being very rocky and very little vegetation. One plant known as the soto plant was valued as forage. This plant resembled an onion somewhat in the root; it grew to a height of about three feet with the leaves folding over one on top of another terminating with a sharp spike at the top. The herders would split this up with an axe so the sheep could get at it. It seemed to furnish both sufficient water and forage.

At the peak of his operations Knollin employed 400 men, owned about 450,000 head of sheep, about one hundred fifty to two hundred thousand and being fed in the corn belts of Kansas and Nebraska and the balance on the western ranges - his operations extended into 11 states and territories.

In 1890 a complete failure of corn occurred in Kansas and Nebraska and during that time he transferred his feeding operations to Colorado; bought wheat at 40 and 50¢ hundred, hay at 3 and 3.50 ton and contracted for 60 car loads of linseed oil meal at 18.00 a ton. After feeding them, held auctions at each one of the places where sheep were held and sold them off - stated did not lose much on it.

At the time of sheep trailing from Oregon and Washington, the State of Idaho passed a law requiring the dipping of sheep 10 miles before the boundary was crossed. Knollin arrived at Frohman's Ferry with his sheep and ferryman refused to take him across. Knollin drove all his sheep down to the ferry loading point making it impossible for anyone else to use the ferry to see if he could force the ferryman to take the sheep across. The ferryman refused and finally Knollin got him to go into Caldwell with him where they both conferred with Morrison, afterwards Governor of Idaho. Morrison advised the ferryman to take the sheep across as he stated that the law would be declared unconstitutional.

Knollin stated that contrary to existing stories of strife between sheep and cattlemen that he had never had any trouble at all. He stated that in trailing his sheep it was his policy to always buy food and forage as needed locally as they went along, thereby gaining the goodwill of the local people and communities.

A. J. Knollin"

It is interesting at this point to note that the Caribou Forest has one permitted sheep outfit with the unique record of being the oldest sheep operation in the western United States.

The Milton Phillips outfit (1945) was started at Kaysville, Utah by Edward Phillips in 1850. Later his son Joseph Phillips carried on and in 1891 took his cousin, Jack Ware, as a partner and moved to Cache Valley in Utah. The partnership was dissolved in 1894 and a new partner, Eli Simmons, took Ware's interest and continued until 1903 when the outfit moved to Ucon in Bonneville County, Idaho.

Joseph Phillips died in 1903. The sheep were run under a lease for five years until 1913, when Joseph Phillip's sons, Edward, John D., and J. Milton resumed operation of the sheep outfit. They divided the outfit in 1936, but Milton continues (1945) to graze sheep on the original forest allotment.

The first record of authorized grazing on any part of the present Caribou National Forest is contained in a news item in the Pocatello Tribune dated December 10, 1904 - "The Secretary of Interior has granted permission for the grazing of 500 cows on the Pocatello forest reservation--but stipulates that only cows belonging to residents of the city of Pocatello shall be allowed on the reservation".

John Raphael, former forest supervisor, told me (Varner) that he was supervisor of the Wyoming Forest with headquarters at Afton, Wyoming in 1905 and that when the old Pallisade, Teton, Cache and Wyoming Forests were created, all the sheep not allowed to continue grazing on these forests along with the half million sheep already using the area, which became the Caribou National Forest in 1907, crowded onto the Caribou area and that there were, in his estimation, at least one million sheep on this area in 1905 to 1907, and that this tremendous overstocking climaxed a 10-year period of overgrazing resulting in making a dust bed out of the Caribou.

The statements of old-time stockmen in this history and many other pioneers leaves no doubt but that the Caribou Forest was badly overgrazed at the time it was created.

In 1920, the original Caribou had an authorization for 325,000 sheep and 23,000 cattle, not counting the old Pocatello Forest, later made a part of the Caribou.

In 1915, the Malad Ranger District had in excess of 11,000 cattle and horses permitted in addition to several bands of sheep.

The first supervisor of the old Caribou, John Wedemeyer, recognized the overstocking and recommended in 1907 a reduction in permitted use from 456,000 sheep to 400,000, stating that he had received application for 740,000 sheep.

In 1908 he reported that the seven ranger districts actually grazed a total of 387,395 sheep, 10,781 cattle and 438 horses. The seasons of use was -- cattle, April 15 to December 31, and sheep, May 1 to October 15. These were the longest seasons of use. He recommended that in 1909 the authorization be for 340,000 sheep and 15,000 cattle.

This seems exceptionally optimistic to us in 1944 when our actual obligation on this same unit is 174,862 sheep and 11,027 C&H.

