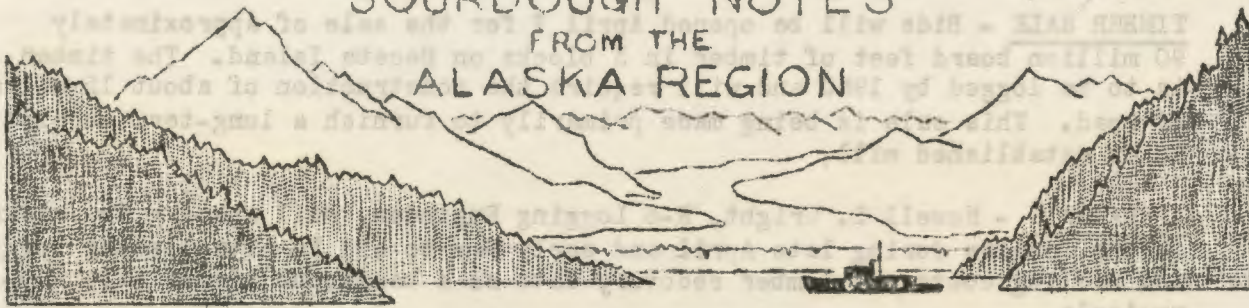


*Sperry*

# SOURDOUGH NOTES

## FROM THE ALASKA REGION



No. 4

Juneau, Alaska

April 1, 1948

AWARDS - Region 10 personnel are the career type. Of the 60 under permanent appointment as of February 15, 1948, 26 recently received length-of-service awards from the Secretary for ten years or longer. These awards are given in multiples of ten. Regional Forester Heintzleman heads the list with 37 years. In the field offices, Aikens and Sherman are high with 26 years each. In the 10 year class, 13 have worked an average of 14 years each; in the 20 year group, 11 have been on the job for an average of 24 years each and two have been in the Service for 37 years each. All 26 have worked a total of 521 years or an average of 20 years each. An interesting slant is that 383 years or over 73% of the time was spent by this group in Region 10. In fact, nine were appointed in Alaska and have been here ever since for an average of 17 years each.

Here is the breakdown by units. The Regional Office with 21 on the rolls, has 4 - 10 year, 5 - 20 year and 2 - 30 year awards for an average of 23 years each. Southern with 13 permanent employees has 3 - 10 year and 3 - 20 year awards with an average of 19 years each. Of the four men at the Marine Station, Sherman is the only patriarch. Admiralty received 5 - 10 year awards out of 13 employees and these average 15 years each. George Reynolds was the only one to receive an award (20 years) out of four employees at Petersburg. Jacobsen, one of two men at Cordova, has been on for 25 years. Of three men on the Kenai, Heath has the longest service with 14 years.

VOYAGE OF THE CHUGACH - General overhauls at the Marine Station are not very frequent for the 60-foot launch CHUGACH because of the 1600 mile round trip from Cordova to Ketchikan, most of it in open waters across the Gulf of Alaska. Last September, with Earl Jacobsen as skipper and Jim Clough as crew, she managed to miss the fall storms and had a good run to Ketchikan. Earl left for the States on a long period of leave and Jim flew back to Cordova as Acting Division Supervisor. They both returned to Ketchikan last week to pick up the repaired and newly-painted boat and pulled out of Juneau on March 30 with an extra crew member aboard, James B. Gilbert, the new scaler for the Whittier mill. Ranger Harold Stratton of the Admiralty Division thumbed a ride as far as Yakutat and will fly back to Juneau.

TIMBER SURVEYS are starting early this year (March 29) and will be confined to cruising sawtimber areas ready for sale. Harold Andersen is heading up a crew in the Southern Division consisting of two Forest School students from each of three state colleges, Colorado, Michigan and Oregon. A cook will complete the party and they will operate from Wanigan 12 and the Ranger 7. This crew will work in all Divisions of the Tongass during the season and part of them will probably be detailed to Prince William Sound later in the year.

TIMBER SALE - Bids will be opened April 7 for the sale of approximately 90 million board feet of timber in 3 blocks on Heceta Island. The timber is to be logged by 1960 and will require the construction of about 15 miles of road. This sale is being made primarily to furnish a long-term supply to an established mill.

