

. . . the Forest that Came Back

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Tiny forest tree seedlings in the L. T. "Mike" Webster Nursery south of Tumwater seem unafraid of the big shouldered Mt. Rainier in the background some 60 miles or more away.

### The Forest That Came Back

. . . Bert L. Cole

Commissioner of Public Lands

The Future of Capitol Forest

. . . Don Lee Fraser, Supervisor
Washington State Department
of Natural Resources

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. . . Margaret Elley Felt

PHOTO CREDITS: Color photography by Phil L.
Olson. Historical
Photos courtesy
descendants of
early day pioneers and loggers of Black
Hills area.

Published by

. . . Washington State Department of Natural Resources

# . . . Introduction to Capitol Forest,



# Forest that Came Back

It has been said that every time the Department of Natural Resources wants to boast of its accomplishments in forest land management, we put Capitol Forest on display.

It is a forest of which we can be proud. Capitol Forest is a living demonstration of soil stewardship, forest renewal, and opportunity for human enjoyment. It represents a half century of contributions by people, by the Washington State Legislature, by the former Division of Forestry, and the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Washington.

We have every right to be proud of an area which has produced its share of lumber products to the building of this state and nation, and toward establishing the extensive lumbering industry in the Pacific Northwest.

When the old growth timber was gone; when the Black Hills had suffered from the repeated devastation of forest fires, it took foresight on the part of Ted S. Goodyear, L. T. "Mike" Webster, and others, to plan and initiate the comeback of a forest.

And that is what this book is all about — the Forest That Came Back — Capitol Forest.

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# . . . The Future of Capitol Forest



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of Natural Resources

There are many state, national and private forestry interests who have been watching our progress in the development and re-establishment of Capitol Forest. A living history of forestry, this area was one of the vanguards in the forest tree farm history in our country.

It has a history of pioneers — of hopes, fears, sweat and tears. Its virgin timber sustained life for legendary lumberjacks, millworkers and made great contribution to the building of this state.

Its future is even more exciting. The harvest of timber crops can be followed again and again as sustained yield forestry is practiced. The present inventory of second growth timber growing in Capitol Forest is more than ¾ of a billion board feet. This area is a natural habitat for wildlife and a mecca for people who enjoy driving the narrow forest roads roofed over by swaying trees etched against the sky, or for those who walk the trails, fish, hunt or just take pleasure from the forest setting through osmosis.

Although there may be fewer deer as the forest matures there will always be areas where deer and elk will make their home. As in the past from time to time, the Washington State Department of Game and the Department of Natural Resources will cooperate to replant fish in streams and remote ponds within the Capitol Forest to provide fishing for public enjoyment.

The recreational value of the Forest will increase as roads, trails and camping areas are improved and maintained. We would never, however, want to over-develop this forest. We want to retain its natural environment against too much people-pressure. It will continue to take good planning to maintain Capitol Forest as it is today.

We want to keep the roads and trails well maintained but on the primitive side. The single lane roads fit the setting and their slower speeds help the passerby to see the trees in the forest as well as to see the forest as they drive by.

Under the Department's continued management, I believe that Capitol Forest will be here for many future generations of Washingtonians to enjoy — both as a "working forest" and from the recreational point of view. It is an area filled with sparkling streams, green trees, scenic vistas and abundant wildlife and we mean to keep it that way.

... In The Beginning

CAPITOL. FOREST is a "working forest" of 70,011 acres in state ownership and 6,300 acres in private ownership, located in a group of low-lying mountains long known as the Black Hills in western Washington.

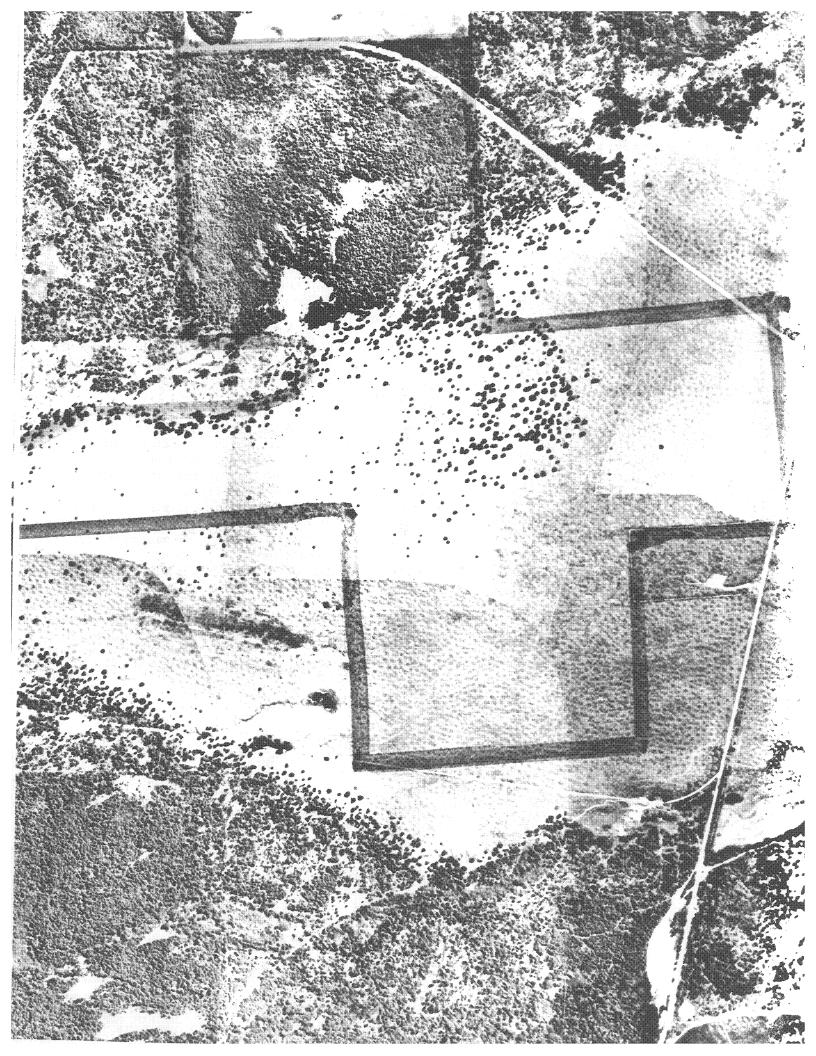
The several peaks, lesser hills and ridges rising from 1,500 to more than 2,600 feet in elevation, sprawl across the border of Thurston and Grays Harbor counties not far west of the capitol city of Olympia.

The prevailing westerly winds that bring in southern Puget Sound weather from the Pacific Ocean, produce rapidly changing cloud patterns that combine with the forest covered hills to give them their dark and moody hue. Even the Indians called them the "klahle" or black hills.

The Hills are separated by several valleys through which streams flow to the southwest into the Chehalis River or drain to the northeast into the southernmost waters of Puget Sound.

Geologically, the Black Hills pre-date the eastern Washington Basaltic Era going back to the Eocene Age of fifty million years ago. Micro fossils are found near the top of 2,660 foot Capitol Peak, evidence that this semi-mountainous formation was lifted several times from the sea, possibly about the same time as the more northerly located Olympic Range.





#### . . Mima Mounds Unique Formation

One of the outstanding geological phenomena of the Black Hills and surrounding area, is the Mima Mounds that lie to the southwest where the hills give way to the prairies. Some geologists claim these miniature hillocks filled with gravel are the tailings left where the last ice age melted here 35,000 years ago. Others claim gopher-type animals once lived here and left these large mounds. Throughout the many centuries since the last glacier covered the area of the Mima Mounds the environmental factors have resisted the invading forest.

The mounds extend in a natural open field environment with a quilt-like collection of grass-covered hummocks some 5 to 10 feet high and 15 to 25 feet in diameter, and provided a natural pasture for the early settlers' cattle. Grazing on these prairie openings within the forests helped stem the encroachment of adjacent brush and trees. (Perhaps earlier the Indians had helped by periodically burning off the grass, who knows?)

Several hundred acres of similar mounds stretch off through the prairies that lie in the shadow of the Black Hills. One other such prairie south of Olympia is known as Grand Mound Prairie. In 1967, 545 acres of the Mima Mounds were designated as a national natural landmark area through cooperation of the Washington Department of Natural Resources, which manages the land, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the National Parks Service, and the National Nature Conservancy Association, a national conservation organization.

The Department of Natural Resources has made a request of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation for funding to permanently dedicate this area as a Washington State Natural Area Preserve.



#### . . An Abundance of Flora and Fauna

Bordering the trough of the Chehalis River the Black Hills are blessed with 45 to 60 inches of rainfall annually, plus 2 to 4 feet of snow in the upper reaches. Combine this moisture with an ancient accumulation of humus in the valley and stream bottoms and there is adequate fertility for many species of vegetation indigenous to western Washington.

The underbrush, thick and varied, contains ferns, berries, Oregon grape and swamp plants as well as fast-growing native shrubs and small trees. Prairie grasses, camas, violets, wild daisies and buttercups cover the meadows and Mima Mounds. Mushrooms of several varieties grow in quiet dells and under the salal brush or in swampy areas.

Douglas-fir is the predominant tree with hemlock, white fir, occasional western cedars and the deciduous alder, maple, cottonwood and dogwood completing the forest canopy.

Weyerhaeuser Company, who owns about 6,300 acres in the center of Capitol Forest, during the early 1950's, replanted the upper peaks with noble fir, which was naturally found in limited amounts on these peaks.

Beavers build their dams of brush and twigs from deciduous trees in the swampy areas along the creeks and along the Black River where it meanders from Black Lake to the Chehalis River. Beavers have been in residence in the Black Hills from time to time as their relationship with man has changed.

Other animals include deer, black bear, racoons, squirrels, chipmunks, porcupine, rabbits and mountain beaver. The latter is a large rodent which lives in burrows on dry land and often causes damage in local areas by eating young trees.

All manner of birds inhabit the Hills, from Washington's state bird, the willow goldfinch, to robins, crows, Clark's jays (camprobber), flickers, woodpeckers, grouse, quail, a few snipe and a variety of ducks.

#### . . . Indians Roamed the Black Hills

Several Indian tribes roamed the Black, or as they called them, the Klahle Hills for centuries before the advent of the white man into western Washington.

The Chehalis, Nisqually, Skookumchuck, Cowlitz, and Quinault Indians found the lower Hills a source of food — deer, fish, fowl, berries and roots. They also found an abundance of materials for clothing, shelter and household furnishings in cedar wood and bark, reeds, roots and furs. Hunting was improved by the occasional firing of portions of the forest to clear out the underbrush, a practice which later was to have a definite influence upon the Douglas-fir forests, not only in the Black Hills but in other forested areas.

For many years after the coming of the white man there were still great piles of clam and crab shells in the vicinity of old Indian camps on the prairies and stream banks south of the Hills. They attested to the feasts or potlatches (or perhaps they were the Indian version of potlucks) friendly Indian tribes hosted when they met halfway between southern Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean.

Canoe travel, despite some occasional portages was preferred by the Indians. Coastal and Puget Sound Indians have always been at home in canoes. Near the present town of Little Rock during the 1850's (horse trading with eastern Washington Indians and Hudson's Bay people had provided local Indians with horses for some time) one group of Indians kept some half-wild ponies in a clearing to whose tails they would tie their canoes, enabling quick portage around some rapids in the nearby Black River. After a century of cultivation by the pioneer family who eventually took up this land in a donation land claim, the wide groove worn by the Indian canoe portage across the field is still clearly discernible. The lack of streams suitable for canoe travel probably limited Indian travel into the heart of the Black Hills.

#### . . . Fur Trappers Followed the Inland Waterways

Pacific Northwest waterways were very important in the settlement and development of this country. They provided entry into the heart of western Washington, before it was a territory, for fur traders, settlers and later the sailing ships that brought with them demands for food, furs and timber.

Captain George Vancouver's explorations brought Lt. Puget and Botanist Menzies to the Indian villages at the southern tip of Mud Bay in 1792. They must have gazed in wonder at the endless rows of trees that stairstepped up from the water's edge to the top of the Black Hills. Menzies' name has been perpetuated in the scientific name of the Douglas-fir, Pseudotsuga menziesii.

The next white men into the southern Puget Sound area were thought to have been fur trappers with the Hudson's Bay Company during the 1820's. One of these, John Work, who later wrote extensively of his journeys with the fur brigades, told of making his laborious way in about 1827, from Fort Vancouver down the Columbia River to the mouth of the Cowlitz River, overland to the Chehalis River, then taking a canoe down the Chehalis River to the mouth of the Black River then up that quiet stream, with its occasional rapids, to Black Lake and overland to Puget Sound. His route skirted the eastern toe of the Black Hills.

Early pioneers of Little Rock, a small town at the eastern edge of the Black Hills, received their mail via this same route, addressed to Black River, Washington Territory, in the 1850's.

The first American to come into the area arrived about the same time as John Work in the late 1820's. He was a Negro, George Bush, and came from a midwestern state. He had been freed by his master and left a small legacy upon his master's death. Bush, traveling with a Hudson's Bay fur trapping group, noted at that time the weather and soil and other possible advantages for American settlement in the Puget Sound area. Twenty years later in 1845, he returned as a member of the Colonel Michael T. Simmons party to assist in the formation of the first American settlement north of the Columbia at what is now Tumwater, near the mouth of the Deschutes

River on southern Puget Sound. An adjacent prairie is named for him.

Although there existed an unwritten understanding with John McLoughlin, Hudson's Bay factor at Fort Vancouver, that no Americans would settle north of the Columbia, there was an exception made in the Simmons' case. And George Bush was the reason. The provisional government had refused him entry into the Willamette Valley because he was a Negro. So they came north and settled in the shadow of the Black Hills.

The Simmons group established the first gristmill on Puget Sound at Tumwater Falls and in 1847 built the first sawmill in the Puget Sound area there. The machinery for the latter came from an earlier sawmill built by Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver. This mill at Tumwater Falls was the second sawmill built by Americans in what was to become Washington Territory, Marcus Whitman having built the first in 1840 to meet local building demands in the southeast part of the territory.

The Simmons sawmill was the beginning of the great lumbering industry that developed in the Pacific Northwest. The sailing ships brought with them the demand for spars for their tall ships and as the demand for lumber increased they filled their holds with timber products for California, China and the East Coast.

Despite the fact this area around Puget Sound — as was true of all land north of the Columbia — had been in an ownership dispute with Great Britain for many years, the Americans had kept trickling in. They staked land claims, platted towns, broke up the land for farms and began cutting the forests — just as if their title was secure. The fact was that both the British claim and that of the Indians had to be extinguished before any American's land title could be secure.

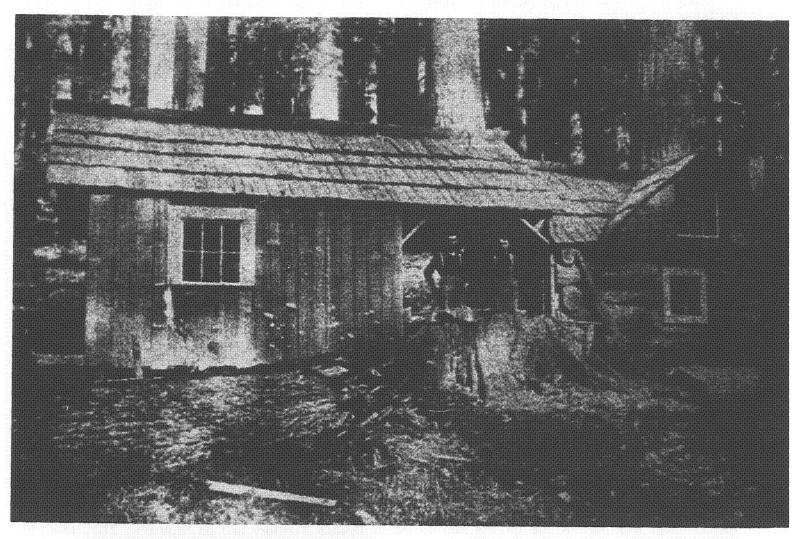
British-American occupancy of the Pacific Northwest dated to a Convention of Joint Occupancy in 1818 which was renewed in 1827. Meantime Russia had restricted her claims to Alaska in treaties of 1824-1825. Although John McLoughlin organized the Puget Sound Agricultural Company near Fort Nis-

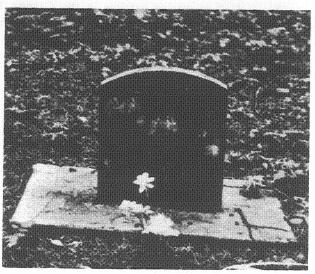
qually (east of the Black Hills and Olympia) and brought in 23 families from Canada to settle this area only 2 or 3 families remained. By 1841 Britain's power was beginning to wane in Oregon Country. Between 1841 and 1847 some 10,000 Americans emigrated to Oregon over the Oregon Trail and their presence weighted the scales of possession against England.

In 1846 the diplomatic struggle between America and England for possession of the northwest Pacific coast ended with a treaty making the 49th degree of latitude the boundary between the United States and Canada. A provisional government had been voted in the Oregon Territory as early as 1843 but it did not become a territory until 1848. By 1850, probably 1,000 Americans were living in that portion of the Oregon Territory that became Washington Territory in 1853 and subsequently the State of Washington in 1889.

For more than a decade before 1850, efforts had been made in Congress to obtain donation land grants for Americans who had settled in what was loosely known as the Oregon Country. The bills were regularly defeated on the grounds that the limits of United States' jurisdiction over the country had not been determined. This opposition was removed by the Oregon Treaty of 1846 between Great Britain and America. Opposition also existed in Congress on the grounds that an outright gift of public land was totally unprecedented. The general homestead law applicable to all areas of the U.S. was not passed until 1862.

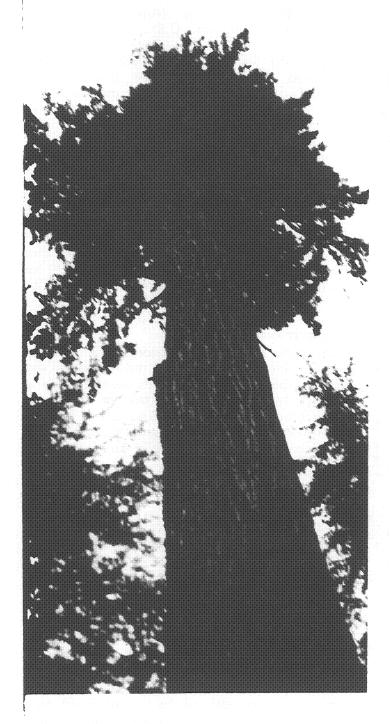
Samuel Royal Thurston, the first Oregon Territorial delegate to Congress was an indefatigable promoter of a Donation Land Claim Act for the Oregon Territory and on September 27th, 1850, it was passed to enable settlers in the Oregon Territory to occupy and obtain title to the free land they had crossed a continent to find.





When the tree was too big to move easily, pioneer stump ranchers cut it down, built around it and got rid of the tree later.

In the several pioneer cemeteries to be found in the Black Hills rest the remains of many of the early settlers: Born in 1841, died in 1894  $-\,$ 



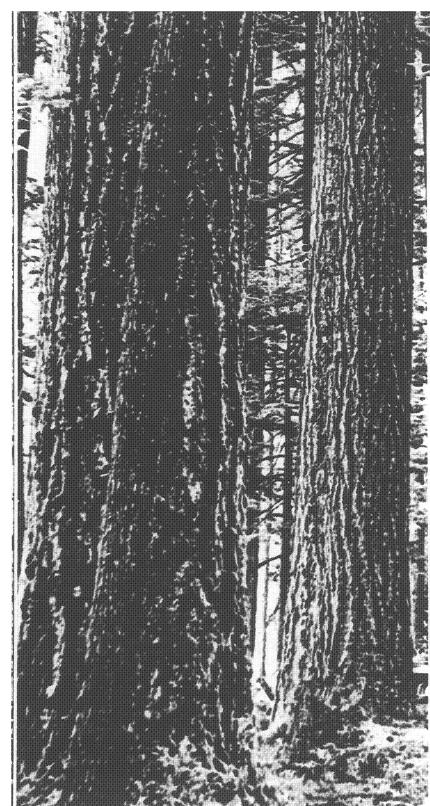
#### ... Early Day Farmers and Puget Sound Timber

The Puget Sound Agricultural Society, a subsidiary of the British-owned Hudson's Bay Company during the 1830's, had run horses, cattle and sheep, numbering up in the thousands, on the vast prairie land that spread south of Puget Sound. They broke some prairie land here and there for grain and gardens, but not extensively.