It is interesting to note that out of the original permittees of the Caribou in 1907 Griff Davis, now at Malad, Orme Brothers and H. L. Finch of Knollin & Finch are permittees in 1945. However, many sons of original permittees continue to hold permits.

The top lambs in 1907 weighed 80 pounds. In 1908 top lambs weighed 75 pounds and brought a top price at Omaha of \$6.35 per cwt.

The supervisor mentioned that reductions in use were facilitated because the continued loss in weight was considered by the stockmen to be caused by deteriorating range condition.

The top lamb percentage was 110 and averaged 80% in 1908.

Two and three year old steers sold for a maximum of \$30.00 per head in 1907 and brought \$3.15 cwt. at shipping points in 1908.

The first allotments apparently were made in 1907. The maximum limit was 15,000 sheep in 1907 and 10,000 in 1908 to any one permittee and there was no limit set for cattle and horses.

The old records indicate that proper stocking was recognized as necessary at the very start of administration of the forest and the first grazing reconnaissance was started in June 1913 under supervision of Hancock, and later under Mark Anderson, C. E. Favre and Homer S. Youngs (killed in France in first World War) were in the crew. 244,327 acres were covered this first year.

In 1913 the survey started June 1, with Fred Doothitt in charge and Homer S. Youngs, C. E. Favre, Jesse Bedwell, Wm. Schofield, Goodspeed, Aldous, Stevens, James Hull. The reconnaissance was completed and carrying capacity tests started in 1914 were extended in 1915 by C. C. Favre and also extensive tests made in 1916 by Favre, Dr. C. H. Shattuck, Vincent Evans. A recheck on range capacity was made in 1927-28 and 29 by Dean Phinney.

The grazing survey of the Pocatello, Portneuf and Malad Ranger Districts was completed at a later date giving the entire forest a basic forage inventory.

The objective of proper grazing use guided administrators of the forest throughout the years, and when soil and range condition became better understood in the late 1920's the adjustment of downward stocking was speeded up culminating in a 10% protection reduction in 1935.

In 1938 the forest put the "individual allotment responsibility" policy into full effect with the full cooperation of the permittee associations with the result that by 1944 which were found to be practicable and satisfactory for both the permittees and the administrators.

The E. R. A. and C. C. C. programs in 1932 and 1933 gave the forest an opportunity to greatly increase the range improvement program and looking back on these programs we realize full use was not made of the opportunity to improve the grazing plant.

Fencing and reseeding on the forest did not receive sufficient effort until the "depression" work programs were more than half over, but considerable work was completed on the fencing of range units in the Montpelier cattle ranges, on the Malad Ranger District, and on the Pocatello Division, especially the latter where pasture management was instituted in 1940 with full rotation in the use of pastures. This unit improved so rapidly that the grazing capacity increased sufficiently by 1945 to justify increased stocking.

Range reseeding, although successful, was expensive and used only for rehabilitation of the best soil and grazing sites.

Sage removal was started in 1945 to remove competition to the better forage plants and the 1000 acres treated was the start on a program to treat at least 3000 acres per year until all areas which will be benefited by sage removal have been treated.

A beginning was made in 1938 to eliminate lambing on the forest and to eliminate common use. The Dry Valley cattle allotment was taken out of common use in 1934; a great part of the common use was eliminated in the Montpelier-Elk Valley allotment in 1940, and plans have been made to follow through on this project until all common use has been removed.

Cooperation between the permittees and forest officials has always been productive of beneficial results to both the stockmen and the Forest Service.

The first supervisor, in 1907, attempted to interest the permittees in forming associations but he reports that they were not interested at that early date.

The first association of record was the "Sheepmen's Association" formed August 12, 1909 with 114 members and A. J. Knollin as president. This association reorganized as the "Caribou Cattlemen's Association, March 22, 1913.

Other associations were formed in the early life of the forest, and by 1923 all permittees were members of associations. Notably the Croveland Livestock Association (sheepmen) at Blackfoot started in 1918 and ceased about 1924 when the Caribou Woolgrower's Association was reorganized.

The Diamond Creek Cattlemen's Association formed in 1918, flowered during the late 1920's.

In 1945 all permittees of the forest with the exception of three in the Utah section of the forest are members of the fifteen active cattle associations, and one woolgrowers association.

The presidents of the fifteen cattlemen's associations were organized as the Forest Cattlemen's Advisory Board in 1945.

