ADDRESSES DELIVERED
AT THE
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

October 11, 1941 – Meeker, Colorado

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

HEADQUARTERS - FOREST SUPERVISOR P. RANDOLPH MORRIS
AT RANGER SPRINGS - WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
SUMMER - 1900

Photo by G.W. Lawrence, Denver, thru courtesy of
Mrs. P. Randolph Morris

WHITE RIVER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The Golden Anniversary of the founding of the White River National Forest, held at Meeker, Colorado, on Saturday, October 11, 1941, was an unique and colorful event, marked by pageantry, depicting the West of fifty years ago, and words of appreciation for the work of the Forest Service from State officials and local citizens. Following several weeks of wet and snowy weather, the day was perfect for a celebration and about 3,000 citizens of western Colorado entered into the festivities. Local citizens entered into the spirit of the occasion and resurrected from garrets and trunks old costumes, which added to the uniqueness and interest of the event.

The celebration started on Friday evening, with the opening of "Days of 91," including a pioneer bar, old-time dancehall, with fiddlers and games of chance. This was operated by the American Legion.

The first event on Saturday morning was the pioneers' parade. A color guard from the American Legion led the procession, which included 48 units. There were cowboys and cowgirls, pioneers on saddle horses, stage coaches, wagons and buggies. Frank E. Loring, of Bayfield, early day ranger on the White River, represented the old-time forest officers, while Supervisor Ed Wright and Ranger Ray Taylor appeared for the 1941 personnel. Ray followed an old-time pack outfit with a present-day pickup and horse trailer, although he stated that much of the White River is still only accessible with horse and pack outfit.

A herd of longhorn Texas steers was followed by a herd of well-bred Herefords, typical of White River Valley ranches. Bands galore, from Meeker, Grand Junction Junior College, Glenwood Springs, Palisade, Craig, and Hayden High Schools entertained the crowds.

Then there were floats, including that of the Strawberry Creek Club, which depicted Teddy Roosevelt and his mountain lion hunt on the White River, in 1901. This was awarded first prize by the judges - Roger Musick, Denver architect; C. N. Feast, Director of the State Game and Fish Department, and Gleb Ilyin, Russian artist, now a resident of Parker, Colorado. Second prize was awarded to the Meeker High School for a float on the Meeker Massacre. Third prize went to the Meeker Women's Club for a float representing a Ute settlement.

Other floats showed an early day settler's cabin, chuck wagons on the range, sheepherders with their flocks, old-time typesetters in the Meeker Herald office, a team and wagon loaded with wany edge lumber, followed by a modern truck, with a load of nicely surfaced spruce lumber from Rippy's sawmill, on the White River National Forest.

LaRoy Purdy, of the Parade Committee, and Pete Houser, announcer, described the floats as they passed the judges' stand, over the Forest Service loud speaker, operated by Len Shoemaker and Ben Whitehill.

Following the parade, an exhibition of old-time square dances was given by the White-Powell Community Club, from lower White River. One set consisted of the parents; another of sons and daughters - all in costume and accompanied by an old-time caller and fiddlers.

There was an elk and deer barbecue at noon on the high school grounds, after which the speaking program was held on the Court House lawn, with W. D. Simms, Town Clerk of Meeker, as master of ceremonies.

Governor Ralph L. Carr gave the address of welcome, in which he reaffirmed his confidence in the multiple use system of administering public lands, views which he has expressed in many public speeches during the past year. He cited the administration of the national forests as an example and said:

> "The activity of the Forest Service has been co-incident with the development of the great West.
>
> "Upon its intelligent operation is based the present prosperity of the livestock industry in the West, by the application of the theory of commensurability, finer types of sheep and cattle have been developed which is reflected in the present happy condition of the cattle and sheep industries of our Nation."

Regional Forester Allen S. Peck and others followed Governor Carr in the order indicated in the program given on page 3.

