

# ***SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST***

***Forest Service***

***U. S. Department of Agriculture***

## ***HISTORICAL SKETCHES***

***of the***

***QUETICO - SUPERIOR***

Compiled by J. Wesley White, at the request of the Forest Service, for the primary purpose of giving present and future employees of the Superior National Forest a greater appreciation of this Forest's background. Limited copies do not permit general distribution to individuals; but single copies may be made available to Chambers of Commerce, Historical Societies, and Resorts in and near the Superior National Forest and to the press.

### ***VOLUME XII***

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7. Joseph Fitzwater, First Supervisor, Superior National Forest
8. Calvin Dahlgren

1974

\*Retired from the U. S. Forest Service in 1965, with thirty-three years of Federal Service; twenty years of which were on the Superior National Forest as a key staff officer, in which position he always maintained a keen interest in the area's history.

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

Did you know that when the Superior National Forest was proclaimed on February 13, 1909, it was placed in District #1 with headquarters at Missoula, Montana?

Did you know that on February 1, 1913, the Superior National Forest was transferred from District #1, Missoula, Montana, to District #2 with headquarters in Denver, Colorado?

Did you know that on January 1, 1929, administration of the Superior National Forest was transferred from District #2 with headquarters at Denver, Colorado to Region #9 with headquarters at Milwaukee, Wisconsin? It has remained so to-date (January 1974).

Did you know that the first Regional Forester R-9 was Earl W. Tinker and the first fiscal agent was Shelley E. Schoonover?

Did you know that the first office for R-9 was the top floor of the old Appraisers Stores building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin used to store confiscated merchandise (liquor, etc.) by the customs' officials? In November, 1968, Mr. Schoonover (who retired 7/1/47) commented about this first office:

“On this floor there was one large front room with a lavatory and two smaller rooms adjoining. The balance of the floor was empty except for a small amount of confiscated material in one corner.

The large front room was adequate for Mr. Tinker's office, but it literally reeked with odor of whiskey, since the customs officials used the lavatory in this room to dispose of confiscated liquor. I obtained a generous supply of disinfectant to obliterate the strong smell and purchased some two-by-fours and chicken wire to partition a portion of the office for continued storage by the customs officials.

Our furniture had not yet arrived and Mr. Tinker told me he needed a stenographer to type a speech he was to give in Chicago in two days. There was no stenographic assistance available in any of the locally based Federal agencies and money available to hire any. Nor did we have time to obtain aid from the Civil Service register. So I offered my services as stenographer, explaining to Mr. Tinker that I had not used shorthand for many years, and my typing was certainly not good. However, typewriter still packed away in a box, I proceeded to take his dictation. There was no desks or chairs on which to work at this time and I found an old desk with only three legs and a broken chair in the basement of the post office building which the janitor there was going to burn in the furnace. I fixed up the desk and chair for Mr. Tinker and made a stool for myself out of the box that my typewriter had been packed in. Another packing box served as a desk.

It was 2 or 3 weeks before Miss Ruth Waters, Mr. Tinker's secretary, arrived from Denver, and my Deputy, Mr. William B. Ihlenfeldt, arrived from a Forest office in Colorado. In another week or so I was able to obtain a stenographer from the Civil Service list. For some time, the 5 of us were the R-9 Regional Office, then Mr.

McClaren for Acquisition and Mr. McConnell for Engineering arrived and gradually we had 10 or 12 in the Regional Office by the beginning of fiscal year 1930.”

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

When the Treaty of Peace was signed with Great Britain in 1783, the United States of America succeeded in maintaining her right to the land known as the Northwest Territory, over which there had already been many disputes in the new nation regarding the ownership of the territory.

From 1784 to 1787 many plans were put forth for the organizing of the Northwest Territory (which encompassed an area including the present Superior National Forest). Among the various plans was one by Thomas Jefferson which provided that the territory should be divided into ten new states. The names proposed were Michgania, Pensipia, etc. etc., and finally the area now encompassing NE Minnesota was to be called “Sylvania”. This provision was stricken from the plan and much later in 1849, it became known as Minnesota; a name familiar to us all.

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

I wonder if you know that the first office operated by the U. S. Forest Service in Duluth, Minnesota was opened either in mid June or early July 1922. It was located in the Torrey Building on Superior Street and according to Crosby Hoar, the first occupant, it was located on the second floor, overlooking a roofed first floor below, and was rather dingy. It has been rented for him by Supervisor Dahlgren.

Mr. Hoar’s job was cooperative inspector under the Clarke-McNary Act for the Lake States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. At first there was not much office work so the locally hired clerk-stenographer left. She was replaced by Robert Henry who had served at Cass Lake, Minnesota.

The office remained in the Torrey Building until about 1925 when Mr. Hoar was able to get a corner room on the second floor of the Federal Building. He remained there until 1929 when he was transferred to Milwaukee, Wisconsin (his was the beginning of R-9).

Mr. Hoar is still hale and hearty and resides in Arlington, Virginia. He retired from the Service in 1950. He writes a beautiful hand with nary a quaver - which is wonderful.

### **BITS OF HISTORY** **ABOUT THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST**

Those people who are familiar with the study of Forestry in Minnesota know that Christopher C. Andrews was known as the “Apostle of Forestry in Minnesota”. They also know that he had considerable to do with the creation of both the Chippewa National Forest and the Superior National Forest. On May 10, 1902, Mr. Andrews petitioned the General Land Office to set up a Forest Reserve of some 500,000 acres in Lake and Cook counties, Minnesota. The Commissioner of the General Land Office agreed to this proposal and the first lands were withdrawn on June 30, 1902. In the summer of 1903 a gentleman by the name of Edward Andrew Braniff studied the area, which had been previously withdrawn, and prepared a boundary report for the proposed Lake Superior Forest Reserve of about 477,440 acres. This was substantially the same acreage recommended for withdrawal by Mr. Andrews. In his report Mr. Braniff observed that “The lands contain no timber; they are unfit for farming and there is no settlement in them. No one cares much what becomes of them.”

As pointed out above - most everyone knew of Christopher C. Andrews, but who was Edward Andrew Braniff, the man who made the first formal report on lands in the Superior National Forest? Where did he come from? Who was he working for, and other similar questions. I went to the National Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri seeking information. I did not find as much information as I had hoped but what I did find is briefed as follows:

1. Born - May 4, 1876 (27 years of age when he made the report in 1903).
2. Training - Newspaper Reporter, etc.
3. Work Projects

STUDENT ASSISTANT - Bureau of Forestry - July 1, 1902

\$300 year or \$25 a month - requested by Gifford Pinchott.

AGENT - Bureau of Forestry - September 1, 1902 – July 15, 1903

\$5 per day.

FIELD ASSISTANT - Bureau of Forestry - July 16, 1903

\$1,000 per annum. (It was during this period that he made the report aforementioned.)

FOREST ASSISTANT - Bureau of Forestry - July 1, 1904 - \$1,200 per annum

FOREST ASSISTANT - Forest Service - July 1, 1905 - \$1,300 per annum.

FOREST ASSISTANT - Forest Service - December 8, 1905 - \$5.00 per day.

FOREST ASSISTANT - Forest Service - February 1, 1908 - \$1,800 per annum.

FOREST ASSISTANT - Forest Service - July 1, 1908 - \$2,100 per annum.

FOREST SUPERVISOR - Forest Service - January 10, 1909 - \$2,250 per annum.

(In charge of Menominee Indian project at Neopit, Wisconsin.

The mill is completed and ready to start sawing with an ample supply of logs.)

TRANSFERRED to Office of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior.

September 15, 1909 - Resigned

FOREST SUPERVISOR - Forest Service - November 18, 1909 - \$2,250 per annum.

(Request for his services made by Wm T. Cox - Acting Forester.

In 1911 Mr. Cox became the first State Forester of Minnesota.

FURLOUGHED without pay - November 18, 1909 – February 18, 1910.

FURLOUGH extended to November 18, 1910.

RESIGNED - November 18, 1910.

Organized Braniff Lumber Company - Seattle, Washington

Wholesale lumber

FOREST SUPERVISOR – Reinstatement - April 1, 1911 - \$2,000

Portland, Oregon - District #6.

FURLOUGHED - December 15, 1911 – June 14, 1912.

RESIGNED - April 8, 1912.

In writing to William T. Cox on April 22, 1910, Mr. Braniff commented as follows:

“You must feel lost without Mr. Pinchott and O.W.P. (Overton W. Price) in the office. I can’t imagine the Forest Service without them.”

He also added the following self-explanatory postscript:

“Give my regards to Gene Bruce.” (Eugene Bruce was the forester who did such excellent work in the early history of the Chippewa National Forest.)

It is obvious that Mr. Edward Braniff was a pioneer in forestry and knew other famous leaders such as Pinchott, Price, Cox, Bruce, etc.

J. W. White  
1/30/1974

## BITS AND PIECES OF HISTORY RE FOREST SUPERVISOR OFFICES

### SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

The Superior National Forest was proclaimed on February 13, 1909. The first acting Forest Supervisor was John Sharpe Baird, who had been working on the old Minnesota National Forest Reserve (*later called the “Minnesota National Forest” and still later, the “Chippewa National Forest”*) at Cass Lake, Minnesota during the period 1903-1909. What little we know about this very early period is contained in a letter written by Mr. Baird on March 13, 1944 in which he describes his assignment to the Superior National Forest in the following language:

“In March 1909, as instructed by District Forester Greeley, I went to Ely, Minnesota, made some examinations, reported to the District Forester by letter, and as directed by him, formally put the Superior National Forest under administration. I requisitioned office supplies and equipment, also field equipment, rented office rooms, and employed a small crew of forest guards. I was on the Superior four months (March 1909 – July 14, 1909) when Scott Leavitt took over.”

The Forest beginning is described in a very few words and perhaps it was just as easy and workmanlike as it sounds. Many years later Scott Leavitt was to recall that, “the office was in the Fenske Building – two rooms, with a moose head loaned by Taxidermist John Schaefer hanging over my desk. Schaefer worked some as a guard.” He was also to recall that “I was the entire office force, with an Oliver typewriter and my own fingers to run it. When I went on a field trip, I called in Leslie Brownell and Walter Eisenach.”

In an interview on July 27, 1970, Mr. Joseph Albert Fitzwater, who was the first regular supervisor in 1910-12, comments about the original office as follows:

“I was up at old Fenske’s store, and I had my office over there. I had a little storeroom off of my office, so I decided I wanted to get a little nursery started. So I had the Ranger collect a bunch of Norway pine cones and I bought some from the Indians - I paid them so much a sack. I made some racks in that storeroom and I put the cones in there -- I had three or four tiers and I put the cones in there and I fired up the stove, and I got it so hot in there that it would almost take your breath away when you went in -- it’s funny I didn’t burn the damn place up. I dried out those cones and got the seeds and I took those seeds out to a little flat just this side of Baird

Ranger Station and started a nursery. We started a nursery there and got a beautiful patch of Norway pine and that nursery was there when I left. Then after I left, Bill Heritage took those plants and established a plantation at Babbitt (Birch Lake Plantation) and that plantation at Babbitt has now been logged.”

Our authorities have mentioned that the first Supervisor’s Office was in the Fenske Hardware Building but we have gathered other facts such as:

1. The office was located on the upper floor in the rear of the building, and it was reached by an open outside stairs in the back.
2. The building was located directly across the street (south) from the present Vertin Restaurant.
3. The building was one of Ely’s oldest business landmarks, being constructed in 1887 by August Fenske and John Anderson as a hardware-furniture-undertaking establishment. It was razed in the spring of 1970 to make way for a new business enterprise.
4. The first Supervisor’s Office was located in this building from either late in March or in April, 1909 (and I am inclined to believe it was April) to April 25, 1922 when it was removed to another location.

The Supervisor’s Office second location was in the Veranth Building, now known as the Shagawa Hotel. The Ely Miner, in the Forest Notes column of April, 1922 had the following:

“The office of the Superior Forest will be located in the Veranth Building from the 26<sup>th</sup> on. The work of moving the large amount of Service equipment to the new warehouse is in progress at present, and will be completed by Saturday.”

Mr. Lee Brownell, Ely Historian, in a personal note of 6/9/71 furnished the following background on this location:

“I contacted Frank Veranth this P.M. and this is his story.

When Volstead made his act into law, Mr. Veranth, Sr. had a saloon on Central Avenue side. For four (4) years or until 1922 he conducted a Bingo Joint in the same location. In 1922 he remodeled and rented to the Forest Service. The warehouse was on the lots where the Standard Lumber yard is now. The office was here until 1926 when it was moved to the Pete Building.”

M. J. Valentine (Jack), who spent many years on the Forest as a ranger, some of which time was spent in the Veranth Building office. In a personal note of 6/16/71 he provided the following additional information:

“I might mention that I was transferred from the then Four-Mile Lake District with headquarters at Lutsen, to the Big Lake District, Ely, Minnesota - during July 1924 (the Records Center shows July). At that time the Supervisor’s Office with A. L. Richey as Supervisor was located in the Veranth Hotel, but now known as the Shagawa Hotel. These offices were located on the ground floor in the S.E. corner of the building. The one larger area or room (now used as a store exhibiting various electrical appliances, etc.) was partitioned office with plywood in order to accommodate the (1) Supervisor’s office, (2) stenographer’s office, (3) two ranger’s offices and, (4) another room for storage of forms and various pieces of materials.”

“Besides the Supervisor and stenographer and an assistant to the Supervisor, Wm Barker, there were two rangers - Frank Carney of the Kawishiwi District and Valentine of the Big Lake District. William Barker was heading up the acquisition activities recently started on this Forest.

“At this late date, I am not certain as regards the exact date the Forest Service moved from the Veranth location to the new rooms on the second floor of Pete’s Garage. I would guess it was somewhere along the middle of the summer of 1926.”

Jacob guessed that the Forest Service moved into his building in the fall of 1926. Whether occupancy was to the middle of the summer or fall, it is certain that the Forest Service occupancy in the Veranth Building was from April 26, 1922 to 1926.

The Supervisor’s Office’s third and last location in Ely was upstairs in the Jacob Pete Garage Building. Occupancy began in 1926 and continued until March 28, 1933, but let’s go back and finish the comments of M. J. Valentine as follows:

“Since this was a new building the rooms were far more adequate than the ones we vacated (in the Veranth Building). An old warehouse was also rented from Jacob L. Pete, and although it was on the second floor of an old, greasy building, at least it was a place for storage of the fire outfits and numerous pieces of other equipment.”

In March of 1933 when the C.C.C. Camps were established the Supervisor’s Office, under L. S. Bean, was moved to the Federal Building in Duluth. The rangers retained offices in Ely until the new office and warehouse (present Ely Service Center) was completed just prior to July 1, 1933 when the La Croix and Kawishiwi Districts moved into the new setup. Apparently they stayed there until 1938 -- The Ely Souvenir Booklet, 1958 -- page 30 quotes Ely Miner of January 5, 1938 as follows:

“Post Office is moved to quarters in Ely’s new Federal Building. U. S. Forest’s Offices occupy upper floor.”

Mr. Paul J. St. Amant, who worked on the Kawishiwi District, by personal letter of June 6, 1971, provided us with the following description of the Pete Garage office.

“I’ll try and do my best but you must remember my impressions were of the young college forester just out of school. I’m sure you will get something pretty concrete from Whispering Jack (Valentine) who spent many hours in that office.

“It sure was a far call from the present offices of supervisors anywhere in this region. I recall the supervisor Andy (S.D.) Anderson had a small corner room (SE) and Cal Stott, Assistant Supervisor had one a little smaller next to him to the north. Cal didn’t need much space because he was in the woods all the time, as usual. Then the entire clerical force of three people used up the remainder of the south half of that upstairs for their work. Fred Schoder as clerk or Administrative Assistant; Folly Gearing, a round chubby stenographer, whose feet didn’t touch the floor when he sat in a chair. Those two were really A-1 musicians and did a lot of playing at weddings, etc. around Ely. The lone gal I believe was Lillian Nygard. The north half of this grand office was split into three rooms; 1 for Jack Valentine (Ranger for Big

Lake - later La Croix District) and 1 for Frank Carney (my boss) (Ranger for Kawishiwi District) and extra room used for drawing maps and storage.

"The place sure didn't have extra space or good sound-proofing. You could hear Frank Carney's cussing anywhere in the building upstairs or down.

"I don't even recall a toilet and washroom but I am sure there was one and not of the chic sale variety. The place didn't look like much but what little project work that was done at that time was accomplished with a minimum of interference from the Supervisor.

"I recall in back of Pete's Garage there was an old barn (wooden) which served as the S.O. warehouse for fire. It contained 3 or 4 Pacific caches made up of the pump, 25 gallon cans of gas and oil mixed and some 500 feet of linen base per pump, plus addition of hand tools primarily axes and saws (2-man variety) and a few shovels. This was supposed to be used to supplement the Rangers' tools in case of a big fire, and was primarily arrived at transporting by an old Curtis Robin Monoplane rented from a contractor, Dusty Rhodes from Vermilion Lake.