An interesting news item in the Pocatello Tribune of September 12, 1903, although out of chronological order, is inserted here because of its historical importance. It reads as follows:

September 12, 1903

Judge Beatty of the United States circuit court at Boise, has issued a temporary injunction against sheep and cattle men restraining them from ranging or grazing their herds or flocks upon the lands embraced in the Pocatello forest reservation. United States Marshall Ruel Rounds is in town today serving the injunction upon the parties interested. The order is directed to Joseph Commerilk, Richard Douglas, George North, Joseph Watts, C. A. Valentine, Thomas J. Woodland, \_\_\_\_\_ Balentine, \_\_\_\_\_ Wililams, \_\_\_\_\_ Horton, Edward Phillips, George Wakeley, D. M. Daniels, Vesleun Dives, Joshua Munn, Joseph Munn, D. L. Evans, Lorenzo Evans and J. M. Evans, their agents, attorneys, servants and all persons acting under their orders.

This is one of the first grazing trespass cases initiated on the forest. The last surviving man listed in this news item, Joseph Munn, remained a permittee on the forest until his death, December 1945, at the age of 83 years.

#### 15. Insect Control

There were sporadic dendroctonus monticolae in the lodgepole pine stands for many years, but control work was not started until 1929 when control work was done on isolated spots by contributed time.

In 1930 a total of 3000 trees had been treated on 3130 acres, and 12000 trees on 15000 acres were treated in 1931. A clean job was done in 1933 when 6060 trees were treated over 16000 acres of lodgepole stands.

The douglas fir beetle started work in the mature fir stands in 1930, and large areas in McCoy Creek, Fall Creek and the Snake River slopes were infested. No work was done on control. This infestation slowed up greatly by 1938. A few spots have shown insect activity each year.

A small dendroctonus infestation, 140 trees, was treated in Rattlesnake Basin on District 4 in 1940.

A severe infestation developed on seven sections in Clear Creek and Brockman Creek in 1943, where control was started in September 1944 to care for 18000 trees.

Labor was almost impossible to secure and the control job was carried on by employing temporary employees from surrounding forests. The job was carried through the winter; blocked by muddy roads in March, and started again in June with Mexican Nationals and high school boys. Production on the job was poor and only 11,000 trees were treated at the high cost of nearly \$5.00 per tree.

The infestation was not cleaned up and by 1945 had spread northward into Bear Creek to probably 40,000 trees. The forest attempted to prevent spread southward and treated all spots south of Caribou Basin in 1945; one in Clear Creek, one in Kendall Canyon, one in Morgan Meadows, and about 200 trees in Anderson Creek, with the hope that the infestation in Brockman Creek would spread with the air currents to the north and that spread to the south could be controlled. The final outcome of this infestation is in doubt, and the future status will be known no doubt by 1947.

The present policy and organization set up to deal with insect control is without doubt a "buck-passer's" dream. The Forest Service consults the Bureau of Entomology who consult the Forest Service at three levels, and by the time a decision is reached "to control or not control", the insects, villains that they are, have done their nefarious work and flown to further conquest.

## 16. Recreation

The first recreationist of record in the Caribou area was the English army officer, William Stewart, who hunted all species of big game, trapped beaver, fished, explored and scalped indians, apparently for pleasure. Wyeth found him along Blackfoot River hunting buffalo, July 10, 1834. It is known that Stewart, with his large mounted party, visited the area first in 1832, and continued to visit the region until 1845.

The first improved recreation facilities on the forest was probably at the present Scout Mountain recreation area in 19 when concentrated recreation was encouraged by Ranger Sterling Justice and the area became known locally as "Justice Park". Local residents continue to call it by that name.

The first summer homes on the forest were established in "Justice Park" about 1924. The Special Use Permit for the first cabin was to the Idaho Paint and Glass Company. They sold the cabin to Clarence Garrett in 1928. He owns the same cabin now (1945).

There was little other recreational development until 1933, when the Civilian Conservation Corps came into existence, and the recreation plan for the forest was developed.

Spring Creek camp ground was built in 1928, Tincup in 1929 and the Hoffman, Summit Canyon, Pine Bar and Scout Mountain campgrounds were developed in 1930. Home Canyon, Montpelier Canyon, Church Hollow and Mill Creek were started in 1935. The Summit View and Falls areas were completed in 1938.

The first winter sports area was Lead Draw, and was completed in 1939 and 1940. The Home Canyon area was developed in 1941 and 1942.

17. Stories by and about Early Pioneers and Forest Officers

THE INCIDENT OF THE MURDER OF CAPTAIN HUNT AND HIS SON

"Among the trappers who trapped the area in 1887 were Captain Hunt and his son, who lived in a small cabin at the upper end of Sulphur Bar. The Hunts had some neighbors, two trappers, one named Olsen, the other's name is unknown, who lived in a cabin at the mouth of Big Spring Creek, the remnants of which are still visible.