The Meeker Herald issued as a souvenir a sheet on one side of which was a reproduction of its issue of October 10, 1891, which was largely devoted to protests against the establishment of the forest. The other side of the sheet is a reproduction of the October 9, 1941 issue, which says:

> "It will have much interest from a number of viewpoints. In the first place you will get an idea of conditions then, and how the people of this valley fought the establishment of the forest. The residents did everything in their power to stop the act; in fact they sent delegations to Washington to try to show how the establishment of the forest would block the progress of the valley. While fifty years ago the residents were fighting the movement, this week we are celebrating the event. Time has shown that the establishment of the forest reserves saved the timbered areas from the devastations of man - in fact in just recent years it became necessary for the government to take over control of the public domain. But in any event it is interesting to see the changes time brings about.

The program was as follows:

Singing of America.....Led by Cruse Howe

Invocation.....Rev. H. I. Woolard

Welcome from Meeker.....Stanley Harp
Mayor of Meeker

Vocal Selection..... Male Quartette
Don Olson, Percy Rigby, Martin Villa, Cruse Howe
Accompanist - Mary Wear

Address of Welcome..... Ralph L. Carr
Governor of Colorado

Response..... Col. Allen S. Peck
Regional Forester Rocky Mountain Region

Vocal Solo.....Rosita Ross

Address.....John T. Barnett
President of Colorado Planning Commission

Introduction of Visiting Old Timers and Distinguished Guests.

A football game between Palisade and Meeker High School teams (which was won by Palisade) followed these exercises. The celebration ball, at which pioneer costumes were worn, closed the day's program.

Response by Regional Forester Allen S. Peck to the
Addresses of Welcome
Meeker, Colorado - October 11, 1941

Mr. Simms, Mayor Harp, Governor Carr, people of Meeker, and visitors:

In behalf of the Forest Service, I wish to thank you for your gracious welcome and I want to express our appreciation of the way Meeker has made such a splendid occasion of this celebration of the golden anniversary of the White River National Forest. I know that Supervisor Ed Wright and his fellow Forest officers of the White River have contributed to the success of the occasion and I want to give them due credit, but our special compliments go to the people of the Meeker community. This community has a personality of its own and it is particularly satisfying to see it doing things in a way that expresses that personality rather than imitating things done by other towns.

Early in the '20's I got very well acquainted with the White River Forest, mostly through horseback trips. My first trip, I believe, as a matter of fact, was on foot, walking through snow from the end of the road which we then had under construction up to Trappers Lake, with our old friend Jim Blair, who was for a number of years one of your townsmen and for 21 years supervisor of the White River Forest. The creation of this forest was largely the result of the vision of a group of Colorado men who organized the Colorado State Forestry Association early in the '80's. This forest not only has the honor of being the first one of the 14 included x within the State, but is also the second of the 160 in the United States.

Very little was done with the forest for several years after it was reserved because of lack of legal authority or means. It was not until 1898 that the reserve was reasily placed under administration by the Interior Department. Some years later, in 1905, the Forest Service was created in the Department of Agriculture and took over the reserves.

At the time the creation of the White River Reserve was projected, there was much comment and fear expressed that it would be simply an "outdoor museum." If I take time for nothing else this afternoon, I want to read you an extract from a letter written by Secretary James Wilson to the Chief Forester on February 1, 1905, which really serves as a charter for the Forest Service.

(Extract of letter was read)

Please note that Secretary Wilson's letter emphasized human welfare and not merely the reserving of trees and other resources for the sake of preserving them. Within a year or so the term "reserve" was dropped, and I think all the early fears regarding the locking up of resources soon evaporated. The forest became a living piece of valuable public property. On this 50th anniversary of the founding of the national forest system, it seems to me peculiarly fitting by reading these instructions of Secretary Wilson's to dedicate anew Colorado's national forests to the service of its people. As Governor Carr just remarked, it, like the other national forests which succeeded it, is administered on the basis of multiple use, that is, a balanced use of all the resources - timber, water, mineral, grazing, and recreation. In order to facilitate the administration of these uses and bring the administration closer to the users, the Forest Service was decentralized in 1908 through the establishment of six regional offices in the West. Moving out of Washington is, therefore, nothing new to the Forest Service. We did a lot of it 33 years ago.