"I recall also now that there must have been some truck storage for at least 2 or 3 vehicles because I drove a dump truck loaded with a Pacific pumper, base, etc. early one morning (4:30 a.m.) from Ely down State Highway #1 to National Forest Lodge and helped them keep it from burning down. I remember loading it alone and making that darn trip over that crooked, rocky, gravel road looking right into the rising sun. Perhaps Jack can give you a clearer picture of just where the trucks were stored, etc. I do know it didn't make any impression on me at the time. By the way, Carney used to drive a Chevrolet (1928) - it looked like an old grocery wagon - had canvas curtains that dropped down each side when it rained. We used to use it to have telephone supplies to Fernberg and elsewhere."

As aforementioned, tenure of the Supervisor's Office in the Pete Garage building was from the mid part of 1926 to March 28, 1933.

Beginning in February 1933, Supervisor Leslie S. Bean began preparing for a move to Duluth and following are a series of announcements in the Duluth Herald (February 10, 1933; March 22, 1933; March 28, 1933; and March 29, 1933), which gives the story:

DULUTH HERALD  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1933  
FORESTRY OFFICE TO BE  
TRANSFERRED HERE NEXT APRIL

"Removal of the office of the Forest Supervisor of the Superior National Forest from Ely to Duluth is scheduled for April 1, E. W. Tinker, Milwaukee Regional Forester, announced yesterday. A headquarters for rangers will be established at Ely, where a large warehouse will be built next spring, Mr. Tinker said.

"The move is being made because of curtailed appropriations and the need for an office more accessible to the general public, and particularly to people living on the North Shore.

"Office quarters for the Supervisor and his staff have been made available in the Federal Building, with a saving of the cost of rent necessary in Ely."



*DULUTH HERALD*  
*MARCH 22, 1933*  
NATIONAL FOREST OFFICES  
WILL BE MOVED TO DULUTH

“Headquarters of the Superior National Forest will be removed from Ely to Duluth next week following receipt yesterday of final orders from R. Y. Stuart, Chief Forester, Washington, D.C. offices to be acquired will be Nos. 232, 234, and 236 in the Federal Building.

“John McLaren, acquisition agent, will occupy No. 238. The men, who will start moving to this city on Monday or Tuesday, are Leslie S. Bean, supervisor; Calvin Stott, assistant supervisor; Fred O. Shoder, executive assistant; and Harry Ebel, clerk.

“The move is made to save rent of offices and to promote efficiency, most of the work planned for the next few years being on the North Shore of Lake Superior, more easily accessible from this city.”

DULUTH HERALD  
MARCH 28, 1933  
MOVING TO DULUTH

“Employees of the Federal forestry department at Ely are moving to Duluth today as part of the National economy program to consolidate offices and reduce expenses. The supervision of the Superior National Forest will be directed from the local headquarters in the Federal Building.

DULUTH HERALD  
MARCH 29, 1933  
HEADQUARTERS FOR  
NATIONAL FOREST  
OPENED IN DULUTH

“Headquarters of the Superior National Forest were opened in the Federal Building this morning, moving from Ely. Leslie Bean, Supervisor of the Forest, will be in charge. The four employees of the office will make their home in Duluth in the future. Mr. Bean has already brought his family.

“The other employees include Calvin A. Stott, assistant supervisor; Fred Shoder, executive assistant; and Harry Ebel, clerk. They will operate the Forest from Duluth, using their new offices for the headquarters of all the activities in the future, Mr. Bean said.”

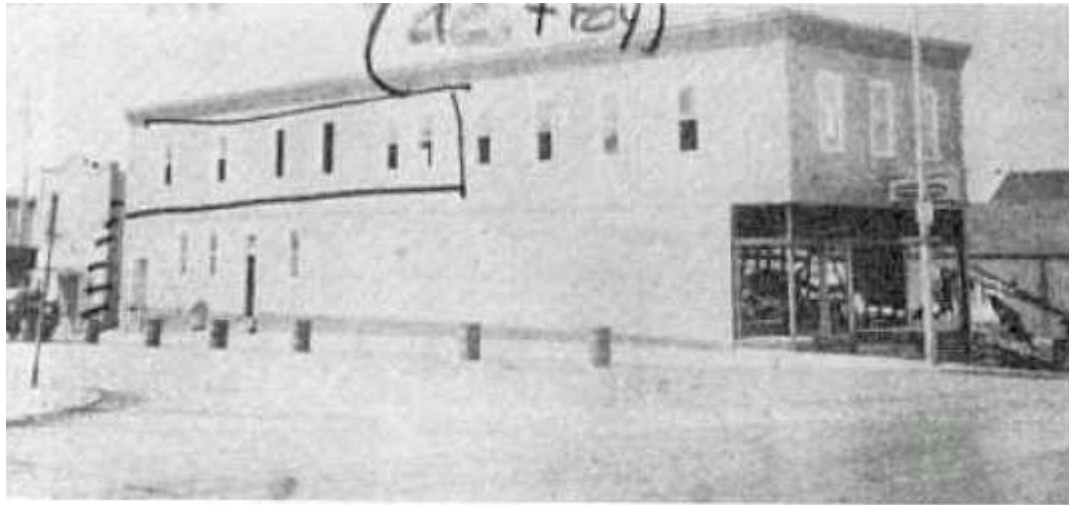
Since March 29, 1933, the Supervisor's Office has been continuously in the Federal Building except for a short period in 1972-73, when the offices were temporarily located in the Meierhoff Building while offices in the Federal Building were being remodeled. The period out of the Federal Building was from April 27, 1972 to March 17 and 18, 1973.



Veranth Building when occupied by the Forest Service. The name U.S. Forest Service may be noted on the front windows.



Veranth Building as it appeared in 1971.



Fenske Building – 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisor's Office, Ely, Minnesota. The lines on top show roughly the location of the office, whereas the hashed lines at the rear of the building shows the location of the entry and the outside stairway.



A photo of the same building taken in May 1954. The outside appearance seems to be changed very little.



Pete's Garage as it appeared in 1971. The building looks about the same as it did in 1933 when the Forest Service offices were there.





## ***SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST***

### **Supervisors To Date**

As mentioned elsewhere in the volume, the Superior National Forest officially began on its proclamation date - February 13, 1909.

Following is a list of the Forest Supervisors and their approximate period of service to date. Beginning in this Volume, and continuing in subsequent Volumes, it will be the aim to furnish a write-up for each supervisor, and other personnel as well, until the task is completed. The list is as follows:

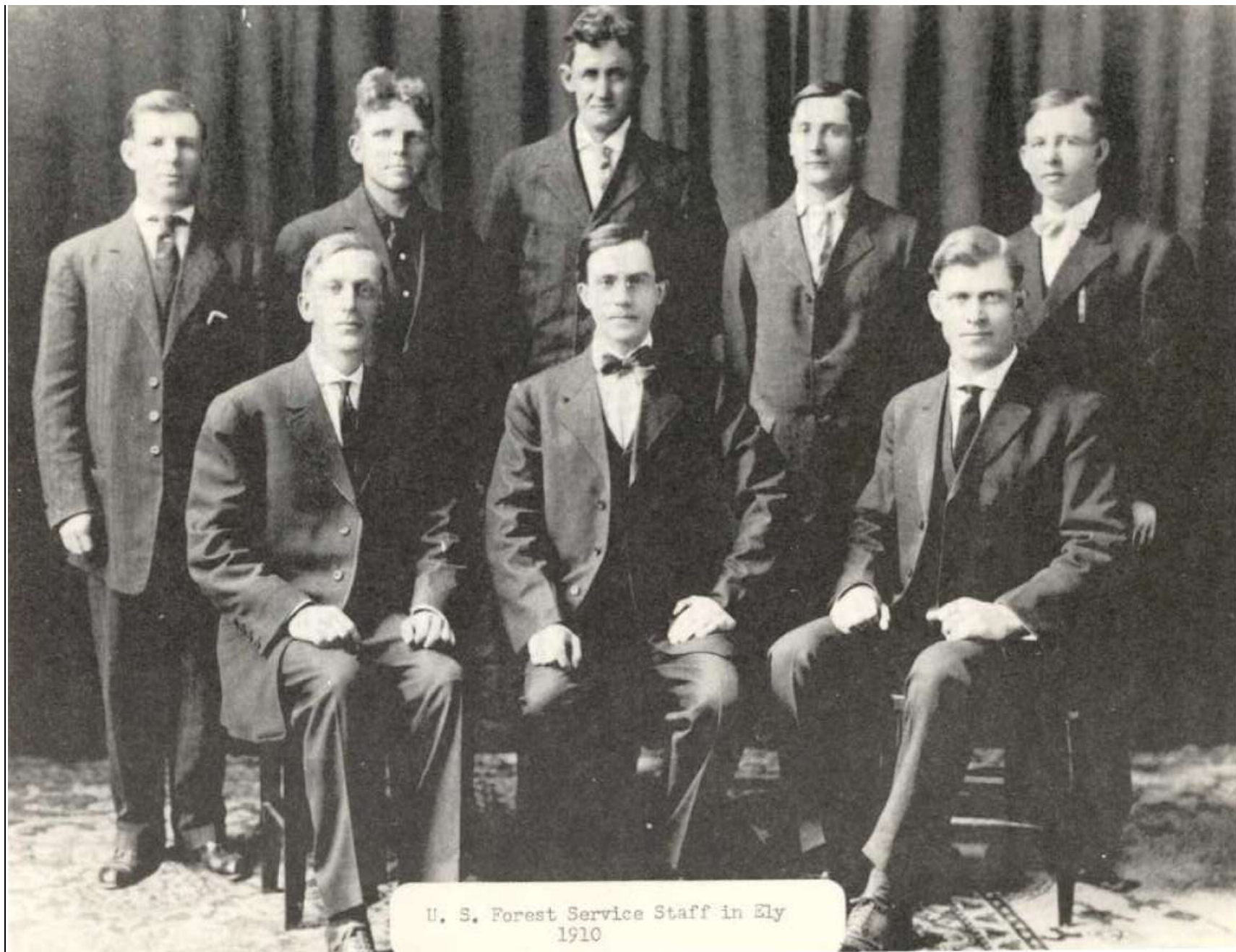
<b><u>Forest Supervisors</u></b>	<b><u>Approximate Period of Service</u></b>
John Sharpe Baird	March 1909 – July 14, 1909 As Acting Forest Supervisor - put Superior under administration. In July 1909 he was transferred to Deer-Lodge Forest in Montana as lumberman.
Scott Leavitt	May, 1909 to July 14, 1909 Served as Deputy Forest Supervisor under Baird (assigned April 21, 1909, but did not arrive in Ely until May 1 <sup>st</sup> ).  July 15, 1909 to April 21, 1910 Served as Acting Forest Supervisor, then transferred to Deputy Supervisor of the Beaverhead National Forest in Montana.  (Mr. Leavitt conducted the first Ranger examination on the Superior N.F. on Oct. 25-26, 1909. It is interesting to note that Leslie M. Brownell and Calvin Anok Dahlgren, who subsequently were Supervisors on the Superior, took this examination.)
Joseph Albert Fitzwater	April 21, 1910 to August 9, 1912
Leslie M. Brownell	Leslie M. Brownell served on the Superior National Forest as Forest Guard, Assist. Ranger, Ranger and filled in for the Supervisor on several occasions such as the period 8/10/1912 to Feb. 28, 1913. Further service on the Forest is noted as follows: March 1, 1913 – Dec. 15, 1913, Deputy Forest Supervisor. Dec. 16, 1913 - June 30, 1919, Forest Supervisor.
Calvin Anok Dahlgren	Mr. Dahlgren served on the Superior National Forest as Forest Guard, Assist. Ranger, Ranger and Forest Supervisor. His tour as Forest Supervisor was from June 1, 1919 to May 15, 1924 (resigned). He served further in the early 1930's as a foreman in the C.C.C. program.
A. L. Richey	Forest Supervisor - April 1, 1924 to Oct. 16, 1926 when he suddenly passed away. (His demise was while on an official trip in connection with a proposed transfer of station.)

Albin G. Hamel	Forest Supervisor - November 1, 1926 to July 1, 1930.
S. Duval Anderson	Forest Supervisor - July 1, 1930 to July 10, 1931.
R. A. Zeller	Forest Supervisor September 22, 1931 to July 8, 1932. Calvin Stott, Assist. Sup. under Mr. Anderson was Acting Forest Supervisor from July 10, 1931 to Sept. 22, 1931.
Leslie Sherman Bean	Forest Supervisor - 7/8/1932 to 10/30/1933. Mr. Bean also served additional tours on the Forest as follows: Forest Ranger, - 7/1/25 to 7/1/28. Senior Forest Ranger – 7/1/28 to 1/16/30. While Mr. Bean was Supervisor, the Supervisor's office was moved from Ely to Duluth.
Earl Pierce	Forest Supervisor – Oct. 24, 1933 to Feb. 13, 1934.
Raymond V. Harmon	Mr. Harmon spent several tours on the Forest as Forester, Assistant Supervisor and finally Forest Supervisor from January 1934 to April 15, 1939.
Clare W. Hendee	Forest Supervisor - April 16, 1939 to May 31, 1944.
Arlie Toole	Forest Supervisor - June 1, 1944 to October 14, 1945.
Galen W. Pike	Forest Supervisor from October 15, 1945 to his demise on July 27, 1955. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage while at the Lac La Croix Guard Station on official business.
Louis C. Hermel	Forest Supervisor from 8/14/55 to June 28, 1958. The interim period from July 27 to August 14, 1955 was filled by John O. Wernham, Assistant Supervisor.
Lawrence P. Neff	Forest Supervisor - June 28, 1958 to January 16, 1966. Mr. Neff also served additional tours on the Forest as Ranger (both Gunflint and Kawishiwi Districts), as well as member of the Supervisor's Staff.
John Otis Wernhan	Forest Supervisor - January 16, 1966 to June 15, 1969. Mr. Wernham also served other tours on the Forest as Forester and Assistant Supervisor.
Craig Rupp	Forest Supervisor - June 15, 1969 to May 2, 1971.
Harold E. Andersen	Forest Supervisor beginning June 13, 1971. He is still on the job as of the date of this summary.

J. W. White  
February 16, 1974

Group Photo of  
U.S. Forest Service Staff in Ely  
SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST in 1910 –  
With Identification





U. S. Forest Service Staff in Ely  
1910

Identification of Personnel on  
Preceding Page

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Standing – Left to Right

ALEXANDER A. CUMMINGS	-	Forest Guard
JOHN G. HANDBERG	-	Forest Guard
CHARLES TAYLOR	-	Forest Guard
LESLIE M. BROWNELL	-	Acting Assistant Supervisor
MELVILLE JAMES CUMMINGS	-	Forest Guard

Sitting – Left to Right

CALVIN ANOK DAHLGREN	-	Forest Guard
SCOTT LEAVITT	-	Acting Forest Supervisor
GUY A. TERRY	-	Forest Guard

At the time this picture was taken seven (7) of the personnel were rated as Forest Guards. This included Leslie M. Brownell who was also serving as Acting Assistant Supervisor. Scott Leavitt conducted the first Ranger's examination on the Superior National Forest and the above personnel all took the examination and passed. Subsequently all became Rangers except Alexander A. Cummings, who was drowned before he could be rated. It is interesting to note that in addition to Scott Leavitt who was Acting Forest Supervisor, two other persons in this picture subsequently became Supervisors of the Superior National Forest. One was Leslie M. Brownell who served as supervisor from December 16, 1913, to June 30, 1919. From March 1, 1913 to December 15, 1913 he served as Deputy Forest Supervisor. The other was Calvin Anok Dahlgren who served as Forest Supervisor from June 1, 1919 to May 15, 1924 when he resigned.

Short write-ups on Alexander A. Cummings, Charles Taylor, Melville James Cummings, Calvin Anok Dahlgren, Scott Leavitt and Guy A. Terry appear in this volume and the remainder will appear in a subsequent volume.

### SCOTT LEAVITT

SCOTT LEAVITT was assigned to the Superior National Forest on April 21, 1909, and reported to Ely, Minnesota on May 1, 1909. From May 1, 1909 to July 14, 1909, he served as Deputy Forest Supervisor under acting Forest Supervisor John Sharpe Baird. For the period July 15, 1909 to April 21, 1910, he was acting Forest Supervisor.

The record shows that only four men were in the Ely office before he arrived. They were:

John Sharpe Baird - March 1909  
Calvin A. Dahlgren - April 20, 1909  
Melville J. Cummings - April 23, 1909  
Walter L. Eisenach - April 20, 1909

Two more men, John E. Elliott and Guy A. Terry, reported the same day he did on May 1, 1909. Four more came shortly thereafter:

Charles Taylor - September 1, 1909  
Alexander A. Cummings - September 1, 1909  
Leslie M. Brownell - July 22, 1909  
John G. Handberg - September 1, 1909

Mr. Leavitt was born on June 16, 1879 at Elk Rapids, Michigan, and began work with the U. S. Forest Service in 1907. His story is pieced together from his own accounts (R-9 Contact - September 1935 and personal letter of 2/9/1935 to J. W. Trygg - copies of both are in the Supervisor Historical file). His story is:

“As long ago as May 1 of 1909, I reported at Ely, Minnesota as a ranger assigned to help Lumberman John S. Baird put the very recently created Superior National Forest under administration. Again as recently as the 25<sup>th</sup> day of this February, 1935, I reported to the Regional Forester at Milwaukee to assume charge of the Branch of Public Relations. Thus, I am both an old timer and a newcomer in the region.