APPRAISALS - Newell L. Wright, R-6 Logging Engineer, will spend a few weeks on the Tongass during late April and early May to aid in establishing logging and milling costs and lumber recovery data as a basis for timber sale appraisals.

CEDAR POLES - About 75,000 linear feet of cedar poles were shipped by steamer from Wrangell last month to the Tacoma plant of the Cascade Pole Co. These were all cut by handloggers who were paid by the company's agent at Wrangell upon delivery of each small raft.

LUMBER CENSUS - R-10 acts for the Bureau of the Census each year in gathering figures on lumber production throughout the Territory. Forms for the 1947 census were recently mailed to approximately 45 known sawmill operators in Alaska.

JUNEAU MILL - The Juneau Spruce Corporation mill recently started production after being shut down for about three months this winter for repairs and improvements. Over 2½ million dollars has now been invested by the company in its Alaska ventures. This includes the original purchase price and investments for repairs and improvements in the Juneau area and Edna Bay. The present output is now 100,000 board feet per 8-hour shift, and this is expected to be increased to 125,000 board feet in a few days. The mill plans to operate two shifts and the estimated output for 1948 is upwards of 60 million board feet. This is the largest mill production in Alaska. (Adm.)

NEW SAWMILLS DISCOURAGED - The word is getting around that the Tongass has an estimated 78 billion board feet of commercial timber. Requests for information from prospective loggers and sawmill operators have lately been so numerous that we were forced to prepare a mimeographed reply in order to save work and time. In it we point out that our forests are primarily of pulpwood character and the comparatively small and scattered stands of sawtimber are only sufficient to supply established mills. Small sawmills in outlying locations away from town have never been a financial success here because isolation leads to heavy operating costs and great difficulty in holding employees, lack of needed dry kiln facilities and inability of small mill equipment to handle many of the larger logs which produce the greatest percentage of high grade lumber. Even a small portable mill requires a large investment in housing, wharves, towboats, scows and other logging equipment as well as in logging area improvements. There are enough logging camps in Southeast Alaska to provide the present log market. No doubt there will be room for more mills and loggers when the pulp and paper industry is established on the Tongass.

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS - Alaska Game Commission wardens have reported seeing 27 moose in the vicinity of Yakutat. These probably drifted down the Alsek River from Canada. A deer carcass was found on the shore of Resurrection Bay about 10 or 12 miles from Seward. This indicates the deer originally planted near Cordova are spreading across Prince William Sound to the mainland. (Speaking of planted game, the 18 mountain goats introduced on Baran Island in 1923 are holding their own. One band of 67 was recently seen there.) A stranger to Southeast Alaska was shot last month in the Mendenhall Valley--an Arctic Owl with a wing spread of 5'4".

SAFETY - Region 10 is at the top again. The WO statistical report for February shows Regions 4 and 10 as accident-free the first two months of 1948. Five Regions had one accident each and three Regions had three or more accidents.

ALASKA FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION - The Agriculture Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year 1949, approved by the Bureau of the Budget and now before Congress, carries an item of \$50,000 for the establishment of a forest research center in Alaska. Details of the project will be worked out if and when Congress acts favorably on this item.

BRIDGE - The Mendenhall River Bridge job was readvertised by the PRA and Sommers Construction Company awarded the contract on their low bid of \$93,071. Only other bidder was David Nygren of Seattle at \$95,800. Work will start as soon as snow conditions improve.

DOUSER - Strange word to you? It means "one who uses a divining rod to search for water or ore". It came to our attention when the Norwood Natural Science Studio of Norwood, Mass., who is doing a work on the divining rod, asked for the opinion of our scientists on this subject. Chuck answered that we have never heard of a well-to-do douser in spite of their claimed ability to locate precious metals and that, in his opinion, willow branches have far more value in rearing a family than in locating the proper spot to dig a well.

