

Xox

I do not know who the present 678 Canal St., of the Angeles Forest is (owing to the and-wise shifting of Placerville Cal., now practiced by the Forest Service) but a halt must be Nov. 30 1967. so I am enclosing two marked Official Items which might make them slow down to a walk.

U.S. Forest Service,
Dept. of Agriculture,
630 Sanson St.,
San Francisco, 94111
California.

Att. Editor of Region Five LOG.

May I refer you to the item in the Log of Nov. 20 1967, Page 3, under Heading Angeles Boasts First U.S. Forest Ranger Station.

Wherein the Angeles Forest (as of old) claims the First which is their traditional approach, having practiced such, over these many years.

Having known these boys from the South from 1909 to 1950 it seems they still follow in the foot-steps of former Supervisor Charlton and Billie Mendenhall, who started this idea of First in everything, from which the Russians took the idea up that They invented the Cotton Gin etc. etc.

I well remember Supervisor Charlton telling the rest of us Poor Supervisors (who traveled by foot and horses) how to act when driving a Govt. car (which he had the First in the Region).

Quote: "When there is an incident as to who had the right of way etc. etc. jump out of your car and hop on the other party telling them they were in the wrong etc. which will so confuse them they too will believe it so!" We listened and learned.

About a year later we heard through Dame Rumor, that Charlton had been pinched and had to pay a fine. which was a First with a First Govt. car. We wondered How Come?

During a Children's Hour (after 5 P.M.) we became bold enough to ask our wheeled God, how come. He stated. "My theory was correct But, on a graveled Highway I passed a car and ran it off the road. I jumped out and went after him for poor driving etc, and lo he was a Cop." They did not have White cars in those days. But the Angeles Forest as before was First.

Billie Mendenhall also was a First. He hung the First Municipal Camp ground on the City of Los Angeles, it took years for them to get rid of it.

He burned off the First complete Watershed, (Bless his soul) and thus created the First National Disaster Area. They have had them every since,

The whole area breeds this aroma. They were the First to make a U.S. Senator out of a Movie Star, also a Governner. Brother when will this ever end?

2.

I do not know who the present Supervisor of the Angeles Forest is (owing to the end-wise shifting of human material now practiced by the Forest Service) but a halt must be made some where, so I am enclosing two marked Official Items which might make them slow down to a walk.

I took occasion to visit this shrine in Nov, 1967 and went over the records they have kept as to its history and am tempted to believe that theirs was FIRST.

May I conclude this by saying I enjoy the Log as you put it out and wish I might add to it, other than what I get aroused by your correspondents who Juggle the truth,

Sincerely,

Edwin F. Smith.

117 Canal St.,
Placerville Cal.,
July 19 1958.

Mrs. Abbey Bowden,
912 Timothy Lane,
Menlo Park, Cal.

Dear Mrs. Bowden:

May I express to you my deep sympathy in the passing of Harvey Abbey. While you of course do not know me, I am one of those early day Forest Service men, who as a boy had the wonderful experience of being and working with Harvey in my first years in the Forest Service on the Lassen Forest.

I still have my diaries of those days in 1912 to 1915, when Harvey and I worked together at times during the Summers, but in the Springs we camped together and ran boundaries East of Vina in Tehama County.

There are still fixed in my memories the many qualities of Harvey, as when the chips were down he could and did deliver with unerring courage.

May I cite the time in about 1909 or 1910 when he fought a fire alone on the road East of Red Bluff until his eyes were crossed and he crawled to the main road feeling with his bare hands for direction, was taken to Red Bluff by a ranchman, saw a Doctor, rested a day and came back on the fire.

When the Flu hit the rural areas on the East side of the Sierras and the cattle were starving, because their owners were too sick to feed them, Harvey went to their aid and feed their stock day after day with little or no rest.

When he walked into a group of Game Peachers East of Vina, (including a Game Warden), all armed, with a dead deer in their possession, and managed to take their picture, tho. he was sure they would kill him. He bluffed them and the picture put them in jail.

No trail was too long, no job too hard in his preception of duty which was his goal. His loyalty was never questioned. He spared no one including himself.

Working and living with such a person could not help but be a guide and a challenge to a boy, even tho. at the time you may have questioned why.

I feel humbly honored that I was one that had such an opportunity to live and work with one of such high standards of right.

His monument, in my mind is the living thoughts of those who knew him.

Most sincerely,

Edwin F. Smith.

117 Canal St.,
Placerville Cal.,
Mar. 28 1955.

Memo for Sweethearts:

Re. your request about Wes. Hoatelling.

He was in Co., F. of the 10 th. Engineers Forestry. This Co in fact the whole Regiment was broken up and Co. F. was called the 37 Co. of the 20 th. Engineers after we were established in France.

The 10 th. Engineers were a Volanteer Outfit which made it bad as we had too many Skills with no place to use em. Many men had to just be laborers when they were qualified to Leadership. Wes like the rest took it and made the best of it. He could be kidded about the Mamure Squad who were located near Lieviea, in the Dept of Doubs. The Soldiers called the town Liver. The Mamure Squad were so named because in this rural area the Girls and the Cows lived under one roof, The Cows Did it and the Gals had to shovel it out, which somewhat discolored their Legs Below the Knees. But after being away from other Gals for long periods of time, Wes overlooked these small items, as we all did, or covered up the soiled parts with silk stockings, which were unknown by the poor Gals untill after the Co., had its first Pay Day. Wooden Shoes gradually went out of their lives after the Second Pay Day, and as we were there over a year most of the Gals had everthing any Gal in the States had, might ask Wes if he can remember this little Item.

From Ex. Mess Sargent Bully Beef Smith
known to Wes and the boys as
The Gut Robbing Son of a Bitch.