A transient named Williams, who had for some time been living in the cave under the Falls Creek Falls, came up the river in a boat about November 15, 1888. The boat was so unserviceable that he abandoned it at Sulphur Bar and called upon the Hunts, who invited him to spend the night which he did. He continued to stay with the Hunts, and their ever-broadening hints that he leave had no effect upon him, but finally near the end of January they demanded that he leave, but he begged to stay.

One day when the Hunt boy was out tending his traps, Williams attached Captain Hunt with the axe killing him instantly by cutting his head almost off. Williams ambushed the younger Hunt as he was returning to the cabin and shot him also killing him instantly, according to his later story.

Olsen and his partner became suspicious when the Hunts failed to arrive for a scheduled evening at cards, and after a week's wait skiid to the Hunt cabin to find Williams alone.

Williams informed the trappers that the Hunts had gone to Afton, but they pointed out that the rifles and skis of the Hunts were still there so they obviously had not left. They told Williams that the Hunts purchased the skis and guns from them on credit, and they would take them and keep them pending payment from the Hunts. They also took the only axe and left Williams marooned, with the snow seven feet deep, no skis or webbs, and no axe with which to make any, and skiid to Idaho Falls, then Eagle Rock, and reported the disappearance of the Hunts to the deputy sheriff. The sheriff, Bob Oley, resided at Blackfoot which was the county seat before the organization of Bonneville County.

The deputy sheriff skiid to the Hunt cabin with them, arriving about February 20, to investigate. Upon searching the cabin he found the bodies of Captain Hunt and his son, neatly salted down, under the bunk on which Williams had been sleeping.

Williams confessed immediately, explaining that it was a case of self defense, as he would have perished had he been forced to leave Hunts without equipment or supplies. He said he felt that it would not be just to make the bodies of the Hunts stay out of their own cabin, so he had brought them in and salted them down.

Williams was taken to Idaho Falls, but broke jail pending trial and was shot through the leg and recaptured near Ririe. He was later taken to Boise and hanged.

The deputy took Captain Hunt's head to Idaho Falls to be used as evidence at his trial, carrying it in a sack as he skidd.

Captain Hunt had never been shaved, and his hair had not been cut for several years, so his head was a gruesome sight. The deputy took the sack to a saloon where men were at a table playing poker and at a heated point in the game the deputy reached in the sack, pulled out the hirsute bloody head and planked it on the table, offering to bet it."

An interesting story about the early forest officers is told by J. H. Stocking, which involved his father, J. J. Stocking and Ranger James H. Johnson. According to Mr. Stocking, his father was a big, gruff, rough and ready pioneer stockman who had homesteaded in Blackfoot River before the forest was created and had, as was the local custom, fenced good meadow land without following land lines very closely and one morning in the early summer of 1907 he saw a camper on his lower meadow. He went down to see who the intruder was and found the diminutive Ranger Johnson comfortably located on the meadow, and upon asking Johnson what his business was, was told that he was going to build a ranger station cabin on the spot and fence in some pasture. The elder Stocking ordered Johnson to "up camp" and "be gone". Johnson very coolly stated that the meadow was government land and that he was not moving, and furthermore he would immediately start development of the ranger cabin. Many hot words ensued and Mr. Stocking decided to end the interview by forceably evicting the "perky government man".

In the battle that ensued Ranger Johnson completely "whipped" his larger opponent and the elder Stocking fully appreciated that "to the victor belongs the spoils", with the result that he informed Ranger Johnson then and there that he was a worthy foe and to go ahead and build his government cabin. They were good friends thereafter and the old log cabin Johnson constructed remained on the site until 1933, when it was moved to Dry Valley and a new building erected at "Trail Station" on the original site.

At the time of the Home Canyon Fire on October 20, Christian Tuescher, a resident of Montpelier, happened to be up in Home Canyon with a car, gathering "burnwood", as he called it. The fire burned among the willows for a short ways along the road at the mouth of the Canyon, and Mr. Teuscher feared for a time that he and the car would not be able to make their escape from the flames. But, let Mr. Teuscher tell it, "I go up Home Canyon in mine car to get some burn-wood. Ven I get ready to come home I see a lot of smoke down the canyon ven I get tru the Narrows. I dink maybe so I haf to leave mine car and valk up the sidehill, as der was lots of smoke. But finally I decide to go down tru the fire. I dink maybe the heat vill burst the tires, so I let the air out of dem. Also I cover up the radiator with a blanket so de heat will not boil the water. And I come tru all right."

"E. C. S.