In the early days, prior to and during settlement by white men, a greal deal of the area of the White River Forest was burned over. After the advent of the white man, it is estimated that about 86 million board feet of timber were cut. This cutting would not have been so serious except that it was followed by disastrous fires. The evidence of these fires may be seen now all over the forest in the stands of aspen, amounting to about 34 percent of the entire area. Eighty thousand acres were burned over in the year 1898 alone. I think we may take pride in the fact that in the past 32 years, in contrast to the previous record, less than 800 acres have been burned. Restocking of the old burns with aspen, and to some extent with evergreen trees, has greatly improved watershed conditions and, in large measure, restored the values which would have been completely lost if the burning had been permitted to continue as in early years. Much of the credit for the excellent fire prevention record goes to the local people and users of the forest for their cooperation and interest.

In addition to lumber production which has meant much to the community, cattle have used the forest ranges for the past 55 years and now number 28,000 head that graze on the forest at least some portion of the year. Thirty-five years ago sheep began to use the forest and there are now 94,000 head under permit. Ownership of this livestock is divided among about 300 different ranchers. The forest furnishes a home during the greater part of the year to about 20 percent of Colorado's deer and 10 percent of its elk, in addition to including some of the prize fishing waters of the State. Thus we see the forest as a playground as well as a work shop. The red-capped volunteer army we see about us today comes not to war but to harvest a crop - the excess game animals which, if left to increase, would overstock and ruin their own feeding grounds but which, harvested, mean welcome food as well as sport to thousands of our citizens.

As is true of all the national forests in Colorado, the White River is growing each year much more wood than is being used. Here is something that well merits our attention - how to increase the use of Colorado timber. There is now produced by our forests here only 30 percent of the wood products that we use, 50 - 60 percent of them being imported from the Pacific Northwest. The allowable cut in Colorado national forests is 257 million board feet per year, against which we are now cutting only about 60 million, so that an expansion of 200 million board feet is permissible, which would mean employment for several thousand men each year. The White River cuts about 2-1/2 million board feet per year and could cut easily 20 million board feet against its capital growing stock of four billion feet, most of which is very valuable spruce. If a lot of this spruce could be turned into packing boxes right now, it would be a great help in the national defense effort.

Speaking of defense needs, the Secretary of Agriculture states that it is desirable that our slaughter of beef cattle and calves in Colorado be increased 18 percent in 1942. By this is meant not the building up of foundation herds but the reducing of the stocking through culling the herds. What is needed is the marketing of pounds of beef, not the increasing of the number of animals on the ranges. I just recently heard a Colorado stockman say that the western ranges are carrying one-third more livestock than they should and that, as a result, much of our livestock spends part of the year on a deficiency diet. He said they should be fed better yearlong so as to produce a greater tonnage of meat, but that the seed stock should be reduced by one-third. He urged stockmen not to overgraze their pastures but to buy the other fellow's surplus feed and be sure not to waste any. For sheep and lambs a 9 percent increase in 1942 is indicated, which practically means that we should carry along about the present sheep population for the State as a whole. The remarks of the stockman to whom I have just referred apply as well to national forest as to other ranges. We want to establish a stable livestock industry but it must be adjusted to the permanent preservation of the range and to other uses of the forest, such as watershed protection, etc.

Now, I want to read a telegram which I have received from my chief, Mr. Earle H. Clapp, of Washington, D. C. He wires:

> "Regret impossibility any of us reaching Meeker, White River celebration this Saturday. Please express to Governor Carr, Mr. Barnett and all those attending the meeting my deep appreciation of their past and continuing interest in forest conservation. Establistment of the national forest system was this country's first great achievement in forestry. The broad vision and foresight of Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and other early-day conservationists

which led to development of the national forests are evident again among present-day leaders in conservation such as those who have sponsored and are attending this celebration. It is the very earnest hope of the Forest Service that we may continue to deserve and have the support of these valued friends in the second crusade in forestry which is now under way."