When the American settlers began trickling into the area in the later 1840's and 1850's they took up land claims on land that included natural prairies even though the soil was often not very productive. In short order they found that most of the better farmland was covered with gargantuan trees 8 to 12 feet in diameter and 150 to 250 feet in height. These trees and their stumps did not submit easily to a man with only his single bitted ax for a falling tool. When finally the trees were felled it was impossible to move them until they were cut into short log lengths that could be moved with the only power available - the brute power of oxen or a team of horses. Then they set the fallen giants afire, tilled around the stumps and admitted this "free" land was anything but "free" in terms of hard labor.

Early settlers avoided the Black Hills. They selected claims abutting access on Puget Sound and navigable rivers, and they looked for fertile, flat land. Within a few years, however, the later arrivals had to look further inland towards such areas as the lower edges of the Black Hills.

Always the early pioneers found it necessary to draw heavily upon the abundance of natural resources they found in this area — along with a mild climate and rain — land, water, forest, game and seafood. Western red cedar logs lying in the forests provided easily handsplit boards and shakes for building materials with simple tools. While the Indians at the head of Eld Inlet had only been able to extract material to build "wretched huts", as reported by the Botanist, Menzies, the tools of the white man permitted him to extract the treasures of the forest.



Tall timber grows thick in western Washington

#### . Early Settlers and Donation Land Claim Act

Each white male settler (American half-breed Indians included), who was a U.S. citizen (or declared to become a citizen before December 1, 1851) residing in the Territory before December 1, 1850 was allowed 320 acres of land and, if married, his wife could have 320 acres to be held in her own right.

Normally, it took four years of settlement and cultivation before the homesteader received a patent for his donation land claim.

The 1850 Donation Land Claim Act also provided for land grants to settlers emigrating to the Oregon Territory between December 1, 1850, and December 1, 1853, but those grants were only half as large. Congress, on February 14th, 1853, approved provisions for the Donation Land Claim Act to remain in force until December 1, 1855, with the provision that the occupant could purchase the claim for \$1.25 per acre after a two year residence upon it. Section 7 of that act authorized the sale of all public land in the Territory not otherwise reserved nor mineral in nature, after April 1, 1855.

Nationally the Oregon Territory Donation Land Claim Act was the forerunner of the Homestead Act which was passed by Congress to become effective January 1, 1863 throughout the frontier. The Homestead Act limited claims to 160 acres and required settlement for five years. (Supposedly, the land had to be suitable for cultivation and surveyed by the General Land Office.)

#### . . Timber Claims of 1878

In June of 1878, Congress passed a Timber Claim Act relating to surveyed unreserved public lands in the states of California, Oregon and Nevada, and in Washington Territory, through which non-reserved lands valuable for timber, but unfit for cultivation, could be sold in quantities not exceeding 160 acres at a price of \$2.50 per acre. The applicant had to swear that he was not purchasing the same on speculation, but in good faith to appropriate the timber to his own exclusive use and benefit.

While the records show some Donation Land Claims around the edges of the Capitol Forest, most of the steeper ground was acquired from the Public Domain under the Timber Claim Act of 1878 or as Railroad Land Grants under an 1864 act.

Waddell Creek on the east side of the Capitol Forest bears the name of the applicant on a Donation Land Claim. Other pioneer names are mirrored in the present names of roads, creeks, and prairies in the near vicinity.



#### Timber First Industry

As for the first industry that brought in hard cash, it was found in felling the tall straight trees that grew near rivers and salt water bays, and selling them for masts and spars for sailing ships. Later lumber products were sought by these sailing ships as cargo to the Orient, for California markets, and later to the eastern coast of the United States.

The discovery of gold in California boomed expansion in the San Francisco area, creating demand for lumber products to build the cities. Puget Sound, with its many deep water harbors and fine timber growing nearby, was, by 1853, the scene of the small beginning of the great lumbering industry in what is now Washington state. It didn't take long for other small mills to spring up after the Simmons' party's mill at Tumwater showed the way in 1847.

Timbers, lumber, piling and handsplit shakes were produced in the Puget Sound area for shipment to California. While the Hudson's Bay Company mill at Fort Vancouver had exported the first lumber to China back in 1833 it remained for the southern Puget Sound sawmills to expand the export trade. Hard cash, a scarce commodity at the time, was the first result, but the development of the lumbering industry was assured.

By 1870 some 42 mills were operating throughout Washington with much of the industry financed by California and eastern money. In 1869 these 42 mills produced 107 million board feet of Douglas-fir lumber, 20 million board feet of Ponderosa pine and 2 million board feet of Sitka spruce. During the period from 1879 and 1890 lumbering in this area expanded at an unbelievable rate. Production rose from 129 million board feet to 1.16 billion — an 800 percent increase in just two decades. By 1875 the loggers had reached the lower edges of the Black Hills.

#### . . . A Brief Look Backward

At this point it might be well to take a quick look backward into America's lumbering industry and trace the footsteps of the logger from the eastern part of the country to its most western edge.

When the Pilgrims landed in 1620 the entire eastern part of this country was covered with virgin forests growing from the Atlantic to the Appalachian Mountains and how much further west they knew not at that time. If the attitude of the first settlers in the Pacific Northwest was that of "trees forever — why worry about the future", consider what the original emigrants from Europe must have thought as they surveyed the endless forests that lay around them.

They, too, cut down the trees to clear the land and no one can fault them for that. Providing food and meager housing had to come first or there would be no tomorrow. Trees had to be wasted. Lumbering came later. Shipbuilding proved a good market for the tall pines — ship masts and spars with melted pitch to caulk the seams and pine tar to preserve the rigging. Other forest products contributed considerably to the burgeoning young nation and its need for stable industries.

As the eastern forests were harvested, the logging industry moved to the west to the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The Upper Great Lakes forest region became, for a time, the lumber center of the world. From 1870 and 1890 piles of lumber stretched for miles along the lumber port of the world — Chicago.

It was a time of "cut out and get out" but it supplied the lumber to build a nation. Where else would it have come from? And who among us would have been planting seedlings when old growth trees were worth only four or five dollars an acre — and the old growth timber stretched on into the sunset?

About the time the first lusty wail of the infant lumbering industry was heard in the virgin Douglas-fir forests of Puget Sound, California forests with their immense stands of redwood and sugar pines were also discovered. Because of the tremendous size of the individual trees on the western American and British Columbian coasts — like nothing any easterner had ever seen — necessity mothered many advances in logging technology for harvesting this type of forest.

#### . . . Man's Conquest of the Big Tree

It became evident that mere manpower and brute power were not going to move these gargantuan trees to the mill to saw into usable forest products.

The story of man's conquest of the big tree and the consequent evolution of the logger in the Pacific Northwest could fill several volumes. The story from the single bitted ax and cant hook to modern day power saw and sky hook is one that can best be told by a man who saw it happen.

In 1949 Big Jim Stevens, who wrote many books and articles about the lumbering industry during his lifetime, had the good fortune to interview William "Billy" Entwhistle who tells it like it was.

#### Entwhistle said:

"Stories of the early days of logging in Maine have been told and retold but comparatively little has been written of early logging in our Pacific Northwest. Since 1876, when at the manly age of 12 I was greaser boy on a skid road, I have been closely associated with logging in northwestern Washington. I have seen many changes and know tales of the old rough and ready days when this country was loggers' paradise, unrecognized and unappreciated.

All along the edges of the rivers, the lakes and Puget Sound stood trees such as one seldom sees today, waiting to be felled directly into the water but as usually the case, plenty made for cheapness and timber had very little value. Usually it sold (on the stump) at ten cents a thousand board feet. Twenty-five cents per thousand was a big price and 160 acres of standard old growth never would sell at more than \$4,000. Editor's Note: In 1902 the Northern Pacific Railroad sold timberland in Thurston County for \$6 per acre. At this point Entwhistle compared that price of stumpage to 1949 prices when 160 acres of timber situated high in the hills would sell for \$25,000. In 1974 this same amount of acreage with good timber would sell for \$1,800,000.

#### Entwhistle continued:

"During the 20 years from 1860 to 1880, most of the logging in the Pacific Northwest was done either with teams of cattle (oxen) or by hand. Bull teams were usually made up of five to seven yoke of cattle. I once saw a team of sixteen yoke that took two bull punchers to handle it. The loads of logs, they were called "turns", consisted of five to six logs, depending on their size. The logs were double-dogged, two chains for each coupling. On the front of the turn was a crotch chain, with a "dog" (a type of iron hook—likely hand forged and sharp pointed and attached to each other with heavy link chain) on each side of the log, and a tongue or pole dogged to the end of the logs. This was hooked in the ring of the hind yoke of cattle, which held back the logs when they slid too fast and threatened to run down the bulls in front.

The first loggers to use cattle tried to haul the turns of logs on the bare ground but finding this would not work put in skids. Skids were made of 12 to 16 foot logs averaging about 18 inches in diameter and laid about 9 feet apart. (Seattle's "Skidroad" district gained its name from this logging term). The greaser boy's job was to keep the skids well greased so that the loads would move along easily. Greasing was done with pure dogfish oil, loud-smelling but effective. On the hills, the greaser boy stood always ready with sand and shovel and at a shout from the bull puncher would sand the skids to keep the logs from running away and killing the cattle.

Once a turn was made up it was no easy job to set it in motion. Usually a stanchion or stick about 3½ feet long and 5 inches in diameter was set under one side of the crotch line and acted as a roller to help start the turn. The turns were hauled in side by side onto the landings, which were long and wide enough to hold a whole day's logging. After supper it was the men's job to "roll" the landing.

Logging with cattle, of course, took a crew of men, but one man alone could hand-log. A hand logger went along the water's edge felling trees directly into the rivers or the Sound. Sometimes a logger would steal logs from other loggers, saw the branded ends off and substitute his own brand. This was called log pirating.

The men to be remembered, however, were not the log pirates, but the tough, hardy men who were the crews of the early logging camps. Most of the bull punchers came from Maine where they had had good training. The other loggers came from Maine, Canada, Wisconsin and other eastern and midwestern lumbering areas. After 1875 or later, our western boys grew up into as fine a crop of loggers as could be found in the whole country.

The logging camp was usually a log building with a smoke stack in the center. Every man would carry in a piece of bark for the fire. Pay during the 80's and 90's was board and forty to sixty dollars a month for long hours and no over-time pay. But logging was their life and they did not measure their work in hours. (Dark to dark, as it was said in those days.)"

#### Entwhistle went on to say:

"The tools the men used seem unbelievably crude now, but even when I was a boy the old ways were rapidly changing. For instance the double-bitted axe was considered dangerous. The first such axe I ever saw was in 1876. A chopper (faller) usually used two single-bitted axes, one for bark and one for the rest of the tree. Choppers went from two to three (spring) boards up a tree to get above the swell of the butt of the tree. Trees were chopped down until about 1882. The first man sawing a tree that I remember seeing had a spring pole on the other end of his saw instead of another man. When it got too slack he would wind a string around the pole to take up the slack.

Buckers used old pole axes for wedges, driving them in with a wooden maul. Finally someone thought of using steel wedges but first ones were so thick the wooden maul bounced off them. When someone thought of using a sledge hammer he nearly caused a fight for being so radical. But the sledges worked and by 1881 the steel wedges and sledges had come to stay. Then sledges were used to drive the dog hooks into the logs.

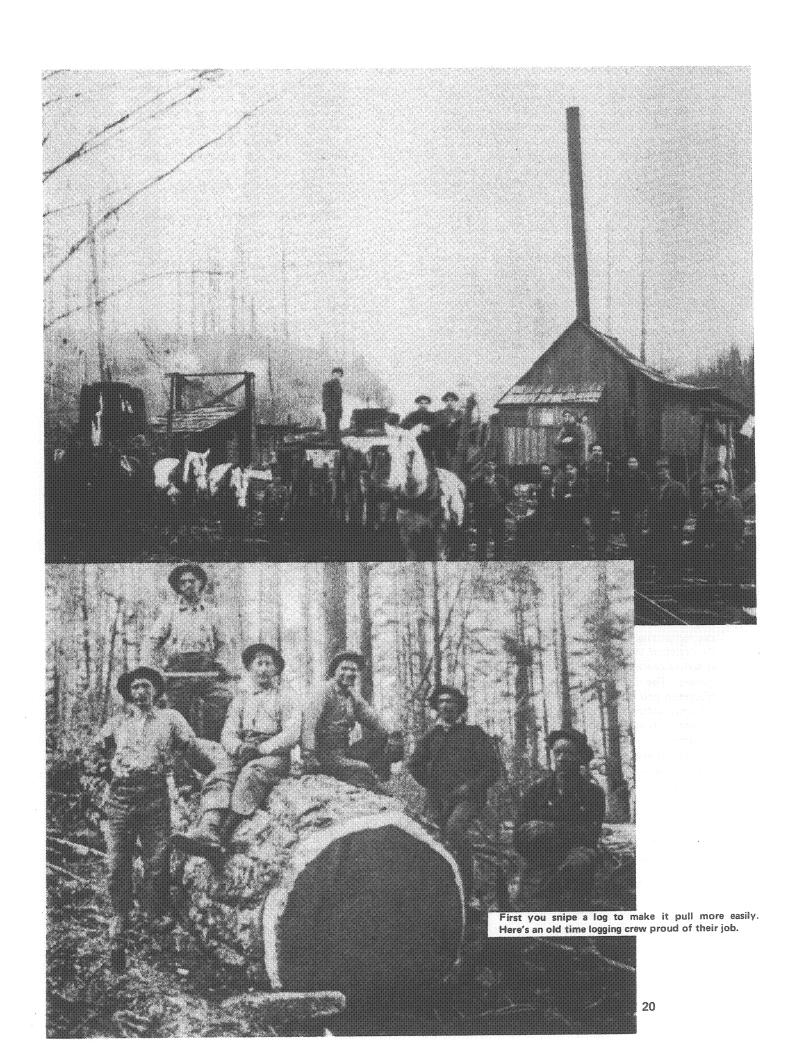
The hooktender's equipment consisted of a 2½ inch rope — there was no wire line (steel cable), on two wooden, iron-bound blocks. On each end of the rope was a steel hook which hooked into the dogs. The dogs were connected by heavy chains about six feet long. In those days there were no jack-screws and no peaveys, but only huge cant hooks which took two men to lift. (Still the day of manpower and brute power.)

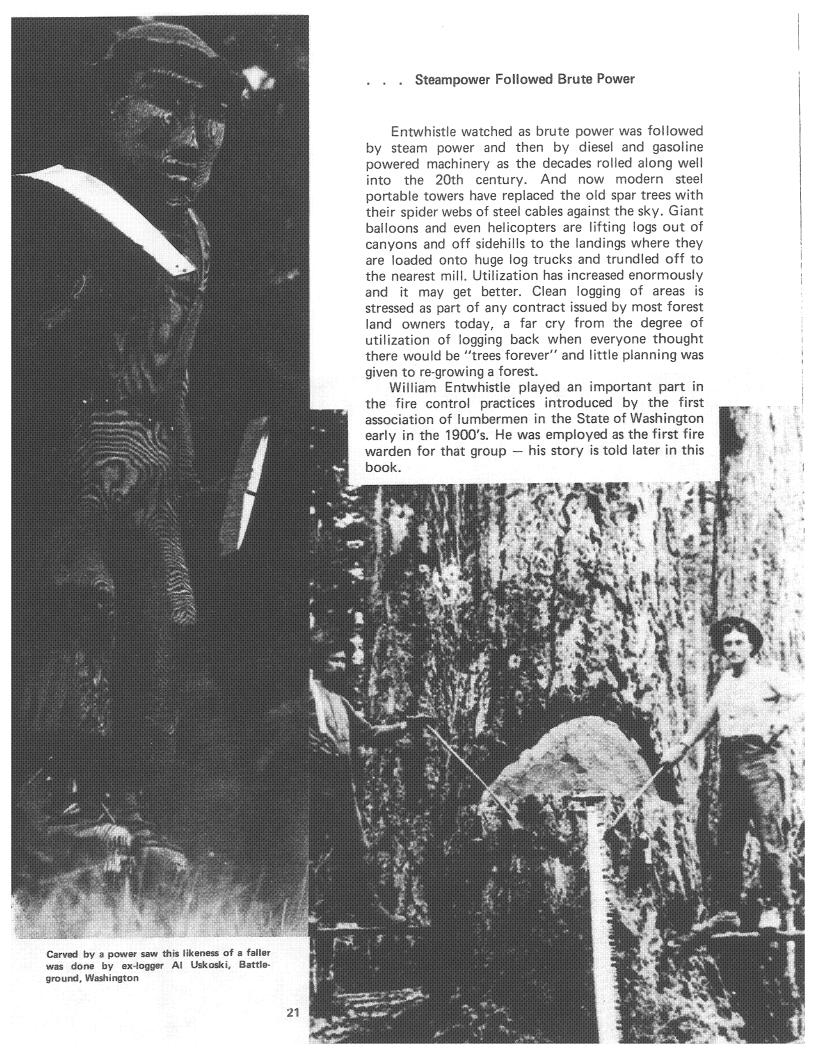
Booming was as difficult and uncertain as were the other processes of logging. Logs were put in a round boom with six sixty-four foot sticks. The booms would be run down the rivers and sawed at tidewater mills. Sometimes the boom would break and the logs would scatter all over Puget Sound."

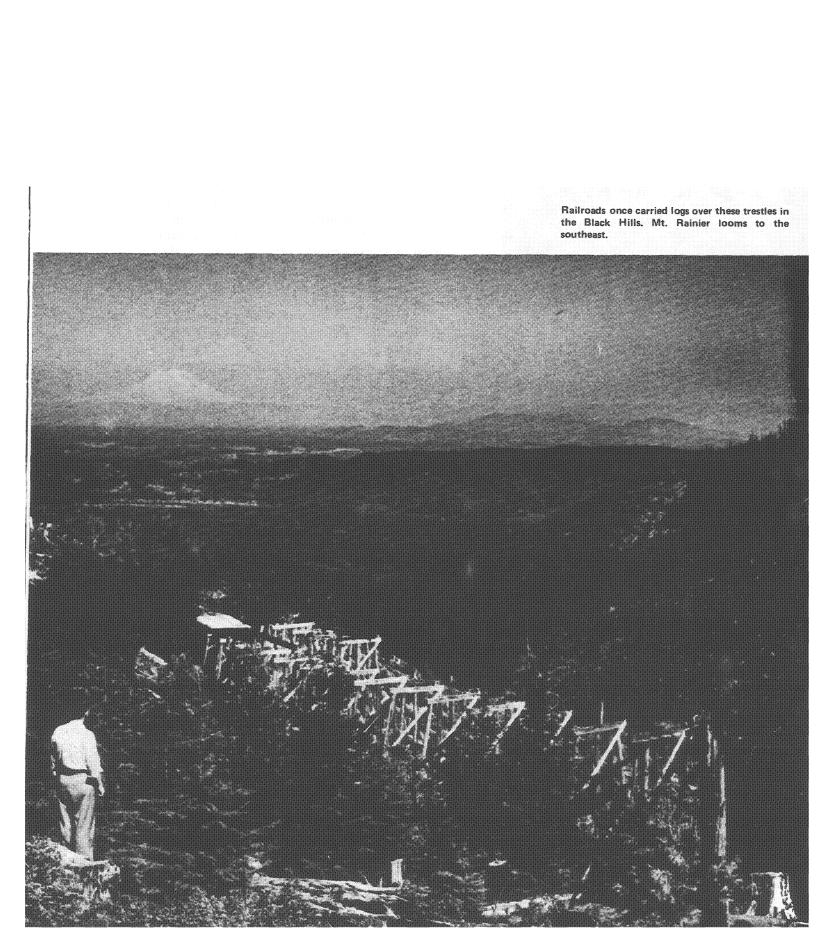
#### . . . Logs Prices Were Low

"I saw logs at Priest Point (on Budd Inlet near present day harbor of Olympia, Washington) sell for \$4.00 per thousand board feet. Timber seemed to be everywhere. The rivers were covered with shingle makers. Split and shaved timber didn't cost anything and all shingles were shaved in the early days. Along the banks were piled stacks of four-foot wood fuel for the steamboats that plied Puget Sound.