Speaking of literary compositions, the following is a copy of a "gem" I found tacked on the door of the Stump Creek R. S. the other day:

"August 17 1922

Mr James Bruse

Nodfie you to have one Muley Read Boole and 3 Balface Booles taking care of they have put us the trees 3 or 4 times and I hant be Gord By \_\_\_\_\_ if not we will take care of them.

Sidney Reed."

J. B. B."

Ranger Draney captured a bear, but did not take him in the usual manner. Ranger Draney was repairing telephone line and did not have a gun with him when he espied Mr. Bear. The bear took to a tree, and Ranger Draney attacked the tree with his axe. When the tree fell the bear was slightly stunned and Ranger Draney completed his subjugation by tapping him on the cranium with the business end of his axe.

#### 18. Early Settlement

Settlement of Star Valley was probably about 1870, when some "polygamist" families moved there ostensibly to avoid "persecution".

It is known that Archie Moffett, the Gardners, A. B. Neal and J. H. Bruce were living at the present Smoot settlement in 1886.

Mrs. Jacob Miller settled at Freedom in 1879 with her parents. Jacob Miller came in 1885.

James Miller came to Star Valley at Freedom, September 6, 1886, and Marion Heap was already there at that time.

The first early settlers in the Idaho Falls area were Orville Buck and George Heath who located squatters' rights on Willow Creek in the spring of 1874, and John R. Heath joined the community in 1875. Adolph Heath settled there in 1879.

George Smith settled at poplar, now Ririe, Idaho, in 1878.

The "Land Rush" of 1902 began when the south part of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation was opened to settlement in June 17, 1902.

An article in the Pocatello Tribune of June 18, 1902, describing the "Land Rush" is reproduced here:

The rush for the lands and mines of the Fort Hall reservation lacked spectacular features. It was an interesting entertainment but the day was without excitement. The whole population

turned out to see the start of the race. The finish found a good many disappointed people and some happy ones. Good nature and a spirit of fair play were predominant.

The race began at noon with the screaming shop whistle as the signal to start. The line-up for the race in Pocatello was from the southeastern boundary of the city. Many started from other points on the townsite boundaries and in every direction, but they went in small parties, by twos and threes, and one at a time. But just below the brickyard there was a regular line-up. Several hundred horsemen were drawn up in a fairly good line and there was a thousand or more people back of them to see them off.

On the high red bluff of the city, what seemed to be about half the city's population was gathered to see the start. The skyline there was black with people. The tops of long trains of freight cars on the Oregon Short Line tracks were crowded with spectators. There were several hundred people on the flat top of the brewery and the roof of every high building in the city was crowded with people eager to see the start.

Promptly at 12 o'clock noon, the start was made. With the first hoarse scream of the whistle, the motley crew of horsemen was off in a bunch and in a cloud of dust. A great cheer burst forth with the start. There were a few wagons in the race and two or three buggies. All were out of sight behind the Black Rocks in exactly one and a half minutes.

At the same instant smaller parties started from every point of the compass. On the south side of the river there was quite a bunch of starters. Some headed up Pocatello creek; some due west over the mountains and still others north toward the few sections between the "five-mile limit" and the southern boundary of the reservation.

It was but a short time until the race to the land office at Blackfoot commenced. The men who had set out for land knew where they were going and it didn't take them long to locate the spot. Most of them raced back to the city and waited for the special train, but some had provided relays of swift horses and raced right through to Blackfoot. One after another they clattered through the city, cheered on by friends and were soon lost in the dust of the road.

At exactly 12:55 D. W. Sweeney dashed in from the hills and filed for record the first notice of mineral location in the Fort Hall mineral district. He calls his mine the "Blue Rock." He was followed closely by S. M. Nixon, who filed a water location, appropriating all the waters of City creek.

At 1:27 Will Hillman rode in on a foam-flecked horse from Topaz. He left Topaz at three minutes past 1 and was riding to beat the train to Blackfoot. He changed horses here and kept right on. His ride featured the most exciting race of the day.

The homesteaders' special which left McCammon at 1:20, putted in here at 2:04 with eight coaches, the Marsh creek squatters occupying the first coach of the train. The special left at 2:10 with every coach crowded to capacity. The run from Pocatello to Blackfoot, a distance of 24 miles, was made in 28 minutes.

The scene at Blackfoot was one of the wildest excitement. The entire population was out to see the train come in and long before it pulled up to the station the men began rolling off. They fell all along the side of the moving train like sacks of grain tumbled from a loaded wagon. Some rolled down the embankment, turning over many times before they got to their feet. Some were badly bruised.