In 1909, Region 9 did not exist as a separate administration entity. Of its present 15 National Forests and Purchase Units there were only the Chippewa, then called the Minnesota; the original Superior; and the Michigan-Marquette, now included in the Huron and the Marquette division of the Upper Michigan. They were administered as parts of “District” One, with headquarters at Missoula, Montana.

The Minnesota (Chippewa) National Forest was one of the older forests, but in 1909 the Superior was brand new. Its proclamation was dated February 13 of that same year.

I transferred to the Superior from the Fremont Forest in southeastern Oregon, where I had been a ranger since 1904. (The Fremont was) a grazing Forest, but the fact that I had grown up in the lake and woods country in Michigan was stated as a reason for my selection. The journey

was from Lakeview, Oregon, all day and all night by stage and livery to Madeline, California, and thence by rail and frequent changes through Reno, Nevada and Ogden, Utah, to Missoula.

Forest Service history was in the making at Missoula. Three men destined to become chiefs of the Forest Service were working in that one District Office. William B. Greeley (father of Arthur Greeley) was District Forester. R. Y. Stuart was Assistant Chief of Operation. F. A. Silcox, our present chief, was assistant District Forester, which corresponds to the Associate Regional Forester of today.

District Forester Greeley sped me on my way with a letter to Mr. Baird. 'Dear Mr. Baird,' it read, 'This will introduce to you Mr. Scott Leavitt who has been assigned as Forest Ranger to the Superior National Forest effective April 21. I am sure Mr. Leavitt's experience as a ranger on the Fremont National Forest and his familiarity with local conditions in Michigan will enable him to be of material assistance to you in the administration of your Forest.'

I still have that letter of introduction, with a note written on it by Mr. Baird, and an old Forest Service diary which tells of my arrival at Ely on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. That diary also records the first public relations work which I did in this region. It says that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May I 'went to the High School (in Ely, i.e.) with Baird, Dahlgren and Eisenach, and addressed pupils on plans and purposes of the Service.

John S. Baird was first in charge, but in about ten weeks (July 14, 1909), he was transferred as a lumberman to the Deerlodge Forest in Montana. From July 15, 1909 until April 21, 1910 when I also was sent to Montana (to become Deputy Supervisor on the Beaverhead, shortly thereafter Supervisor of the Lewis & Clark, and eventually Supervisor of the Jefferson), I was Acting Supervisor of the Superior. I have a 1909 Field Program, as the Directory then was called, listing me as Acting Supervisor, but no name of any other assistant. In fact, there was no clerk or stenographer. I was the entire office force, with an Oliver typewriter and my own fingers to run it. When I went on a field trip I called in Leslie Brownell and Walter Eisenach.

As I recall it, in addition to Leslie (Brownell) and Walter (Eisenach) Charles Taylor and Mel Cummings were already on the force when I arrived, also Calvin Dahlgren. Guy Terry came soon after and then Alex Cummings and John Handberg. Leslie can correct that if I am hazy in my memory. (See page one of this write up.) All were Guards and took the ranger examination, which I conducted. (See clipping in the file from Duluth and News Tribune of September 21, 1909 announcing the examination which was held on October 25 & 26, 1909). The office was in the Fenske Building - two rooms, with a moose head loaned by Taxidermist John Schaefer hanging over my desk. Schaefer worked some as a guard.

I still was a ranger when I was sent to the Superior. I was promoted to Deputy Supervisor and acting Supervisor while there. There were no highways into the Superior region in 1909. Except for a few short stretches between local points there were no roads at all, and the iron Range Railroad up from Duluth gave the only access to Ely. Even more than today, we traveled an undisturbed wilderness by canoe. In my old diary I find interesting records of that early work. One page of it tells of a fifty-mile journey by canoe in one day in the company of Ranger Terry who later worked with me in Montana, with two lightening fires controlled on the way. Another tells of stopping early of an afternoon at a sand beach on Lac La Croix, where a hole could be dug under the campfire to bake a pot of beans.

Later that same month, a journey to Duluth to look up land titles brought me my first acquaintance with Wm L. Barker, Jr., who now is in the Regional Office in Milwaukee. (This was written in 1935.) My diary records that I met him on June 27 (1909), and it continues: 'got Barker to help in Land Office in afternoon at \$2.50 per day.' He and I did some title work in about four days, which resulted in saving a rich tract of fine timberland for the National Forest.

(Field trips) with Dahlgren to look at some homesteads; with A. W. Cooper, District (Regional) Chief of Silviculture from Missoula, when we traveled the length of La Croix in a birch bark canoe; and with W. B. Greeley, then District (Regional) Forester, to the St. Croix lumber camp where we spent the night in the bunk house.

I have also an old "Field Program" dated November, 1909. It shows me as acting Supervisor of the Superior National Forest, and it tells also what several interesting forestry personalities were doing at that time, some of them who still are at work in the profession within the territory of this Region (as of September 1935).

Raphael Zon, now director of the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, is shown as Chief of Silvics (in the field) in the Washington Office, and S. T. Dana, now Dean of the Forest School at the University of Michigan, was his assistant and acting chief. A. G. Hamel, now Regional Chief of States Relations, was a forest assistant (Junior Foresters), engaged in silvical studies at the Fremont Experiment Station in Colorado. Paul D. Kelleter, now Supervisor of the Clark in Missouri, was Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota.

Not from that Field Program but from a clear memory, I recall another who still honors the Service in the Region – the veteran Ranger Mel Cummings of the Chippewa, on detail to the Ottawa. I remember that I gave him his ranger examination in the late summer of 1909 (October 25 & 26), at Ely. Of all that original force of the Old Superior, he and I are the only ones now in the Service. We are truly pioneers of Region Nine.

These old diaries and the Field programs are veritable storehouses of history and memory. In the envelope in which I found them, I discovered a letter written to me at Ely by Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service. In part that letter reads:

'The thing I want to say is that I am counting on you to stand by the Service ... The biggest and best thing about the Service is the loyalty of the men ... You are working for all the people of the United States and that is worthwhile.'

It was then, and still is, worthwhile.

On April 21, 1910, I turned the Superior over to J. A. Fitzwater, who is now a Forest Inspector out of the Washington office (was in 1935), and left that glamorous land of forest-enriched lakes for the glory of the Western Mountains. I was transferred to Montana, and following a few weeks on the Beaverhead, was made Supervisor of the Lewis & Clark National Forest, and then of the Jefferson. The two now are together at the Lewis & Clark. I left the Forest Service in 1918 to do war work and was elected to congress from Montana, serving from 1923 to 1933. In 1928 I returned to the Superior as a member of the congressional committee studying the preservation of the Boundary Waters and the shorelines. (This was in connection with the proposed Shipstead-Nolan Law which became a reality in 1931.) We spent some days in the

area I remembered so well. The committee named an island for me, but I presume no one remembers which one it was. Then again, after I came back to the Forest Service in 1935, I was back briefly. You, Bill (Trygg) and Ray Harman will recall that I flew with the lookout for fires.

I would like very much to see that glorious area again, and all of you still connected with it.”

Unfortunately, Mr. Leavitt was not to get his wish. He passed away at his home in Newburg, Oregon on October 20, 1966, at the age of 87. Mrs. Leavitt preceded him in death on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1961.

Mr. Leavitt was truly a pioneer on the Superior National Forest and one of those men who helped to lay such firm foundations in the Service.

(The parentheses were supplied by J. W. White.)



SCOTT LEAVITT

Served as Deputy Forest Supervisor April 21, 1909 to July 14, 1909 and as Acting Forest Supervisor from July 15, 1909 to April 21, 1910. Photo taken about 1935 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (a photo taken in 1910 also appears at the beginning of this volume)

## JOHN SHARPE BAIRD

John Sharpe Baird was the first Acting Forest Supervisor of the Superior National Forest. Unfortunately the information we have about him is very scanty and was secured from the following two sources:

1. The National Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri.
2. Personal letter written by Mr. Baird on March 13, 1944.

Mr. Baird was born on November 28, 1872 in County Mayo, Ireland but many years later he described himself as “an ugly, cranky little Scotsman by the name of Baird”.

In his letter of March 13, 1944 (a copy of which is attached) he describes his assignment to the Superior National Forest in the following language:

“In March 1909, as instructed by District Forester Greeley, I went to Ely, Minnesota, made some examinations, reported to the District Forester by letter, and as directed by him, formally put the Superior National Forest under administration. I requisitioned office supplies and equipment, also field equipment, rented office rooms, and employed a small crew of forest guards. I was on the Superior four months when Scott Leavitt took over. He was succeeded in April 1910 by Joe Fitzwater.”

This forest beginning is described in a very few words and perhaps it was just as easy and workman like as it sounds. Many years later Leavitt was to recall that the office was in the Fenske Building – two rooms, with a moose head loaned by Taxidermist John Schaefer hanging over the Supervisor’s desk. He was also to recall that there was no office force at this time, only an Oliver typewriter which Leavitt ran. When he went on a field trip some of the guards were called in to take over.

As previously mentioned, Mr. Baird arrived in March 1909, and left on July 14, 1909 for the Deerlodge National Forest. Other personnel who began while he was there and who helped in setting up administration, are enumerated as follows:

Calvin Anok Dahlgren	April 20, 1909 He was employed as a Forest Guard. He had been working as a scaler under the Federal Department of Interior on ceded Indian lands and we feel certain that Mr. Baird knew him previously.
Melville James Cummings	April 23, 1909 He was employed as Forest Guard. He lived at Cass Lake, where Mr. Baird came from, and we feel Mr. Baird was instrumental in his being there.
Scott Leavitt	May 1, 1909



Deputy Forest Supervisor. Mr. Leavitt had been assigned to the Superior on April 21 but did not arrive in Ely until May 1. He served as Deputy Forest Supervisor from May 1, 1909 to July 14, 1909 and from July 15, 1909 to April 21, 1920 he was Acting Forest Supervisor.  
(See 6100 file – Scott Leavitt for his account).

John E. Elliott

May 1, 1909

He was employed as Forest Guard. We do not know too much about Mr. Elliott but believe that he was occupied as a logger before his employment here and we have a feeling that Mr. Baird knew him and was instrumental in his being here.

Guy A. Terry

May 1, 1909

He was employed as a Forest Guard.

Other employees were soon to follow but this is the original force which was busily employed in fire patrols, fighting fire, building portages, constructing telephone lines and reporting on Homestead and Stone and Timber claims. A number of such cases in which Mr. Baird participated are included in the Supervisor's Office files. The first station was built in Section 29, T61N, R10W and it was named the Baird Station after the Supervisor. It was the headquarters of the Stony District and was used as such for several years.

Attached is a letter written by Mr. Baird on March 13, 1944 in which he gives a thumb nail sketch of his career. By reference to this as well as information secured from the Federal Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, we believe the following summary fairly accurately reflects his assignments for various times and places:

Forest Agent - December 15, 1903 to April 15, 1905

Bureau of Forestry, Department of Interior, Minnesota National Forest Reserve, Cass Lake, Minnesota. Worked for Eugene S. Bruce, Gifford Pinchott's personal representative on timber sale work.

Ranger - April 16, 1905 to June 30, 1905

U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Minnesota National Forest, G. E. Marshall, Forest Supervisor, timber sale work.

Forest Ranger, July 1, 1905 to March 30, 1907

Forest Supervisor.

Assistant Lumberman, April 1, 1907 to September 30, 1907

Forest Supervisor.

Lumberman, October 1, 1907 to March 1909

Forest Supervisor.

Lumberman, March 1909 to July 14, 1909

Acting Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest, Ely, Minnesota. Scott Leavitt, Deputy Forest Supervisor beginning May 1, 1909 - effective April 21, 1909.

Lumberman, July 15, 1909 to June 1910

Deerlodge National Forest, under district office, Missoula. Organized a reconnaissance crew. Lumber being killed by smelter fumes. District office cruised and sold everything.

Lumberman, June 1910 to July 25, 1910

Helena National Forest. Organized a similar crew.

Lumberman, July 25, 1910 to August 31, 1910

Worked on Big 1910 fire – worked near Borax on Wallace Branch of Northern Pacific. Mr. Baird later said this was the one failure in his career.

Lumberman, September 1, 1910 to March 15, 1911

Deerlodge National Forest. (Resigned March 15, 1911 and spent the next 8 years in S.W. Missouri working for a lumber company until they finished cutting their holdings. They moved to Louisiana but he wanted to get back to the Northwest. Got Forest Service appointment as lumberman - assigned to Kaniksu January 1, 1919.

Lumberman, January 1, 1919 to May 24, 1920

Kaniksu National Forest, Newport, Washington. Worked on Elliston Trespass - Committed by Marcus Daley 1895 – 1900.

(Resigned May 24, 1920 to work for Lindsley Brothers, Spokane, Washington, worked for them 1½ years and was out of a job for a while. Took Forest Service examination for scaler and was appointed April 10, 1922.)

Scaler, April 10, 1922 to June 30, 1924

Kootenai National Forest, Libby, Montana.

Senior Lumberman, July 1, 1924 to December 31, 1926

Kootenai National Forest.

Senior Forest Ranger, January 1927 to November 30, 1934

In 1944 he was residing in Spokane, Washington.

Mr. Baird was a Forest Service pioneer in every sense of the word. He was the first Supervisor of the Superior National Forest. He worked for both the Bureau of Forestry under the Department of Interior and the U. S. Forest Service under the Department of Agriculture and helped to bridge the gap. He was acquainted with historic figures such as Gifford Pinchot, Eugene S. Bruce, William B. Greeley, H. H. Chapman, etc. It is a great shame that we do not have a full description of his many projects and activities but we know enough to know that we owe him thanks for many things. To date I have been unable to come up with a photo of Mr. Baird.

J. W. White

January 18, 1974

P.S.-1 A lake in Lake County, located in Sections 28 and 29, T61N, R10W has been officially named Baird Lake. 28 is located near the Old Baird Ranger Station (constructed in 1910) and was formerly known as Spring Lake. The forest tree nursery formerly located at the Baird Station was called Spring Lake Nursery.

P.S.-2 A detailed check of the "Ely Miner Newspaper" in early 1909 discloses several items concerning the early beginnings of the forest. Items from April 23, 1909 to December 17, 1909 are attached.

A detailed check of the "Ely Miner Newspaper" in early 1909 discloses the following comments concerning the beginning of the Superior National Forest.

April 23, 1909 J. S. Baird of Cass Lake has been appointed Supervisor of the new Forest Reserve north of Ely and has rented rooms in the Fenske Building for offices. Walter Eisenach has been employed to assist Mr. Baird in setting up the offices and getting in supplies.

April 30, 1909 Ely has been selected as the headquarters for the offices of the newly created Superior National Forest, embracing about 45 government townships north of here and set apart by Presidential Proclamation on February 13<sup>th</sup> of this year. Supplies are arriving daily and active work will begin when weather permits.

Purpose of the Forest Service is to set boundaries of the Forest Reserve, to establish quarters for the Forest Guards, to lay out roads and trails and to take steps necessary to prevent and control forest fires that may break out. Seven guards will be employed at \$900 per annum and will be headed by an experienced Ranger who will be paid \$1,200 per annum. All supplies – tents, canoes, axes, picks and shovels will be furnished by the Forest Service. In addition, the State of Minnesota will receive assistance in the preserving of game and fish in this area. All government (Forest Service) employees to be commissioned as Game Wardens of the State.

May 14, 1909 The Forest Service has announced the appointment of John E. Elliott and C. A. Terry as Forest Guards.

May 21, 1909 An understanding between the Forest Service and Homestead and Patent holders has been reached. There was some apprehension among the latter when it was announced that the government had set aside this huge acreage as a Forest Reserve. Landowners, patent holders and homesteaders that have a legal claim to their land will not be evicted from it. Officials state that the idea of the Forest Service is to preserve, protect and assure a perpetual supply of timber – not to take land away from local owners.

June 18, 1909 With the establishment of the Superior National Forest in this area, the total acreage of the National Forests has reached 194,500,000 acres. They have been divided into districts – six in all, and the executives are moving out of Washington – out into the field.

- July 23, 1909      Heliographs have been set up in the various stations of the Superior National Forest for better communications between the stations. Seventy miles of phone wires have been started and also some of the homes for the guards and rangers.
- July 30, 1909      J. S. Baird, who came here in April to set up the offices for the Superior National Forest, has been transferred to Lolo Reserve in Montana as Chief Lumberman with headquarters in Missoula. Scott Leavitt will have charge of Forest Service affairs.
- Cabins are being built for each Ranger District at a cost of \$500 each.
- December 17, 1909      Scott Leavitt, Supervisor of the Superior National Forest, was the main speaker at the State Forestry Convention in St. Paul last week. (The speech was printed in its entirety in the Ely Miner.)

THE SUPERIOR PADDLE, December 31, 1970  
EARLY CANOES by Old Paddlers

John Sharpe Baird was the first Supervisor (or I should say Acting Forest Supervisor) for the Superior National Forest. The record shows that he was born November 28, 1872 in County Mayo, Ireland (although he says he was of Scottish ancestry). He came to the Superior in March 1909 and stayed until July 14, 1909 but perhaps we should get the story first hand from a letter written by Mr. Baird on March 13, 1944, which was secured from the files on the Chippewa National Forest, thru the gracious assistance of Stan Johnson.