LANDS - Three more homesites were eliminated through Public Land Order last month, one on Southern and two in Admiralty. One of the latter is the famous Minfield School located in the Point Lena Beach group.... The proposed establishment of new homesite tracts on the lower portion of the Totem Bight Natural Area near Ketchikan was somewhat complicated by the fact that part of the area is national forest land through Presidential proclamation and part reconveyed to the Forest Service under the General Exchange Act of March 20, 1922. An opinion of the Attorney General ruled that lands acquired under the above Act have the same status as land reserved from the public domain. They could be eliminated from the national forest and be entered under the homesite and other related acts applicable to public domain lands in Alaska.... The President signed H.R. 1809 on March 30. This bill enlarges the scope of the Act of March 4, 1915 in that it authorizes the issuance of term permits in Alaska for periods of not over 30 years and for areas up to 80 acres instead of the maximum of 5 acres in the original Act.

THIS AND THAT - Last year the Alaska Development Board and the Alaska Native Service brought a "wood industrialist" named George Frank to Alaska to study the possibilities of furthering small wood industries in Alaska. His report was published originally in WOOD WORKING DIGEST, Chicago, and a well-illustrated reprint was recently issued by the Alaska Development Board for public distribution. In the main, the report is sound and furnishes good information and advice. Unfortunately, Mr. Frank made some comments about Juneau which are open to question and the Chamber of Commerce has asked that distribution of the booklet be held up until this section can be discussed with Mr. Frank and perhaps changed.... The RO receives many inquiries from prospective settlers who are interested in the Interior of Alaska. Rather than cause delay by referring them to another agency, we have been able heretofore to supply them with a printed circular written by

G. W. Gasser, Territorial Commissioner of Agriculture, which gave much information for the Alaskan Farmer-Settler. The supply of this booklet is exhausted but a revision will soon be printed and issued by the Territorial Commissioner of Agriculture. For this revision, we were able to offer improvements on the original section dealing with Southeast Alaska.... The Department Library in Portland has sent us four late books which are now making the rounds of the Region as a traveling library. More books will be available from the same source if Region 10 personnel desire them. Three copies of BREAKING NEW GROUND by Gifford Pinchot are now in the Region and available for loan.... Blackerby gave a talk on forest conservation at the March meeting of the Juneau Parent Teacher's Association. He was followed by two members of the Fish and Wildlife Service who spoke on game and fish conservation. The program ended with a showing of the motion picture "The River".... A recent compilation on the recreational use of the Alaska national forests shows that 18,000 visitors used our developments during the 1947-48 winter season....Lloyd Bransford and Jay Williams each used a set of our Kodachrome slides for a number of showings to various groups in Oregon.... Sourdough Notes has brought commendations from Art Glover, Holbrook, Tom Gardner, Sie Wyckoff, Griffin, Angie Burke and Joe Hessel of R-4. (We are still patiently waiting for printable contributions from the field and former R-10 people--Ed.) Chip has a few comments: The Buffle-Head duck will grace the 1948 Migratory Bird hunting stamp. It will show male and female ducks in flight. Who won the national duck calling championship? The University of Miami conducts classes in both fresh and salt water fishing. Angling is a regular part of their curriculum. (Did Holbrook enroll on his recent visit to Florida?--Ed.) Surprising as it may seem, Louisiana produces more fur than Canada and Alaska combined.

PERSONNEL - Frank is attending the Regional Forester's meeting in Washington. We sent him a set of Alaska slides to use in a talk to the Alaska Interagency Committee on March 31.... Burdick is now on a field trip to Ketchikan and Petersburg and expects to return by April 4.... Not many trips are made up Lynn Canal during the year but Harold Stratton managed to squeeze in a trip to Skagway, Haines and waypoints last month.... Jane Brant, formerly of Fiscal Control, started work on March 16 in the purchasing section of the R-6 warehouse at Portland. Sally Shafer has decided to leave Portland and will settle in Salt Lake City near her sister. Her address will be 1459 Redondo Avenue.... Mrs. J.C. Ryan (Louise Kemper) left for Shanghai early in March to join her husband, a captain in the Army. Her address is CSD Army Advisory Group, APO 909, Care of PM, San Francisco, California.

New Men - Edward H. McLean, scaler in the Southern Division, effective March 16, 1948. James B. Prueher, marine engineer, Southern (captain of Ranger 7), effective March 15, 1948. James B. Gilbert, scaler at Whittier, effective March 24, 1948.