J. A. McConkay was the first man off the train. He landed on his face and was somewhat scraped up. Myers Cohn was off early, too, and the side of his face touched the ground first and was badly skinned. Others alighted in all conceivable positions but all were up and running like deer for the land office door.

For a few moments all was confusion there but it was soon straightened out and the line, three to four hundred men long, was pushed into shape and back and forth up the street for nearly a block. All Blackfoot was looking on and willing to help keep things moving.

Inside the land office, Registrar Larry Thomas and Receiver George Robethan went right on with the filings, each case being fully disposed of as it came on in its turn.

When 4 o'clock came, the land office closed. There were still several hundred people in line. The name of every man was taken and a number representing his place in the line was issued to him. The land office reopened at 10 o'clock this morning.

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One of the features of reservation opening day was the filing made by Lieut. Gov. Thomas F. Terrell. There is a particularly attractive piece of land up the canyon about seven miles, back of the Black Rocks. At least a dozen men had their eyes on it and wanted it for their own. They lined up and made the run to get to it first. Cliff Johnson won the race and turning, started for Blackfoot as fast as horseflesh would carry him. He made the total distance of 41 miles from the south line of the city to the land and from the land to Blackfoot in two hours and one minute, using six horses, to find that Terrell had gone leisurely to Blackfoot and shortly after noon,

stepped into the land office and filed a patent on the identical piece of land. Terrell's filing was the first mineral reservation. Shortly after Terrell made it, Sam Rich, attorney and District Judge Joe Rich, filed a contest on the entry.

Terrell contends that he had a legal right to make the filing as he did. He was required to make an affidavit that he had been on the land prior to making his entry and was familiar with it, but that there was nothing that specified that such knowledge of the land must be gained after 12 o'clock noon, on the 17th. Terrell said that for more than a year past he had held a pass from Indian Agent Caldwell permitting him to camp and fish on the reservation and that he had, therefore, been lawfully upon the land in question prior to the opening of the reservation and had lawfully acquired his knowledge of the land.

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The most exciting race of the day was for the "Bob Smith" ranch at Topaz, an abandoned Indian farm and one of the finest pieces of land on the reservation. Stories brought from McCammon are that about 30 men wanted it and started for the land. Will Hillman, Claude Cottrell and Harry Monroe were in at the finish but neither of them got it. Hillman and Cottrell rode from Topaz to Blackfoot. Each had relays of swift horses. Hillman came through Pocatello and Cottrell took the road east of the mountains. Monroe went by train. Hillman and Cottrell left Topaz a minute or two after 12 o'clock. Cottrell got to Blackfoot first, arriving some 20 minutes before the train got in. Monroe got in on the train at 2:50, second on the ground, the train having passed Hillman, riding like mad, about three miles out of Blackfoot. He came in six minutes after the train and fell into line and it was only after all three were lined up at various stations in the string of men that they learned that the ranch had been entered by a fourth party before either of them arrived on the scene. The race between Hillman and Cottrell got a lot of attention because considerable money was bet on it. Incidentally Hillman had backed himself in the amount of \$75 to beat the train. Both he and Cottrell used about 14 horses each.

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Josh Munn and Frank Dekay were the first of the racers to ride into Blackfoot. They started at the northern boundary of the townsite and, riding for land between Pocatello and Blackfoot, had only about 17 miles to ride from the land. Quite a number of the McCammon homesteaders also rode all the way to Blackfoot. Joe Neeser was the first of them to arrive. Nat Marley also made a fine race. He rode from the south boundary of the townsite, nine miles up the canyon, and then back through Pocatello to Blackfoot, about 44 miles, in two hours and one minute. He used seven horses. He and Cliff Johnson started together and rode to Blackfoot, neck and neck.

One of the amusing incidents of the start was the location of the big red bluff east of the city just as the whistle blew the signal to start. The bluff was black with people watching the line-up and just as they were off, a man in the crowd unwrapped a bundle he was carrying and saying "you are all my witnesses," calmly posted two location notices, claiming the entire bluff. He said that nine years ago he drove a tunnel into the bluff and that "it's a good thing."

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The homesteaders' special made a fine run. It made the trip from McCammon to Pocatello with a stop at Inkom, in 26 minutes and from Pocatello to Blackfoot in 28 minutes. Conductor Jerry Kinney took the train up. Ed Moyes was brakeman, Engineer J.C. Lee was at the throttle and Fireman F. A. Laing shovelled the coal.

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One of the unfortunate incidents of the day was the start of Ira W. Davis. He got to the line too soon--but it happened to be a clothes line--and as a result Davis is at home and in bed. He had just mounted his horse to go to the starting place when the animal became unmanageable and bolted under a clothes line and Davis was dragged to the ground. He was badly bruised but not seriously injured.