Mr. Clapp refers in his telegram to the problem of securing proper handling of private lands which confronts the Nation. Of every three acres of land in the United States, one acre is forest land, and three-fourths of this forest land is in private ownership, a thing which we people here in the public land states where there are large areas of national forests do not sometimes realize. Even Colorado, with 11-1/2 million acres of its commercial forest land under Federal control, has 30 percent or another 5 million acres in private ownership. The question is what to do about all this private land to insure that it is handled in the public interest and put to its highest use. Apparently acquisition of a great deal of it by governmental agencies and enough regulation to protect and conserve the forest cover on the rest of it are going to be necessary, as well as a lot of public aid of various kinds to the owners.

Governor Carr, people of Meeker and of Colorado, in the name of forest officers past and present - those pioneers who first came among you and won your respect and confidence and those of us who are today carrying on: We thank you for your support and good will. We hope that we may continue to have them to the end that we may help you to make Colorado an even better land to live in for our children and our children's children.

WHAT COLORADO NATIONAL FORESTS MEAN TO THE STATE

By
JOHN T. BARNETT, Chairman, Colorado State Planning Commission

Address delivered at the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the White River National Forest, held at Meeker, Colorado, October 11, 1941.

- - -

The purpose of this occasion brings me to pause on the threshold of my remarks, to pay tribute of respect and praise to him who, if living, would surely be here today in person, but just as surely is with us in spirit.

On a splendid photograph, taken some fifteen years ago and ever since hanging in my office, there is this inscription in characteristic handwriting:

> "To Hon. John T. Barnett as a token of a very dear friendship of thirty-five years and with a world of good wishes from Edward T. Taylor."

That means that he and I were close associates personally and politically for nearly fifty years. It means also that we shared together the joy of noting the growth and development of the great resources of Colorado, and especially of the Western Slope.

When Ed Taylor left the legislative halls of the State to assume his enlarged duties and opportunities in the halls of Congress, he carried with him the experienced tools of statesmanship.

Possessed of high character and great industry, he very early won and forever held a top place among his colleagues.

Giving first consideration to the welfare of his constituents of the fourth district, he nevertheless gave constant loyalty and devotion to the best interests of the State as a whole.

My entire time this afternoon could easily and pleasurably be consumed in citing but a few of his many public services.

But we are met here to commemorate the beginning of a project that coincides in many ways with the history of Edward Taylor, and this brief reference to his accomplishments and virtues must suffice for the occasion. He has passed beyond life's twilight purple hills, beyond the reach of human voice, but he has left with us cherished and happy memories; memories that will never fade so long as the waters he helped to conserve flow in the streams of our mountains and the grass he insured protection grows green in our National Forests.

Who successfully takes his place in the National firmament will be a star of first magnitude.

This is an occasion of dual significance to me, for it so happens that it was just 50 years ago this summer that I came from New York State to western Colorado---just a few weeks before President Harrison by executive order established the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, the great body of protected timber which today we know as the White River National Forest. I leave to your imagination the somewhat dubious frame of mind in which, as a young easterner fresh from the cloistered halls of a New York normal school, I found myself principal in the public school in the typical western mining camp of Silverton, nested in the heart of the lofty and inspiring San Juan mountains.

With the facility which is common to young men but which grows less and less pronounced with the advance of years, I soon found myself at home in my new and unaccustomed surroundings, and almost before I knew it I had become a true Coloradoan---a designation which I have enjoyed for a half-century and of which I shall continue to be proud during the remaining days of my life.

Those of us who have traversed the span of 50 years in the Centennial State have witnessed tremendous changes, and in most of them we have played our several parts. We have seen the population of the State grow from 413,000 in 1890 to 1,123,000 in 1940. We have seen nearly two billion dollars in precious metals wrested from the treasure chest of the Colorado Rockies. We have seen almost a half-billion tons of coal taken from the seemingly unlimited deposits of the State---deposits which scientists reckon sufficient to supply the world on the basis of present-day consumption for more than seven centuries.