John S. Baird  
Senior Ranger  
Kootenai National Forest  
(Retired 1934)

W. 530 Gordon Avenue  
Spokane 12, Washington  
March 13, 1944

I received an appointment as forest agent effective December 15, 1903. The appointment was from the Bureau of Forestry. Mr. Gifford Pinchot was forester, and he instructed me to report at Cass Lake, Minnesota, for work on the Minnesota National Forest Reserve, which I did. Eugene S. Bruce, whom I had known for a long time, was in charge. He was succeeded in 1905 by G. E. Marshall who was designated Forest Supervisor.

Before going further I must explain that the areas now known as National Forests were then known as the western Reserves, and were under the Department of Interior. In 1905 the Reserves were transferred to the Department of Agriculture, and the name of the Bureau of Forestry was changed to Forest Service. The Forest Reserves were designated National Forests.

The work on the Minnesota was purely timber sale work. The timber belonged to the Chippewa Indians, and was sold for their benefit by sealed bids to lumber companies, and was called by Department of the Interior scalers. We were required to mark and retain five percent of the timber and oversee brush disposal. It so happened that all of the crew were familiar with timber estimate work, which fact proved of great value on the job.

The Minnesota Forest was in District One at that time, and Civil Service ratings were required. I took the examination for lumberman, and passed.

In March 1909, as instructed by District Forester Greeley, I went to Ely, Minnesota, made some examinations, reported to the District Forester by letter, and as directed by him, formally put the Superior National Forest under administration. I requisitioned office supplies and equipment, also field equipment, rented office rooms, and employed a small crew of forest guards. I was on the Superior four months when Scott Leavitt took over. He was succeeded in April 1910 by Joe Fitzwater.

In July 1909, I reported at the District Office, Missoula, was assigned to the Deerlodge National Forest, and organized a reconnaissance crew. The timber on the Deerlodge was being killed by smelter fumes, and the D.O. cruised and sold everything affected. We made a timber estimate by forties, and made a topographic and type map. Most of the Forest was unsurveyed and we had to make a skeleton survey in each drainage, setting up some temporary section corners. In June 1910 I was transferred to the Helena, leaving the Deerlodge crew in charge of R. P. Prichard. On the Helena I organized a crew similar to that on the Deerlodge, and worked there until July 25, on which date, in response to a wire from the District Office, I reported at Missoula.

The big 1910 fire was going strong then. Both the Lolo and the Coeur d'Alene had crews at intervals along the front. I was given a crew of forty men, and located near Borax on the Wallace branch of the Northern Pacific. We honestly did our best, but it was not good enough on that fire.

Returned to the Deerlodge September 1, and worked on that Forest until March 15, 1911 at which time I resigned from the Service.

I then spent almost eight years in southwest Missouri working for a lumber company, and when they finished cutting their holdings there I did not go to Louisiana with them. I wanted to get back to the northwest, was able to get a Forest Service appointment as lumberman, and was assigned to the Kaniksu January 1, 1919.

Resigned from the Service again in June 1920 to work for Lindsley Brothers, Spokane. Worked for them about a year and a half; was out of a job for a while. Took Forest Service examination for scaler, and was appointed to the Kootenai April 10, 1925, and worked on the Kootenai until November 1934, at which time I was retired on account of having reached the age limit.

It may seem peculiar that I resigned from the Service twice, and came back both times, but my record must have been clear, or I could not have done so.

The foregoing is a true and chronological account of my work from 1903 to 1934. Reading it over, it seems ordinary and uninteresting, but in reality it was far from being so. You ask for some of the crowning incidents of my career. I suppose you mean the things that affected my later life, but really there were none, or hardly any. I suppose the 1910 fire was the nearest. That was the first job I had ever tackled that I fell down on – and it hurt!

There was a lot of hostility on the residents of Cass Lake, Minnesota to the establishing of the Minnesota National Forest. They had expected that the Chippewa Indian Reservation would be opened to settlement, and when it was made a Forest Reserve their disappointment was keen. The newspapers of the Twin Cities and of Duluth lambasted the Bureau of Forestry and its representatives pretty hard. Mr. Pinchot came in for a lot of adverse criticism; so Mr. Bruce and Ed Marshall; but they got tired of fighting us after awhile.

I have been told that Cass Lake now regards the Forest as its greatest asset, and that it is going to be the finest summer resort in that region. It should be, for the Minnesota (or Chippewa, as they call it now) is the most beautiful thing in America – or anyway, I think so.

I understand that the Superior moved its headquarters from Ely to Duluth. I heard they were putting on a lot of style, using planes to make field trips, and that they have fine surfaced roads to go where we traveled by canoe and portage. I wonder what they would say if someone told them that the first Acting Supervisor on the Forest was an ugly, cranky little Scotsman by the name of Baird. Better not tell them.

In 1908 when I was on the Minnesota, the Supervisor held a Civil Service examination for the position of ranger. I assisted him in giving the field test on the second day. Among the candidates that fell to me was a young man who gave his name as Howard Flint. I did not see him again until June 1919, when I transferred to the Kaniksu as lumberman. He had been Supervisor of Kaniksu for a year, and he knew me at once. We had a long talk and he told me all the news from the old Minnesota.

In 1909 and 1910 I had a nice lot of boys and young men in reconnaissance crew; some of whom became well known. One was L. C. Stockdale, who later became Chief of Operations in District One. I believe he is now in Washington, D. C. Another was R. T. Ferguson, now Supervisor of the Beartooth. Another was C. N. Whitney, now in Products in your office. Another was C. Leo Billings, now general manager of Potlatch Forests, Inc.

The differences between conditions in the Forest Service of 1905 – 1910 and those of the present day are too numerous to mention. There were no roads to speak of; not every ranger district had a station; and what stations there were, were log cabins. Just look at them now, though. The pay of a Forest Ranger averaged \$900 a year, and no allotment was made for expenses. Besides, he was required to furnish his own saddle horse. The astonishing thing about it was the fact that in spite of all this, the Service got such a high type of men. The rangers' wives may be given a lot of credit for this. They kept the stations spotless, and took good care of their men. I met a lot of rangers and their wives in my work, and I know. My hat is off to the old ranger and his wife. I truly believe that they laid the foundation of the Service.

I could go on for a long time relating incidents that were very interesting to me, but they might not interest others. You know how it is with us old fellows – once we start to gab we never know when to quit.

If I have touched on any points that interest you and you want more information, please let me know.

/s/ John S. Baird

## THE FITZWATER INTERVIEW

This is Ray Naddy, Information Specialist of the Superior National Forest. The date is July 27, 1970. We are on the shores of Twin Lakes, northeast of Ely, Minnesota, on the Fernberg Trail. We are here today to interview Joe Fitzwater, the first Supervisor of the Superior National Forest. He came to the Superior in April of 1910 and left in the fall of 1912. With us today are Donald Ferguson, Information Officer of the Superior National Forest who will retire tomorrow after 30 years of service, and District Ranger, John Vogel (now Recreation Staff Officer of the Ottawa National Forest) of the Kawishiwi District of the Superior. (Since tape was made Vogel has left the service.)

How old are you, Mr. Fitzwater?

86.

And you started with the Forest Service in 1902 as a student?

Yes, Forestry Assistant.

You were the Forestry Assistant in the Bureau of Forestry; this was three years before the organization of the Forest Service as we know it today?

Yes.

Do you want to tell us a little bit about the Bureau of Forestry in 1902 – what it was like in the organization and what you did with it?

Well, what we did was work under supervision in estimating timber, largely caliper and assisting in making growth studies by counting the annual rings on trees and measuring the length of logs and getting growth data; and that was taken back to Washington and tabulated in contometers.

Was there a lot of technical know how in those days?

Oh, yes. There were Foresters who took charge of it and had forestry training. It was divided into camps - we were down in Texas in 1902 and we had 3 or 4 different camps there under the supervision of technically trained men.

Can you remember the names of any of those, Joe?

Yes, I knew some of them. I remember Reid - I can think of a lot of them but I can't think of them now. If I stopped and thought I could.

Then after you were a student assistant you went to Yale University. After you graduated from Yale, did you go back to work for the Forest Service?

Oh, yes. In 1908 I entered the Forest Service again. I first had to pass a civil service exam for the position of Jr. Forester. I was in the office just a month or so then I went out to Arizona.

Let's talk a little bit about Arizona. You mentioned earlier John Allison and you said you knew Cheyney too. Well, both Cheyney and Allison were my Prof.'s in school and Cheyney is gone of course, but old Pops Allison as we called him, is still going real strong. Have you seen him lately?

No, I haven't.

Well, what was his job then?

He was just a Junior Forester in charge of this crew.

Yes, we used to hear him talk a lot about the Coconino and it was interesting that you had worked with him. Then you came to the Superior in April of 1910. I understand that Baird was the first acting Supervisor - he was a logger that helped set it up?

Yes, he was here a year.

Then Leavitt came from the Missoula, I think it was, or Denver?

I don't know where he came from.

He was Acting, and you were assigned here as the first full time Supervisor of the Superior in April of 1910?

Yes, that's right.

Is that the same Scott Leavitt that used to be in our Milwaukee office?

Well, he was a congressman for a while.

Well that's it then, Scott Leavitt. Do you want to tell us what the Superior was like when you first came here and what your impression was?

Well frankly, it was a veritable wilderness. It was a wonderful backwoods country - there just wasn't anybody back in there. It had been trapped quite a little and the State had closed it to trapping. As a result of that, the portages, which had been made by the trappers and the Indians all grew up. One of our first jobs was getting communications from lake to lake by opening up those portages - and it was quite a hard job because they were hard to find - you just had to know where they were. But fortunately we had a pretty good map; now, when that map was made, I don't know, but it was a pretty good map.

What was the purpose of bringing communications from lake to lake - for fire control?

For fire control. That was the only way to get in there - there were no roads.



Was there much travel by other than trappers?

Oh, very little.

Not much recreation travel or fishing travel?

No. Now in the winter time, there were quite a few timber and stone claims that had been taken way back in years before and these fellows that had those decided that they'd go to patent. Then the Department of Interior insisted that we go up and make an examination of them – a rough estimate of the timber and to be sure there was no habitation there because it was timber and stone, not a homestead - so we would do that in the winter. A couple of Rangers or myself and one of the Rangers would take snowshoes and a toboggan and go back there – a that was a wonderful trip; awful hard work but lots of fun to go back there in the winter time and get those claims.

Were those bonafide claims or were they just made for the timber companies?

Just made for timber - that's what they were, timber and stone claims, they weren't homesteads.

Yes, but I mean, they were people acting for the timber and stone companies at the time, I suppose?

I don't know that. But we had some Homestead Claims over on the Crane Lake side that we went in and examined - the people had a little clearing about a quarter of an acre and a log cabin, and that was their ranch. We knocked out most of those.

There were some homesteads though. Weren't there some homesteads back up in this country then?

You mean operated?

Well, people who apparently figured they could come up and make a living off the land?

I think they were largely going in there to get the timber because I never found one that wasn't on timber land.

Well, I was told that at one time on Cummings or as you knew it, Clear Lake, there was actually a settlement there.

There wasn't any when I was here.

Did you ever use dogs to travel in the wintertime, Joe?

Never did, I had a dog team arranged to purchase before I left here but I never got it.

You said earlier at lunch that when you first arrived here most of the country had been logged over or burned over.

Yes, that's right.

And was the Swallow-Hopkins Co. still going then?

Yes, they were here and the St. Croix Lumber Co. - I knew the Torinus boys.

Now being mostly logged over and cut over and there was a lot of standing timber, but was much of that standing timber on the National Forest land?

Well, the standing timber that we had on the National Forest land at the time was Jack Pine. We had some beautiful stands of Jack Pine but very little White Pine. We had some up on Birch Lake but the 1910 fire burnt up a section of White Pine there, that we sold to St. Croix Lumber Co.

You mentioned earlier this little Jack Pine song. I wonder if you would repeat that here?

Dahlgren, one of my Rangers, and most of the other rangers kidded me because I could see some future in Jack Pine; all they could see was White and Red Pine. Dahlgren used to kid me by singing a little song: "There, there little Jack Pine, don't you sigh, you'll be a White Pine by and by."

For the most part, people couldn't foresee the future of Jack Pine?

Oh no, they never gave it a thought.

Now we'll get to the fires of 1910. You mentioned the fires of 1910 and the fact that you had just been here a few days, I think, when you were out fighting fires. Do you want to tell us your first experience on fire with Leslie Brownell, I believe it was?

Oh, just about ten days after I got to Ely, fire broke out on Birch Lake, on one of the St. Croix Lumber Company's cuttings and of course, we had to go out and fight it. So I got together a bunch of stuff, we hadn't any firefighting tools. We had to get axes and grubhoes and the axes weren't even handled. So I got a bunch of handles and some ham and some bread - and we got it all together and got the Liveryman to take us in his big van out to the Halfway house. But after we got the stuff all together and were just about to leave, Les Brownell came up to me - I had assumed he would take them, I though he knew the country here and he had fought fire - and he said, you know what, Mr. Fitzwater, I have never fought a fire. I said, you didn't? He said, No. Well, I said, I better take the crew. Well, I had never fought a fire neither. But I went out and fought a fire and I learned a lot about fire that summer.

Why don't you tell us how you learned to fight a fire, hiding behind a tree and watching the Finlanders.

Oh, yes. When we got up there the first experience we had was, one of the lumberjacks was about three sheets in the wind. He said my God, Fitzwater, you are not going to put us on the fire tonight are you? I said, what the hell do you think I brought you up here for? Well, he said, I don't feel good. I said, well you get over it. Go handle that axe. Well then, I remember some of these Finlanders, they were building a trench around the fire and I thought that's a good idea. So I got up behind a tree and watched them awhile and I thought, well, I can fight that damn thing, so I got busy and from that we developed a fire line. We knew a lot about fire

lines before the summer was over. But one of our big troubles was - and I guess it has happened with a lot of amateurs - we would get a little rain, you know, to knock the fire down and we thought we had the darn thing and we'd leave it. Then about 3 days later we got fire up there in the same place. I finally tumbled that we weren't putting the fire out. So after that when we left a fire, it was out, I'll tell you.

Fergie is an old time fireman, and he always maintains that the people never really put the fire out, it's usually a gift of God and rain more than anything else.

That isn't true. You put the fire out and leave a man patrolling that until there is no question of it being out. I never left a fire without a patrolman on it after I found that out.

This is what I think Fergie means - is that you can be fighting a fire for two or three weeks and you would still be fighting it if you don't get a little weather to help you out.

Oh, yes; if it was big enough. If it was so big that you couldn't get clear around it, it certainly would, but if it was a fire small enough to get around it, you could get the darned thing out. We used water an awful lot. We would get buckets and pails, you know, we used this water very stingingly because it was hard to get it there. And after we would get it well in hand, we would run our hand through it to make sure it was all out. That was a good way to tell - if you could run your hand through there without getting singed, well, it was out.

How did you move that water? You didn't have pumps like we have now.

No, we didn't have pumps. We had these water bags. We would go fill those and we would carry them a long ways sometimes to wet down a fire.

That's doing it the hard way, isn't it?

Hard way? By God, I would go days and nights without any sleep. I'm glad I went through it, but thank God I don't have to do it now.

Would you have any idea how many acres burned that first summer you were here in 1910?

I never heard until - what was it you said?

We looked at an old record yesterday and it stated 24,000 acres for 1910 and then for 1911 and 1912 there was no record.

Well, we didn't get any fires to speak of. We had a few, but we had some organization by that time and they were small enough that we could knock them down.

You mentioned that a lot of these fires were lightning caused and some of them were from logging practices. What was it, was it the slash left on the ground that dried up?

Oh yes. They never touched their slash. There was nothing requiring them to do it you know - it was just cut and get out.

And that set it up for the lightning?

Oh yes. Certainly.

How did you find most of your fires in those days? You didn't have too many towers to start with.

No. That's where we had to get them – from our towers, and we had patrolmen. I put fellows on patrol - the Rangers, that's what they did in the summer time was patrol with other boys. You see we had six or eight rangers and they were patrolling for fire all the time.

You mean your rangers then didn't have staffs like they do now?

Oh hell, they didn't have anything but themselves.

Earlier you were talking with John Vogel concerning what made up the Supervisor's office and the District Staff. John, what does your District consist of right now and what is your budget for your District?

Well, it will approach \$200,000 now and Joes tells me they had very little funds in those days.

How many assistant Rangers do you have, John?

I have three assistant Rangers and have a total staff of five professional Foresters and about 7 or 8 Forestry Technicians and a labor force in addition to that.

What was your staff, Joe, when you were Supervisor?

Just a clerk, and she wasn't very good.

Do you recall what her name was?

Yes. Elizabeth Western, an awful nice kid but she hadn't had any experience. She could make out a payroll all right but it never was right.

This payroll brings to mind another incident you mentioned earlier concerning the local banker - do you want to go into that for us here?

Well, I needed some money to pay off the firefighters so I went to see the local banker. The banker knew I was with the government so he figured I was safe. I didn't have any personal background to justify the loans, but he financed me. I paid my firefighters and then I would send in a payroll in order to get the returns so I could pay him. And then my payrolls would come back with some little bit of an error that didn't amount to a row of pins, so I would have to fix them up and send them back, and maybe they would come back a second time - I was getting crazy - I was into Louis White (the banker) for better than \$20,000. But finally I got it straightened out.