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Just as the start was made Harry Jacobs' horse stepped into a hole and broke its leg. That put Harry out of the race.

Pocatello was first established by the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company on 40 acres of land set aside as a townsite by the Interior Department within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in the spring of 1882. It was first called Pocatello Junction.

September 1, 1888, Congress approved the Pocatello Townsite Bill, setting aside 1840 acres of land, and it was surveyed into blocks, lots and streets during the summer of 1889.

The Uth Northern Railroad came down Marsh Creek to the Portneuf and reached Pocatello in 1878 and a junction was made at Pocatello in 1882 by the Oregon Short Line Railroad, building west from Granger, Wyoming.

The first domestic water supply for Pocatello was wells along the Portneuf River and a pipe line from City Creek to the railroad shops. The next development was the old high line ditch in Mink Creek, built in 1892 by N. C. Hawkins under the supervision of James Murray of Butte, Montana. This old ditch is still in evidence along the west side of Mink Creek inside the forest boundary.

The first settlement in the Bear River valley along the Caribou was made at Soda Springs in the spring of 1862, when General P. E. Conner built Fort Conner along Bear River about 1/2 mile south and west of the present main street of Soda Springs.

In 1863, about 400 "Morrissites" settled at Soda Springs under the protection of the troops at Fort Conner. This was the second settlement in Idaho, Franklin being the first in 1860.

Abe C. Anderson was the first white child born in Soda Springs, February 20, 1865.

Paris, in Bear Lake Valley, was settled in 1863. Montpelier was established in 1864; known as Clover Creek, and then called Belmont until Brigham Young named it Montpelier.

The first settler in the Grays Lake Basin was a man by the name of Garber who established a ranch along the shore of Grays Lake on Willow Creek in 1870. He kept a few cattle and horses but made his living principally by selling fish, caught in the small streams, to the miners in Caribou Basin. In 1879, James Sibbetts, David Robinson, Gideon Murphy, Wm. C. Simmons and H. B. Simmons settled at Grays Lake.

George Wakley, interviewed by W. L. Hansen in 1937, said that Malad Valley was settled by about four families in 1864.

Conant Valley was settled in 1883 by Richard and Joseph Higham and the settlement on the Upper South Fork of Snake River remained on the south side of the river until 1886 when the Highams built a ferry, giving access to the Swan Valley area. Conant Valley was named for Charles Conant, a trapper in the area in the 1870's.

John F. Jones, his wife Elizabeth and four children settled on Fall Creek, now the Walt Olsen ranch, in 1884, and the old log cabin they constructed still stands on the bank of Fall Creek (1945). He grazed 100 head of cattle in Fall Creek, and in 1899 moved to mouth of Indian Creek.

Charles Engliss, first settler in Swan Valley proper, and located where the post office now stands, arrived in 1886.

The ranch now (1945) at the mouth of Indian Creek was first settled in 1885 by Alec Rainey.

Mike Yeaman, his wife Sarah settled on Sulphur Bar in 1886.

About the time of the first settlers, the first "law" came to Idaho territory with the organization of the vigilantes, December 1863, and they hanged "road agents" in generous numbers. The first to hang was George Ives, December 21, 1863, followed by Erastus Yeager, G. W. Brown, Henry Plummer, Ned Ray, Buck Stinson, Jno Wagner, Joe Pizanthis, George Lane, F. Parrish, Hayes Lyon, Jack Gallagher, Boone Helm, Stephen Marseland, Wm. Benton, George Shears, Cy Skinner, Alex Carter, Rob Zachary, John Cooper, Wm. Graves, Wm. Hunter, J. A. Slade. Slade was hanged March 10, 1864.

The first settlers enjoyed their first fast transportation with the pony express. It was started in 1863, from Fort Bridger via Soda Springs to Eagle Rock (Richard's Road), by Oliver and Conover, with Jim Roup riding from Soda Springs north, and Frank Lowe from Soda Springs to Fort Bridger.

#### 19. Early Forest Improvements

The first telephone lines on the Caribou Forest were stub lines from the Pallisade Reserve line, which was on the north side of Snake River, across the river at Indian Creek and to Bear Creek in 1908.

An old voucher #32, for the period November 1 to 30, 1908, shows \$5.00 was expended on the Bear Creek telephone line, and voucher #33 shows that J. Herbert Williams (killed in World War II) spent \$8.00 contributed time on the Indian Creek telephone line.

The telephone line from Montpelier to Grays Lake was started in 1909 and some of the poles were treated as shown by the purchase of several hundred gallons of creosote.