But most significant of all, we have seen the total area of cultivated land in our State treble and quadruple, and as this vast industry has expanded we have seen growing up in our agricultural centers great manufacturing industries, taking their raw materials from the products of the soil, processing them with fuel and power drawn from the bosom of the earth, giving employment to more and more thousands of our growing population and adding tremendously to the hundreds of millions of new wealth which Colorado gives to the world each year.

We have seen, as a corollary to this development, unprecedented changes in our livestock production---changes which have made the valleys of our irrigated areas the greatest stock-feeding center of the Nation. The long-horn of the early West has vanished from the plains and the marauding mountain lion from the summer ranges of the high altitudes. The industry has undergone a transition out of which have come the great herds of high-bred cattle that we see all around us today---cattle that are famed for beef rather than for speed, and their meat for its tenderness and succulence rather than for its value as a test of carving knife and teeth.

The prowling coyote has given way to great bands of purebred sheep that graze in the highest mountain fastnesses through the summer months and at this season go to the eastern markets as grass-fat or to the feedyards of the irrigated farms for finishing. In short, the livestock industry as a whole has ceased to be a precarious gambling game and has become a sound business. No longer is it menaced by the wasteful and ruinous practices of former days. Instead, it has become the backbone of the science of conservation, a science in which we take today from our resources only so much as will assure us plenty for tomorrow---and if in that transition it has lost something of the glamour with which artists and novelists of a few decades ago depicted it, it has gained even more in permanent and continuing security.

From its beginning down to the very recent past the history of our country with respect to its resources has been the history of thoughtless profligacy. Generation after generation, those who followed the Pilgrim Fathers and came before us pushed ever further west. With the axe they leveled vast areas of priceless forest and with the plow they tore up even greater expanses of lush prairie sod. For a time these extravagances went unnoticed, for in truth there were regions in the rain belt where the soil could be made to yield generously, seemingly for all time. In its depths were great stores of vegetative matter which even careless and ignorant farm practices could not immediately exhaust. Fortunately there were scientists and observers to warn their generation of dangers to come, and the waste of those resources without which soil cannot continue to produce was halted before it was forever too late.

But even in that great rainbelt which stretches from the Atlantic Coast to the 100th meridian in the Middle West the destruction of vast areas of rich forests which Nature had taken hundreds of years to grow left in its wake millions of acres of barren land. Upon these denuded acres men struggled for a century or more to wrest from the reluctant soil the semblance of a living for themselves and their families. Eventually, by the inevitable failure of generations which had sought to convert these cutover lands into fertile farms, the states were forced to enact laws forbidding further efforts in that direction and providing for the gradual restoration of the forests which had been destroyed.

I do not mean by this to infer that these courageous pioneer generations to whom we owe the tremendous development of our nation today were guilty of intentional or wanton destruction of our natural resources. There was no book of experience from which they could learn the value of forested areas or of grasslands. They could not know that a great tree is the work of centuries or that grass once plowed under in certain areas will not restore itself within the span of a generation. Pushed ever westward by the spirit of adventure and the crowding population of the eastern states, they took from the earth what it had to offer them, never realizing that there is a limit even to the power of Nature herself to recreate in a few brief years her handiwork of centuries.

But if in their progress from the Atlantic seaboard across the fertile valley of the Mississippi they left along the trail many evidences of their lack of understanding of the immutable laws of nature, they left as well the foundation of a great agricultural and industrial empire, for there a combination of generous moisture and deep, rich soil provided a resource which not even the careless farming methods of those days could wholly destroy.