After 1895 things changed rapidly. Railroads came and horses took the place of the slower cattle in the logging woods. Then came the little donkey engines, probably the real beginning of modern day logging. The first donkey I ever saw was one with a % inch line used to pull logs up a hill on a skid road. From the early donkeys to modern logging was a period covering little more than 50 years, but changes are really those of from one era to another."







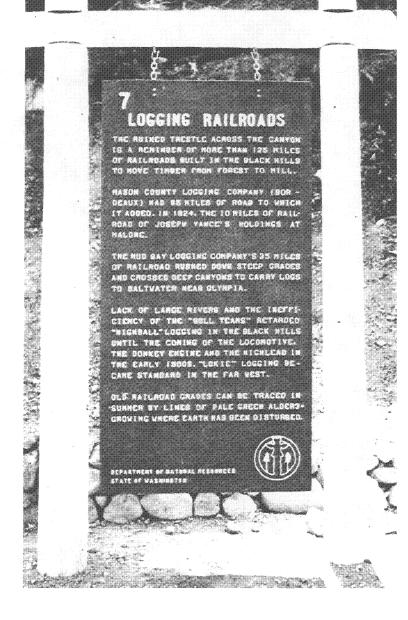
### Chapter III

# CAPITOL FOREST

... Logging Railroads in the Black Hills

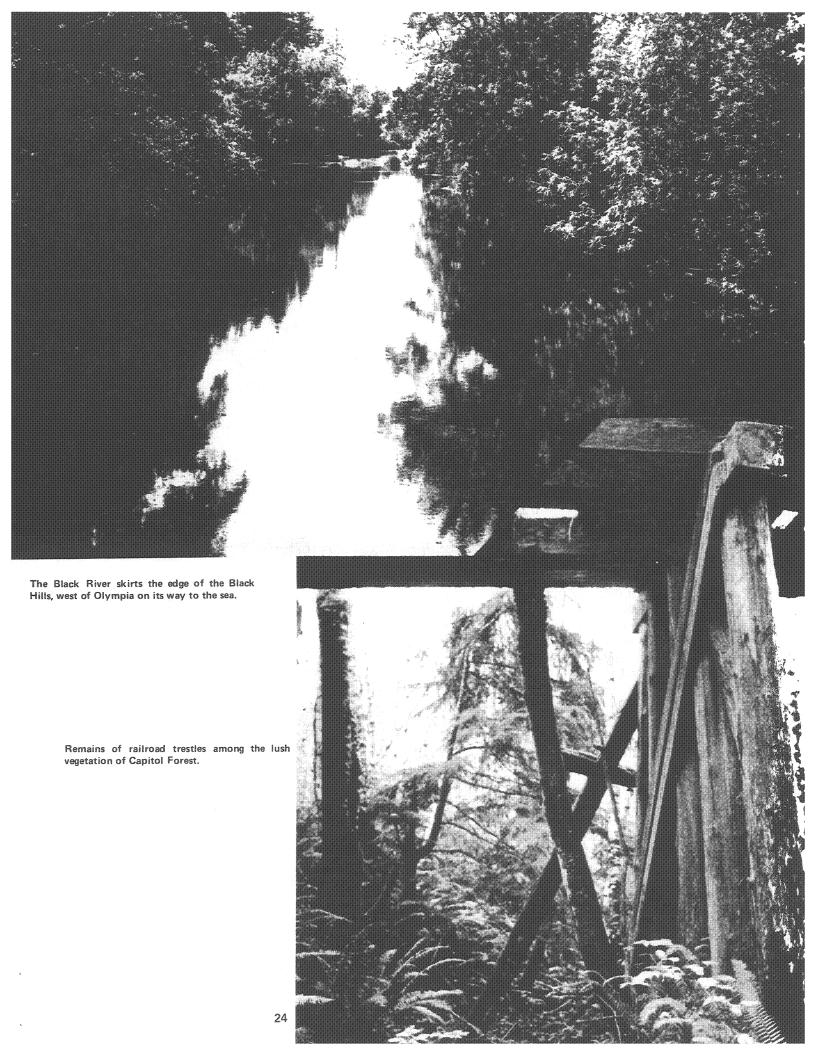
From almost any viewpoint in the Black Hills you can still see traces of the several logging railroads that for nearly half a century brought the logs from the woods to the lumber mills. Pale green alder thickets and blackberry vines creep up old railroad grades and remnants of trestles stagger drunkenly across canyons, swamps and streams. Many of the old railroad grades are now truck logging roads or fire trails. The logging engineer usually sought the easiest negotiable grade for the hard working little steam locomotives — "locies" — that took out the log flat empties to the woods in the morning and brought them back loaded at night.

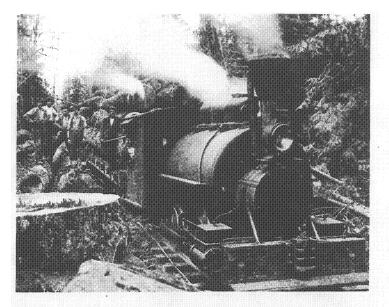
Within the area now known as Capitol Forest there was once more than one hundred miles of railroad track. Perhaps the early day loggers in this area were encouraged by the apparent success of the first narrow guage railroad between Olympia and Tenino. That railroad, known as the Olympia and Tenino Railroad Company, completed its first 15 miles of track in 1878 and two years later changed its name to the Olympia and Chehalis Valley Railroad with the addition of two miles of track and two rod engines. Another nearby example of railroad construction at the end of an era when the local timber industry had been entirely dependent upon water transportation, was the narrow gauge railroad begun by Olympia citizens in 1874. Olympia, like Seattle, had been passed over in the choice as western terminus for the first transcontinental railroad into Puget Sound country, the Northern Pacific. After the initial shock Olympians organized their own railroad and began building grade with their own hands from Olympia to Tenino. Before long, enthusiasm for the project waned and the Olympia Railroad Union, as it was called, sold out to the Thurston County Construction Company in 1878. When the line was completed it was known as the Olympia and Chehalis Valley Railroad and connections were made with the Northern Pacific at Tenino in 1881.



The story of railroads in the Black Hills parallels the growth of lumbering in southern Puget Sound country. It wasn't until rails were pushed into the western and Pacific northwestern forests to get logs that the lumbering industry could reach its full potential.

The Bordeauxs' Mason County Logging Railroad, an 85 mile line much of which was built about the same time they constructed their mill and dry kiln complex — 1904-1910, wandered all over the Black Hills without once getting into Mason County. When Bordeauxs enlarged their holdings with the purchase of Joseph Vance's timber and mill town of Malone at the southwestern section of the Hills, another 10 miles of railroad were added to their line. Over a 40 year span of time they had a dozen or more steam locomotives.





The mainline of the Mason County Logging Company's rail system was known as the L-Line. Spur lines had such designations as L-A, L-B, and one grade line used today as a truck logging road is still known as the L-L Line.

Their company town, where the mills and main business office were located, was about 5 miles from Little Rock on the southern edge of the Black Hills and was known by the family name of Bordeaux.

On the other side of the Black Hills, Mark Draham's Mud Bay Logging Company built 35 miles of railroad up almost impossible grades, flung high trestles across steep canyons and logged clear to the top of the highest point in the Hills. They took in men and supplies, established several outlying camps — as did the Mason County Logging Company — and brought out the logs to the hungry mills near tidewater between 1906 and 1941.

The actual construction of railroad grades was a tough job before the days of modern machinery. For the most part they were accomplished by hand labor, pick and shovel, with hand cars to carry the rock and excess earth to fill sites along the grade. One such grade on the north side of the Hills is known as Mule Spur because one man and a mule logged out the cedar poles ahead of the railroad grading crew.

One of Mud Bay's first locomotives had an interesting background, having been made of what components were available. The boiler came from China and they say the end result was a memorable sight of a most unbelievably ugly, clumsy but thoroughly practical logging locie.

#### LOGGING RAILROADS COULD BE STEEP

The grade of a railroad track is the rate of ascent or descent. A level track is rated at zero percent. If there is a rise of one foot in 100 feet of track it would be known as a one percent grade; a three foot rise in 100 feet would be a three percent grade, etc.

Depending upon the power and type of the locomotives used, the terrain to traverse and the daring of the logging company management, logging railroad grades could vary — up to as high as 12 percent. Gear driven locomotives could negotiate up 12 percent grades (with empty cars) and up 6 percent with loaded cars. In the Black Hills there were a number of 4 percent grades with short pitches up to 10 percent.

#### LOGGING INCLINES COULD BE STEEPER

Since a lot of the forest terrain in the west was standing on end, the logging companies took to defying gravity by such ingenious methods as seemingly nearly vertical railroads or "inclines". On such inclines the empty cars were pulled up the incline with a cable from a stationary donkey machine with a large drum and brakes and the loaded cars were snubbed back down.

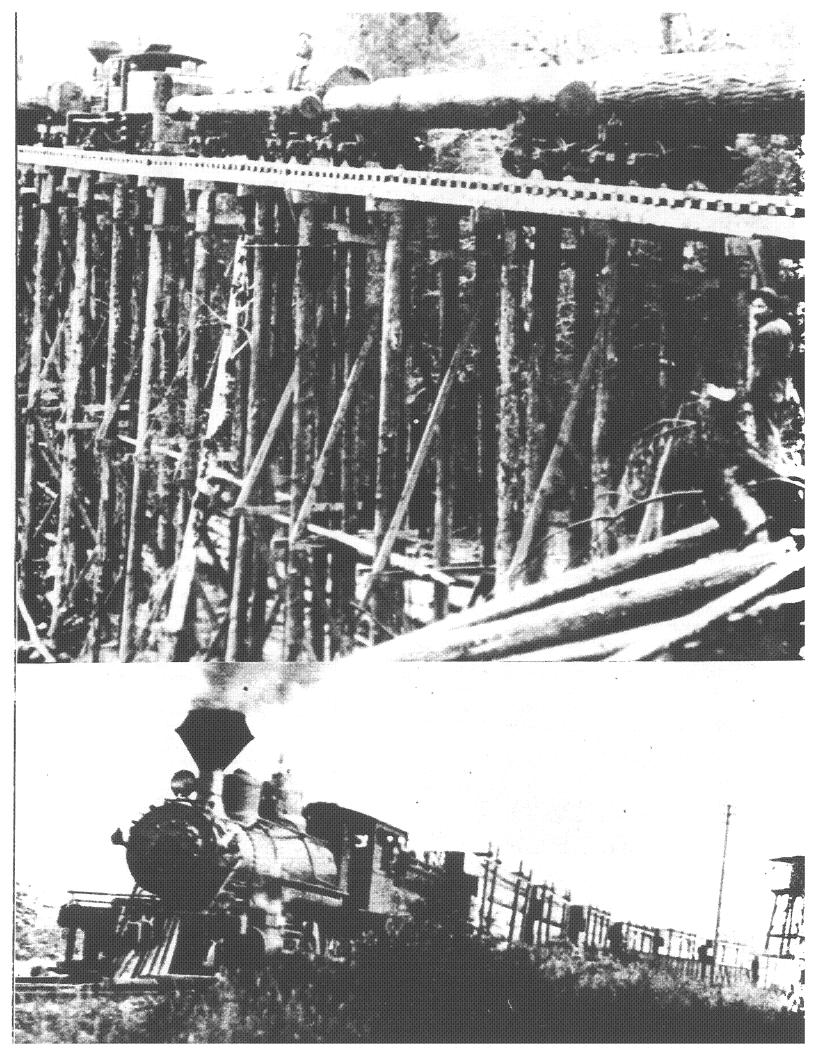
Incline systems were pioneered as early as 1852 and with the introduction of steel cable and the stout donkey machines and locomotives they became highly developed and important facets of logging operations.

The steam donkey consisted of two or more drums mounted on a wooden sled made of logs, with a boiler and fire box to develop steam which powered the two pistons leading to a crankshaft, which in turn operated drums with steel line or cable. The drums' action was controlled by applying the frictions when the throttle was opened up. Most yarding donkeys had three drums - containing the main line to yard the logs into the landing (where they could be loaded out for the mill), another known as the haulback drum which pulled the mainline back to get out the logs, and a strawline, a smaller line, which pulled the haulback out when they were changing roads. (Whenever the felled and bucked logs in any given area were exhausted, the strawline proved a convenient means of pulling the haulback line to another road or area). These same donkeys were used to pull empty cars up the inclines.

Although Bordeauxs' inclines were never to top those built in other parts of western forests they were used to advantage in the rougher portions of the Black Hills to get the logs out of the woods.

They had an incline one half mile southwest of Fuzzy Top and another near the old Johnson homestead between Little Larch Mountain and the head of Sherman Valley.

The other principal logging outfit, Mud Bay Logging Company, had an incline railroad about half a mile south of Rock Candy Mountain which they used for several years.



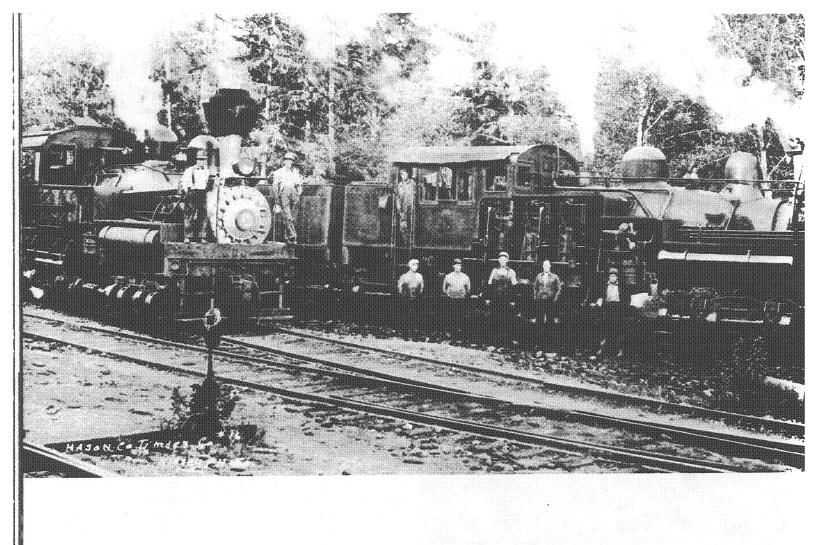


Wherever the logging locies normally tied up for the night, hand dug pits lined with railroad ties were built for servicing of the engines. These pits can still be found occasionally where Mud Bay Logging Company's railroad conquered the Black Hills. The pungent odor of oil lingers about the pits where the hard working locies stopped, their restless driver wheels stilled for the night.

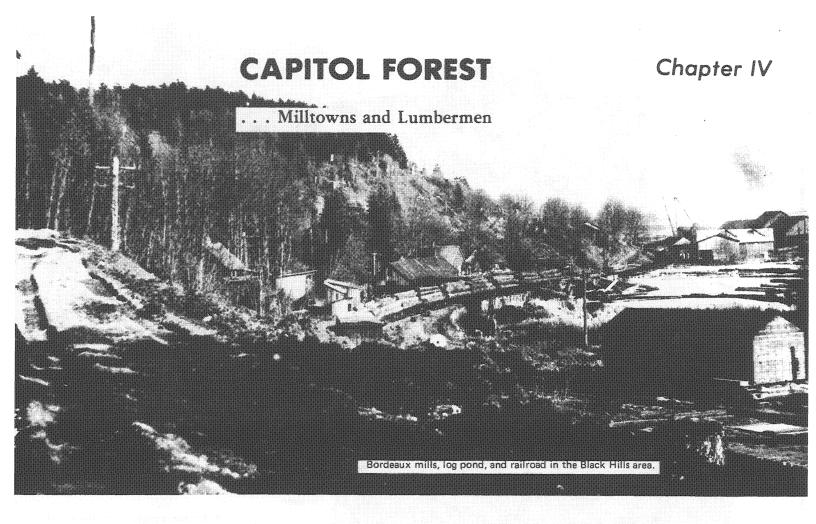
No chapter on the railroad lines in and about the Black Hills is complete without mention of Henry McCleary's Shamrock and Western, with its 12 miles of track and 3 rod engines, operating within shouting distance of the Hills from 1903 until 1931. McCleary, the town he built from his lumbering operation, is still flourishing today and can be seen from some of the higher points in the Capitol Forest.

Other shorter railroads served local mills and lumbering operations — many of which are mentioned in Kramer Adams' LOGGING RAILROADS OF THE WEST. From 1906 to 1924 the Ninemire and Morgan Lumber Company of Rochester operated 3 gear engines over 5 miles of track along the southern edge of Mima Prairie. The Little Rock Lumber Company had 1 gear engine and 3 miles of track at Rochester from 1918 to 1925. And as far back as the 1890's there was one road known as the Olympia, Sherman Valley and Grays Harbor Railroad and Lumber Company. Sherman Valley is located in the center of the Black Hills but it is not certain the railroad that borrowed its name ran through or into that valley.

Those days are now a part of the nostalgic past when the hard working locies labored their way into the Black Hills with their daily burden of men, supplies and machinery and returned with the logs to feed the mills to build a nation. There are still a few old timers who recall the shrill wail of the distant steam locie whistle in the Black Hills and like to reminisce about the golden days of logging when they were a part of what is now lumbering history.







#### . . Lumber Companies Owned Milltowns

There's a speed limit sign now where the loggers used to board the logging "crummy" or speeder bound for camp on a Sunday night. A strip of pavement with blacktopped shoulders is the main street where a wooden "corduroy" road once lead across town to the millpond. The saloon has become a hardware store. Other business houses have lost their false front architecture with the passing of years. Comparative quiet reigns in this sleepy country town interrupted only occasionally by the belching of smoke from the shingle mill at the edge of town, the sound of a truck changing gears at the lone stoplight, the sound of laughter from school children at the playground.