The Caribou Forest made the first use of radio communications in 1939.

The first range improvements were in 1908 when the Slug Creek, Brown's Creek, and Brockman corrals were constructed and the first water developments were the Pruess Creek, Sorensen, and Simpkins Springs, in 1909.

The first trails constructed were the Bear Creek Trail in 1908, and Fall Creek Trail in 1909.

The first ledgers kept on the forest show that the Brockman wagon road bridge and bridge at Blackfoot (now Trail R. S.) were built in 1908, and the McCoy Creek road (12 miles), Stump Creek and Fall Creek roads were worked on in 1908.

The Georgetown Canyon and Wood Canyon roads were constructed in 1909.

In 1908 the first ranger stations were under construction; namely, Grays Lake R. S., Snake River R. S., and Johnson R. S. Stump Creek R. S. was built in 1909.

The Black Mountain Lookout Observatory--

was constructed in 1939 and was the first lookout constructed on the forest. It was built by the C. C. C.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, created in 1933, added a heavy burden to the work of the regular forest personnel. The Caribou Forest had the following C. C. C. camps:

F-96 arrived at Indian Creek on the Snake River Ranger district in June, 1933 and was moved out the last of October the same year. This camp rebuilt some of the Snake River - McCoy Road, Spring Creek campground, lower part of the Fall Creek Road, and did some work on the buildings at Snake River Ranger Station.

F-170 moved to Stewart Flat the first of June, 1935; was moved to the Boise Forest in October; reestablished again in June 1937, and was moved to the Boise Forest in October of the same year. During these two years, the camp constructed the Slug Creek Road through the narrows in Blackfoot River and to Daves Creek, also rebuilt the Diamond Creek Road to Timber Creek; started the Summit View, Montpelier, Home Canyon, and Whitman Hollow recreation areas, and completed the Mill Canyon campground. They did some stand improvement on Diamond Creek and treated about 10,000 fence posts.

F-101, Bannock, transferred from the Soil Conservation Service, November 1, 1939 to the Caribou Forest and completed terracing on head of Goodenough and Belle Marsh Creeks and the log fence in West Fork of Mink Creek ~~was~~ started in 1938 by the S. C. S. May 15, 1940 this camp moved to F-170, Stewart Flat, with spike camps at Cub River on the Cache Forest and one at Bannock on the Caribou and one at Summit View. This camp moved back to Bannock F-101, October 8. During this season this camp completed construction of Summit View, Montpelier, Cherry Springs, Scout Mountain recreation areas; rebuilt the Diamond Creek Road and surfaced it with gravel; treated 15,000 fence posts and some telephone poles; constructed the Harrington Mountain drift fence, the Mud Springs water tank, Kendall Canyon, Campbell Canyon range water developments; the Black Mountain Lookout, in addition to suppressing 26 fires on the Caribou and doing fire work on the Bridger Forest.

During the fall and winter the new road was constructed from Snake River to Fall Creek; the South Fork section of the Mink Creek road was rebuilt; the Lead Draw winter sports area completed; the drift fences completed in Mink Creek; the beef pasture in Mink Creek with the roundup cabin; crushed 25,000 yards rock and surfaced the East Fork Mink Creek Road; completed the Scout Mountain, Cherry Springs and Falls campgrounds; planted 200,000 trees in Mink Creek; reseeded range in Kinney, Lead Draw, Belle Marsh, Indian Creek, Elk Meadow, Walker Creek; rebuilt the telephone line Bannock R. S. to Pocatello; salvaged 150 M.B.F. timber infested with mistletoe in West Fork of Mink Creek; constructed warehouse at Pocatello; built four portable overnight cabins, two sets of portable (trailer) camps; posted 50 miles of forest boundary; made 500 signs; constructed 10 portable sheep

corrals, 300 heavy log camp tables; killed 1000 porcupines, and completed many other projects.

The camp left in June 1941 at the termination of the C. C. C. organization.

## 20. Timber

The old original timber survey on the "old" Caribou was made during 1913, on the Pocatello District in 1910 and on the Malad District in 1911.

The first cutting of timber for commercial use was the tie cutting by the Utah Northern Railroad on the Elkhorn, Pocatello, and Oxford units in 1878.

Alexander Toponce says, in his memoirs published in 1923 after his death, that the Central Pacific Railroad cut 100,000 ties along the Bear River drainage from Soda Springs to Montpelier in 1868, and that he hauled these ties from the woods to Bear River and floated them to Corine, Utah, May 15, 1869. The old tie cutting area is evident today (1945), especially in Jones, Big Rattlesnake and Joe's Gap Canyons on the Caribou.