As the tide of migration pushed restlessly westward across the 100th meridian into the semi-arid region that extends from that line to the Pacific coast, another and more serious chapter in the history of man's ruthless treatment of the resources with which Nature has endowed him was written. Here luxuriant grass covered vast reaches of prairie lands, and foothills and mountains were heavily forested with cedar, pine and spruce. On the prairies the waving grasses prevented rapid evaporation and put to their own use the diminished rainfall which was then and is today characteristic of the country, and in the mountain areas the forests held back the moisture of summer rains and winter snows, and provided rich grazing grounds and a constant flow for the rivers which had their sources along the Continental Divide.

This was the last frontier. A nation of people given to adventure in search of new lands had arrived at the end of the trail. Beyond this semi-arid area there was nothing but the Pacific. Water taken from the soil by careless farming methods would not soon be restored by natural means, and trees cut wantonly from the forests would not be replaced within the span of a generation. It was in this region that the menace of the waste of natural resources first made itself manifest, and it was here that the answer to the problem was found in the single word "conservation."

It is only natural that those few far-seeing prophets who went about the land warning of disaster to come if soil, water and forests were depleted were hailed with scorn and derision. They were prophets ahead of their time; voices crying in a wilderness. They could not convince the frontier farmer with a wife and children that he and his family would pay for today's careless methods with tomorrow's privations, nor could they hope for any response from the timber barons of that day, who ruthlessly cut into age-old forests, leaving behind them barren hillsides down which flood waters rushed from melting snows, carrying away fertile top soil and wasting themselves forever.

But fortunately there were in the Nation a few men of vision and of influence; men who knew the history of ruin that had been written around identical experiences in China and other countries of the earth, where once fertile lands had been robbed of their cover for temporary gain and had become hopeless desert wastes. Little by little the shadows of approaching danger became more clearly visible. On the prairies men found the period of years between profitable crops lengthening as they drained the moisture stored in the ground through the centuries; cities and towns which had sprung up along the irrigated valleys at the foot of the Rockies began to find their water supplies threatened by rapid runoff from denuded hillsides; irrigation systems alternated between heavy spring floods and late summer scarcity.

Gradually there came into the picture signs that men were beginning to understand. Better tillage methods, designed to conserve water stored in the ground, were introduced on the prairies. Great storage reservoirs were constructed in the mountains to withhold spring floods for summer irrigation. But still the reckless cutting of timber in the forests continued and stockmen found themselves confronted each year by the unhappy combination of ever-decreasing supplies of grass on the ranges and ever-increasing numbers of cattle and sheep grazing the public pastures. Over-grazing became a problem fully as important as that of the destruction of the timber, and the great livestock industry which, with mining, had built Colorado and the West was literally face to face with ruin.

By 1891 the danger to the future of the whole Nation had become so obvious that President Harrison, with the authorization of the Congress, established first the Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve and, on October 16th. of that year, the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, the 50th anniversary of which we are commemorating today.

Well indeed do I recall the bitterness with which the cattle and sheep men of Colorado greeted that innovation. The words "Hitlerism" and "regimentation" had not been written into our language in those days, but they are characteristic of the reception which was accorded federal intervention in the early 90's in the name of conservation. At that time I doubt if a hundred votes could have been mustered for the federal control of forests in Colorado; today I doubt if a hundred votes could be secured for a return to the old idea of uncontrolled public lands.

At the outset of this new program abuses were manifold. The administration was centered at Washington, whence rules and regulations issued to men who had grown up on the cattle and sheep ranches of the West. Too often these rules and regulations, written by distant dictators with only a theoretical knowledge of the problems of the West, were absurd or harsh, or both. Discontent continued to grow and crystallize until finally it achieved such strength that even Washington was obliged to listen and to give heed to the opinions of practical stockmen and the political leaders in the West.

Eventually the whole system of forest conservation was decentralized. Management and control were transferred to officials who lived among and understood the stockmen and their problems. From that day on discontent waned. The stockmen themselves began to see the certain advantages of protection of these forest lands and of the regulation of grazing so that there might be pasture for all, rather than for the few who were politically favored or who were strong enough to take the public domain for their own use by force of arms.