When you were in your various offices in the Forest Service and when you were beyond the Supervisor of the Superior, did you have a fuller appreciation for the men in the field – for their problems - as a result of your own?

Oh, yes, I hope I did.

We can get back to Ely. You were telling about the fire guards and you started to build fire towers. Did you have any plans for fire towers? Or did you just play it by ear?

I played it by ear.

Did any of the other Forests around the country have fire towers or was this an original idea here?

Oh, I don't imagine it was original, but I couldn't think of any other way; anyway, because you had to get up where you could see something. But I don't think I originated it. Charley Taylor, who was over at Tofte, built a lookout tower by himself about 50 feet high out of balsam pieces about that big around. And how he did it I don't know. I was astounded when I saw that thing. I said, how did you get this thing, who built it?" He said, I did. Well, I asked, who helped you? He said, I didn't need any help on this. He was the best woodsman I ever contracted, Charley Taylor was. Boy, he was a whiz."

Did you have any kind of a plotter or fire finder that you used on the towers?

Oh no. That was quite a lot later before we got those.

Was that the Osborn finders?

Yes, I knew Osborn very well too.

Oh, is that right? Where was he from?

He had charge of one fire on the Coeur d' Alene and by gosh, something happened, he had to go back so they sent me up there to take his place. That was a hell of a fire on the North Fork of the Coeur d' Alene.

About when was that, Joe?

Well, it was when I was working in the Missoula office, Region I headquarters, and that was 1919 or 1920. They pulled me into the timber management office on the Missoula from the forest, and when I left Sand Point I had been there a long time, I had bought a house and hell, I didn't want to leave there. But they said well, you had better come into Missoula. So I said, all right I'll just keep my house here. Oh, they said, don't keep your house, you'll never be back here. So I had to sell my house and I went into Missoula. I was in there just a year and a half, and that was during the War, that was in 1918. They were awful short on men, you know and so they combined the Kaniksu and the Pend-Oreille and sent me back as a Forest Inspector and I had a Supervisor on each Forest but I was the big Supervisor.

Who was the Regional Forester then, was that before Kelly?

Oh yes, - that was Rutledge and Rutledge was followed by Morrel and he was followed by Kelly.

Getting back to the Superior now, you built towers at Fernberg you say - where else did you build towers when you were here?

Well, they were Fernberg (named for Ole Fernland and John Handberg); Baird Station (on a hill in the Jack Pines back of the station - later called JackPine Tower); Crane Lake (near Echo River Ranger Station); Insula Lake and Tofte (the one Charley Taylor built) – five (5) in all. The Baird Lookout was really our model.

Crane Lake is very remote, was it remote in those days?

Well, there was road up Crane Lake Portage from Lake Vermilion.

Well, if you wanted to go to Crane Lake in those days from Ely, how would you go about getting there?

I'd take the train to Tower and take a boat across Vermilion Lake and hike up the portage. I used to hike the portage because I could save a little money.

How long was the portage?

You would have to look at a map for that, I couldn't tell you.

By the river, you meant Vermilion River, of course?

Yes.

Say for example, if you left Ely at nine o'clock in the morning, when could you expect to get to Crane Lake?

Well, I stayed at Everetts, mouth of Vermilion River. Next day I hiked up the portage to the Caigney's where I spent the night, and the next day I went on to Crane Lake.

Then to get communications between Ely and Crane Lake you originated the trail – the Ely-Buyck Trail - what we know now as the Echo Trail?

Yes.

Do you want to tell us a little bit about that – how the trail started?

Yes, you know Les Brownell and I located most of it and like I told him a large part of it was following old moose trails. If we could get a moose trail going in the right direction we'd use it. Of course, if you got one cross-wise you couldn't use it but we got a lot of help out of moose trails. We would have to bridge all the rivers - that was all done with timbers - Jack Pine timbers.

How big a crew did you have working on it?

Oh, I guess we had all together about 6 or 8 men.

And they were these – you mentioned these Finnish people around here being outstanding axemen?

Oh yes, you couldn't beat them. They could do as much with an axe as most contractors can do fully equipped.

Did you use horse teams or anything for grading?

You couldn't grade anything.

This was strictly almost a hiking trail then.

Well, we took a horse and buggy over it - that was just to demonstrate we could.

Do you realize it hasn't changed much?

Oh, it looks a little different now.

When did you string the telephone or did you do that right as you went?

Oh no - that was done afterwards.

Yesterday, July 26, John Vogel took you for an airplane ride - how did it look compared to as you remembered the area?

Well, to be perfectly frank, I couldn't recognize anything. I never had seen it, of course, from the air and all I could think of Superior was a bunch of waterways that I used to get somewhere. I hadn't any conception of the land area and when I got up in that plane, it looked to me just like a great big ocean with a few islands on it.

Of course, a lot of that, that you saw wasn't in the Forest at the time you were Supervisor.

Oh no. The last thing we were doing in 1912 was examining (See E.O. 1912) proposed additions to the Forest. And then Aurora came in, after I left here.

Well, what was the purpose in making those additions?

Purpose? Because much of it was the same kind of material that was present in the Forest.

Well, I guess that was sort of a leading question, just like a couple of more I am going to ask. I guess it isn't news to you that over the years that the Forest Service seems to always be on the defensive. You know it's someone else that invented conservation. They invented the wilderness area and we were discussing a little bit earlier if it weren't for the Forest Service there wouldn't be any wilderness to be arguing about. But I would like to hear it from somebody that really knows. In your estimation has our management of that area suffered a lot - how does it look now compared to when you first saw it?

How does what look?

Well, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. You called it the Wilderness Area and later on the Roadless Area. What did that country look like? Were there vast stands of virgin timber?

Oh no. There wasn't any timber to speak of except Jack Pine. You would get two or three pine in a group they had missed somehow – some that the fire and the loggers had missed somehow.

That's, I guess, what I was trying to ask.

But there was enough of that scattered stuff to furnish seed. Because there is some of it in there, around Cashway\*, some of the most beautiful stands of Red Pine I ever saw and they are about 30 feet now. There wasn't anything like that when I was here.

\* Or Cashaway or Kashaway - now called Kawishiwi.

Well, I guess that's the point I've been trying to break out. You don't think the country has suffered any because or as far as the Forest Service is concerned?

Oh no.

When you first came here in 1910, did you have any pre-idea of what the country would look like?

No. But I had been all over the western forests and I cruised timber out there and I helped make management plans and that sort of thing, so I knew what the woods was like but I hadn't any conception of what this was like.

But now you haven't been here for quite a few years, I understand. How does the country compare now, in 1970, with what it did in 1910?

There isn't any comparison. It's all a green virgin forest. It's not one of these vacant dug-over, logged-over lands, it's just green and full.

You mean it looks green and virgin now?

It is now, yes.

And it wasn't then?

No, just shrubbery - a few shrubs here and there.

So I guess we have made some improvements in the 60 years that we have been here?

Oh yes. I am very much impressed. In fact, I have been appalled to see what is here – that we could have such a change. The idea of having all this equipment, my lord, when I see what you have to go on a fire with – everything, planes – everything ready to go, pick right up and go to a fire. We had nothing like that. You have the same kind of center here that I had out in the west – Spokane was equipped just like you are here and when I wanted to put 200 men on a fire, I would call up Spokane and say send me 200 men to such and such a point, and they would arrive with all their equipment. I would put them with packhorses and send them to the fire.



I'll give you a little incident - Last Memorial Day at 4:30 in the afternoon, one of our aerial observation planes was flying over the Gunflint; he was flying in behind this storm. He saw the lightning strike, saw the smoke coming up and at 4:31 p.m. he radioed Ely reporting the smoke and lightning strike; in 20 minutes they had a crew on the fire, 20 miles from the nearest road.

Wow, isn't that something?

Is this a little improvement from your day?

Oh, I think it's slightly faster.

I suppose - you mentioned how far apart your towers were and even though you had your patrolmen out, some of those fires must have been pretty big before you even found them.

Oh, I'll say they were. Oh boy, that was a tough summer.

These are some of the things we have learned in the intervening 60 years; sometimes the lessons have been long in coming through finances and budget but I think it has paid off.

No question about it. You know, when I was down on the Kaniksu-Pend-Oreille, I was in touch all the time. I had nothing else but contact with fire. I kept right in touch with my Rangers, we had telephones. So if one of the Rangers got a big fire that he was having trouble with, why I would shoot out there and stay with him. Maybe I would be ten days on the fire unless there was another big fire, then I would shoot up there. So I spent 3/4ths of my time in the summertime out on the ground. The fires usually started sometime in May and ran up until fall.

Joe, yesterday we talked a little bit about the wildlife that was here in 1910-1912. I asked you if there were any woodland caribou.

Yes, there was at that time. I never ran into them but there were a few caribou.

What about white-tailed deer?

Oh, there were lots of deer. And there were lots of moose. Moose got very scarce I understand after we left the area. I was going by some of these lakes that had lily pads in them and see 4 or 5 moose right out there just floating around you know, and they would have their head down in the bottom eating those lily pads.

You don't figure it was the open season you had in those days that got rid of the moose?

Oh no. There was nobody going back into that country to hunt.

That reminds me of the wildlife reserve, I believe they called the Superior Forest Reserve - it was also a State game reserve at that time, wasn't it?

Yes, you see it was trapped for many years and then the State stopped trapping and that showed response right away because it was just a game reserve when I was here. There was all kinds of

game - I ran into fisher 2 or 3 different times. I was walking down a trail one time when I left from Grand Marais and there was a rabbit that came down the trail and in fact, just about went through my legs, it never saw us. It was on a dead run; he didn't know what he was doing. And I said, by God, something is chasing that rabbit and when we got up the trail a little farther and here was a fisher, he almost ran into me. He just stood there for a minute and looked at us.

Joe, yesterday you told me a little story about meeting a moose. Do you want to recount that for us?

Well, I was making a run with Charley Taylor out on the north Kawishiwi River and we had stopped for the night and in the morning, why we made a pack and like you do now, one fellow took the pack and the other took the canoe and it was my turn to take the pack. So I put it on and started up the trail and I had just got a little ways when I heard a little noise ahead of me and I stopped and good God, there stood a great big moose right in front of me. He wasn't over 30 feet away and his hair was all up like that you know. You think I wasn't scared, I had a tump line on my pack and I couldn't get out of it. I didn't know what to do so I just looked at him, not that I was trying to stare him down but I hadn't anything else to do. By gosh, in a little while he just put his head down and walked into the brush. Was I relieved!

What time of the year was that?

That was in the summer - he had his horns on.

Did you have any bear problems back in those days?

No, I never ever saw a bear here. I heard them but I never saw a bear.

What about Indians. I know up on Basswood there were several Indian villages and they made canoes there. Did you have anything to do with the Indians along there at all?

No, the only Indian I had anything to do with was over on Burntside Lake. This Bob Stuart, who was later Forester (Chief of Forest Service, 1928-33), he came to inspect me in the fall of 1910. Nobody had ever inspected this Forest before. And I had planned a trip to come across from Crane Lake to Ely during the winter with snowshoes and toboggan. I happened to mention that to him when he asked me if I had any plans and he said, well, I will go with you. I said, fine. So we got our outfit and went up to Crane Lake. First we went way up to Kettle Falls and on beyond Kettle Falls, quite away beyond. Then we came back to Crane Lake station, packed up our outfit and came across country. Well, that was a wonderful trip. I had never been in there before but as I say we had a pretty good map. We made it into Big Lake without any trouble. It was a hard go but was lots of fun. When we got in and hit the north side of Burntside, the damn thing was covered with sheer ice, just like glass. By God, you couldn't walk - your feet would go out from under you and we just had to walk stiff-legged and pull that damn toboggan, you know, and it was tough. It was just about dusk when we got down to this cabin where the Indians were and I said, by gosh, I'm not going to take this toboggan any further. I'm going to get these Indians to bring it in tomorrow. So I went up to the cabin and knocked and they asked us in - they were all sitting around the table - they just had had their dinner. I asked them if there was any chance of getting something to eat. They said, no we have just eaten everything we have - but on the table there were some little crusts that they hadn't eaten and I said can we have those. By God, we picked them up and ate them,

we were hungry. We left the toboggan there and we went down across the portage and we got into Ely Christmas Eve. When we hit Long Lake (now called Shagawa Lake) and looked across and saw those lights, my God, they looked good.

Joe, a little while ago we talked a little bit about outboard motors and you mentioned the fact that you had one outboard motor, that was kind of interesting and I thought maybe you would want to tell us about the one outboard motor.

Well, what we had was a boat on Basswood (this was in 1911) and that was the first one I had seen. In order to get it up the falls, so we could get up into Lac La Croix, we built a tram alongside the falls, and I went down to Duluth and got a couple of sets of car wheels, and then built a platform on that and put a winch at the top and pulled the boat and motor up the incline. That was done just about the time that I left so I never saw it really get into operation.

You used mostly canoes. What kind of canoes did you have in those days?

Veaseys.

Now, did you ever use any of the old birch bark canoes?

Oh, yes, you bet. I sat with my feet in the water for many miles. We would have to stop at every portage and tar the darn thing. Invariably you would hit a rock with those darn things and then you would get a hole and you would have to go to the portage and turn them over, tar them up and then go on.

Where did you get them from?

I guess we bought them from the Indians. I don't know exactly where they came from, but there was a whole set of canoes when I came here.

You were talking about the organization too, when you came here and you just about had to learn everything as you went along. Do you want to tell us a little about the organization?

Yes.

That's an interesting aspect of the Birch Lake Plantation I didn't realize. You know it wasn't too long ago that we had a society of American Foresters meeting down there and Bill came along and gave us the whole story on that.

You know, Bill came to Washington, too. And I saw him in Washington. He was with the Department of Indian Service and I made out a little pamphlet on scaling. Different methods of scaling, you know - the procedures for different defects and I made that up for our National Forests and Bill heard about it so he came over to see me and wanted to know if he could get a couple of those.

That actually became part of the scaling handbook, didn't it?

Yes. I guess that was one of the originals.

That's right. I can remember that was the Bible and I mentioned a while ago that Joe Donnery and Cummings used it in teaching some of us.

Yes, I guess they did all right.

Do you remember them?

Oh yes, I remember Cummings very well. He was here you know. He and his brother were Rangers here. The brother, Alex was drowned in Knife Lake. He was traveling with Mulligan. Dahlgren and the local game warden James went up to Knife Lake, dragged and recovered the body.

That was, incidentally we were having trouble finding Clear Lake on the map. Well, Clear Lake is now Cummings Lake and it was named after Alex. When was that?

That was 1910 that he drowned. Soon after I got here. James, the game warden here – now - I know his name – he shot a Finlander that was poaching - he was netting. The game warden came along and caught him and told him to come in. I guess he was in a boat, and instead of coming in, he tried to get away. The game warden shot him and they had a very severe trial here but they exonerated the game warden.

Now, didn't you fellows in the Forest Service at one time have something to do with the administration of the game laws?

Oh yes. We were all enforcing these game laws. And then our instructions were to pick up violators, but if a homesteader killed a piece of game for his own use and utilized it, we weren't supposed to bother him. That was logical too.

Was there a lot of violations, especially when the forest became a game reserve? Of beaver trapping, especially?

No. There wasn't in my time - it was closed to trapping them.

I mean were there poachers coming in and trapping it?

Oh, no, I never saw any sign of that.

Did the State of Minnesota have any forestry organization here?

Yes, they did.

Who were some of those people?

I don't remember any of them but this one fellow that was a representative of the State Forestry organization used to come up and I would see him quite often - he hadn't much push.

We were talking about organization and you were talking to John yesterday about a meeting you had – the Regional Foresters, you had in the late 1920's where you were emphasizing the need of an organization similar to what we had today.

I was working under Morrel then and Morrel was District Forester and he asked me to go down to the meeting with him. And I was supposed to prepare a paper, so I did. In my paper I brought up the point as things existed then, when something happened out on the Ranger Districts, like a big sale; somebody had to supervise it and the Ranger couldn't do that and look after his other duties so I had to send out one of my timber men to handle that sale.

You were in what capacity at that time?

I was Supervisor in Sand Point, Idaho. So I wrote this paper and I outlined as I said, how impossible it was in that present organization to get things done by the District Ranger – he just couldn't do it. So I suggested that eventually I thought the Ranger Districts would have to be set up on the same basis as a small Supervisor's Office and equip him with a timber salesman and a lands man, etc. Boy, they just jumped all over me, said I was crazy. They really turned it down and said such a thing couldn't even be thought about. My later boss in Washington, Dick Carter, he just thought it was ridiculous.

What was their reason for this? - for their thinking that way?

Well, they thought that we could go along as we did. They never thought we would have the money to set up an organization like that. However, it was voted on and I won.

How long was it then before this finally came about?

I don't know when they put on a Ranger District like this. I never saw one of these places like this where they have their own central depot for the whole surrounding area. Hell no, I never saw anything like that.

What was your impression yesterday then, when you had a chance to look at it?

I was appalled. I couldn't believe the difference today. Where the hell they ever got the money for that, I can't see.

Do you think it is good or bad?

Well, I think it's the only thing you could do. If we are going to do the things that we are doing, it's the only way you can do it. You can't do it on a shoestring.

Well, I imagine it was quite impressive going through the Kawishiwi District here and seeing what they have; the airplanes, etc. - boats and motors.

