

Oral History Interview

with

MRS. WILLIAM B. GREEBLEY

Fair Banks, Star Route
Suquamish, Washington
June 28, 1960

by Elwood R. Maunder, Forest History Society, Inc.

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by Elwood R. Maunder and George T. Morgan, Jr.,
Forest History Society, Inc.

MAUNDER: We just try in these interviews Mrs. Greeley, to sit around as we would of an evening and have a chat.

MRS. GREELEY: All right.

MAUNDER: Perhaps we can start out by you giving us a little background on your own personal life history: where you were born, and your family--something along that line.

MRS. GREELEY: I was born in 1878 in Redwood City, California. My father was a minister--a Congregational minister. When I was about two years old we went to Oakland to live where he was principal of a boys' academy, which has long since been destroyed and now is used as a hospital. When he became ill and had to be quiet for awhile we went to Vacaville to live where he had bought a farm; a ranch it was called. It was a hundred acres, but it was a ranch just the same.

MAUNDER: What was the name of that town?

MRS. GREELEY: Vacaville. It was named after the Vaca family and was probably left over from one of the original Spanish grants. The Vaca family was all gone except one lone Vaca. I don't know whether I dare tell how he used to come into town every Saturday night . . .

MAUNDER: Why not?

MRS. GREELEY: They said they always had to tie him on a horse--he'd come in Saturday night--tie him on a horse so he could get home Sunday morning. My recollection

of that little town was just one main street with saloons and all sorts of houses on one side where we children were not supposed to look; and on the other side were the bank and the store, and the post office and the jewelers--the respectable side. We used to see those saloon doors swing open in spite of all the warnings. And after that, when I went to college, my family moved back to the Bay region. We lived in Berkeley--I mean they moved back to Berkeley and we lived in Berkeley until I was married.

MORGAN: What was your primary interest in school?

MRS. GREELEY: I don't know that I had any serious interests. I majored in English and taught English and Latin. I began with grade school and taught for a couple of years and then I was married.

MORGAN: You took part in some of the University's drama productions, didn't you Mrs. Greeley?

MRS. GREELEY: Well, I was in one or two of the plays but I don't think that was very successful. It was fun, but I think I did more outside activities than I did studying. When I hear my children urging their children to study I keep very discreetly silent.

MAUNDER: How did you happen to meet your husband, Mrs. Greeley?

MRS. GREELEY: Well, we met at college--our two families moved to Berkeley about the same time, both fathers were Congregational ministers and I suppose that's why we knew each other. Then, after we were married we were supposed to live in Hot Springs, California, about forty miles back from the railroad, going by stage. While we were in New Haven on our wedding trip, Billy conducted a course that they give each spring at Yale--they bring a field man from the outside. While we were there he had word to report to Washington, D. C., where he learned that he was to go back to Washington and stay. All our wedding presents had been copper, brass, and things to be carried without breakage over the stage route and when we went on to New Haven we bought a barrel of china which we liked. That went back to California with us. We had no sooner landed in California than Billy was told he had to go back to Washington, so the barrel of china went back to Washington. We had been there all summer and hadn't had a chance to unpack. When districts were formed and we were sent out to Missoula, the china went out to Missoula. It had three trips across the country before we ever had a chance to open it!

MORGAN: At the time you married, the Colonel was the supervisor of the Sequoia . . .

MRS. GREELEY: Supervisor--yes--he was supervisor of the Sequoia and then when we went to Missoula he was District Forester. We were there about two years and a half--long enough to have our oldest child, Molly, and then we went into Washington to stay--we were there until 1929.

MAUNDER: Well, now when you met your husband in college it was in Berkeley, is that right?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, that's right.

MAUNDER: At the University of California?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MAUNDER: And he was then majoring in history, wasn't he?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, at the University.

MAUNDER: And he intended to be a history teacher, is that right?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, and then he found--after a year of teaching in Alameda High School--that it was too inactive for him, Forest jobs were coming along as a result of forest training and that's what decided him to go to Yale.

MAUNDER: Do you recall any of the particulars of how he first became interested in forestry?

MRS. GREELEY: Let me see--there was some one person--didn't you find that out in the biography you wrote on him?

