

THE OLDEST NATIONAL FOREST AND OLDEST RANGER STATION

(By J. N. Langworthy, Forest Supervisor)

The Shoshone National Forest is the oldest national forest in the United States, having been created by President Harrison on March 30, 1891, for the protection of timber under the Act of March 3, 1891. It was first known as the Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve. Additions were made to the original reserve until in 1902 it had grown to such an extent that it became necessary to separate it into four divisions: the Shoshone, which contained most of the original reserve, the Wind River, Absaroka and Teton.

On July 1, 1902, Mr. A. A. Anderson, a New York artist who owned a large ranch on the upper Greybull river, was appointed Special Forest Superintendent of the Forest Reserves surrounding the Yellowstone Park and W. H. Pierce, commonly referred to as "Dad" Pierce, who owned a stock ranch adjoining Mr. Anderson's, was appointed Supervisor of the Shoshone.

Supervisor Pierce upon receiving his appointment, constructed a headquarter building at Wapiti Ranger Station. The old Supervisor's office is still in use and is at present the dwelling of Ranger C. C. Spencer, in charge of Wapiti Ranger Station. This is the oldest ranger station, in use, in the United States. The house was built during the fall of 1903 and spring of 1904.

Following Mr. Pierce there have been five supervisors in charge of the Forest. Three of these at present reside in Cody. They are Harry W. Thurston, who is agent for White Eagle products, gas and oils; Raymond W. Allen of the Shoshone National bank, and J. N. Langworthy, the present Supervisor. The reasons for the other two not remaining in Cody is that one, Andrew Hutton, is supervisor of the San Juan National Forest at Durango, Colorado, and the other, John W. Lowell, is supervisor of the Bitterroot Forest at Hamilton, Mont.

On March 30 of the present year, the Shoshone Forest celebrated its fortieth anniversary. The early history of this Forest is replete with interesting material.

The Cody-Yellowstone highway traverses the Wapiti District from east to west and is known as "The Most Scenic Seventy Miles in the World." It is said that Col. Cody (Buffalo Bill) while on his second trip to this country in 1896, discovered the eastern entrance to the Park and interested Congressman Mondell, who secured an appropriation for a road. A contract was let to residents of Byron and the road was built in 1903 and 1904.

Tex Holm took parties to the park by way of the Clarks Fork until 1904, when he returned via the eastern entrance. This was the first travel on the road with wagons.

Chas. Marston in 1901 made the trip with a pack train. J. M. Schwoob in 1916 drove in a car under special permit. A year later the Park was opened to auto travel.

Before the days of the Cody road, travel from Cody to the Park was via Dead Indian Hill and the Clarks Fork. A manuscript written by Frank O. Sparhawk, an old time ranger, has the following to say of this latter road:

"This is the history of the road into Cooke City, Montana, from up the Clarks fork of the Yellowstone River over Bald Ridge into Sunlight

Some freighters left the Yellowstone River where the supplies were freighted up the river by steamboat, and they succeeded in completing the trip after a number of weeks of hard labor on both men and wagons, by working their way up Bald Ridge on the south side of the natural corral and across the top of Dead Indian Hill and into Sunlight by cutting their way through a patch of on Dead Indian Hill, over to Russell Creek, and through the timber on the south side of Clarks Fork all the way into Cooke City. They went ahead of the teams viewing the route, and returning and cutting a trail merely wide enough to get their wagons through and at last arriving at Cooke with these loads and supplies. The dates I do not know except they were in the seventies.

The road has been used ever since by the first settlers and prospectors and maintained by each traveler carrying tools to just get through, clearing up the fallen trees and making bridges to get across the streams at high water time."

The names, Shoshone Forest and Wapiti Ranger Station are of the Indian origin and appropriately so,

CODY LEGION POST IS NAMED AFTER YOUNG MAN WHO SLEEPS IN FLANDERS

Fred Coe Was Splendid Type of Manhood—Killed at Front While Asleep

named by unanimous vote.

Fred Coe was born at Quimby, Colo., May 6, 1897, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Coe of this locality.