You have got a set up here in Ely for fire fighting that you can send everything out compact, just like we had in Sandpoint, Idaho. As I said, in Sandpoint when I had a big fire I just called and got 200 men and equipment just like that put off at a certain point.

I guess you can understand then why I would say in the last ten years perhaps out of the eight of them, we have burnt less than 100 acres.

Sure, I can understand that.

Yesterday we went through Fall Lake campground and looked at the water and sewage treatment plant and the campsites. What were your impressions of that?

Well, again I was appalled. I didn't think there could be such a thing. When you think of the money that is invested there. If I had that money, I could run four National Forests.

We had better edit that out, huh?

No, I think it is really remarkable. Imagine that work!

Do you realize, even since you retired in 1946, the tremendous increase in the use of National Forests?

Sure, I realize that, but I never had any idea that a campground would look like that. I hadn't seen a campground like that.

Well, this is one of the most modern, most sophisticated campgrounds we have.

They haven't any like that in the West.

You see where the emphasis is now though, on sanitation and pollution. Why you almost have to get those elaborate disposal systems.

Oh sure, you do. I approve of it.

But with the use that we are getting now, we are lucky to be able to hold it.

Well, I approve of it, very definitely, but I didn't think we could do it.

Well, we are not sure we can keep it up, but we hope so. The important thing now, with the number of people using the Forest, I think on the Superior last year there were over two million man days spent on recreation in the Superior. With that amount of usage and the threat of pollution and environmental destruction and things like this, you have to do it; otherwise you are going to lose what we have gained.

Well, I was very much surprised when I went up to Moose Lake, one of those starting points. I bet there were 50 or 60 cars and buses there. I just couldn't conceive what that meant. So I asked this man if he can keep control of his scouts with scout matters, which I have found would never work. And he said, no, they have special men now; guides from the canoe base. And they go into the Forest and every ten boys has one of them.

And they still have to bring their own adult leader with them besides.

Oh sure, that's alright. But a lot of these scout masters have never been in the woods and if they have, they didn't learn anything. I had contact with boy scouts back in the Izaak Walton Chapter in Chevy Chase, Maryland. We bought an old farm out about 30 miles and built a clubhouse there. We called it the conservation farm. Well, we set aside about 50 acres there and the boy scouts used this for camping. I had charge of that and by gosh, I had scout masters

out there that were not qualified to be scout masters. When we had a group out there, I had to go out myself and impress on the scout masters that they had an obligation there. That I didn't want anything cut green and I didn't want any fires left and that kind of stuff.

We don't want to run a good thing to death here now, Joe. Anytime you feel you are getting tired and want to chop this off, you just go ahead.

Oh, this doesn't bother me.

Well, that's good because there is still a lot more we would like to get from you. Because there are still a few things I would like to ask. In 1910, when you came to the Superior and it was logged over and burned over, did you in your wildest dreams realize that this might one day be one of the top recreation areas in the country?

No, there was practically no recreation here and it wasn't one of my thoughts. I was more interested in getting some timber back than anything else.

And the timber that was coming back, you say was mostly Jack Pine?

Yes. Very little besides Jack Pine. When I came out here with the American Forestry Association in 1948, I went up to the North Kawishiwi and I was just astounded what a reproduction had come in. It was wonderful. And then again, when I went up the day before yesterday and saw there, a mile or two with beautiful stands of Red Pine, it just overcame me.

How would you feel if you get the letters and requests that we get, "Why can't the Forest Service leave it the way you found it?" - and I think most people don't realize the way we found it. It is a general idea of the public that the Forest was always just a mass of great Red Pine when it became a National Forest back in 1909.

Oh, I should say not. You know what the trouble is today. These people that don't know what they are talking about, all they think is something to look at. They can't realize they couldn't live in the wooden house they are living in if we hadn't had trees cut. They don't appreciate that they just think 'Oh hell, those trees should always be here'. They don't give it a thought where the lumber comes from.

We talked a little bit yesterday, Joe, about clear-cutting and how some people object to clear-cutting and the need for it with certain species. I wonder if you would talk a little bit about that.

Oh yes. They just think that you are ruining things when you clear-cut. But we know that we can't populate Jack Pine unless we cut it clean and expose the ground. You can't cut it selectively. They have the same thing with Douglas Fir. With Douglas Fir, you have got to cut it clean and establish reproduction from the side or in groups. If you cut Douglas Fir selectively, you just get a stand of Western Hemlock which isn't what we want - we want Douglas Fir. And you can't get that across to people.

You didn't know Arthur Carhart but you knew C. J. Stahl. These people were very instrumental in getting what we know now as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Did you know Leopold?

Oh yes. I knew him quite well.

Did you have much to do with him?

No, I just met him casually.

Ray, I think this is a pretty rare opportunity and we are not going to have the chance to do this again. I know that Joe has got a lot of knowledge of the past history of this area and I think we ought to or it ought to be made a record and it hasn't been to the best of my knowledge. But first I think we ought to find out a little bit more about your own personal history, Joe. You told us that you started to work in the Forest Service as a student assistant. How old were you then and when was that?

Well, I was seventeen in about 1902.

You were a student in what we call high school now - It was Juneata prep school then?

Yes, I had left the prep school and I had worked one year with an iron company and decided that I didn't want to spend my time in that kind of a vocation so I had always spent a lot of time out-of-doors and then a friend of mine who is still an old timer in the Forest Service, suggested that I see if I couldn't get in the Bureau of Forestry as a student assistant. So I applied and got the job and went down to Texas in 1902.

You say you were in Texas, what Forest was that?

It wasn't a Forest, it was just a private lumber company. That's what the Bureau of Forestry did. They made working plans for the different lumber companies. Although I think that seldom if ever the lumber companies used the working plans made for them.

Well, then when did you start your Federal service? - on Federal lands, I should say.

Well, that was in 1908.

And that was with what then, there wasn't any Forest Service.

Oh yes. There was a Forest Service since 1905.

That's right, 1905; and prior to that they were the Bureau of Forestry. Well, where abouts was this then in 1908? -where did you work for the Forest Service in 1908?

Well, I was in Washington first and then I went out to Arizona on a timber survey camp with a fellow by the name of Allison.

And that's the same John Allison that we all know and love down here?

Yes, that's the same fellow.

I left the Coconino in the summer of 1908 and joined a timber survey crew on the Pike Forest, Colorado. I was later made chief of the survey crew. I was instructed to make a working plan of the area covered. I wrote the plan in the Denver office. In December, I transferred to Region 1, Missoula, Montana. I worked out of Missoula on Silviculture work on the Kaniksu,



Pen Oreille, and Kootenia Forests. In 1909 I was made Deputy Supervisor on the Absaroka National Forest under Supervisor Lantry. My job there was primarily rerunning the boundaries to fix a final boundary, excluding agricultural land and recommending the inclusion of additional timberland which should be included. In the fall of 1909, I was called into Missoula and sent up the North Fork of the Flathead River with a bunch of Rangers to estimate the timber on the right-of-way of the Milwaukee RR which had planned to build a railroad along the Glacier National Park. This was a tough job since we operated in deep snow all the time we were in there. Then in April 1910, I was sent to the Superior.

We used to hear him talk a lot about the Coconino.

Yes, that's the Coconino out of Flagstaff.

Yes, he told a lot of interesting stories and I wonder if you may have figured in some of them. Well, when then did you come up to Ely?

Oh, in 1910.

And that was before or after you finished your formal forestry education?

That was after.

You graduated from Yale with a Master's Degree, didn't you?

Yes.

And in 1910, that was one year after the Forest was established - who was here then when you came?

Scott Leavitt.

That name has a familiar ring - wasn't he in Milwaukee for awhile and in Congress for awhile?

Yes, that's the one.

You touched a little bit earlier in the tape on the organization you had at that time - your office consisted of yourself and one stenographer. How many Rangers did you have at that time?

Well, I think I had about six.

The Forest was divided into Ranger Districts as it is now?

Yes.

The original Forest was not as we know it today though, of course - it was - I had seven Rangers: Dahlgren, Handberg, Terry, Brownell, Heritage, Mulligan and Charley Taylor.

Do you have any particularly interesting tales that you can recall dealing with these people? They tell some stories about Dahlgren and his creamettes - do you know anything about that?

No, I don't know about that but another one I can tell about Dahlgren is - the Supervisor sent him out with a young boy to get a lot of samples of the growth. And he was out there one day and this homesteader happened to walk up and stood there and watched them pull out the core and fiddle around with a little package and write something down - and this fellow just couldn't stand it after awhile and said, 'What are you doing?' Well, Dahl said, 'You know I've got to get these bugs out of the trees - the fellow said, 'What do you do with them?' Dahl said, 'I wrap them up in this little package and send them into the Supervisor.' He said, 'Well, what does the Supervisor do with them?' 'Well,' Dahl said, 'He wraps them up again and he sends them into the big chief in Washington.' The fellow waited a minute and he said, 'What does he do with them?' Dahl said, 'He opens them up and takes them out and kills them.'

The Chippewa was established a little bit earlier than the Superior - in 1905 I guess, to be exact. Do you recall any of the people that worked over there?

Well, I knew Marshall, the Supervisor, and Cummings, and Hopkins was there.

Howard Hopkins went to Washington, didn't he?

Yes, he was a real nice fellow.

Well, now to get back to your own career. When you left the Superior, did you go directly to Region 1?

Yes, to the Pend-Oreille, Sand Point, Idaho; and I was there 14 years - during that time I had both the Kaniksu and the Pend-Oreille.

Then where did you go from there?

I went to Ogden, Utah and to the office of Timber Management.

Did you know a Neff?

Joe Neff, yes, very well.

He had two boys in the Forest Service - Larry used to be Supervisor here. Joe and Mel Cummings were a couple of old-time Rangers over on the Chippewa - I think I asked you a little bit earlier if the name Matt Soderback meant anything.

Yes, the name sounds familiar, but I can't place him.

Well, he was one of the early Rangers over there and didn't you tell me, Ray, that he was the one who took Carhart on his trips into the backcountry here; but that would have been after you left, Joe. Size wise, what was this Forest like when you came?

I don't remember what the acreage was. You know what I would like to get is one of the maps like I had when I was first here, showing the Forest as it was then.

You say this area had been logged before the Forest was created - when you came, was the logging going pretty strong about then?

Oh yes. I think it was getting pretty well cut out. The Swallow-Hopkins and St. Croix mills were here. St. Croix was logging principally on Birch Lake.

And they were on the Stony River too?

Yes.

I think we ought to get on with his career now. We left you in Ogden. From there then you went into Washington – and what did you do in there?

I was with Nick Carter, Chief of Silviculture - I was his assistant. And then the last five years I was in Washington - I had charge of the Division of State Forestry. My job in Washington called for about half my time on inspection of the timber sale work on the National Forests. I covered all the National Forests.

Weren't you connected with the CC program though?

Well, yes, sure when I was in with Nick Carter and they borrowed me from Nick - and I went south with about 15 or 20 crews of forestry students and went all through the Forest. We strung out in a line – so far apart – and we would go so far and stop. Then we would pick out the best looking tree in the area and cut around the tree and give it relief so we would know that it would come through. Then we would pace again to the next stand and pick out another tree - the result of that is out of a forty, we would get a full stocked area.

When the BWCA was established by an Act of the Secretary of Agriculture in 1926, were you aware of it and did you have any feelings about it?

Well, all I thought about when I was here was timber. I wasn't interested in anything else.

Well, what I mean is in 1926 were you aware that part of it became a roadless area?

Oh, well, I had no objection to it. One thing that has bothered me a little though is getting these thousands of boy scouts in here. If you continue doing that, you aren't going to have a wilderness very long.

Now we come back to 1946. We were talking during lunch about ecology. Mr. Ferguson asked you if this is a word that has really come into its own in the last couple of years.

Oh no. I gave talks to girl scouts and boy scouts on ecology. But the ecology I used was like following the worm that ate the leaf of the oak and turned into a moth and the moth furnished food for the birds and the larger animals used the birds for food and we used the larger animals. I tried to show them that cycle. But I think it is wonderful the way somebody has got the public thinking about ecology in the last 3 or 4 years.

Who was the Chief when you quit the Forest Service?

Watts.

And then previous to Watts was Gifford Pinchot, Henry S. Graves, William B. Greeley, Robert Y. Stuart, Ferdinand A. Silcox, and Earle H. Clapp.

Yes.

You worked actually then with every Chief except the present day one?

No, all except McArdle and Cliff.

You were telling an interesting story about Pinchot a while ago and we can read it in history books but you were actually a part of it - this story, I thought maybe it was a press buildup that they have given him on this baked apple business, but that was really his trademark, wasn't it?

Oh, yes.

Did you ever have any of his baked apples?

Oh, did I. I used to go up there every month when I was there in the winter in Washington, and go up there and fill up on his apples and cream and ginger bread. That was sometime after I went to work in 1903.

Was this the Society of American Foresters meeting once a month?

Yes. Pinchot was a wonderful man. We gave him a hat - a southwestern sombrero and he was very much appreciative of that - he wrote us all a nice letter.\*

\*I went to Washington in 1926 and that is when we gave Pinchot a hat.

How many members were there in the Society at that time?

Oh, darned if I know. It was just a local bunch.

Well, we know that Pinchot didn't leave because he wanted to.

No, politically, he was fired.

Do you recall the incident leading up to that?

No - I was over in Missoula at that time.

I understand that it involved some arguments with Mr. Ballinger of the Department of Interior.

Yes, it was in connection with the coal mines in Alaska - he was selling them all to private industry.

Was Roosevelt President at that time?

No, he was pretty good friends with Teddy Roosevelt.

What was the connection with the coal mines - were they on Forest land?

No - they were on Public Domain.

But wasn't Pinchot going a little far afield to defend it even if he was right?

No, I don't think so. No, because that was all timber land. These fellows would go in there and take possession and get coal leases.

What was the feeling in the Forest Service at that time toward Pinchot being fired?

Oh, we were bitter as hell. He hadn't hurt a soul in the Forest Service, that man. I never heard a person in the Forest Service condemn him - I heard a lot of people outside the Service condemn him though.

Well, we certainly owe him a lot and a lot of other people, you included, Joe.

I just feel lucky to have had the chance to work in the Forest Service. I felt the Forest Service was always honest.

This is going back a little bit, but I have just read recently one of Carhart's books on the Coeur d'Alene and the big fire in 1910 that they had there. Of course, you were on the Superior at that time but there was a Ranger by the name of Pulaski - did you know him?

Yes, he was the man that made the tool - the Pulaski tool was named after him.

Do you know anything about this incident in which he held these Forest firefighters in the caves?

Yes, they got surrounded and he ran his crew back in the cave and the fire was coming right on them and these fellows got desperate. They thought they were going to be smothered to death in there and he just drew his guns and stood there at the entrance and said, 'The first man that goes out of this entrance - I'm going to kill him.' He made it stick and they stayed in there and pulled through. If he would have let them go out, he would have lost his whole damn crew.

As I understand it, they had a couple of horses in there and the horses did die at the entrance and he was supposed to have fallen unconscious but by that time the danger had passed.

I never heard that side of it.

But this was just before you went out there - this was at the same time you were having your own troubles on the Superior with fires.

Yes, you know, I thought I was having trouble but I didn't have half the trouble.

Do you want to tell us about that fire here in 1910 and you asked for help from Greeley?

Well, I was desperate - I had fire to fight and I wasn't being able to control the damn things and the fires were coming in from the south. And I just thought it was a question of time until they wiped the whole damned Forest out. So I wired Greeley and told him I was desperate. I said I

needed some help and if we didn't do something drastic we were going to lose the whole Forest. And instead of giving me any help he came back and said, 'Hang to it, Fitz, you are doing a good job.'

I think it might be rather interesting. You mentioned the fact that this happened at the same time they were having their problems out there, but this was about the same time as the Bitterroot Fire which in one evening swept over a 100 mile front.

Yes, that was all at the same time. It was the first time that we really had any bad fires, and we weren't organized then - we were no more fit to fight that situation than we could fly. If we had something as bad as that today we would be able to control it but boy we weren't equipped to do it. We didn't have pack horses or nothing.

What would you have done, if by an act of God, the present organization from Ely dropped in your lap in 1910 - the Service Center, the airplane, and all the things like that?

What would I do with it?

Do you think you could control that fire of 1910?

Oh, the fire - hell yes. I think we could have controlled it. I certainly do and I can say that with assurance. I would be damned ashamed of you fellows if you don't control it here if you get that situation.

Well, maybe we would find out about them before they got that big.

Oh yes. I suppose but we got lightening fire here and lightning fire there and we hadn't enough crews to go after it and the first thing you knew they all went together and they then started south. Oh, boy, they were terrible. You know a crown fire with that big timber in the West is just awesome. It goes up there for thousands of feet, you know.

Well, personally, I think you are a little too modest about your efforts in those days. I personally think you did pretty well considering what you had to work with.

Well, it certainly wasn't for any lack of effort. That's all I can say.

Well, you did stop them - at least they aren't burning yet.

We stopped some of them.

Well, you stopped them all eventually.

One thing I thought was awful interesting were these muskegs. Some of them burned down for 10 and 12 feet - and those darned things burned all winter and smoke came up through the snow. Those things burned until the spring rains came and flooded them out.