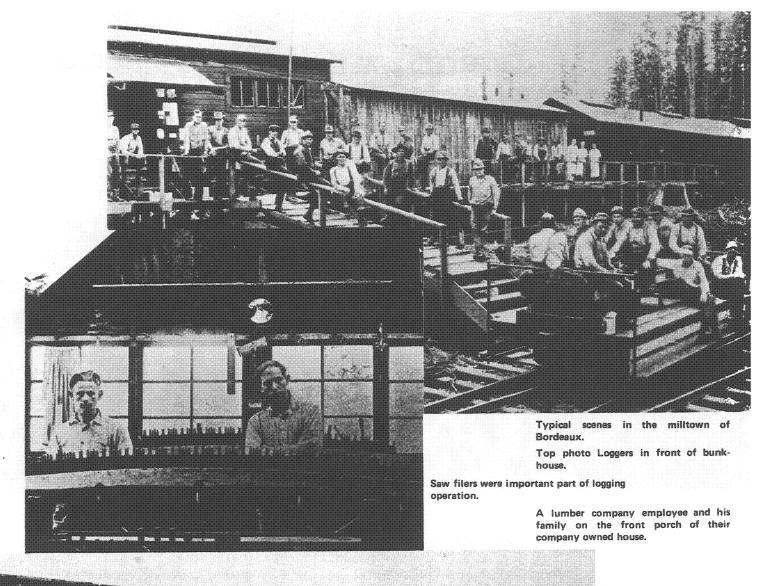
It could be Oakville, Gate City, Maytown, Porter, Malone, Kapowsin, Mineral, Pe Ell, Doty — any one of the dozens of lusty milltowns of yesteryear where a thriving business centered about the lumbering industry. Many of the towns were company-owned where loggers, millworkers and logging railroad employees lived (for the most part) in company-built, identical houses and traded at the company store and sent their children to a school that, if it wasn't built by the lumber company, was supported principally with the taxes paid by said company.

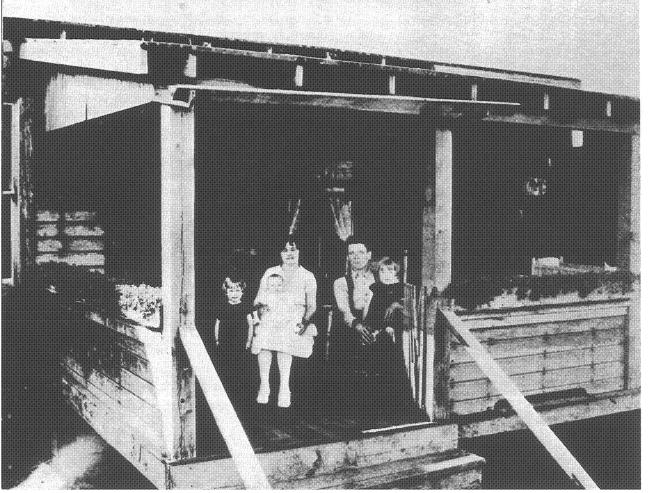
The paternalistic attitude of many of the companies no doubt provided a sense of security for their employees, although there were always those free souls who balked at some of the hard and fast rules that prevailed in a company-owned town. Some families never got out of debt to the company store from one year's end to the next. They were usually reliable workers — from necessity — with families to support.

One of the interesting aspects of a milltown, company-owned or not, was its social caste system. The mill employees lived in one section, the shingle weavers (if there was a shingle mill) in another, the logging railroad men were known to be almost as "clickey," and those who worked in the logging woods had their own peculiar levels of society. It all began, of course, with management, the superintendents and foremen, bull buckers, and head sawyers, hooktenders and railroad bosses. And curiously enough, this social distinction included even the children.

The "Brass" got the better houses. Some of the houses, back in the earlier decades of the century were "modern" with bathrooms, and some were not.

The loggers referred to sawmill workers as "sawdust eaters" and the sawmill workers had equally





sarcastic names for the lumberjacks, although each group of employees was necessary to the other in the overall scheme of the lumbering industry.

There was a common denominator, however. It was when that mill whistle blew repeatedly the signal of death or injury in the mill or logging woods. Fire was another dreaded enemy which brought the people together to form a common line of defense. And before the days of adequate fire prevention and control, fire was a constant threat to the forests and the people who worked and lived in and near the woods.

According to Bill Entwhistle that "fine crop of loggers" of whom he spoke with such praise, developed after 1875. No doubt many of them were sons of the first settlers in and about the Black Hills. Many of the original homestead claims were not completely expanded into the dreamed-of, prosperous farms but became what is popularly known as "stump ranches". They could support a few head of cattle, hogs, sheep and a garden spot. Many a stumprancher also worked in the logging woods or local sawmill to eke out a living. He was to become a member of the logging force known in later years as the "homeguard" because he lived at home and commuted to his job in the woods or mill.

#### . . . Bordeaux, a Company Town

Among the company-owned milltowns was the small town built by the Bordeaux brothers' Mason County Logging Company. They built it in 1901 where the Mima Mounds meet the southern edges of the Black Hills.

At one time during the 1920's Bordeaux boasted of having more than 400 citizens. According to a census taken in 1930 there were still 352 people living in the town. Earlier, between 1905 and 1910, some 400 men were employed in the woods and the various phases of the sawmill, dry kiln, shingle mill and lumber yard complex. A company hotel and the several logging camps provided board and room for more than 200 men at the Bordeaux operations over the years, many of these men were single or away from their families. Married loggers and their families occupied the company-built houses in the company-owned town of Bordeaux.

#### . . . The Brothers Bordeaux

From the history of this French born trio of Bordeaux brothers, Joe, Tom and later, Leo, who emigrated to join his brothers sometime after they reached western Washington, one gets the picture of hard working, dauntless men. They started with not much more than their own willing hands, strong backs and determination for assets.

Joe and Tom bought a "float camp" from a Mr. Peabody in 1890 for whom they worked on Harstene Island not far from Shelton in Mason County, Washington. They had worked for Peabody but a short time when he offered to sell them the outfit. Tom Bordeaux's immediate reaction was: "If Peabody couldn't make it, what made Joe think they could?"

But they took over the operation and then came hard times. In 1896 logs weren't selling. About that time a big man by the name of Alfred Anderson appeared on the scene. Anderson was 6 feet 5 inches in his stocking feet and weighed about 250 pounds. He was to become known in the annals of western Washington lumbering as Fir Tree Anderson. His widow, after his death in 1914, endowed a forestry building at the University of Washington still known as Anderson Hall.

But back in 1896 he was lately come from Wisconsin to purchase forest land for his father-in-law, financier Benjamin B. Healy. Anderson backed the Bordeaux brothers to some extent until the logs could be sold. The market remained poor and Anderson soon grew restless about his investment, so Joe Bordeaux took a trip to Tacoma. He sold the log rafts they had accumulated for \$4.50 a thousand board feet, paid off Anderson and Healy, and proceeded to arrange for backing from a banker in Olympia and credit with some supply houses — a close, successful association which was to last for many years.

The Bordeauxs incorporated under the name of the Mason County Logging Company (because that county was the location of their first logging venture) and went on to log for more than 40 years within the confines of the Black Hills. They were to become well known and respected in lumbering circles in the Pacific Northwest, logging more than 50,000 acres in what is now known as Capitol Forest in the Black Hills. Their sons grew up in the business and were educated in forestry and business administration of

the lumbering industry, and eventually took over where their fathers left off.

In 1924 they purchased Joseph Vance's holdings, including the company town of Malone, adding 10 miles of railroad to their already extensive operations.

As with many other lumbering operations of their day it was the devastation of several raging forest fires that hastened the end of the Bordeaux lumbering operations. By 1941 they ran out of old growth trees to log. The town of Bordeaux became a ghost town.

The mills were dismantled, the railroad steel pulled up and the town abandoned. No logs, no jobs, no people. Things have changed since 1941, but as we travel through the Bordeaux Entrance into Capitol Forest there are occasional landmarks — if you know where to find them. That flat meadow at the left once held vast stacks of milled lumber and a dry kiln. Directly opposite, to the right, one of the old concrete vaults marks the former site of the company store. The vault guarded the cash the Mason County Logging Company kept on hand to meet their payroll. The original Bordeaux home, known as "The Big House", is still standing but is in private ownership along with 160 acres of land in the immediate vicinity.

Where Big Mima and Little Mima Creeks meet above the former site of the company town of Bordeaux are a few decayed logs, peeled and sniped (ends are shaped like sled runners) which together with a few pieces of rusting cable and iron, mark the site of the old donkey sled building yard. As the Mason County Logging Company inched its way across the rough terrain of the Black Hills it was often necessary to replace the sled-like supports of their giant skidder and donkey machines.

Tucked away in the canyons and along the creeks throughout the Hills can be found the remnants of some seven different logging camps that existed from time to time as a part of this widespread lumbering operation.

#### . . . Joseph Vance and Malone

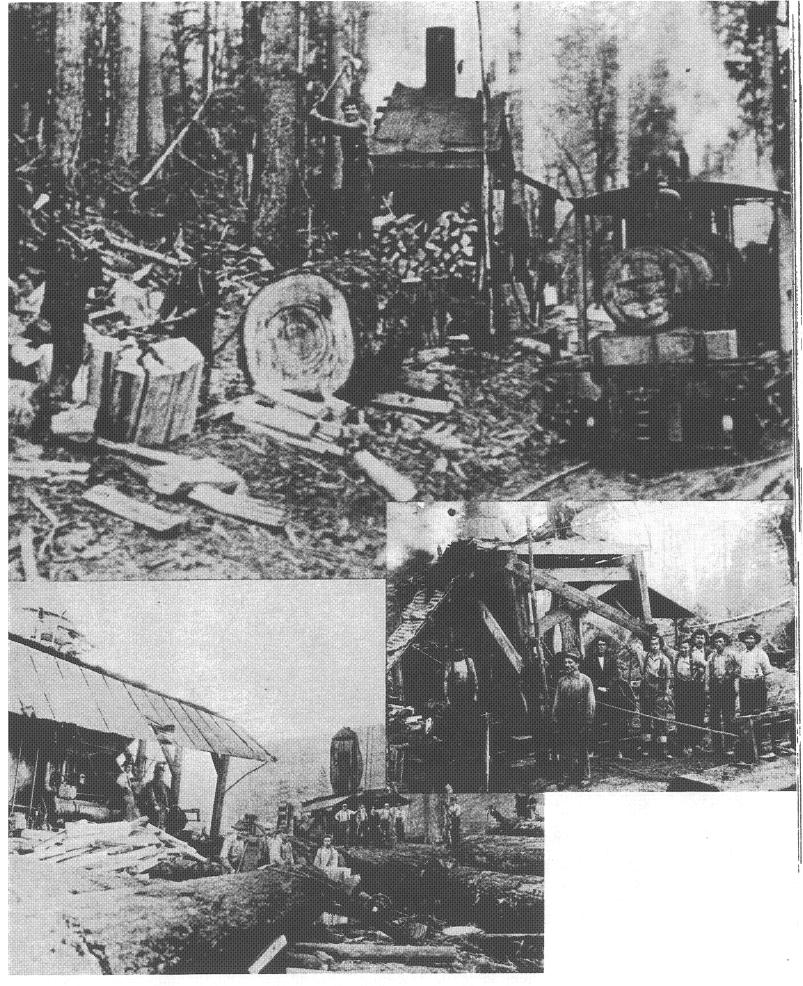
The tiny town of Malone still stands on a county road off State Highway 8 en route from Rochester to McCleary. Sixty or more houses remain; some occupied, others in disrepair, with a general store, service station and post office run by the postmaster, Mr. Busby. He is the owner of a photo taken in the 1920's of the four story hotel and general store building which also housed the offices of the Vance Lumber Company.

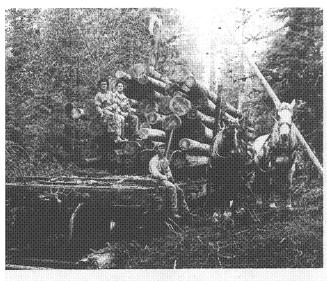
Lumberman Joseph Vance, who built the Vance Hotel (long known as the hotel for lumbermen while in Seattle) owned the lumbering operation in this southwest section of the Black Hills until 1924 when he sold out to the Mason County Logging Company, with his 10 miles of railroad and two rod engines as part of the deal. In 1900 Vance had purchased the Swan and Johnson Mill located at Porter, another mill town near Malone, and called it the Mumby Lumber and Shingle Company. This was also sold to the Bordeauxs in 1924. During their years of subsequent ownership both Vance and the Bordeauxs built more company houses and made improvements on the hotel and store building at Malone. In 1939 the four story landmark was torn down. Only the concrete vault remains near the site of the former lumberyard where hundreds of thousands of accumulated board feet of lumber once towered in perilously high stacks.

#### . . . Porter and the Coffeepot

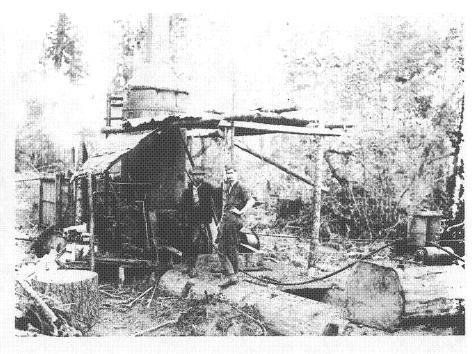
This small wayside town tucked in the edge of the Black Hills, not far away from Malone, was originally settled and named for a man by the name of Porter. He operated a ferry across the Chehalis River in the early days and his coffeepot, always on the stove, led many visitors to take advantage of his hospitality. One day, when the pot boiled over for the umpteenth time, he lost his temper and kicked the coffeepot into the river and ended this problem.

In and around Porter there were a number of other sawmills, shingle mills and logging operations. The Lytle Logging Company logged more than 3,000 acres in this area; the Weir Shingle Mill was located near the Porter Creek bridge, and the Butler Mill further up the same creek was operated by James and Carl Butler about 1900.

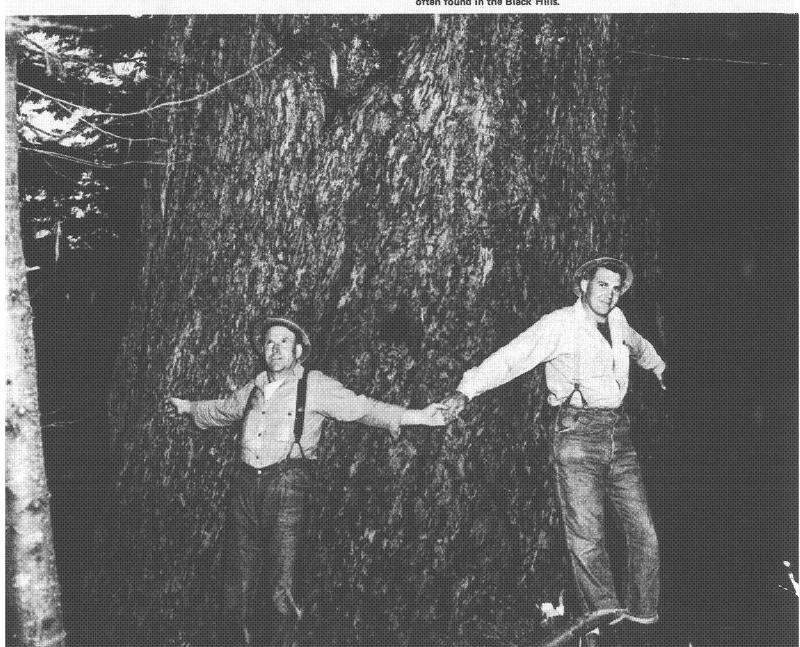




From brute power to steam power took a few years but when trees grew anywhere from 12 to 15 foot through more and better power had to be developed to handle the tremendous weight of the logs.



Old growth trees as large as this one were often found in the Black Hills.



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# . . Mark Draham and the Mud Bay Logging Company

Mark Draham was the original owner of the Mud Bay Logging Company which was known in its heyday as a "high-ball" logging outfit.

They built logging railroad grades throughout the north and northeastern portion of the Black Hills using primitive methods with pick, shovel, wheelbarrows and push cars in 1908 and 1909. Logging began about 1910, about the time that the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company purchased 49% of the company's stock.

Their "high-ball" methods produced 35 to 50 loads of logs a day, 950 logs during a 12 hour period which was considered a record for the amount and type of equipment available in the logging industry at that time.

Mud Bay constructed a number of logging camps during the period they logged in this area. They were established at more or less convenient sites along the logging railroad right-of-way. Camp One at Delphi was the first "sanitary" camp of its type in the area — running water and sanitary facilities for the men were still relatively unknown in most logging camps. Mud Bay Logging Company's Camp Three — perched high on stilts on a steep hillside — was located near the locie repair shop where the Bonneville power line now crosses the Hills on its way to Grays Harbor.

A few straggling daffodils and an ancient lilac bush mark the site of Mud Bay's Camp Two where a camp cook, or perhaps a woman flunkie, evidently tried to bring civilization to a primitive wilderness logging camp. The apple cores and prune seeds loggers tossed out of their bunkhouse windows produced thickets of apple and prune trees that still grow where once the panting locies awaited their daily loads of logs. An occasional sand house stands where that extra something was needed when the rails were rain-wet and slippery.

The upper reaches of the area logged by Mud Bay is now Weyerhaeuser Company land. They own about 6,300 acres in the center of the Black Hills in the middle of the portion owned by the state and known as the Capitol Forest. It is Weyerhaeuser's plantation

of noble fir that is growing on the uppermost reaches of the hills and ridges.

High grade virgin timber grew on the north side of the Hills in the days when Mud Bay Logging Company operations were at their height. This has now been replaced by a younger second growth conifer forest that has covered the huge sprawling stumps of the original forest.

Mud Bay Logging Company utilized tram cars in some of the more precipitous terrain in getting the logs out of the woods. The tram cars ran on wooden or steel rails and were pulled by horses. They were slow but better than rolling the logs in by hand or behind a bellowing team of slower oxen.

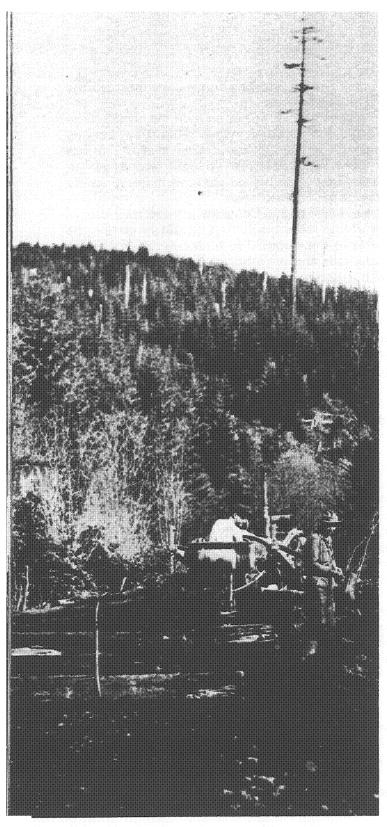
The old tram tracks provided short cuts for the homesteaders living in the area. One farmer and his wife on their way home from town heard the familiar "Tram's a-comin" warning as they were slowly working their way homeward via the tracks one time. In his excitement the farmer unhitched his horses, took them to safety and left his wife sitting in the wagon in the middle of the track. Fortunately the tram crew saw her in time.

Today none of the old railroad trestles remain of the old operations of the Mud Bay Logging Company. The U.S. Army used them in explosive experiments in 1945. This was the same military unit that built the long road from the north side to the summit of Capitol Peak, part of which they called the "Burma Road." They were perhaps better known for their construction of the Leyte Air Force Base in the Philippines.

The Mud Bay Logging Company brought its logs down from the Hills to tidewater mills on Puget Sound where they sold on the open log market to some extent, although Weyerhaeuser used much of the output at their Everett mill.

### · · · Eno Anderson, Spar Builder

Loggers have long been known for their indomitable spirit, their uncanny ability to solve problems involving tremendous weights such as 200-foot trees that measured 6 to 12 feet in diameter on the stump. Perhaps this special something loggers possess is what produced some of the most colorful characters and legends in the annals of any industry —



Pulling railroad ties of the Mason County Logging Company Railroad near Bordeaux.

from the mythical Paul Bunyan to Smokey the Bear.

In the Black Hills of Western Washington stories are still told of a few characters who deserve a special place in logging history.

One such man was Eno Anderson, who with his brawny sons, cut and dressed spars for early day sailing ships. They took contract to hand-hew the spars with ax and adz and they were so proficient it is said these gigantic sticks — octangular, squared or six-sided — looked as if they came out of a modern sawmill with the most up-to-date planer.