Gradually there came out of the chaos of a complete lack of control and the subsequent period of harsh and autocratic control the era in which we live today---an era in which there is cordial understanding between the stockmen and the forest officials and between the latter and the timber men. In the intervening years the names of these protected areas have been changed from "forest reserves" to "national forests," a phrase significant of the changed spirit of Federal management. The forests are not reserved for any group of individuals or for any single use. Instead, they are national forests, conserved and protected for the greatest possible public use. Since this change in the attitude of the Federal government the number of forests so protected has grown to 14 wholly within our state and one along the Colorado-Utah border, and the total area now under protection through this system is in excess of 13,600,000 acres or 21,000 square miles.

We who constitute the Colorado State Planning Commission have had ample opportunity to become intimately acquainted with the problems of land, water and forests which constantly confront our State. We have seen and analyzed the economic results which follow the rightful and the wrongful use of these resources. We have seen millions of acres of once-productive land turned to desert waste by foolish farming methods, and we have had a part in the formulation of laws and the conduct of programs by which more than five and one-half million acres of these lands have been put under control in 20 districts organized under authority of the Colorado Soil Conservation Act. It is our conviction from past experience that in the organization of these districts, with the intelligent guidance of the Soil Conservation Service and other state and Federal agencies, lies permanent assurance that Colorado will never have a repetition of the Dust Bowl period, in which thousands of farm families were driven from the land because a relatively small proportion of their total number had not learned that it is never safe to violate the laws of Nature.

Likewise in 1935 the Planning Commission, as a first step toward setting up a comprehensive plan for the conservation and development of the waters which flow out of Colorado in all directions, called two Statewide meetings, at which water users from all sections of the State were present to discuss the needs of their respective districts. Out of those meetings grew the Commission's Advisory Committee of Seventeen,of which Governor Carr, representing the San Luis Valley, was a member, and in the course of the deliberations of that committee there was framed a complete development program covering all the rivers of the State. As the result of that effort and of intensive water-supply studies made jointly by the Planning Commission, the State Engineer and the Water Conservation Board, it is gratifying now to note that more than $80,000,000 in projects then proposed for the use of our own waters in Colorado are now either complete or actually under construction, giving additional and permanent security to hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile and intensively cultivated land.

The Planning Commission is constantly in close contact and cooperation with the officials of the United States Forest Service in their program for the improvement of the forage and timber resources, and has had the benefit of the experience and sound advice of our good friend, Col. Allen S. Peck, Regional Forester, and of many of the men on his staff. I think he will agree with me that the thought of the Planning Commission and the Forest Service has followed along the same line almost without exception.

From our point of view one of the chief features which has led to popular approval of the national forest program is its emphasis upon the multiple use of public lands. We have long felt that these lands belong not to the stockmen alone, or to the tourists or the irrigators or the miners---but to all of us, and that they should be so administered that they can be of the greatest possible use and benefit to the greatest possible number of people. To that principle the Forest Service is committed, and it is the principle which we of Colorado and the West approve.

The national forest program has given security for all time to the stockmen. They know that while the inevitable variations of seasons may increase the carrying capacity of the range in one year and reduce it in the next, its fullest possible capacity will always be made available to them, and they know also that neither greed nor the seeming necessity of the moment will permit the disastrous over-grazing thatformerly threatened the very life of their industry.

By the same token the valley farmers know that they may enter freely into the national forests for the construction of irrigation works which will add assurance and security to the water supplies upon which they depend for their existence. The metal miner knows that he may prospect at will through the vast mineralized area in the forests, and that if he makes a discovery he will be at liberty to develop it for his own profit without let or hindrance.

To those men and women who either officially or in private life are interested in the preservation of the wild life which once constituted the entire population of our mountains, the national forests give permanent assurance of both sanctuary and subsistence. The State Game and Fish Commission has wisely suggested and the Legislature has approved the establishment of numerous refuges scattered through the forests, in which deer, elk and other wild life may roam without danger of destruction. Without the protection of these great timbered areas there would be no wild life in Colorado today, for the grass would have been grazed to the vanishing point and the starving game animals wandering over the denuded hillsides would have been easy prey for the gun of the ruthless hunter.