Yesterday when you took your airplane flight, did you fly over any of the areas that were burned in 1910?

I haven't any idea where I was yesterday.

Well, I was just wondering what some of those areas looked like now.

I couldn't spot the portages or lakes I knew.

What would you think of the present situation now where we use airplanes as fire detection?

Well, I think it's a big improvement over the lookout. The lookout is limited to so much area and if you happen to get a mountain between you and as far as you can see - on the backside of that mountain you are not going to see a fire until the smoke comes up high enough for you to see it. That's the big advantage of a plane -you are cruising along above them all the time and you are not going to have those fires get started like we did.

I was told, Joe, about the time we started on the air detection that at best, under ideal visibility, we had less than 40% of the Forest in seeing area, as covered by a lookout tower.

That could be, but that is a pretty low estimate. The way they located fires in the Forest Service after I left it - the towers could cover 50% of the Forest.

How soon did you get telephone connections into these towers or did you have it right away?

I didn't have any telephones in mine.

Did the lookouts have to go fight their own fires?

Oh, sure. They didn't have any telephone connections. The next thing we knew about that was when a man found out he couldn't control it and would come in. We used to get up on some building there in Ely and use it for a lookout.

Say, for example, you got a fire that got out of control at Crane Lake and the Ranger there couldn't control it. How would he go about getting the word into you?

He would come in.

He would have to take the boat, walk the portage.

If it was that big, we probably would have spotted it from somewhere else and had somebody on the way.

So he would have to come in then to your office to report it?

No, he would get his crew there at Crane Lake if he couldn't control it.

Where was the nearest telephone - commercial telephone to Crane Lake at that time?

I don't think there was any. The first telephone line that went out that way was the one we put in across the Ely-Buyck. And that was to get across there and then went up to Crane Lake.

Joe, there's one of the old-timers at Ely that tells me that they used to look for fires from a belfry. I don't recall if it was on a school or church. Does that help your memory any?

I don't remember but it was some high building. We took the highest building in Ely and used that for a lookout. It wasn't the Catholic Church because at that time the Catholic Church was a little building on the site where the new one is now. I'm sure it wasn't a church because you wouldn't find me climbing up a church.

I remember Mel was telling me about that. This is the Cummings drowning in 1910.

Mel was very much concerned. He thought Mulligan had done something dirty to his brother, and I had an awful time convincing Mel that he didn't. Mel thought Mulligan had hit his brother with something. He had some marks on his head which he had gotten down on the bottom of the lake. And I knew Mulligan well enough – what would be his object, anyway? They were in the canoe. Why would he hit him? I had a long session with Mel before I convinced him.

You must have convinced him, Joe, because as long as I knew Mel, I never heard him say anything like that. Was Mulligan and Cummings in a canoe that overturned on the lake?

Oh, yes. They were together and this terrible wind came up - finally upset them. I think Mulligan was in the bow and Cummings was on the stern holding on to the canoe. And the wind was driving them and they hoped to hit a point but they missed the point. Cummings said to Mulligan, 'I can't hold on much longer.' Mulligan said, 'Hold on a little longer, we'll make it.' Cummings didn't say anything more and just a few minutes later he lost his hold on the canoe and went down. And how Mulligan got out of there, I don't know but I know this. Mulligan told me, he didn't know how he got up on the land. But he said he felt he was still swimming when he got ashore and he just swam on land. He said he could see his marks there. He climbed out by swimming until he got up on this high point and from there he came down to Ely by foot.

Did you have many drownings in those days, or wasn't the area used that much?

That was the only one we had. Once or twice a canoe with lumberjacks in them would upset in a rapids but we always got them out. They were an awful bunch to take up to a fire in a canoe. Caulk boots and couldn't swim.

They didn't use the caulk boots in a birch bark canoe by any chance, did they?

Sure, they did. They never took their caulk boots off. And they didn't swim. That was the whole thing. A lumberjack never swam. He figured that he would just hold on to a log if he fell in. They never learned to swim.

I know one thing I want to ask, Joe. When you first came into this country were there any remnants of the old trading posts? Could they be located?

No, I don't recall any.

There were quite a few Indian graves in the backcountry, weren't there?



I guess so. I never saw any. The only thing I ever saw of anybody being in there was an occasional trapper's shack that we would use to stop in overnight. And there weren't many of them. I'll tell you this was God's country then. Boy, oh boy, talk about a wilderness. We'd go out here for ten days and never see a soul. Imagine trying to get out there now and not seeing a soul.

But you've got the timber now, though.

Oh yes. Well, we had quite a lot of Jack Pine. Especially between here and Buyck- there was a lot of good Jack Pine. And around Harris Lake - do you know where Harris Lake is? Well, there was a beautiful stand of Jack Pine there. Beautiful stuff - just beginning to mature a little.

Did they ever cut that or was that burned?

No, that's right there where we turned off. There's some still there. Where I told you the quarry was.

But at that time Jack Pine was not a very popular type of timber?

Nobody would have a thing to do with it. That wasn't timber. That was weeds.

I suppose you've been following some of the recent developments in the paper on the re-organization of the Department of Agriculture combining the land management.

Oh, sure.

That's got nothing to do with history but have you got any thoughts on that?

I hope to God they don't get anywhere with it.

Are there any changes you'd like to see in our organization?

Not in ours, no. I'd just like to see us left alone.

Well, I think the fact that it has worked should prove something.

Well, it ought to.

I thought you might have some suggestions on re-organization - you know, where you think we ought to go.

I don't think we ought to go anywhere.

I kind of agree with you but in these changing times I suppose you have to change models of carriage to carry the freight.

Well, I'll tell you. I don't care where they put us if they let us alone. I don't want them to integrate us with someone else that hasn't got our same conception of things.

### CALVIN A. (ANOK) DAHLGREN

Calvin A. Dahlgren was the fifth Supervisor of the Superior National Forest, during the period 6/1/1919 to 5/15/1924, when he officially resigned.

The following biographical account appears on pages 895-96 of Volume II of Walter Van Brunts "History of Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota", issued in 1921. (No doubt much of the information was furnished by Mr. Dahlgren.)

"Calvin A. Dahlgren has spent practically all his life since boyhood in the forest resources of this section from every point of view, from timber cruiser and lumberjack to the technical and important responsibilities of a guardian of the Forest. His work has taken him into nearly all the big Forest reserves of the Northwestern states, but for a number of years his home has been at Ely, where he is supervisor of the Superior National Forest.

He was born in Anoka, Minnesota on May 25, 1880, and his middle name, Anok, was given in honor of the town of his birth. His parents Adolph and Inga (Lindin) Dahlgren, were natives of Sweden, where his father was employed as a forester on a large estate. The parents came to the United States in 1871, locating near Duluth, where Adolph Dahlgren was employed on railroad construction on the first railroad to enter Duluth territory. Later he moved to Anoka and was superintendent of the planing mill of the W. D. Washburn Lumber Company. In later years he had charge of the retail lumberyard of Sawyer and Arnold at Paynesville, Minnesota. This veteran lumberman died September 1, 1908 at the age of 79, and his wife died in the spring of 1913 at the age of 78. They were devout Lutherans in religion.

Of their six children Calvin A. was the fifth in age. He remained in the public schools at Anoka until he reached the seventh grade, and then at the age of sixteen, ran away from home and had some months of sightseeing and experience in the Dakotas and Montana. After nine months he returned home and resumed his work, finishing the studies of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For a year after leaving school he was employed in the North Star Boat and Shoe Factory, and then sought the line of work for which all his talents seem to have best fitted him. He hired out for wages of \$30 a month with the firm of John Goss and Sons and spent a winter in the logging camps on the headwaters of Rum River in Northern Minnesota. From 1899 to 1904 Mr. Dahlgren was in the service of the State of Minnesota as a scaler. In 1904 he became scaler under the Federal Department of the Interior on ceded Indian lands in Minnesota. In 1909 he became a forest guard in the National Forest and the same year took the Civil Service examination (administered by Scott Leavitt), and was appointed forest ranger, with headquarters at Ely. In January, 1913, Mr. Dahlgren went to the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho and subsequently, following another Civil Service examination, was appointed lumberman in the Forestry Service. In October 1918, he was transferred to the district including Wyoming, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan and Colorado, with headquarters at Denver. Then in June, 1919, he returned to Ely as Supervisor of the Superior National Forest. Under his jurisdiction is one and a quarter million acres of National Forest land.

This brief outline of his promotions hardly conveys an adequate idea of the tremendous energy Mr. Dahlgren has put into his chosen work and profession. He is one of the three supervisors in the service of the United States Government who are not college or technical school graduates. He grew up in the woods, had the practical experience, worked alongside graduates of forestry schools, used his powers of observation and studied their methods, and every examination he passed successfully. His experience has been under all kinds of conditions, and he knows the character of the old-time lumberjack and also the timber thief.

Mr. Dahlgren is a popular member of the Ely community, is a member of the Forest Committee of the Commercial Club, a member of the St. Louis County club and paternally is a mason and Yeoman. He married Signie Skoglund of Ely. They have one daughter, Jane Audry."

The National Personnel Records center at St. Louis, Missouri, contains information showing Mr. Dahlgren's Forest Service service record to be as follows;

Superior National Forest:

Forest Guard - April 20, 1909 to April 30, 1910.

Assistant Forest Ranger - May 1, 1910 to November 30, 1911.

Forest Ranger - December 1, 1911 to January 9, 1913.

Coeur d' Alene National Forest:

Forest Ranger - January 10, 1913 to February 28, 1914.

Scaler - March 1, 1914 to April 24, 1917.

Lumberman - April 25, 1917 to May 31, 1919.

Superior National Forest:

Forest Supervisor - June 1, 1919 to May 15, 1924 (resigned).

Agricultural Aide (Foreman CCC) - June 20, 1941 to December 11, 1941  
(reduction in force).

We do not know exactly why Mr. Dahlgren came to the Superior National Forest in April of 1909 but we surmise that it was because he was acquainted with John S. Baird. Mr. Baird was working in the Cass Lake County and at the same time Mr. Dahlgren was working as Scaler under the Department of Interior on the ceded Indian Lands from 1904 to 1909. Prior to that he was a scaler for the State of Minnesota from 1899 to 1904. He therefore had ample opportunity to become acquainted with Mr. Baird and he probably also knew Mel and Alex Cummings.

Mr. Dahlgren's first service on the Superior, as previously set forth, was from April 20, 1909 to January 9, 1913 in the capacity of forest guard, Assistant Forest Ranger and Forest Ranger. This was a period of putting the Forest under administration and we know from the files that he worked on many projects such as cruising timber, scaling timber, boundary surveys, fighting fire, and the Forest's historical files indicates that he investigated and reported on a great number of Stone and Timber Claims as well as Homestead application and other matters.

The "Ely Miner" for May 5, 1911, contains the following item:

"C. A. Dahlgren returned Tuesday from his visit to Anoka and Minneapolis. He brought with him a nice driving horse."

As aforementioned Mr. Dahlgren left the Superior National Forest on January 10, 1913, and served on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest in various capacities until June 1, 1919, when he returned to the Superior as Forest Supervisor.

Mr. E. M. Laitala (member Michigan Natural Resources) grew up in Ely and in a personal letter dated November 5, 1971 commented about Mr. Dahlgren as follows:

"My first fire-fighting job for the United States Forest Service was when Dahlgren was supervisor. He came from the west together with his saddle horse and was quite an attraction in town."

It is true that when he was made Forest Supervisor he came from the west – to be exact, the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. However, as previously pointed out, he served on the Superior National Forest as Fire Guard, Assistant Forest Ranger, and Ranger from April 20, 1909 to January 9, 1913.

Many anecdotes about "Cal", as he was popularly called, have been lost, which is regrettable, but the following still persists. The Crooked Lake cabin was much used in his day by guards - portage crews, etc. A bush telephone line connected the cabin with the Ely headquarters. Cal used to ring the cabin to give the crews extra work projects but they made believe they couldn't hear him. They would persist

in this masquerade until he was ready to “flip his lid” and finally he would angrily shout into the phone, “If I told you S.O.B.’s there was a check for you at Ely, you could hear that.”

Mr. Joseph Albert Fitzwater who was Supervisor on the Superior National Forest in 1910-12 provided us with a taped interview on July 27, 1970. Two comments were made about Mr. Dahlgren. They are reproduced as follows:

“Dahlgren, one of my rangers, most of the other Rangers kidded me because I could see some future in Jack Pine. All they could see was White and Red pine. Dahlgren used to kid me by singing a little song: ‘There, there little Jack Pine, don’t you sigh, you’ll be a White Pine by and by.’”

Question to Mr. Fitzwater: “Do you have any particularly interesting tales that you can recall dealing with these people? They tell some stories about Dahlgren and his creamettes - do you know anything about that?”

Answer: No, I don’t know about that but another one I can tell about Dahlgren is – the Supervisor sent him out with a young boy to get a lot of samples of the growth, and he was out there one day and this homesteader happened to walk up and stood there and watched them pull out the core and fiddle around with a little package and write something down – and this fellow just couldn’t stand it after awhile and said, ‘what are you doing?’ Well, Dahl said, ‘you know I’ve got to get these bugs out of the trees’ - the fellow said, ‘What do you do with them?’ Dahl said, ‘I wrap them up in this little package and send them into the Supervisor.’ He said, ‘Well, what does the Supervisor do with them?’ Well, Dahl said, ‘He wraps them up again and he sends them into the big chief in Washington.’ The fellow waited a minute and he said, ‘What does he do with them?’ Dahl said, ‘He opens them up and takes them out and kills them.’ ”

Mr. Herman T. Olson, long time head of the Chamber of Commerce at Tower, Minnesota, now deceased, knew Mr. Dahlgren well and in a personal letter to me dated May 11, 1971 (see Herman T. Olson, 6100 file) he had the following comments about him:

“‘Dahl’, as we always called him was one of the first Supervisors that I knew. This was in the 1920’s. My late friend G. C. Carlson and I worked very closely with Dahl on many of his projects. He was very active not only as supervisor, but a good public relations man. He worked with us in the St. Louis County Club, Minnesota Arrowhead Association and the local Chamber of Commerce. It was through him that we became acquainted with A. H. Carhart of Denver. I believe it was Mr. Carhart who sparked the first interest in canoeing in the Superior Forest. I knew he made many canoe trips when he came into this area.”

There is no question about the fact that Mr. Dahlgren did much to publicize and make people aware of the Superior National Forest. Newspapers of the period and particularly those in the Twin Cities carried many articles and in some cases two and three page coverage with pictures.

Evidently Mr. Dahlgren and others visualized developing the country through development of an extensive road system, more campgrounds, summer homes, resorts, etc. This view was being questioned by certain people in the early twenties, and the view advanced that the area should remain wilderness oriented. Both sides gathered advocates and soon a fierce fight began which even today - some fifty years later - has not ceased.

Arthur H. Carhart in his book "The National Forests" published in 1959 had the following to say about the period:

"Exploitation was all but charging in on this country in 1921. An industrialist of the most ruthless 'baron' type was proposing that Canada and the United States put up the money to build great power dams on outlets of the magnificent border lakes. E. W. Backus, this later-day giant among exploiters of the northland, would have had the two nations build the dams, lease them to him, and he then would have sold power at retail for whatever he might garner in personal profits."

A second threat to wilderness lay in another sector:

"When I came into the headquarters at Ely that summer of 1921, the supervisor of the Superior (Mr. Dahlgren), met me with bubbling enthusiasm. He was a 'dry land' man; he hated water and feared it. He had been a supervisor in the Western Country (the record shows that he was a ranger, scaler and lumberman there), where roads and trails were strung throughout the forests. In the first day in the office he laid before me his road plan. He declaimed enthusiastically on how every lake would be reached by a passable road. Shorelines would be laid out in thousands of summer home sites to be leased to the hundreds of thousands of people. Autos would dash along the roads, and the great quietude of the woodlands would be ruptured and rent."

Either Mr. Carhart was overstating the case or else Mr. Dahlgren changed his mind in a hurry. The "Fins, Feathers and Fur" - Official Bulletin of the Minnesota Game and Fish Department in issue of June, 1921, quoted Mr. Dahlgren as follows:

"C. A. Dahlgren, Supervisor of the Forest, pointed out that since the region is naturally traversable by water, development should follow those lines rather than to include the building of roads through an impassable, rocky wilderness.

"'Every part of the Forest is accessible by water,' Mr. Dahlgren said, 'and should roads be built only a small part would be reached by them. The area of the forest is about equally divided between land and water with the waterways, in the form of chains of lakes, rivers and irregular channels, forming a network which provides a means of reaching even the most remote corners.'

"According to tentative plans, the western half of the Forest will be arranged for motorboat travel over trunk lines to the Canadian boundary and along the boundary in secondary lines through chains of lakes, with accommodations en route, the nature of which will be decided later.

"The eastern part of the Forest, less accessible than the western, will be devoted to canoe travel. This will entail a program of clearing portages, removing obstructions in rivers and installation of a complete guide post system, according to Mr. Dahlgren. A feature of this part of the work will be the establishment of cabins or tent groups as night controls or bases of supply from which diverging trips may be taken.

“‘The first step to introduce the forest to the public will be taken some time in July,’ it was announced, ‘when several citizens from each of the principal towns in the state will be taken over the western part of the forest on a trip of inspection.’