But even those mighty spar builders had to relax every few weeks or months and they evidently played as hard as they worked. Little Rock, nearest town to their operations in the Black Hills, was the scene of their recreational depredations. Eno and company would take over the local saloon for three or four days or a week. He'd send the bartender home, send out for a slab of fat bacon and invite all who wished to stay to join in the fun. All drinks and eats were on Eno. After several days of whooping it up (Eno chawed on his fatty bacon and drank great quantities of liquor) he would order big meals sent in, call back the saloon keeper, pay for everything, including any damages to the premises, and off they would all go back to the tall timber for another go-round at spar building.

# · · · Frank Morris, Superintendent of Mason County Logging Company

Frank Morris literally grew up in the milltown of Bordeaux and company logging camps in the Black Hills. Eventually he became superintendent of the company and played an important part in arranging for the sale of the first plat of logged-over land to the Washington State Division of Forestry (predecessor to the present state agency, the Department of Natural Resources).

From this action emerged one of the first bona fide tree farms in the nation. Frank Morris always contended that Capitol Forest should have been known as the Bordeaux Black Hills Tree Farm.

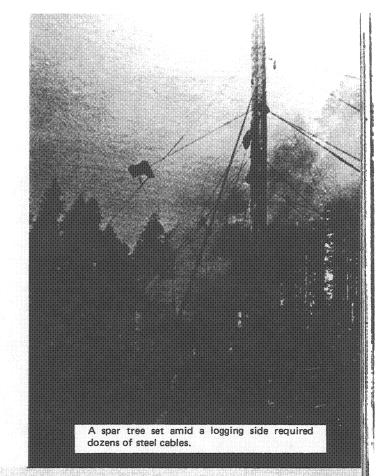
It was also Morris's sad duty to finally close up shop when the Bordeaux family's pioneer lumbering company and town discontinued business in 1941.

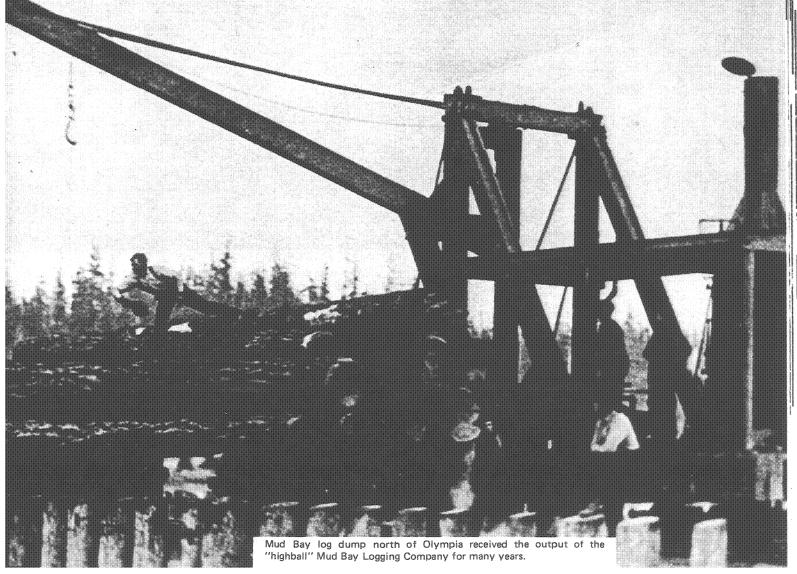
### . . . Life in a Milltown

Logging camps and milltowns were not the safest places in which to rear children and the Black Hills logging camps and towns were no exception. If there was a school in the town or nearby there could be a playfield but more often the nearby railroad attracted the curious and venturesome youngsters. One small girl lost her foot when she stood too near a locie. A locomotive engineer had had one leg amputated at the knee because of a childhood accident with a logging locomotive at the age of five.

Henry Lehn, (pronounced Lane), worked most of his 40 working years with the Bordeaux company as a locomotive engineer. He raised several children in and about the Black Hills, some of them out in wilderness logging camps. His daughter, Irene Lehn Choate, with whom he lived his last years near Little Rock, had her playhouse atop a huge cedar stump where all her childhood games centered about the logging woods and camp activities.

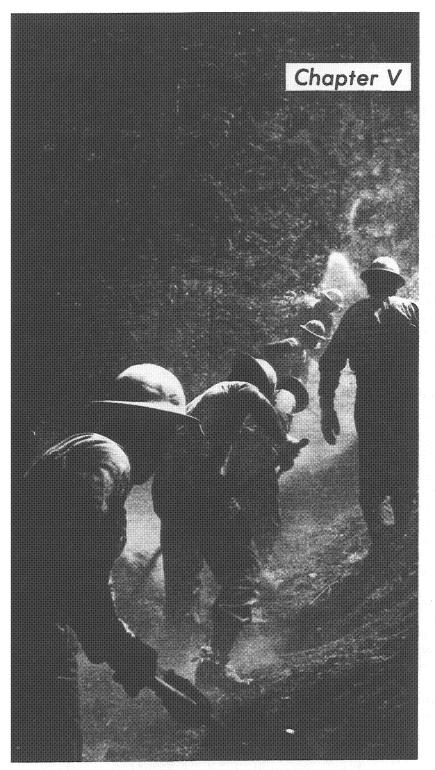
It was a hard life but as is the case in other industries — mining, farming, fishing — it produced a generation of rugged individualists who continued to produce strong fibered children.







The logging railroads with their steep grades, powerful locies and daring train crews contributed much to the annals of western logging. These logging trains operated in and around the Black Hills during the first 3 or 4 decades of the 1900s. This was a Mason Logging Company train and crew.



The first line of defense against a fire soon makes its efforts felt. Trained crews like these are now on hand during fire season to meet all fire emergencies.

# **CAPITOL FOREST**

### . . . Fires and Fire Legislation

When the double-bitted axe was supplemented by the crosscut saw, and brute power was replaced by steam power in the logging woods, the changes resulted in an increase of the danger of wild fire. Steam logging machines emitted sparks that found ready kindling material in the heavy slashing that loggers left behind. In the wake of the loggers, land clearing fires smouldered here and there, nursed by stump ranchers toiling to clear the land in the days before bulldozers. The situation was ready made for the devastating fires of 1902 which took great toll in human and animal life as well as timber and private property throughout western Washington and Oregon.

However, fire was an old visitor to the northwest forests and fire legislation was among the first enacted by the new state. Indians had, through the centuries, fired some timbered areas to keep down the brush and improve hunting. This practice is thought to have maintained some of the open prairies that appear among the timbered regions of western Washington. Nisqually Prairie (where the U.S. military installation of Fort Lewis is located); Sequim Prairie on the upper Olympic Peninsula and Cowlitz Prairie, not far from the mouth of the Cowlitz River, were no doubt natural prairies, perpetuated perhaps in part by repeated burning by Indians. There are no stumps on the Mima Prairie either.

There is evidence in some parts of western Washington and Oregon that huge fires raged during the mid-1600's. Again in the 1840's fierce forest fires blackened hundreds of acres of timberland. Lightning was most likely the cause of most fires down through the years before the coming of white man.

As the settlers cleared their claims for farm land their clearing fires became an accepted part of life back in territorial days. If occasionally the fires came to life and swept over partially cleared farms into the surrounding timber it was a hazard to be expected and coped with the best way they knew how.

As early as February 27th, 1854, the first legislative assembly, called into session at Olympia, Washington Territory, established liability to penalize persons careless with fire. Standing timber was evidently low in value as the law stated:

### . . Devastating Fires Speeded Fire Legislation

"Every person wilfully and maliciously setting fire to any pile or parcel of boards, timber, piles, or other lumber, cordwood, ricks, stacks or shocks of grain . . . shall upon conviction be imprisoned in the county jail not less than one month nor more than one year and be fined a sum not exceeding \$500.00."

There was no mention of forests in that first legislation, but in 1875 a law that was passed offers evidence of one practice that must have caused considerable damage to timber and reproduction of new forests for they enacted more legislation which read — "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to fire-hunt for deer, moose or elk, except within the bounds of his own enclosure or by permission of the owner of any other enclosure. Upon conviction the fine shall be twenty dollars for each and every offence, one half to be paid the informer, the other to be added to the county common school fund." Whether or not this had any effect upon the Indian method of firing the forests to improve hunting was not recorded.

It was in 1877 when fire damage to standing timber was recognized at the sixth biennial session of the Washington Territorial Legislature. Governor Elisha P. Ferry signed a bill that established fines to punish persons setting fire in fields, pastures, enclosures, forest, prairie or timber land without consent of the owner, of not less than \$20.00 nor more than \$1,000.00, and imprisonment of not less than 3 months nor more than 12 months for persons maliciously setting a fire with intent to injure another person. It also stated that individuals were liable for damage if care and prudence were not observed in the use of fire. This also covered persons who set fire while hunting or fishing in lands of another as well as those engaged in driving lumber upon any water or streams of Washington Territory.

It wasn't until 1891 that the laws of 1877 were amended by adding the words: "without malice" in referring to the person starting the fire.

By 1891 Washington had been for two years the 42nd state of the Union. Evidently the population, being still somewhat scarce and the forests being so vast, such laws were difficult to administer. After the devastating fires of 1902, the 1903 session of the state legislature felt the urgent need for additional

Probably one of the strangest fires in Black Hills history occurred on the first weekend in December, 1952 — later in the year than the fire danger usually lasts. It was a sizeable fire which started from a warming fire left by a company tree planting crew on a Friday near the top of a high peak in the Hills.

There was a cold east wind blowing which increased to a gale just ahead of a snowstorm. The smouldering fire came to life and the strong wind sent it jumping from stump to stump to burn about 150 acres of the new forest plantation.

The fire fighting effort was a strange experience in itself, according to Don Lee Fraser who, with several other Department of Natural Resources personnel, was on the fire line. The snowstorm struck — the flakes, traveling almost horizontally did not stick on the ground — but the same wind drove the fire.

Fortunately, the fire had started almost on the top of the hill just to the northwest of Capitol Peak and as it spread, it had gone downhill into the lee of the hill. As the front of the fire dropped in elevation, the temperature was warmer and the snow was stickier and eventually began to check the spread of the fire. The youth camp boys did a yeoman's job on the fire fighting line and with the DNR tractor got it trailed. Ted Norton, shop mechanic, drove the tractor. Al Davis, Loren Tucker and Red Ward shared both the fire fighting chores and the general disbelief that Don Lee Fraser felt about this unseasonal Black Hills fire.

### . . . Forest Management and Capitol Forest

The intensity of forest management begins with good fire protection and it progresses with increasing timber prices. In the early days of logging in the Black Hills recurring fires destroyed much of the natural regeneration that occurred. Normally the receding timber edge seeded the cut over land as cutting proceeded up the mountain sides but often fires destroyed those vulnerable new stands of reproduction.

The risk of investing money in fostering reforestation and timber stand improvement at a time when 200,000 to 300,000 acres of forest land were burning every year in the State of Washington and when it was cheaper to buy another mature stand of timber than to plant your cutover land and wait for 60 to 100 years for a second crop, just made intensive forest management on private forest land an economic impossibility.

Government might make such investments in assuring a future supply of timber for the nation but in those early days under our economic system there was little financial incentive to invest in growing trees.

The Black Hills were no exception. So natural seeding started a new crop on much of the land. Subsequent fires destroyed much of the new crop. In other areas insufficient seed sources took their toll.



legislation. No state department existed that was equipped to satisfactorily staff a forest fire protection unit. Yet the Legislature had to establish laws designed to end promiscuous burning during hazardous weather and establish fire responsibility for fire damages, to reduce fire occurrence in logging operations and to assign responsibility for enforcement of fire laws.

Such establishment of police powers needed to enforce an effective law demanded one more retreat by the rugged individualist resisting any encroachment on his self-described constitutional rights. This caught the lumberman squarely in "the bight of the line." In order to protect the timber from which he was gaining a living and creating one of the foremost industries in the Pacific Northwest, he would have to give police powers to some governmental agency and then live up to the rules said agency might promulgate to regulate fire prevention measures in his logging operations.

It had taken the completely devastating forest fires of the 1902 season to establish forest fire legislation with teeth in it in the Pacific Northwest.

Drying east winds poured over the mountain passes carrying with them low humidity which

literally sucked the moisture from the forests and from the slashings left by loggers and farmers clearing their lands. The usual fires had been slumbering since mid-summer but folks said, as usual, the autumn rains would extinguish them. They always did. But in 1902 the conditions were exactly right for a great explosion and on the 12th day of September it happened.

Literally hundreds of slashing fires blew up and flames raced unchecked over western Washington and Oregon slopes and down the ridges and mountain valleys. The smoke became so dense from northern California to as far north as British Columbia that no one could determine the exact location of the fires. In Seattle at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a photographer had to expose film for 30 minutes to photograph a street scene. Heavy ash fell on all the cities. Chickens went to roost at noon. People out in the forest communities and logging camps lost their homes. Entire logging operations were wiped out. Telephone and telegraph lines were destroyed, Billions of board feet of timber were reduced to charred ruins throughout the Douglas fir region of the Pacific Northwest.

Clark and Skamania counties suffered the greatest damage from the 1902 fires. Thirty-five people were known to have perished in the Yacolt area east of Vancouver and more than 200,000 acres of virgin forests were burned over.

### . . . 1902 Fires Strike the Black Hills

The Black Hills didn't escape the fires of 1902. Carl Hendershot, early settler and logger in the area said he thought the fire might have started from a stump rancher's land clearing operations at the head of Stoney Creek. An east wind took the fire down into the head of Waddle Creek near Bordeaux Camp 4, now known as Hollywood Park Area.

Other fires in other years also wrought destruction in the Black Hills in 1910, 1912 and again in 1919.

A slash fire got away in 1936 and burned up five or six cold decks (storage piles) of logs which contained two million feet of number one veneer logs. This time the fire burned down into the town of Malone and destroyed a portion of that milltown. The heat and wind took timber down with cyclonic force. Loggers went back into the fire to save three machines while five skyline donkeys were burned up.

These various fires took their toll and it is estimated it shortened old growth timber production in the Black Hills by a number of years. Both Bordeaux's and Mud Bay's lumbering operations had to close for lack of old growth timber by 1941.

### . . . First Efforts at Fire Legislation Ineffective

The first efforts by the 1903 Washington State Legislature were well intended but ineffective when it came to enforcement. Legislation constructed a firm foundation for effective fire control but failed to create an organization to enforce these statutes. Funds for defraying costs of enforcement were also left out.

Under the 1903 legislation the Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands was appointed State Forest Fire Warden Ex Officio and any costs he incurred while enforcing the laws, investigating the origin of forest fires, or posting laws and regulations in all the counties were to be paid from his regular funds. Expense incurred in enforcing the act were in direct proportion to the non-existent appropriation.

County Commissioners were designated as county

boards of deputy forest fire wardens with power to appoint and remove deputy fire wardens and to finance the county fire protection costs. Timber cruisers and others employed by corporations and individuals could be appointed special forest patrolmen-at-large by the State Forest Fire Warden's action.

This basic legislation, which was aimed at curing the problems of a lack of forest fire prevention and control, re-stated the laws of 1891 establishing penalties for setting fires and failure to extinguish them. When no adequate financing and staff were provided to carry out the job the results in actual practice were almost nil.

It wasn't until 1905 that Washington State Legislature repealed some of the 1903 laws, created the position of State Fire Warden and Forester and delegated a state board of forest commissioners to administrate the law.

Private timber owners, however, were not satisfied that the level of protection that was provided by the state was adequate to do the job of fire control. The total appropriation for the State Board of Forest Commissioners for the two years 1905 and 1906 was \$7,500 but \$11,823 had to be solicited as contributions from forestland owners or mills in order to pay debts incurred for fire suppression efforts in 1906. In 1908 the forest industry organized the Washington Forest Fire Association through membership contributions and individual voluntary assessments on an acreage basis. This group is active today having accomplished much in the development of more adequate forest protection for Washington forests.

By 1910 state expenditures for fire protection had increased to \$25,777. The first federal financing in the amount of \$10,000 for forest fire protection was received in 1911 following passage that year of the Weeks Act.

By 1917 "compulsory adequate protection" added a strong support to the fire control organization when new laws were enacted with industry's backing. Uncontrolled forest fires were declared a public nuisance and the State Forester was given authority to control them and collect costs from the violator. The Forester was also authorized to abate slashings when an owner failed to do so, costs to be collected by placing a lien against the property of the "irresponsible" party. Forest lands were defined, for purposes of the act, as lands on which there was enough inflammable forest debris to constitute a menace to life or property.

# . . . Entwhistle Served as First Association Fire Warden

William "Billy" Entwhistle's story of his experiences as the first fire warden employed by the Washington Forest Association is interesting, not only in its logistics of fire fighting but in the attitude he encountered among independent-type loggers and lumbermen throughout the state.

As told to Harry Osborne (who worked for the Washington Division of Forestry and its successor, the Department of Natural Resources, until his retirement in 1963), this story has become a part of state history.

### . . . Again Entwhistle tells it in his own way:

"On June 8th, 1908 Page Simon with the aid of a number of lumbermen formed the Washington Forest Fire Association. The lumbermen chose Simon, as chief fire warden and told him to get his men and they would back him. Simon sent for me and put me in charge of the field men.

At first I scarcely realized how large my territory was as they sent me wherever the big fires were.

At that time it was an independent association. I would work for the association commencing June 1st with sometimes only three months a season, but if the fires were bad I would work longer, according to the fire season. The remainder of the year I would cruise for the timber company. In those days we had no equipment only hand axe, shovel and mattock, plus plenty of hard work with which to control the fires.

In some of the lumber camps you were considered an intruder. They would meet you and give you to understand that they didn't want anybody interfering in their business. It would take a lot of talk to make them understand. My first transportation was by train and walking, since many of the fires were so far from train travel, I was mostly walking for miles through the brush and over the mountains, anywhere the fires needed to be fought. You may depend upon it they were found in some of the out of the way places. Many times they were set by campers and sometimes by careless loggers. Most places required much more walking than train travel.

So they decided to give me a horse to ride. I would ride the poor animal as far as he could get in the woods and then tie him up and go on foot up the mountain well into the night. Yet I had to walk back over the mountain to my horse.

That wasn't so good. Then they gave me a bike. That I carried on my back most of the time, as

then there were few roads or trails where I had to travel that I could ride a bike on or near where the fires were. So still I had to continue to walk. The better roads then were not as good as many of the logging roads are today.

As I remember it was in 1911 they gave me a Ford to drive. I then lived in the Rainier Valley, Seattle. All the way to Rainier Beach it was paved with slab boards and the legal speed in the city was twenty miles an hour but after leaving the city I could travel thirty miles an hour, if my car would go that fast.

This was a great improvement. The roads were being improved all the time. And even the loggers were building better roads and I could get much nearer to my destination and at that speed I could arrive within range of the fire very early where I would leave my car and go into the mountain or where ever the fire was.

When I first started working for the Forest Fire Association, Welty was Supervisor of the State Division of Forestry, heading up the efforts of state government to cope with the forest fire problems. Then came Farris, then Pape. As time went on, all began to understand that the interest of one to protect the forest was the interest of all and that co-operation of the Washington Forest Fire Association and the State Forest Protection could work in harmony and do great things. I was glad when this was accomplished. It was during Pape's time that through an act of the Legislature it was made possible for each to assume certain expenses and work together. However, it was not until George Joy, (who followed Pape), became State Supervisor did this become a reality. With this co-operation and Joy in full accord with both the State and Washington Forest Fire Association many of you remember how fast things have moved along.

I began realizing the importance of training young men to build a strong organization for the future. I am glad I had a part in building up such a capable group as now exists in the Washington Forest Fire Association and the State Forestry organization. I am glad to know that it is many of those men who are the greatest success in the service today. However, from the very first we had many good men, the poor ones didn't stay long.