Coe grew to manhood in this vicinity, and during this period was constantly active in church work. In his last letter to his mother he wrote: "I have almost completed reading the New Testament again. It is a pleasure to me to say that I am a child of God, and whatever happens I can say I have fought a good fight."

Coe, with Frank Siggins and Paul Peterson, from Cody, enlisted in January, 1918. Because of his aptitude toward learning the fundamentals of soldiering, he quickly arrived in France. He had many narrow escapes before the fatal bit of shrapnel. Once a bomb fell between his legs, but failed to explode. Later another bomb burst so near to him it stirred dust into his eyes. The fatal shrapnel struck him while asleep.

for this was a great country for the red man. The Big Horn Basin was a land of plenty-good grass and lots of game.

It is fitting that the Shoshone Forest should be a haven of refuge for the remnant of the big game herds. In the spring it is a common occurrence to see elk, deer, moose and mountain sheep along the highway.

On the South Fork and the Greybull bunches of antelope may be seen throughout the year, their summer and winter ranges being the same. Thus in a setting that recalls memories of the past, the oldest Forest lends its environment to perpetuate the memory of an age that is past, when men lived by the chase close to nature, free from the cares of business depression, and our modern society.

CODY LIBRARY SHOWS TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS

Cody Women Originators of Plan to Erect Public Library for This City

Credit for establishing a public library invariably must be given to the women of a community, for it is in the minds of the women that the idea is born and through whose untiring efforts the dream becomes a reality. In this respect Park County has been no exception, the Woman's Club of Cody being responsible for the local library.

On January 14, 1914, the first meeting of a newly appointed board was held in the home of Dr. Frances M. Lane, the three members appointed by the county commissioners being Dr. Lane, Mrs. Kinton and the Rev. M. Joslin. Dr. Lane was elected chairman. By motion it was decided that the Board be incorporated as the Park County Library Board and the library known as the Park County Library.

On May 9, 1916 the beautiful new home for the library was formally opened with Miss Mable Wilkinson, a trained librarian, in charge. An appropriation had been solicited from Carnegie which made this new building a possibility.

Fifteen years have passed since that memorable day and the members of the Cody Woman's club who were so tireless in their efforts to make their dream a reality, may well be proud of the library as it is today.

At first the appropriation allowed by the county was all too small for the needs of the community and it was a constant struggle to meet the demands, particularly of the junior borrowers. Through the efforts of the present Board a larger appropriation has been received and although not the maximum allowed by the Wyoming County Library law, which is one-half mill, yet enough to have enabled the library to enjoy a healthy growth. The American Library Association suggests one dollar per capita. With such an appropriation there would be no limit to the amount of extension work that might be done. Then every resident of the county might be served, no matter how remote from the main library. That is the

real purpose of a County Library. The following statistical information shows the growth during the past ten years. The circulation for the year 1920 was 6478; for the year 1930 the circulation was 22197. What more need be said?

Mr. Maxwell, who has been working at the Dewey Riddin ranch for some time, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. J. Brough, for a while.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sholtz and daughter, Dorothy, left for their home in Butte last Saturday. Mr. Sholtz brought his daughter from Lander and his wife from the Nordquist ranch earlier in the week.

The Frank Brough family and Buster Reynolds were Sunday callers at the J. Brough home.

Mrs. Say and Fred Walters visit-

ed with the Nielsens Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. McKnight are making an extended tour through several of the western states.

The rain of the past week was very welcome to us dry farmers, as it was needed very badly.

Mr. and Mrs. Linn Fellows and children were visitors in our section and also called on folks at Paint creek last Sunday.

Frank Brough moved his family to his homestead Monday. They brought Peggy World with them for a few days visit.

"Quite a nice job, Elmer. But tell me, what's making all the noise?"

"That, Dora my girl, is nothing but the rumble seat rumbling."

"My husband is very ill, so I have to do his shopping; and I want a shirt."

"Certainly, madam. Stiff front and cuffs."

"Oh, no! The doctor says he must avoid anything starchy."

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