In the field of wild life preservation the national forests have meant literally the difference between controlled abundance and complete extinction. This week the guns of hunters sound through the silence of this great forest, significant of a legal hunting season in which thousands of deer and elk will be taken by hunters, but the number killed will not exceed the natural increase of these species of wild life. It is but another example of conservation---the taking of only so much today as will not imperil tomorrow's supply.

As I have told you, I have lived through this entire era in Colorado. I saw the first steps taken toward a continuing program of conservation. I knew many of the stockmen who assailed the first reserves with such bitterness, and I sympathized with them in their anger. We knew there was danger in the future, but we wanted to meet it in our own way. Eventually we lived to be convinced that great changes cannot successfully be put under way in small localities. Great national problems must be attacked by the nation as a whole, and not left to the mercy of local prejudice and individual desire.

There were many men in the national field whose names are closely associated with the early history of the forest conservation movement and to whom much credit is due for its development in the initial stages, but today I want to acknowledge the splendid services of the men who lived close to this program in Colorado. Among the men whose friendship I have enjoyed for many years is Tom Watkins, whom I first knew as a ranger on the Uncompahgre and San Juan forests and who is still a member of the Forest Service staff. He is one of the men who pioneered in the conservation field of Colorado, who spoke the language of the Colorado stockman and helped to adjust the new order to the needs and customs of the old. He is no stranger to you folks in Rio Blanco County, for he was in charge for the Forest Service during the construction of the road up the White River to the Trappers Lake country.

Actual administration of the White River Forest did not get under way until 1898---seven years after its formal dedication by the President. In that year Col. W. T. S. May was made superintendent of all national forests in Colorado, for by that time several others had been established. In the same year Charles W. Ramer, a pioneer stockman from the Cache la Poudre in Larimer County, was made supervisor of this Forest, with Frank Dunn, Harry Gibler and Solon Patterson as rangers. Following him in the office of supervisor came J. F. Steinmetz, P. Randolph Morris, William L. Veatch, James Blair (who was supervisor for 22 years, from 1906 to 1928), L. R. Rist, and the present supervisor, Edward Wright. To these men and to our good friend, Colonel Peck, goes the credit for having established and maintained the orderly, efficient and generally satisfactory administration of the great resources which are represented in the White River National Forest.

As I traveled yesterday through the mountains that lie between Denver and Meeker I saw the great forests as they are today---preserved and developed by a wise policy and administered by men of sound judgment and understanding, and I wondered what they would have looked like today if we had formed and pursued no national policy concerning them many years ago, but had permitted the need and the greed of individuals to despoil them. It was a picture not at all to my liking. In that picture there were none of the prosperous cities and towns that dot the irrigated valleys from Julesburg to Durango and from Lamar to Craig. There were few great public schools and colleges, few churches, few spacious, comfortable homes--and little of the evidences of the culture that has been developed from the wealth of water and grass and minerals and lumber provided so bountifully by these forests.

I say with profound conviction that if we had permitted the despoliation of these forests during the last half-century, it is more than likely I would not be here today nor would many of you, for we would have permitted ourselves to be robbed of our very subsistence and of all the things which go to make life in Colorado both profitable and pleasant.

So, to the far-sighted men who first saw the picture of conservation and to those who are engaged in the work today and to those who will follow them, I voice the opinion of the West when I assert that nothing in the history of our country has more clearly indicated our destiny of continuing growth and ever-increasing strength and wisdom than has our determination that these forests shall never be destroyed. Constituting in their own right one of the greatest of our natural resources, they are the indispensible foundation upon which rest our livestock, agricultural and manufacturing industries, and the basis of the cultural development which is our proud boast. They shall never be destroyed by the hands of ignorance and greed, but shall be preserved forever, that their generous gifts may be bestowed upon our children and our children's children for all time to come.