The first Lookout was built between Enumclaw and Buckley in 1911 as well as I remember it. A fellow by the name of Lee Price was our lookout man. Then the next one was built in Skagit county, but I am not too sure of the date. But let us hope your memory is better than mine when you are nearing ninety years of age."



The youthful vigor of young crewmen show how they dig a fire trail to protect a young forest in case of fire.

Dick Laliker, Local Manager in today's reorganized DNR operation, considers the advisibility of where the youth camp crew should go to plant a young forest.



# Chapter VI

# **CAPITOL FOREST**

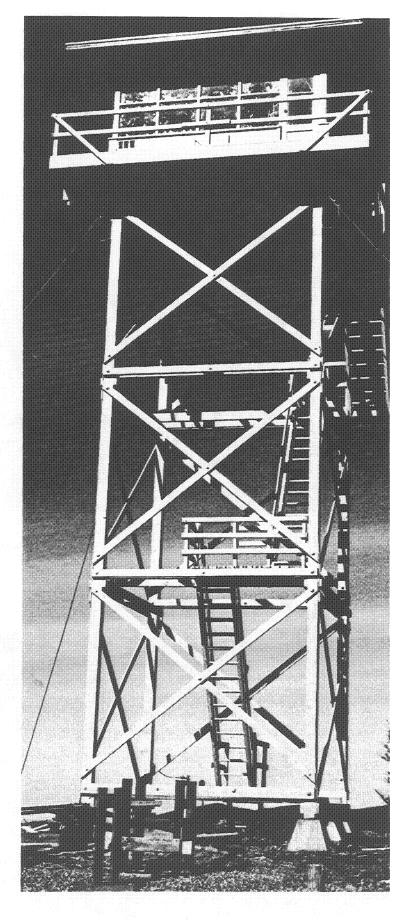
... How Capitol Forest Came to Be

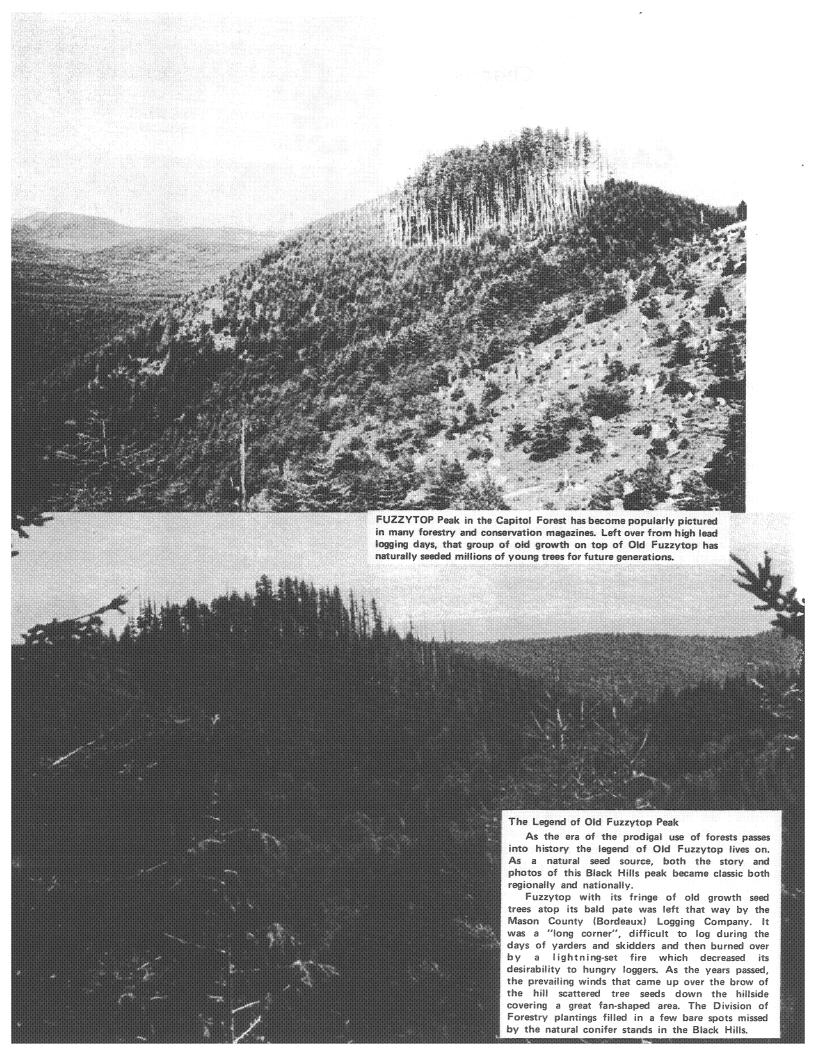
By the second decade of the 20th Century the accusation of forest exploitation — "cut out and get out" — was being leveled at the lumbermen of the Pacific Northwest.

The public was just beginning to listen to the more farsighted foresters and conservationists who were becoming more articulate. The logging practices of western loggers were being compared with those of the eastern states, particularly those in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota where entire forests of pine had disappeared before the onslaught of a nation bursting at the seams and hungry for houses, barns and railroad ties as the people settled across the nation at the turn of the century.

While the textbooks criticize the "cut out and get out" logging industry of that day, it would have been impossible for the nation to have expanded at the rate it did if the forest industry had been confined to an "even flow-sustained yield cut" by communities, states or regions.

This is not to say the loggers of that day were faultless. They could have produced the same volume of lumber and provided fire protection for the forests and started the next crop, then moved on to the next mature stand. But the almost inherent desire to clear land for farming brought efforts and visions predicated on converting the millions of acres of relatively flat stump land into family farms rather than investing in the seemingly uneconomic venture of planting and growing trees. In failing to forecast that much of this land should have been reforested and protected, the industry, the public and the government must share the blame. In failing to do this the nation has wasted the growing capacity of its lands. By 1910 the attitude of "Trees Forever" by the lumbermen was occasionally questioned by the public - but only occasionally.





### . . . Greeley's "Forest Faith"

It took people like Colonel William B. Greeley, who hit the timber country of the west as one of Gifford Pinchot's young foresters in 1905, to preach the gospel of reforestation and conservation. Greeley, who was eventually to become the Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service, began advocating the education and cooperation approach in forest conservation among all of the people of the woods — government agents, lumbermen, state, county and municipal authorities, lumberjacks, farmers, tourists, sportsmen, teachers — his list included everyone who managed or used the nation's forests. In 1950, when his book FORESTS AND MEN was published, he was still at it.

As Big Jim Stevens said in his foreword to that book: "The Greeley "forest faith" has brought about an awareness of everyone's responsibility for our forests and today people work locally to prevent fire in our woods and to reforest the cut-over, burned-over lands."

### . . "Reforestation" Became Household Word

In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt made "reforestation" a household word in his fireside chats to the nation. The Civilian Conservation Corps, composed of hundreds of thousands of young men, many of them from cities and towns of our economically distressed country, were sent to work at various public works projects. One of the most important projects encompassed work in our forests — building trails, fire lookout towers, bridges, roads, parks, planting trees, cutting snags and fighting fires.

The 3-C's went down in history as our first concrete government program to involve the public in reforestation and rehabilitation of our timberlands. Many an American man in his late fifties and sixties today can remember his first introduction to the timberlands of our country through his CCC experience. They may remember not only how they first learned to use an ax without dismembering a foot but how they planted the trees that today are flourishing forests — almost ready for harvest in some areas like the Capitol Forest in western Washington.

### The State Forest Board

In Washington State other forestry legislation enacted to intensify and expand forestry was slow to evolve since fire suppression and protection took precedence. Eventually in 1921 the "mills" of state government began to grind and by 1923 a law was passed creating the State Forest Board with the Governor to act as chairman, the Commissioner of Public Lands as secretary, and the Dean of the College of Forestry at the University of Washington, the Director of Conservation and Development (a state agency) and the Supervisor of the Division of Forestry, as the other three members.

The most significant objective of this legislation was that it permitted the State Forest Board to purchase forest land for future timber production. At that time there was very little interest on the part of private timber owners to maintain their forest land in continuous forest crop production.

In all fairness, however, it must be noted that there was little inducement, at the lower price of timber that prevailed, or under the state forest tax structure, for the private land owner to either retain or acquire land for future timber production. Many an acre went tax delinquent after the prime timber had been cut from it.

Not all of the lumbering companies were as responsible as Bordeauxs' Mason County Logging Company, who, according to Frank Morris' recollections: — "had an irrevocable and morally accepted policy — not to renege, default or avoid taxes by relinquishing logged off land to the county which in practice would compound the then prevailing bad image of the so-called timber barons' philosophy of 'cut out and get out'."

Throughout the state, however, more than one million acres of this type of land was being held by the counties after foreclosure for delinquent taxes. This land presented one big continuous headache to the timbered counties.

Several attempts were made by the counties to sell this "worthless" land, upon which no one wanted to pay taxes, to private parties. During the 1920's and 30's people purchased some tracts of tax delinquent lands of various sizes — 40, 60, 80 acres — for as little as a dollar an acre. Some of the logging companies made an effort to sell their cut-over lands to prospective "stump ranchers." The Agricultural Extension Service encouraged attempts to farm some of these lands. Labouriously cleared over the years, it sometimes took a couple of generations for a producing farm to emerge — many of which today are quite valuable, depending upon the soil and the location. Other clearing was never worth the effort.

### . . Counties Called it "Worthless Land"

Sometimes, however, the purchaser would cut any remaining value in the form of cordwood, pulpwood, shingle bolts and so forth and the land was again left to revert to the county for taxes. Other lands were sold on a basis of ten cents per acre down and ten cents per acre per year on a ten year contract, during which the purchaser removed any timber values, often over-grazed the land and paid very little, if any, taxes for his interest in the uncompleted contract with the county.

Some of the people, who during depression years went back to the land, would bid in an isolated tract entirely unsuitable in many cases for agricultural development. They moved in with a family and demanded construction and/or maintenance of a road, and also presented the county and school district with the problem of getting their children back and forth to school. Sometimes in clearing the land with fire this type of settler was often a very high risk to adjoining standing timber.

Few, if any, of the counties had the organization, the funds, equipment or other facilities necessary to retain and adequately protect, administer and develop large areas of tax delinquent, cut-over lands during the long period of time required to grow a merchantable crop of timber.

Thus was laid the stage for one of the most dramatic stories ever to come out of a Washington forest. The elements were all present. There were thousands of acres of forest land denuded of merchantable timber, either tax delinquent or about to be. The potential remedy to this situation? Legislation passed by Washington's 1923 session which created the State Forest Board, empowered to examine land for possible acquisition from private owners. This opportunity was expanded by the 1935 legislature. Authority plus the legal machinery for the state to acquire tax foreclosed land was passed in 1927 and reinforced in 1935. Thus with proper authorization on one hand and the cooperation of several timber companies and generous private individuals who wanted to see the problem solved, Capitol Forest was ready to be born. The end result was to be a forest anyone could be proud to claim credit for.

### . . . Capitol Forest and Forest Board Lands

There were several talents needed in a team of foresters and administrators to put such a forest together. They not only had to have imagination and know-how but be tough skinned enough to endure public ridicule: "That they were wasting the tax-payers' money and Capitol Forest would never again amount to a hill of beans."

Ted S. Goodyear, Washington State Forester from 1933 to 1949, was just such a man. He had on his staff a young forester with ideas by the name of L. T. "Mike" Webster. They put together a plan to purchase the first 33,000 acres of logged-over, burned-over land of what was to become Capitol Forest and it was one of the first real non-federal tree farms in the state. The certified tree farm movement came about eight or nine years later but Capitol Forest retains its own unique place in forestry annals as among the first rehabilitated forests in the west.

Goodyear and Webster found their job cut out for them. Their first problem was lack of money. They had to convince the Washington State Legislature, in the midst of the Great Depression, to pass a bill authorizing the sale of utility bonds at 1% per annum to finance the purchase of the land. It was originally planned that the forest would include 100,000 acres (of all types of land), but they ultimately fell short of expectations by nearly 30,000 acres. Capitol Forest, as of 1974, contains 70,011 acres of state owned land, including 5,004 acres of school land at this writing. Weyerhaeuser owns some 6,300 acres in the center of the Forest. Their ownership includes part of the top of Capitol Peak.

A later purchase of several thousand acres under the same type of authorization from legislature found the 1% interest rate doubled. Forest Board trust land, (tax delinquent land deeded in trust by the County) gifts from lumbering companies and private individuals, as the years passed, have brought the Capitol Forest to its present size.



Pioneers in forestry as it is known today: Left to right — Charles Cowan, L. T. "Mike" Webster.

# Counties Welcomed Solution to Tax Delinquent Forest Lands Problem

Most of the counties in western Washington, including Thurston, welcomed the solution offered under Chapter 288, Laws of 1927 and Chapter 126, Laws of 1935, which provided for transfer of tax delinquent, cut-over and burned-over lands to the state. Such lands were to be held in trust and administered and protected by the State Forest Board IF they were selected as potential forest producing lands eligible for classification as state forest lands under the provisions of the Laws of 1927 as amended in 1935. While the law permitted unilateral selection by the state, the state always obtained concurrence from the county

Under this act the expense incurred by the state for administration, reforestation and protection of this tax delinquent land transferred to the state was to be returned to the general fund of the state treasury; ten percent was to be placed in the forest development fund of the state treasury and any balance remaining was to be paid to the county in which the lands were located, to be paid, distributed and pro-rated to the various funds in the same manner as general taxes are paid and distributed during the year of such payment.

All lands suitable for agriculture or even with potential agricultural possibilities were withdrawn from consideration by the Forest Board, and only those lands primarily suitable for growing timber were tentatively offered by the counties to the Board. Under this arrangement in western Washington there are now 543,017 acres of Forest Board County Trust land under state management of which 10,987 acres are part of the Capitol Forest.

Evidently in the early 1930's there was a possibility that the federal government might acquire this tax delinquent land for Goodyear reported in his Division of Forestry Biennial Report of 1934-36 that transfer to the state had a twofold advantage. First, it insured local control of the forest land policy which could be administered with greater benefits to the local communities and the state, than policies formulated and dictated from Washington, D.C. Second, under state control the counties could recover up to 90 percent of the receipts collected from the lease of land or sale of its products — less state costs. The counties' share has now been fixed at 75% of the gross.

According to the State Forestry Supervisor, Ted Goodyear, under federal government ownership at that time the maximum amount that could be returned to the counties was 35% of the gross receipts.

### FOREST BOARD COUNTY TRUST LAND

Land that reverted to the counties for delinquent taxes could be selected for acquisition by the Forest Board (now the Board of Natural Resources) for trust management as state forest land. The counties receive 75% of the income that accrues from the management of these lands, the state receives 25% for costs of forest management.

### FOREST BOARD FEE LANDS

These are lands acquired by gift or purchase through the Forest Board in fee to be managed as state forest land. The maximum price that could be paid was \$3.00 per acre if the land was reforested and \$1.00 per acre for the cut-over lands with no restocking. Initially the counties were to receive no income from these lands but they now receive 50% of the gross revenue from this class of Forest Board land.

### . . . Capitol Forest Nursery Established

It was history in the making, that day in 1933, when Mike Webster and O. B. Wedekind, another Division of Forestry employee, hiked for several miles over abandoned railroad grades surveying for possible truck roads through Capitol Forest. They walked into a small clearing along one of the railroad grades in which stood a lonely chicken house, all that remained of the farm a Swiss immigrant by the name of Arthur Karlen had tried to establish back in 1915.

Webster remarked: "Oddie, this place could be developed as a nursery site." They noted the soil was free from rocks, a fact that had influenced the Mason County Logging Company back in 1914 to sell some 4,000 acres of its logged off land in the middle of the Black Hills to Calhoun, Denning and Hewing Real Estate Company, for \$4.00 per acre at a dollar an acre down and the balance on terms. It was sold in turn to the Halber Land Company of St. Paul, Minnesota, who brought a half dozen Swiss families out to settle and clear the land under the guidance of one Professor Henstenner. The professor was employed as an agricultural specialist at the rate of \$150.00 per month.

The land agents, according to the story told by Arthur Sapp, former superintendent for the Mason County Logging Company, produced brochures showing green fields complete with grazing cattle. The sale was made with the usual story often repeated in every timbered section of the country and particularly in the Pacific Northwest: "Look at those stumps. Any land that can grow trees that big will certainly produce good farm crops."

Blaine McGillicuddy, logging engineer for Bordeaux, said that Art Karlen was the only one to clear title to his property. He bought 40 acres at \$40.00 an acre. The Mason County Logging Company received only the original \$1.00 per acre down payment for the balance of the 4,000 acres and as the taxes on most of the tracts became delinquent they paid them to save the land from a sheriff's sale. In addition, the company lost about \$150.00 in store accounts at the company store.

Karlen stayed after the other families left, raising goats and making limburger cheese which the logging company hauled out on their locie as a courtesy. Sometimes the engineer and fireman had to ride on the coal tender when the potent smell of the limburger cheese permeated the cab. In 1919 Karlen moved to Oakville where he ran the creamery for many years. His family like other settlers in the Black Hills enjoyed the convenience of transportation afforded them by the Bordeauxs — otherwise they would have walked for six or eight miles to reach their pioneer homes.

Development of the nursery began in the fall of 1934 on a 40 near Karlen's farm near Cedar Creek. The land was cleared and fenced and the first buildings constructed with the help of CCC crewmen. Bill Gross, forest engineer for the Division of Forestry, recalled that the clearing operation was very efficient. Knowing the ground would have to be thoroughly cultivated for the tiny seedlings, the crew placed generous charges of dynamite under the stumps, some of which were up to eight feet in diameter, and blew them "into the next county." Since this area was located about the corner junction of Grays Harbor and Thurston counties, that story isn't too hard to believe.

However, some of the stumps that appeared to go that far took the top soil with them. This fact was

discovered shortly after the first crop of seedlings germinated. For years afterward wherever the big stumps had been lifted in such a dramatic manner the anemic appearance of the seedlings was noticeable.

But they continued building and fencing and developing an irrigation system while the first seed-ling crop sprouted. They had problems with deer and cattle browsing the tender young trees so they built higher fences. Mice and small rodents burrowed into the seed beds and ate the tiny seedlings. According to one report *that* problem was solved by increasing the cat population. Later repellants were developed that saved the seeds and seedlings from the hungry forest animals.

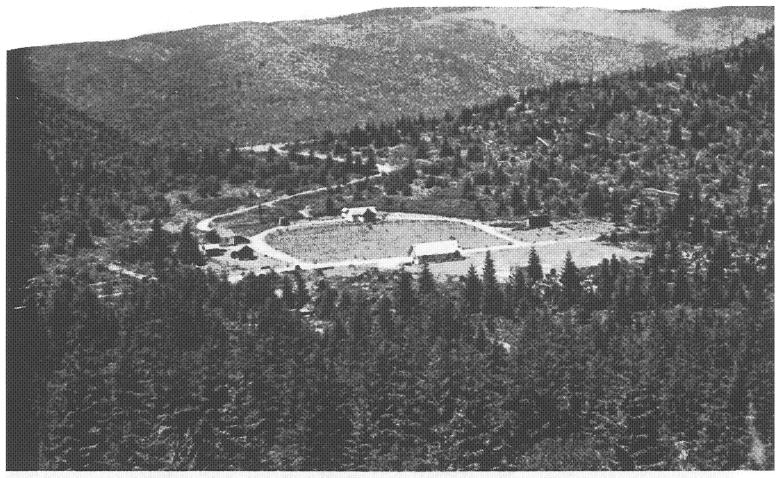
During the spring of 1936 the first crop of 1,250,000 Douglas-fir was planted in the nursery by the Civilian Conservation Corps to be lifted for planting during the winter and spring of 1937-38. From that point on the first Capitol Forest Nursery rocked along, solving a multitude of problems as it produced millions of high quality seedlings for restocking forest land and providing a number of plots for experimental forestry.

