

PREFACE

William M. Maule was not only one of the early pioneers of the Forest Service, but also one of the first professional foresters to be Supervisor of a National Forest. He was a graduate of the school of forestry of Cornell University in 1902, the first university to offer such a program.

Raised on a farm near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, his educational path led him to Swarthmore, the University of Pennsylvania where he majored in biology, and thence to Cornell for his forestry degree.

His field education began in the summer of 1899 when he was selected as a Student Assistant in what was then the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, the Division being under the leadership of Gifford Pinchot. . His summer assignment was on the Olympic Peninsula near Satsop at a salary of \$25 per month. Pinchot, in his book "Breaking New Ground," had nothing but praise for the work these students accomplished in the field, and stated that they furnished some of the very best leaders the Forest Service has had.

Upon graduation from Cornell he received an appointment as Forestry Inspector in the Philippine Islands where the program was administered by the Department of the Army. He served as inspector from 1902 to 1904, and was then advanced to Forester and Assistant to the Chief of the Bureau of Forestry, also in the Philippines. In 1906 he returned to the United States where he had a two month assignment in Washington, D.C., and then was assigned to the Sierra South, now the Sequoia National Forest, as a Forest Assistant.

In October of 1909 he was appointed Supervisor of the Mono National Forest, a position he held until his retirement on June 30, 1938.

The Mono National Forest was formed by executive order of President Roosevelt July 2, 1908, on the east side of the Sierra Nevada mountains from areas taken from the Stanislaus, Sierra, Tahoe, and Inyo National Forests. The first Supervisor was J. C. Wells who served from July, 1908 until October of 1909. The headquarters for the Forest was in Gardnerville, Nevada. In 1918 the office was moved to Minden where it remained until 1939 when it was moved to Reno, Nevada. The Mono National Forest was eliminated as an administrative unit in 1945 when the Alpine, Bridgeport, and Sweetwater districts were transferred to the Toiyabe National Forest in Reno, and the Lee Vining district to the Inyo National Forest in Bishop, California.

While under the administration of Supervisor Maule, District Rangers were stationed at Markleeville, Bridgeport, and Lee Vining, California, and Sweetwater, Nevada. The diaries tell much about the character of the Rangers as well as of Supervisor Maule.

In the period covered by the diaries, 1909 to 1938, many of the developments that are used and enjoyed today were created. Roads, trails, campgrounds, ranger stations, range fences, water developments, summer homes, resorts - the history of how these came about are revealed in the pages that follow. Logging was not a large activity, but was important in the early mining days. Grazing has always been of primary importance on the Mono, and its administration consumed much of the Supervisor's time. As many as 5,000 head of cattle and 86,000 head of sheep grazed on the Forest. The City of Los Angeles was in the process of developing its water and power facilities on the Lee Vining district. Starting in 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came into being and constructed many of the roads, trails, and ranger and guard stations still in use today.

What the diaries show about William Maule is that he loved and cared for "his" Forest, and took great pride in seeing that it was administered in an neat and orderly fashion. He would get somewhat upset if a tree was unnecessarily banged up in a road or trail project, and as the reader will find, he was constantly after some of the rangers or resort owners to clean up their mess if he thought it needed. He maintained a good relationship with the stockmen, but could be firm if he thought such a stance was needed, and he had little compassion for those he thought might not be doing their fair share or seemed to be ignoring the terms of the permits. He was respected as being fair, and even today many of the remaining old-timers speak fondly of his abilities. While grazing was the big load, he early on recognized the importance of recreation and took many actions to minimize conflicts between grazing and recreation. One of his attributes that earned him much respect was the fact that he knew first hand almost every inch of his forest, having acquired such information from frequent pack trips to the "back country," camping out for weeks at a time.

It must be noted by this writer that these were the development years of the nations National Forests, and today conditions are significantly different. Most obvious is the increase in population and the ease in travel via vastly superior roads and vehicles, plus the increase in leisure time and the perceived or real need to try and "get away from it all." The resulting demands from a larger population have resulted in a significant increase in environmental laws, regulations, and court cases which has greatly complicated a forest administrator's ability to please the users.

The diaries were hand written until about 1921, after which typed notes of field trips were available. Unfortunately the diaries covering Oct 4, 1917 - Aug 1, 1918, July 17, 1919 - Jan. 6, 1921, and all of 1923 are missing. The written accounts were not always legible which resulted in taking a guess at what the word was or leaving a blank surrounded by parenthesis. In some cases if it looked like the word was Jones, but it was questionable, it was transcribed as Jones(?). Also, in most instances errors in spelling were left as they were written which results in some names, for example, being spelled several different

ways. The diaries will show future tense in many cases when it is actually past tense, i.e, "write Ranger Clark" when he actually "wrote" Ranger Clark. Also "send" generally meant "sent."

There are only a few entries for 1938, the year of his retirement, and the reason for this is that his time was devoted heavily to the writing of a history called "A Contribution to the Economic and Geographic History of the Carson, Walker, and Mono Basins in Nevada and California." History was his hobby, and he collected information for the book during his tenure as forest supervisor. The book, atlas-sized to utilize full U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps, was published in limited edition by the Forest Service. In recognition of this work he became an honorary life member of the American Pioneer Trails Association.

It was a thrill for me to write up these diaries for two very good reasons. First of all, I was also a career forester with the Forest Service, and secondly, William Maule was my dad.

Wynne M. Maule
September 1995