This announcement by Mr. Dahlgren followed very closely plans proposed by Mr. Carhart, and probably did not represent all of Mr. Dahlgren’s views. It seems likely that while Mr. Dahlgren was not totally wilderness-oriented, he probably was greatly responsible for later wilderness management.

There are many items for which he should receive credit. Among them are the following:

1. He was one of the pioneers on the Superior National Forest. In fact, only one man - acting Forest Supervisor John Sharpe Baird - was there before him. Mr. Baird was on the job in March 1909. Mr. Dahlgren and Walter L. Eisenach reported for work on April 20, 1909.
2. He gave the public twenty-five (25) years of faithful service as a pioneer in Forest management. Five (5) years of this service was with the State of Minnesota, five (5) years with the Department of Interior, and fifteen (15) years with the United States Forest Service.
3. He probably did more than any of the early pioneers to publicize and make people aware of the Superior National Forest. This awakening was no doubt responsible for the revolution in the twenties which resulted in a big portion of the Forest being designated for wilderness management. I believe it could be fairly said that while Mr. Dahlgren was not entirely wilderness oriented himself - he created conditions which were probably greatly responsible for later wilderness management.
4. I believe that “Dahlgren River” in T66N, R13W was named for Mr. Dahlgren.

The “Ely Miner” for July 10, 1952, contained the following item:

“Funeral services will be held this afternoon from the Banovetz Mortuary at 2:00 for Calvin Anok Dahlgren, age 72. The deceased was born in Anoka, Minnesota on May 25, 1880, and had been engaged in Forestry and highway work. Surviving are his widow\*, and one daughter, Mrs. Vincent Di Nino, Alexandria, Minnesota, and two grandchildren, Dinah and Carmen.”

P.S. 1: Mr. Dahlgren appears on the group photo of the U. S. Forest Service Staff in Ely, 1910. Attached is another photo when he was Forest Supervisor.

P.S. 2: Attached are various self-explanatory news items from the *Ely Miner* in 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924.

\*passed away since 1952

Ely Miner Forest Notes - February 25, 1921

“Supervisor Dahlgren left for Cass Lake Saturday to arrange with Supervisor Marshall plans for the proposed Forest Ranger’s meeting to be held in Duluth during the latter part of March.

This Ranger's Meeting will include Forest Officers from the National Forests of Minnesota and Michigan and the Denver Office. Various men interested in forestry problems will be present at the meeting to talk on various subjects."

Ely Miner Forest Notes - March 4, 1921

"Supervisor Dahlgren in company with G. H. Good and Oscar Heikkila left for Baird Station Wednesday to look over future logging operations."

Ely Miner Forest Notes - June 29, 1921

"Supervisor Dahlgren returned Wednesday from Wayzata, Minnesota. Two big launches were purchased by the Forest Service for use in fire patrol on the International Boundary."

Ely Miner Forest Notes – 1922 (winter)

"Supervisor Dahlgren left Thursday for Madison, Wisconsin where he will attend the allotment conference for forests of Michigan and Minnesota."

Ely Miner Forest Notes – 1922 (April)

"Supervisor Dahlgren and Game Warden Harris apprehended a game violator yesterday, Victor Wurta of Winton, who was found with 11 illegal beaver hides. Unless drastic measures are taken to suppress the illegal traffic in beaver hides this region will soon be minus one of its most interesting forms of wildlife – the beaver. It is impossible for one lone warden to adequately cover a district ranging in size from one to one and a half million acres, and cooperation in the work of running down those who traffic unlawfully in, and who are doing their utmost to destroy our wildlife is most earnestly requested."

Ely Miner Forest Notes - August 5, 1922

"Supervisor Dahlgren and Ranger Frank Kelly left on the 3rd for an inspection tour of the North Shore Division of the Superior National Forest."

Ely Miner Forest Notes - 1922 (August)

"Forest Supervisor C. A. Dahlgren drove to Crane Lake Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, to meet the Association of State Foresters who held their third annual meeting in Minnesota on August 9 to 13th.

"There were State Foresters from 20 different states, two Foresters representing the Canadian Government and representatives of the U. S. Forest Service from Washington. After spending a few hours at the west end of the Forest near Crane Lake the Foresters drove by auto to Hibbing for a banquet which was provided by the Lions Club. On Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, through the kindness of the mining company, the Foresters were shown through the two large open pits at Hibbing, then left for Cloquet and Duluth.

"The visiting Foresters commended our State Forester very highly on the results he was obtaining in protecting the timber resources of Minnesota. They also commended the people of



Minnesota for the support they were giving Forestry and with this support continued, Minnesota could not help but come back to its own as a timber producing state.”

Ely Miner Forest Notes - 1923 (Spring)

“C. A. Dahlgren, Supervisor of the Forest, is making a tour of the towns along the west boundary of the Forest working out cooperative fire protection measures with the owners of private timber holdings in the Forest.”

Ely Miner - April 5, 1924

C. A. DAHLGREN QUILTS FOREST, AFTER 15 YEARS IN FORESTRY WORK  
DAHLGREN RESIGNS.

“Calvin A. Dahlgren, Supervisor of the Superior National Forest, is severing his connections with the United States Forest Service and will be succeeded by A. L. Richey, who has been supervisor of the Holy Cross National Forest in Colorado for several years. Mr. Richey will arrive in Ely about April 1<sup>st</sup> to take over his new assignment.

“Mr. Dahlgren will assist Mr. Richey for a month or two in getting acquainted with the new work. After that he is considering the tourist business among several other opportunities as a future field and plans to make Ely his headquarters. Mr. Dahlgren has had an idea of leaving Government work for several years, he states, and his recent action may not be surprising to some of his more intimate friends.

“‘After fifteen years in the United States Forest Service, it is rather difficult to make up one’s mind to quit,’ said Mr. Dahlgren. ‘I have never found a better bunch of men to work with in any organization.’ Mr. Dahlgren was one of the first rangers on the Superior Forest coming here in 1909. Later he worked in Idaho and Colorado as a lumberman in the Forest Service and came back to Ely as supervisor of the Superior about five years ago.

“Mr. Richey has also had many years experience in the U. S. Forest Service, in Wyoming and Colorado. He started as a ranger, was promoted to deputy supervisor, later made supervisor and has held this position on two forests in Colorado.

‘I wish to take this opportunity to thank all organizations and individuals who have cooperated with me so wholeheartedly as Supervisor,’ said Mr. Dahlgren, ‘and I believe that this cooperation will be increased as the people learn the great value of the Superior Forest to the immediate vicinity, the State and the Nation.’”

P.S. – 3 Attached is a self-explanatory news item from the Duluth Herald of August 5, 1921.

PREVENT FIRST, THEN REFOREST

Forest Men Say Waste Is Greater Than Development Can Be.

Working on the theory that there is great need for a more effective organization to prevent, suppress and fight forest fires, forestry men supervising the 2,250,000 acres of forests in

northern Minnesota have yet to develop work of reforestation to what they term an extensive scale.

Minnesota's forests are divided into three separate and distinct areas known as the state, Superior National, and Minnesota Forests.

The Superior National has the largest area. Within its boundary there are 1,125,000 acres. The Minnesota National is second largest with 600,000 acres. The state forest region comprises approximately 400,000 acres. Of this more than 2,000,000 acres, an estimated 500,000 acres are under water, principally lakes, with only a few small streams.

While more attention is being paid each year to the work of reforestation, supervisors of the three great regions continue to center their efforts toward combating the forest fire evil. 'Until some system of preventing fires, which yearly destroy thousands of acres of growing trees is established, reforestation cannot possibly be undertaken on a material scale,' forestry heads declare.

### **Precaution First**

Forestry chiefs are firm in the belief that it is principally a waste of effort and an impracticable scheme to attempt extensive reforestation operations when the time should be centered on combating fires which in a short time destroy more timber than rebuilding crews could replace in years.

Supervisor C. A. Dahlgren of the Superior National, with headquarters at Ely, reports little has been done toward planting trees in the fire-swept and cut-over lands in his district. 'The government owns 860,000 acres of the Superior National. The remainder is held by corporations and private individuals. Of the area controlled by the government, 80 per cent is fully stocked with white, Norway and jack pine, spruce, balsam, poplar, birch, aspen and similar species,' said Supervisor Dahlgren.

'This only needs to be protected from fire to insure growth,' he said. The forestry force in the Superior National this summer is making an extensive planting reconnaissance to determine areas that need planting and those that should be given first attention. As soon as this survey has been completed, Supervisor Dahlgren hopes to start planting on the Superior National. Under present methods of cutting in this region, care is taken to prevent destruction of small, immature trees. Seed trees are left on areas to insure natural reproduction. From five to twelve mature seed trees are left per acre.

Natural reforestation has been the means of restocking the great bulk of the Minnesota National Forest, comprising 600,000 acres, according to Supervisor G. E. Marshall, Cass Lake, Minnesota. Natural reforestation is the term applied to the young trees that follow where the timber has been removed in keeping with a definite management plan.

Therefore, areas in all of the Forests that have been cut over for timber are expected to be restocked by natural reforestation, while burned-over territory will be reforested artificially. 'In the Minnesota National, extensive stands of jack pine will be cut and replaced with Norway pine,' Mr. Marshall said. 'The total area to be reforested artificially in this region is about 20,000 acres. The present plan is to work over 1,000 acres a year and it will take fully twenty

years to put this Forest in the condition known in the Forest Service as fully stocked,' Mr. Marshall said. Approximately 3,000 acres have been restocked in this area.

Since the spring of 1914, the State has planted approximately 1,400 acres in the state forests and parks as follows: Itasca State Park, 750 acres; Burntside and new state forests, 550 acres; Pillsbury Forest, 50 acres; and 50 acres in state parks not under the supervision of the State Forest Service.

The total number of trees planted on these areas was approximately 1,400,000, consisting of 75,000 white spruce, 700,000 white pine, and 625,000 Norway pine. Besides this, during the past year, 75,000 trees were planted in cooperation with the Forest Experiment Station at Cloquet, in the establishment of demonstration shelter belts on farms throughout the state. 'At the present time, these plantations,' Mr. Cox said, 'are limited to two to a county, but in the future it is hoped to increase this allotment.'

Plans of the State Forest Service for the year include a program for planting 400 acres per year. Most of this work will be done on the state parks and state forests. The Service also plans to do considerable work on highway and roadside planting during the year."

P. S. – 4Attached are various self-explanatory news items from the St. Paul Daily news in 1921 and 1922.

St. Paul Daily News  
March 21, 1922

### **WARFARE PLANNED ON FOREST FIRES**

Federal, State and Private Agencies Confer on Prevention Methods.

Duluth, March 21 - United States Forest Service men met with representatives of lumber interests and land owners yesterday in a general conference on fire detection, prevention and suppression.

The meeting followed one of the most successful fire-fighting seasons of northeastern Minnesota. The object of the meeting is to enlist full cooperation to eliminate all fires in the region save those started by lightning.

### **ONLY 16 FIRES**

Only 16 fires were detected and fought by United States Forest crews within the Forest boundaries during 1921. Eleven of the fires started inside the Forest, and five originated outside the boundaries. Six fires were started by lightning, three by settlers clearing land, six by campers, and one by a lumber company clearing land.

'This,' said Mr. Dahlgren, 'places the blame for 63 per cent of the fires squarely up to some careless individual. With such a low number of fires for the season, there is no reason why these man-made fires cannot be eliminated.

### **2,600 ACRES PRIVATELY OWNED**

Of the total burned area of 9,128 acres, 2,600 acres were privately owned within the forest.

The total area of the Superior National Forest is 1,250,000 acres. Of this area, 400,000 acres are privately owned. In prior years the government had borne the burden of protection on these lands. It was a case of self-preservation. A change has come and individual land and timber owners realize the importance of protecting the remaining forests of Minnesota from the ravages of forest fires, and are getting into the game. It would be impossible to entirely eliminate forest fires in the Superior National Forest with the limited funds appropriated for this purpose by the federal government. With every individual and organization owning land within the Forest or near its boundaries cooperating with the United States Forest Service, fires can be eliminated as far as it is humanly possible to do it. Losses from forest fires would then be reduced to a point where they would be negligible.'

### **CO-OPERATION PLEDGED**

Mr. Dahlgren pointed out that the fact that six of the sixteen fires had been caused by lightning went to show the efficiency of the cooperative methods to-date, since ordinarily only 2 or 3 per cent of forest fires are started in this manner.

"The Cloquet Lumber Company, Cornell Wood Products Company, Minnesota Forest Products Company, and the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company contributed large sums of money and six patrolmen toward fire protection in the Superior Forest this last year. It is expected that at least twice the 1921 cooperation will be had for 1922, with virtually every landowner in northwestern Minnesota assisting."

St. Paul Daily News  
December 19, 1921

### **FOREST SERVICES PLAN CO-OPERATION**

#### **U.S. and State to Facilitate Fire Fighting and Prevent Duplication of Work.**

The United States Forest Service and the Minnesota Forest Service will cooperate next year to stamp out forest fires from the northeastern part of the state. C. A. Dahlgren, Supervisor of the Superior Forest, has conferred with State Forester Cox with a view toward establishing closer relations between the federal and state forces in anticipating the fire menace.

Interchangeability of lookout towers between the two forces was agreed upon. Tower construction, patrol and other fire prevention methods are to be correlated. 'This,' Mr. Cox pointed out, 'will facilitate work and prevent duplication of efforts in the Superior National Forest region.'

'In many instances state and government rangers were doing parallel work,' Mr. Dahlgren said today, 'which made for a waste of effort in keeping the fires down to a minimum. Mr. Cox and I have outlined a system whereby a close cooperation will exist between state and federal forest rangers, lookout tower control will be used interchangeably, and in general the two services will be used together with one end in view – the banishing of the fire menace from northeastern Minnesota.'"

St. Paul Daily News  
October 8, 1922

"If you want moose in Minnesota, stop killing them!" – C. A. Dahlgren

**It Is Impossible to Have Cake and Eat It, Points Out Superior Forest Supervisor, Who Declares That Unless Protected the Animals Will Soon Be an Asset to Any Circus Showing in the Northern Part of the State.**

Mr. Dahlgren, as supervisor of the Superior Forest, the principal habitat of the moose in Minnesota, is probably in closer touch with the moose situation than any other man in this state, excepting Carlos Avery.

Contiguous to the boundaries of the Superior Forest are those of the Superior Game Refuge. With the backing of the United States government, Mr. Dahlgren has so organized the Forest Service in northeastern Minnesota that virtually every nook and corner of that 1,250,000 acres is under the constant surveillance of rangers.

Mr. Dahlgren has spent 22 years in this district and in other parts of northern Minnesota as a cruiser, a forest ranger and finally as Supervisor of the Superior Forest, which is one of the most important national forests in the United States.

The moose of Minnesota should be protected. It is no secret, and we may as well face the fact that there are right now only a few isolated places in northeastern Minnesota where the moose is naturally, not theoretically, found in any numbers. Unless a permanent closed season is placed on them, it will only be a matter of a few years when the moose will be a curiosity, and would be an asset to any circus showing in northern Minnesota.

The extinction of the moose can only be prevented by a permanently closed season, and it is just as true that the moose really can be preserved in this way. While moose move back as settlement advances, this fact should not prevent Minnesota from retaining indefinitely its place as the home of the most moose in the United States.

**THEY DON'T MIND TOURISTS**

The Superior Forest is destined as a great tourist center, but the nature of the terrain will probably always close it to the farmer and other settlers in any numbers. The fact that the tourist development will not exterminate the moose as the hunting does is shown by the following example:

In the Superior Game Refuge each winter, permits are given to 14 to 18 trappers who trap wolves and other fur-bearing animals, and who act as cooperative game wardens for the State. In the region in which these operate, which are the same as those visited by tourists, moose are fairly plentiful right now, while in regions where no trapping is done and where tourist traffic is negligible, but where hunting is permitted for ten days in the year, the moose are not nearly so numerous. There is no question in my mind about the relative values of the dead moose and the live moose.

**THEY ARE WORTH MORE ALIVE**

There are hundreds of tourists for every hunter – particularly among the visitors to this state. The first question asked by tourists who visit the Superior Forest is, "Where can we find moose and get good moose pictures?" A single moose will furnish enjoyment for a number of tourists who can take pictures and be satisfied, but he provides a thrill for but one hunter.'

**HERE ARE STATISTICS:**

These figures were furnished by Mr. Dahlgren, and they show the United States Forest Service's estimates of the number of moose in the Forest and the Superior Preserve.

1914	1,600	1918	1,410
1915	1,530	1919	1,340
1916	1,455	1920	1,190
1917	1,440	1921	1,225

Moose killed near the boundaries of the Forest:

1918	28	1920	50
1919	53	1921	40

These figures speak eloquently of the futility of the Superior Game Refuge. Hunting is done around the outside of the Refuge. Theoretically, the moose are being driven into the refuge by this hunting. In other words, the number of moose outside of the refuge should decrease, and the number inside of it should increase.

If animals decrease in a Refuge, of what good is the refuge? THESE FIGURES SHOW A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MOOSE IN THE SUPERIOR GAME REFUGE. This is worth thinking about – especially among those who think that the Game Refuge is a solution of the moose problem.'



Calvin A. (Anok) Dahlgren

Supervisor Superior National Forest

June 1, 1919 to May 15, 1924