In Capitol Forest some 11.1 million seedlings were planted between 1937 and June 30, 1974.

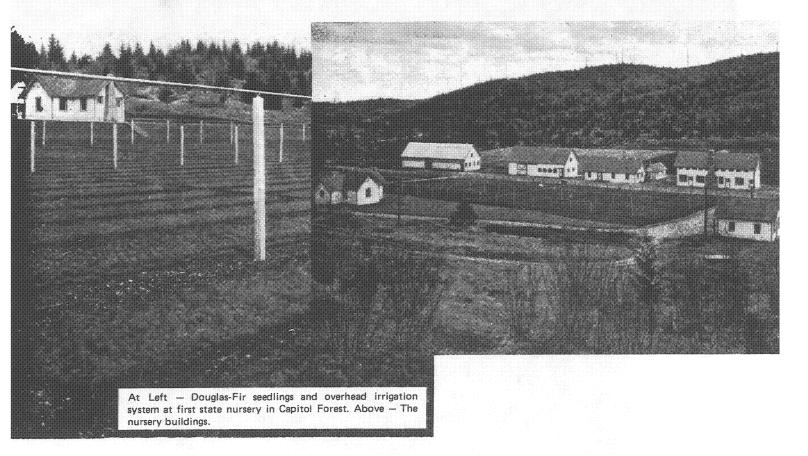
From O. B. Wedekind's Planting Camp — near where Wedekind's Recreational Area is located today —millions of tiny trees were planted to give nature a nudge in rehabilitating this vast logged-over, burned-over section of the Black Hills.

From time to time after the dissolution of the CCC and with the coming of World War II, labor was difficult to find and in 1945 several million seedlings had to be pulled from the nursery and discarded with no crews available to plant.

Of necessity, machinery for forest tree nursery work became more sophisticated. If the manufacturer could not supply just the right piece of equipment for the job, a man with ingenuity like Homer "Red" Ward could. Ward became nursery manager early in the 1940's and worked in that capacity until his death in 1972. He designed a weeding machine to weed between the rows of drill planted seedlings and with the assistance of his mechanic produced numerous other devices, large and small, that contributed much to the development of the Capitol Forest Nursery.



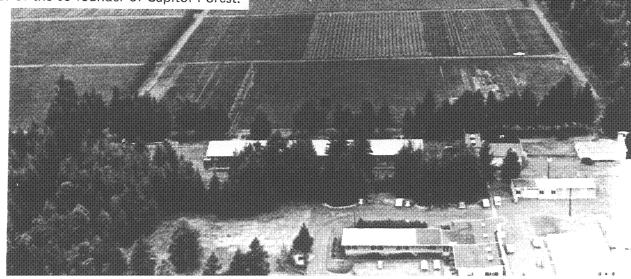
Capitol Forest Nursery site situated in the Black Hills 14 miles southwest of Olympia  $-\,1935$ .



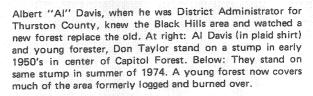


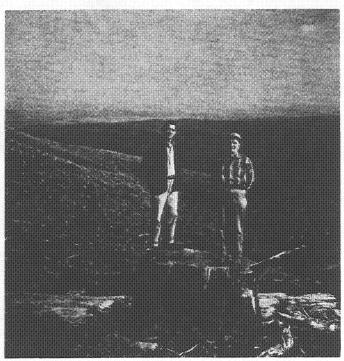
first seedlings were shipped from this new site in the fall of 1957. In 1958 this new nursery was formally dedicated as the L. T. "Mike" Webster Forest Tree Nursery in honor of the co-founder of Capitol Forest.

the Forest Land Research Center in the foreground.

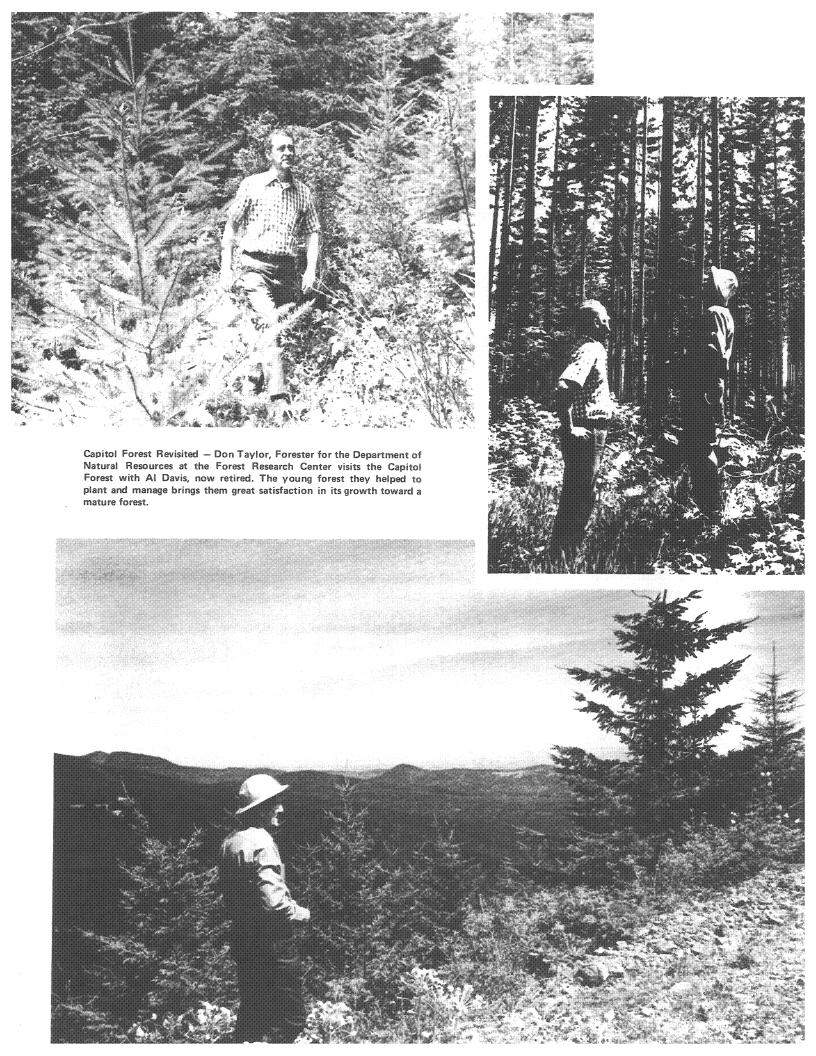


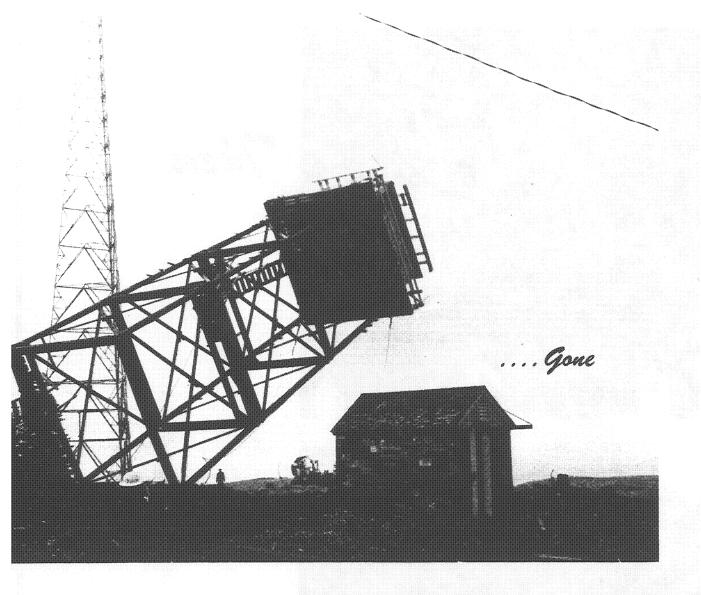












Goodyear reported it could be attributed to several factors: first, the numerous roads, trails, lookouts and telephone systems constructed by the 3-C's thus making it possible for crews to reach fires before they gained much headway. Second was the availability and mobility of well trained, organized fire fighting crews.

Over a nine year period the contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps was considerable. Among their accomplishments were the following, in Capitol Forest:

4,622 bushels of forest tree cones from which the extractory at the Capitol Forest Nursery processed enough seed each year to produce high quality seedlings to restock the forest lands.

They also contributed 25,344 man days of labor in the Capitol Forest Nursery.

Much of the 15,624 acres of state-owned forest land planted by the CCCs was in the Capitol Forest.

In addition, some 152,075 man days of fire suppression were performed state-wide by the 3-C's besides the thousands of man days spent in fire prevention work, such as cutting snags, building firebreaks, etc.

The CCC's supplied labor and materials state-wide for maintenance of some 1,500 miles of road, 800 miles of trail and 600 miles of phone line and, during the course of the nine years, they built 29 lookout towers throughout the state for the Division of Forestry including the one on Capitol Peak in 1935.

Goodyear claimed the state got 100 cents on every dollar spent for the kind of work performed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was sorry to see the Corps dissolved on July 1, 1942.

By that time World War II was raging on all fronts and manpower was at a premium, both in the military services and in war plants. This era also had its effect upon the development of Capitol Forest.



# Then

1940



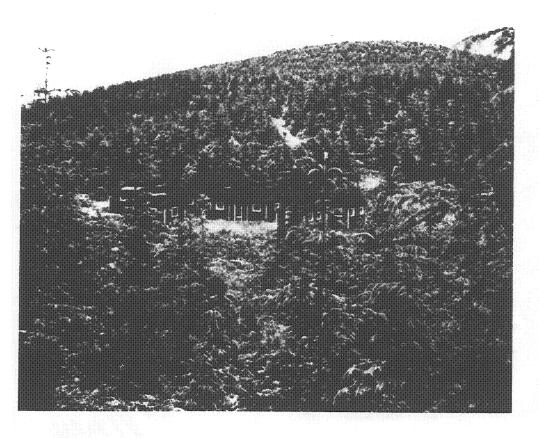
1945

Classic example of forest regrowth on private forest land is this set of seven photos of an area in western Washington. They were taken five years apart from the time of final logging of the old growth to the complete re-establishment of the new forest.

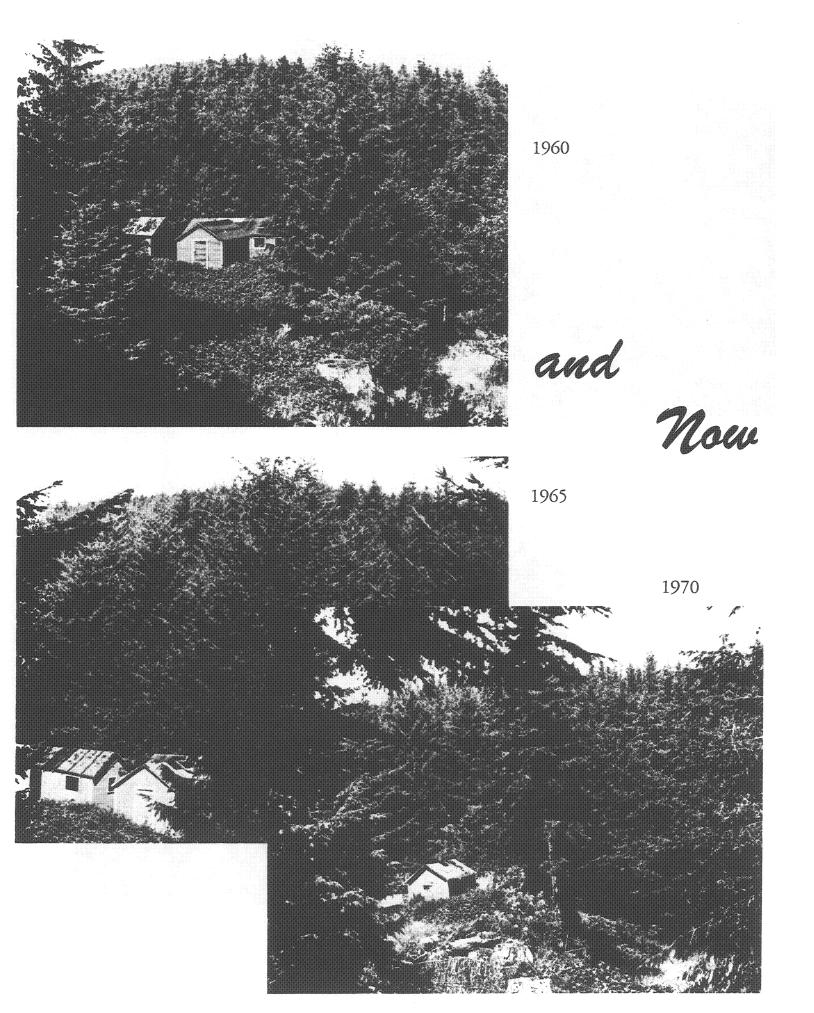
Picture No. 1 — Logged area
Picture No. 2 — Small trees spring up

No. 3 — Top of hill begins to disappear
No. 4 — Trees in foreground begin to cover buildings of abandoned

No. 5-6 and 7- New forest takes over completely.







# **CAPITOL FOREST**

### . . . The Forest That Came Back

### · · · And The Forest Came Back

The four years of World War II had a profound effect upon the lumbering industry. Forest products were in high demand but the experienced lumber workers were engaged in fighting the war. During the critical period when all labor and material had highest priority in the war effort, the federal War Production Board wanted to minimize the time logging crews were used for the suppression of forest fires. The government had already dissolved the Civilian Conservation Corps as of July 1, 1942.

Adding to the timber industry's problems, western Washington forests, as well as Oregon and California, were targets for Japanese incendiary balloon bombs which floated across the Pacific Ocean on high wind currents during the Second World War. Although the fires set, and resulting damage from these ingenious devices, were comparatively low, it was apparent just how vulnerable our western forests could be in time of war — and how valuable in war or peace.

Those dark days of World War II slowed the development of Capitol Forest. Lack of manpower to plant new forests definitely slowed down progress. Lack of labor in the spring of 1945 caused the pulling and discarding of several million forest tree seedlings at the Capitol Nursery.

During 1941, funded by the federal government, some 200 high school boys under 18 years of age, were hired as summer fire crews and put through a short course of intensive training in five suppression. This program, called the Cooperative Forest Fire Control crew (CFFC), was funded due to the combination of the termination of the CCC's and the pre-war alert. By August 15th of 1941 between 80,000 and 100,000 soldiers were scattered throughout the forests of Pacific, Lewis, Thurston, Mason and Grays Harbor counties for army maneuvers and this many men in the forest area posed a direct threat to the forest from accidental fires. By 1942 the number of soldiers had increased and the war was on. The CFFC crews were expanded by June of 1942 to 550 crew members.

In 1952 another program was introduced to provide forest labor also used in the Capitol Forest development program. This involved young men ranging from 15 to 18 years of age who had been sentenced by the juvenile court and placed in one of the forest camps.



This was a cooperative effort between two state agencies — the Department of Institutions, now the Department of Social and Health Services, which is responsible for the boys' care, custody, food, clothing, shelter, and counselling; and the former Division of Forestry, now the Department of Natural Resources, responsible for the supervision of the work program.

The camp within Capitol Forest, was, and still is, known as Cedar Creek Youth Camp. Housed originally in 1952 in the CCC camp barracks on the flat below the present camp (near the original Capitol Nursery), it was known as Alpine Barracks. Now there are two barracks, housing 45 boys each, located about a mile apart. At the lower barracks, known as Timberline, the program is work oriented. At Alpine the boys are also involved in completing their high school education. They were once taught at the barracks by teachers who came in to conduct classes but because of inadequate facilities they are now bussed daily to the Maple Lane School at Chehalis, At Maple Lane, a correction school for girls, the competition seems to give added incentive for both boys and girls to finish their high school studies.

Department of Natural Resources' camp foreman position presented a challenge from the beginning of the program in 1952. Gerry Hoyer, now Forest Scientist for the Department at the Forest Land Management Center, took on that job in 1952, when he was only 21 years old himself. As the camp program progressed, Bob Bammert, now local manager in the Capitol Forest area, held the job of camp superintendent at Cedar Creek for 9 years. Most of the boys were from the city and had to be taught how to handle the basic hand tools. As they worked in the forest their attitude toward the world they lived in often seemed to change - many things contributed - their counsellors, their foremen, the challenge of meaningful jobs in the forest environment.

The work program for these Capitol Forest Youth Camp crews consists of planting trees, pre-commercial thinning of thick stands of young trees, building and maintaining both recreation and fire trails, assisting in the construction and maintenance of recreational sites, clearing brush and fire suppression. In Capitol Forest from 1959 to 1974, it is estimated the Youth Camp crews pre-commercially thinned between 3 and

# INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT GROWS BETTER FORESTS

Clearing the Land for Planting -

Among the modern methods of clearing the debris from logged over land to prepare it for planting a new forest is mass ignition. This is a quick manner in which to burn up the logging residue with the least amount of smoke pollution, and damage to the soil.

DNR has employed this method where it suits the situation since 1970 and it can be a most satisfactory management tool in the hands of a well trained crew.

Where the land needs cultivation and the brush cover provides too much competition for seedlings, bulldozers with teeth on the blades scarify the soil and provide good beds for seedlings.

During the 40 to 60 year growing cycle of a young forest it may be fertilized by the use of nitrogen two or three times to speed up growth.

Strict watch is also kept for disease and insects that might damage or kill young forests. Constant forestry research is carried on in the Department's Forest Land Management Center near the L. T. "Mike" Webster Nursery south of Olympia to enable the growth of bigger and better forests in a shorter length of time.



Nowadays the forest is fertilized by helicopter every few years to make it grow better.



Bill Blanchard, now in the DNR Olympia office with the Timber Sales Division, was responsible for the Grays Harbor County portion of Capitol Forest for many years — counterpart to Al Davis in Thurston County.

Happiness is finding water can be pumped from a well with a little know how — at Margaret McKenny Park.

4 thousand acres of young forests.

Actual count of trees and/or acres planted by all the crews ever employed by the Department in Capitol Forest — CCC, summer crews and Youth Camp crews — is almost impossible to tally with any great degree of accuracy. According to records dating from 1937 there were more than 14 million seedlings planted in the two forested counties of Grays Harbor and Thurston. About half that number of trees were planted in Capitol Forest.

In analyzing the forest inventory of that area today, it is apparent that more than 22,660 acres have been reforested since the State's purchase of the land. About 10,000 acres of that new forest has been planted. The balance was naturally reseeded. Trees on the balance of forested land range from 40 to 70 years of age, plus a little old growth timber like that on Fuzzytop which may be about 200 years old.

### Multiple-use Area

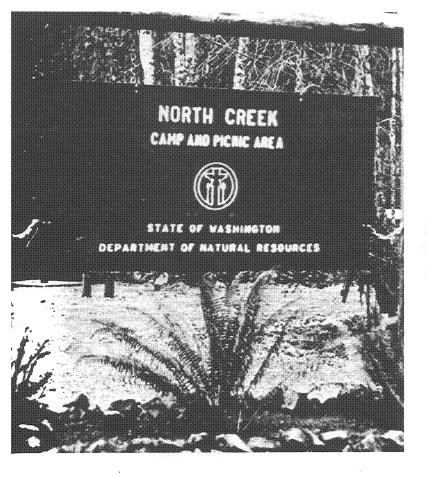
Located conveniently to the population centers about Puget Sound, Capitol Forest offers a wide variety of outdoor activities. The combination of a "working forest", where the timber is harvested from scattered tracts from time to time, and a recreational area, led to its being named one of the six state multiple-use (MUA), areas under the management of the Department of Natural Resources.