NEW RETIREMENT BILL - It is now law. Briefly, important changes are: Effective April 1 (except as noted) employees, age 55, with 30 years service, may retire with 3% reduction of pension for each year under 60. If separated after 25 years service, annuity is reduced 3% for each year under 60. (Latter provision is retroactive to July 1, 1947). For future retirees, annuities are increased by (a) 1% of average salary for five highest consecutive years, multiplied by service years, plus \$25 for each year; or (b) 1½% average salary, multiplied by service years. (a) is used for average salaries of \$5,000 or less; (b) is used for those above \$5,000 average. Limit of annuity is 80%

of average salary. Annuities, as above, are reduced if services after 8/1/20 are not covered by deductions or deposit. Reduction will be 1/10 of required deposit. No change in interest requirements on deposits or redeposits. Increase of \$300 or 25% of present annuity (whichever is smaller) will be made in present annuities; or annuitant may choose continuance of present annuity and provide widow of widower with half that amount, or \$600 per annum, whichever is smaller, until remarriage or death. Civil Service Commission will contact annuitants regarding their choice. Retiree may choose 90% of full pension, but reduced by 3/4% for each year his wife is under 60 at time of his retirement. Widow's pension would begin at 50 and end with remarriage or death. This option is open to disability annuitants also. Unmarried retiree, except disability, may choose reduced annuity to provide survivor with pension equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of his annuity. Reduction in annuity is based on annuitant's and his survivor's ages. Effective at once, if employee dies in service after five years civilian employment, widow receives  $\frac{1}{2}$  of annuity. Pension begins immediately if child entitled to benefits; paid to the widow until remarriage or death. Otherwise annuity begins at 50. Persons leaving service with five but less than 20 years service may request refund of deductions or leave money in fund for annuity at 62. With over 20 years, eligibility begins at 62; or immediate annuity may be had if involuntarily separated after 25 years service. Retirement deductions are changed from 5% to 6% after June 30, 1948. Tontine charges are abolished. Tontine deductions will be credited to employees working on April 1. Interest on money in retirement fund is reduced from 4% to 3% compounded, beginning January 1, 1948. Military service is credited without deposit. (Briefed by R-6 Admin. Digest).

(Something of an official or quasi-official nature pops up now and then which has editorial rather than news value. Newspapers have editorial comments - why not Sourdough Notes! Anyway, the following idea is offered for what it is worth. It may be that this is not new in the Service and is already being followed by other Regions. The editor wouldn't know because 26 years in Alaska have kept him out of touch with many things. Comments are particularly invited from the WO and Regions -- Ed.)

#### EDITORIAL

VACATION TRAVEL - To begin with, keep in mind that National Forest areas are located in 42 states, Puerto Rico and Alaska. Forest Service people take vacations and sometimes travel to sections of the country outside of their Regional boundaries. On the receiving end, they are generally hospitable and take pleasure in showing the visitor around. Also, there is no group better qualified to advise on the points of interest in their section or State, especially to those who talk their language and have similar interests. All of which brings up the question - how come the Regions do not urge each other to "Come up and see us sometime"? In short, we propose the Forest Service act as a travel agency for its own personnel.

It takes more than an invitation to promote a visit. There would be more incentive for Service people and their families to visit and utilize other National Forest areas if it were generally understood that each Region is particularly willing to advise visiting employees from other regions on points of interest, fishing and camping spots, costs, facilities and the numerous other things one has to consider when planning a vacation trip. A strong inducement would be the personal attention the visitor would receive, which certainly is better than wandering around among complete strangers. Think of the pleasure of talking shop and comparing notes! Officially, it would be good business as there is no better way to acquaint Forest Officers with conditions in sections of the country they would not otherwise visit.

Speaking for Alaska, how many know that a trip to the Tongass is not costly or time consuming, points which have discouraged many a prospective visitor? Ask us about it - we dare you to! Region 10 is eager to advise and otherwise help any Service people who want to take an unusual vacation trip, one they will always remember. We will do almost everything except pay your expenses.

(Something of an official or quasi-official nature goes up now and then which has editorial rather than news value. Newspapers have editorial comments - why not something like that? The following idea is offered for what it is worth. It may be that this is not new in the Service and is already being followed by other Regions. The editor wouldn't know because 16 years in Alaska have kept him out of touch with many things. Comments are particularly invited from the 10 and Regions - B4.)

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