Compatibility of public use and resource management has proven successful in Capitol Forest. Using funds from various sources — the Land and Water Conservation Fund (administered by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation), and Department funds, 9 sites totaling more than 190 acres have been set aside and dedicated for recreation and public enjoyment. Six sites are complete and in use while another three sites are in the planning stage and will soon be under construction.

The Margaret McKenny Recreation Area, nearest to Olympia (on Waddell Creek) and the Wedekind Group Shelter near Capitol Peak, were opened to the public in special dedication ceremonies on August 13th, 1967.

Camp and picnic areas are relatively small and on the primitive side with tables, benches, fireplaces, potable water, sanitary facilities and, in some areas, group campfire circles equipped with Paul Bunyan size cedar slab benches and tables.

But the greater recreational use is the dispersed use of the land — roads, trails and streams. There are about 110 miles of developed trails and recreational roads in Capitol Forest. Many have been built by the Department, others have been constructed by volun-







Youngsters play in Waddle Creek in Margaret McKenny Park where once the sands were panned for gold during the Great Depression.

teer groups — bikers, jeepers and horseback riders — to provide an excellent system of access in and around the Black Hills. More than 75 miles of forest management roads which are also used for recreational driving make this a very significant road system.

Capitol Forest receives approximately 100,000 visitor days of use a year with weekends well filled and light to moderate use on weekdays.

### **ELECTRONIC SITES ON CAPITOL PEAK**

The multiple use of the Forest extends to the commercial electronic installations on Capitol Peak. Micro-wave towers and radio transmitting equipment on the 2,660 foot peak aid in the communications network in this area. Users include the State Patrol; City of Tacoma Utilities Department; State Civil Defense; the Union Pacific Railroad; Thurston County; U. S. Geological Survey; Northwest Amateur Radio Communications; the Weyerhaeuser Company, the University of Washington, and the Department of Natural Resources.

### CAPITOL FOREST OWNERSHIP

Ownership in legal acres:

Counties	County Trust	Forest Board Fee	School Grant	C.E.P. R.I. Grant	Capitol Grant	Totals Grant
Grays Harbor	1,680	29,432	2084	460	160	33,816
Thurston	9,307	23,808	2920	160	-	36,195
Totals	10,987	53,240	5004	620	160	*70,011

Source: Land Base Records for Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties Department of Natural Resources Technical Services Division.

C.E.P. & R.I. are Charitable, Educational, Penal and Reformatory Institution.

### Capitol Forest Acreage Analysis

1. Forest base adequately stocked	61,180 Acres
2. Understocked lands scheduled for	
early treatment	900
3. Understocked lands scheduled for	
treatment when adjacent areas are logged	5,500
4. Stream bottom hardwood	630
5. Non-productive (Rock, extremely poor	
site, etc.)	430
6. Special use areas	
(Building sites, recreational sites,	
right-of-way easements, ponds, rock	
pits, etc.)	870
Total Map Acres	69,510

### Land Transfers in Capitol Forest History

Alternate sections covering much of the area now included within the boundaries of Capitol Forest were initially granted to the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1891 by the United States Government. In 1902 the Weyerhaeuser Company purchased all of the Northern Pacific Railroad's forest lands and timber in Thurston County, about 85,000 acres, for \$6.19 per acre. This, of course, was 2½ times the price paid to the government just three years earlier and reflected fair market value of timber in an era of plenty.

Thus it was that at one time Weyerhaeuser owned alternate sections in much of what is now the state-owned land in the Capitol Forest.

In the period from 1889 to 1891 individuals filed 160 acre timber claims on the alternate sections remaining unallotted in the Capitol Forest area after the railroad grant.

The Weyerhaeuser land was purchased and logged by the Mason County Logging Company and the Mud Bay Logging Company. (By 1910 Weyerhaeuser had purchased controlling interest in the latter company.) The two companies also purchased and logged most of the private timber claims in the Capitol Forest. In turn, by 1942, most of this land, having been logged, was sold to the state.

An interesting twist to the land transfers in the Capitol Forest is that the Weyerhaeuser Company sold 5,068 acres of logged off land to the state in 1938/41 for fifty cents an acre and accepted utility bonds bearing 2% interest as payment.

From the Mason County Logging Company the state purchased 33,358 acres of logged off land in 1933, plus another 14,985 acres during the period from 1938 to 1942 at fifty cents an acre and paid for them in utility bonds. The 1933 bonds paid 1% while the later bonds paid 2%. In 1941 another 275 acres were purchased from the Mud Bay Logging Company with bonds bearing 2% interest and the same year the state acquired 720 acres from Thornton Magee for fifty cents an acre for which utility bonds at 2% were accepted.

The balance of the outstanding bonds in 1962 was approximately \$3600.00 which was retired after that date.

## INVENTORY OF TIMBER GROWING IN CAPITOL FOREST

As of June 30th, 1974, the following types and volume of timber, in Scribner measurements, were alive and growing in Capitol Forest:

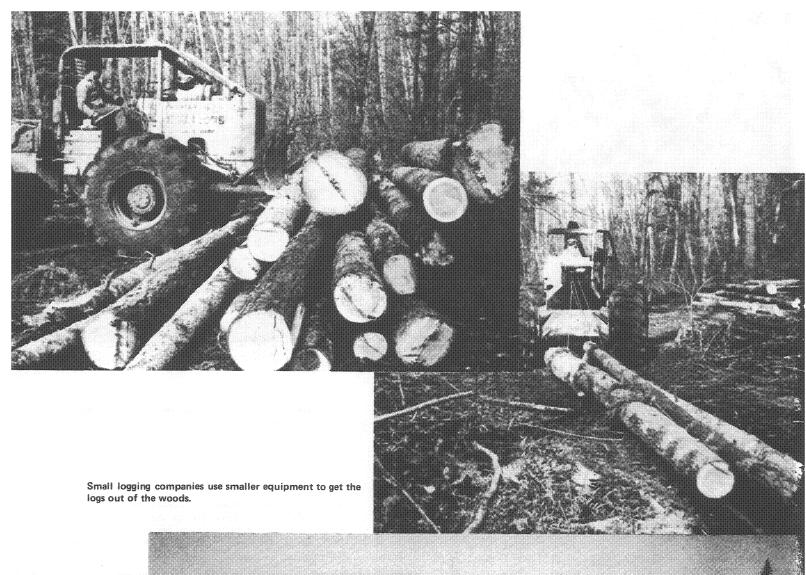
Conifer:		614	Million	8F	
Llaudina adı			Million		
	TOTAL		Million	BF	•

According to the Department's Resource Inventory Section, 61,180 acres of growing forests adequately stocked existed in Capitol Forest as of April 30th, 1975.

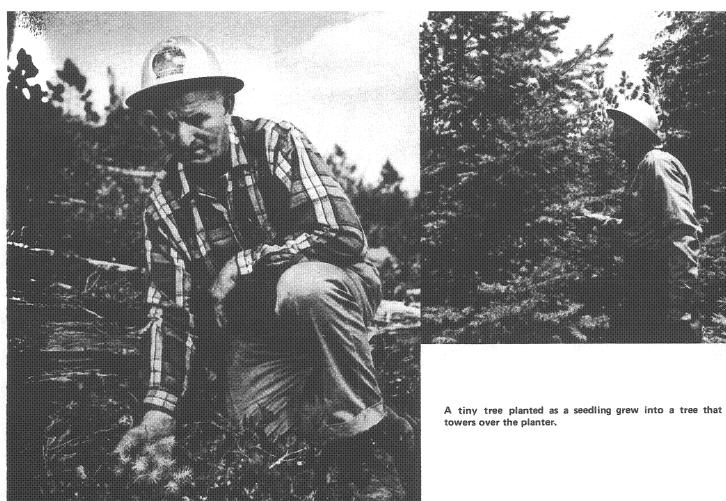
	Age	Acres	
	0 to 10 years	335	
1	0 to 20 years	3,299	
2	0 to 30 years	7,299	
3	0 to 40 years	13,499	
4	0 to 50 years	23,151	
5	0 to 60 years	11,246	
6	0 to 70 years	1,272	
7	0 years plus	1,079	
		61,180 a	icres

<sup>\*</sup>Legal Acres



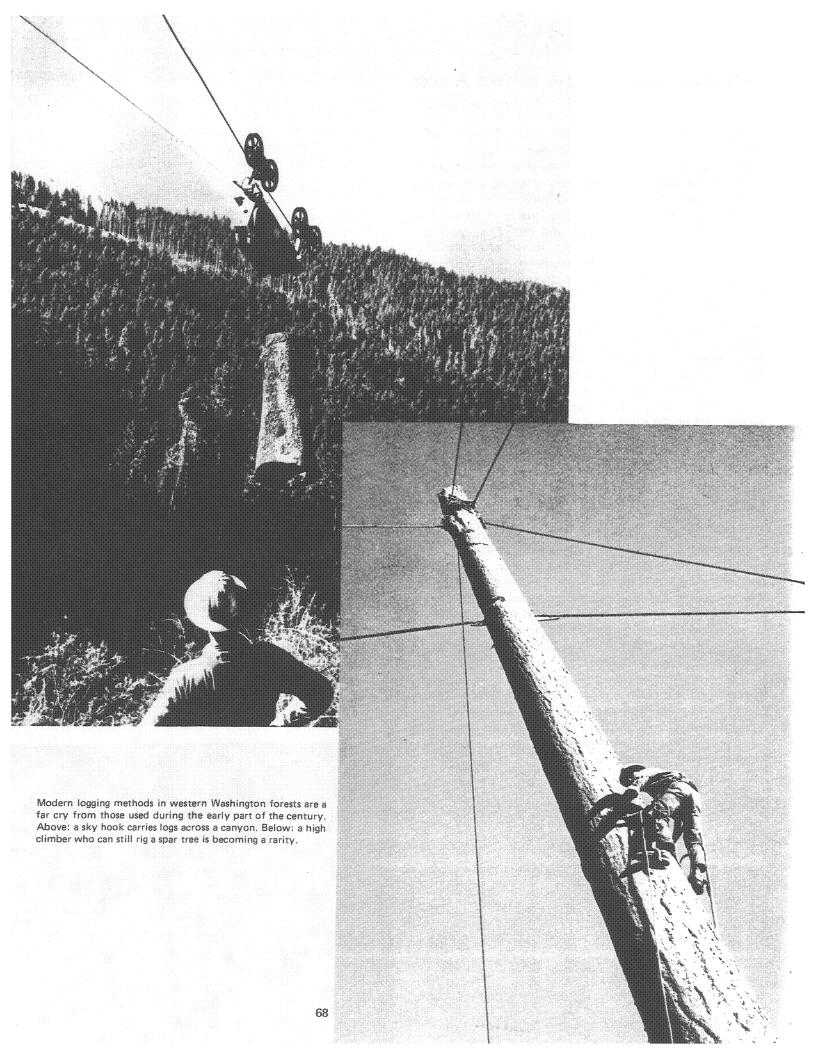






Below: L. T. "Mike" Webster, Supervisor of the Division of Forestry and subsequently of the Department of Natural Resources from 1953 until his untimely death in 1967, points out some interesting country to a young forester.





### GAME AND WILDLIFE IN THE CAPITOL FOREST

For many years the Black Hills have attracted hunters in droves. As the railroad grades were converted to truck roads, the State Division of Forestry, and later the Department of Natural Resources, gated these roads because of the fire hazard. Much of the area had been recently logged and had a heavy accumulation of logging residue on the ground, a high hazard material. Then, too, many of the roads did not have adequate ballast and heavy use by the public would have rutted the roads and caused erosion. The state's budget in those days did not provide enough road money for maintenance to allow heavy public use of Capitol Forest roads.

There was cooperation, however, between the state agency and the hunting public. During hunting season the Department ran a shuttle system whereby every evening the state trucks drove the principal roads and picked up any deer that had been killed and hauled them out to the gate for the hunters.

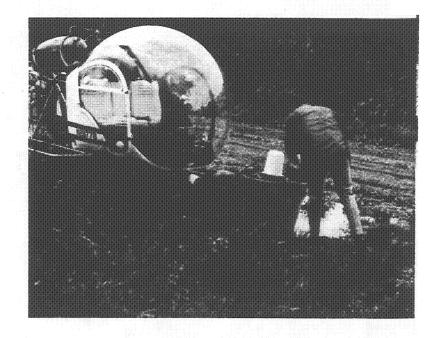
In earlier days when the new forest was still young, one could drive up certain of the roads, stop along the road and count as many as 40 to 50 deer bedded down on the hillside. Re-establishment of the forest had reduced the deer population to some degree as the forage is shaded out, and the trees now hide the deer, consequently, hunting is not as good as in the "old days".

The Big Game Division of the State Game Department reports an annual harvest of about 500 deer in Capitol Forest. They say that the deer population is not a static thing, ranging from about 2300 just after hunting season to perhaps more than 2800 about the time fawns are born in the late spring.

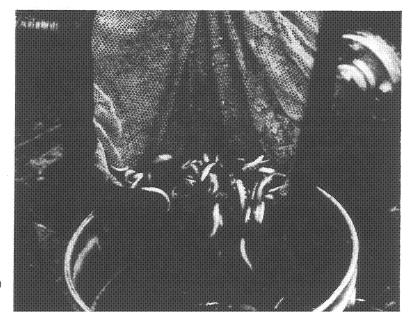
In the northwest corner of the forest near Porter Creek a small herd of Elk, 20 to 25, live although this is not considered an elk area.

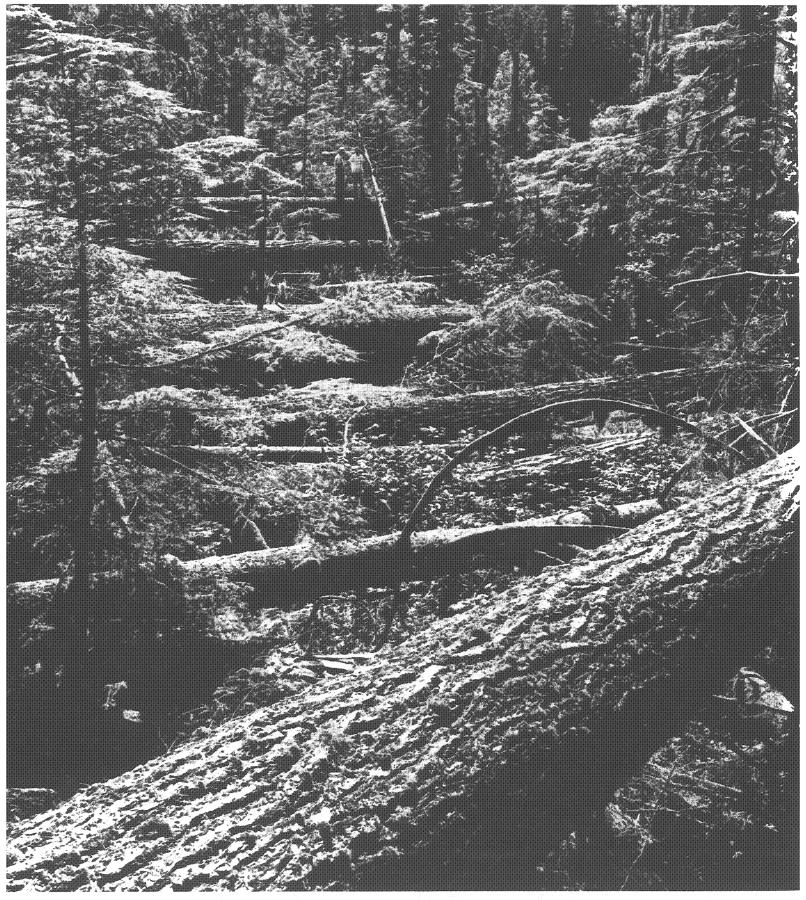
For years the beaver were protected in this area, trapped only by government hunters. In recent years there has been some trapping by licensed trappers.

And almost any morning in bird hunting season there are hunters driving or walking the roads looking for grouse and pigeons.



State Game Department and the Department of Natural Resources cooperate on a fish planting operation in remote area of Capitol Forest.





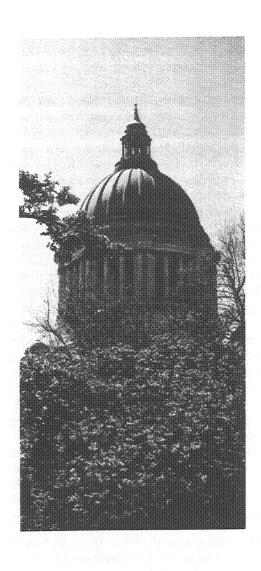
Capitol Forest did not suffer as much damage as other forests such as shown in this photo taken in Cowlitz County after the 1962 Columbus Day Storm.

Recreation in today's Capitol Forest comes in many forms: hiking, hunting, pleasure driving, camping, fishing, horseback riding and trail vehicle driving. Al Davis takes his granddaughter along some of the same roads he once patrolled during his tenure as District Administrator in this area. Her father once accompanied him and counted deer for wildlife records 20 years ago.



Rock Candy Mountain in Capitol Forest





### Capitol Forest Didn't Just Happen

The scenic beauty of the Black Hills is an experience not to be forgotten. From the higher peaks a half dozen sky piercing peaks in western Washington can be seen. To the northeast the vast panorama of Puget Sound inlets and bays are spread out in broad relief. The Olympics lay to the northwest like snow-capped guardians of lesser mountains.

It is an area where one can go for solitary hikes to commune with nature and quiet enjoyment of the forest and stream. It is a fine place for growing families who camp together, fish and hunt together, or follow the many all-terrain vehicle or horse trails.

This "people-forest" didn't just happen. Man gave Nature a nudge and in some cases a generous hand in re-creating a living, growing forest from a logged-over, burned-over area. That is Capitol Forest, the forest that did, indeed, come back.

- END -



### acknowledgments

This story of Capitol Forest could not possibly have been written without the assistance and wonderful memories of a great number of people. They cannot all be listed herein but we are going to mention a few: Al Davis, former District Administrator for Thurston County who knows the Hills like the back of his hand and many of the old timers who so kindly told us stories of the early days and lent us photos; Frank Morris, former superintendent of the Mason County Logging Company; Henry Lehn and his daughter Irene Choate, Joe Little and Albert and Olive Rutledge of Littlerock. Olive Rutledge was the census taker of Bordeaux in the late twenties. The Glen Dodges of Gate, at whose home the stage coach stopped in the 1880's; and Ted Brown whose family were homesteaders along with the Hendershots and Wynns and Sturdevants. Pioneer children attended early day school along the edge of the Hills some of which could only operate for three months a year. Old timers on Mud Bay were happy to tell about their experiences with the Mud Bay Logging Company. Arthus Sapp, who was 90 years old back in 1967 when Al Davis interviewed him, added much to this book. Mr. Busby, the Postmaster at Malone and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McMaster of Malone and Porter. respectively, showed us old photos and told us fascinating history about their little lumber towns.

And although it was their job to do so I must give my personal thanks to those helpful people who work for the present day Department of Natural Resources: Albert R. O'Donnell and his staff of the Recreation Division; Gene Little and staff of Technical Services; Howard Bray of Maps and Surveys: Fred Hart who took Al Davis' job as District Administrator for Thurston County; Bill Blanchard, former DA for Grays Harbor; Ken Curtis who took over the job of managing the L. T. "Mike" Webster Nursery upon Homer Ward's death; Walter Nelson. manager of the DNR Research Center and his staff including Cliff Hurley and Don Taylor. Taylor remembers as a youngster the shrill whistle of a logging locie as it labored up and across the canvons and hills of Capitol Forest. Then after he became a forester he took keen interest in the establishment of the new forest that grew on the Black Hills to take the place of the old. It was a childhood dream that came true for him.

So if this is an interesting story of a forest that came back, it is because of all those folks who went before us and left us the legacy of Capitol Forest — in story and in fact.

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