MORGAN: The one clue I did find was a talk he had one evening with Bernhard Fernow, who had given a speech at the University of California.

MRS. GREELEY: Well, that must have been it, because there had been a great deal of publicity about forestry. Pinchot was making a great many headlines and was very prominent. I think it was just a combination of circumstances which made him feel that here was something that appealed to him. So he went on to Yale and had his two years there--waited on tables, copied themes for different people and all sorts of things to help out with what he earned in the summertime. When he

started in forestry, in the summers, he earned \$25.00 a--those young men were employed by the Forest Service at \$25.00 a month. I guess you read in his Forests and Men that the thing they looked forward to most were Gifford Pinchot's gingerbread and baked apple suppers that they had once a month.

MORGAN: Didn't they call it the "Baked Apple Club?"

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, the "Baked Apple Club."

MAUNDER: This is all before you were married then, was it?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes. The time that we really met was seven years before we were married. Billy was busy in his job and interested in getting his life established; I don't think he even thought about girls, or maybe he didn't think about anything serious--except his work.

MAUNDER: Well, did you write back and forth a lot while you were . . .

MRS. GREELEY: No, no, we didn't have anything to do with each other was the funny part!

MAUNDER: Is that right!

MRS. GREELEY: As I say, I don't think he really thought very much of anything--he's like Arthur--all he thinks of is his profession.¹ So then, it was just about seven years before we were married and I think we were engaged two months.

MAUNDER: At the end of it?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, at the end of it and then we were married after the seven years.

MAUNDER: Oh, I see.

MRS. GREELEY: No, I don't think we wrote at all.

MAUNDER: You mean in the good part of that seven years you didn't hear anything at all from him?!

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, just about his career, that's all.

MAUNDER: But he did write you just about his career . . .

MRS. GREELEY: Well, I mean as we heard of it publicly--I didn't hear from him.

¹Arthur W. Greeley, Assistant Forester, United States Forest Service

MAUNDER: You have no old letters to go back to then for those days.

MRS. GREELEY: No. The only letters I have are the letters he wrote when he was in France and there is nothing of interest in general. I've been through them to see if there was anything of interest, but he told how he spent his Sundays, and how the swan looked in the park. He couldn't write anything of any importance, of course. He couldn't even tell more than just that it was the United States Headquarters and so forth--so I really knew very little about what was going on as far as the war was concerned.

MAUNDER: Tell us a little bit about your marriage--your first home, where you settled for the first time.

MRS. GREELEY: We were married by our two fathers. The house was just filled with lovely greens from the Sequoia Forest: huckleberry, great ferns, and branches of redwood and various other things, so it was quite a bower. The reason that we were married right then and there was because Billy had a chance to go on to Yale and give the field course, a spring course given by field men--he thought it would make an excellent wedding trip. So I just calmly left my teaching job and we went off. Had a wonderful time, then when we got back to Washington, on our way home that is, we knew that we were to go back to Washington and live--so I only had about a month on the forest, but it was lots of fun there at headquarters.

MAUNDER: Down in the forest where?

MRS. GREELEY: Down on the Sequoia--near Hot Springs--about forty miles from Bakersfield, as I recall. Billy had been stationed there before we were married. Then we went on to Washington and spent the whole summer thinking we were going to live there. We roamed the Virginia countryside with the idea of buying an old house and making it over. We went out to suburban Washington and looked through these old houses that were for sale. I suppose all young couples go through the same thing. Then we were ordered out to Missoula where we went into a perfectly conservative town, and a perfectly conservative house, and all the rest of it.

MAUNDER: Was the house provided for you?

MRS. GREELEY: No.

MAUNDER: You had to buy it.

MRS. GREELEY: When we went to Missoula it was just when the Milwaukee Railroad was being built and the town was just full of the Milwaukee workmen. It was hard to find a house but we did finally find one which we rented.

MAUNDER: That would have been about what year?

MRS. GREELEY: We were married in 1907 and we were there 'til 1910--so it was along between 1908--well, let's see--about 1908 to 1910, sometime in there.

MAUNDER: You only lived for a very short time at the very beginning of your married life then on the Sequoia National Forest?

MRS. GREELEY: Just about two months.

MAUNDER: Two months. Do you remember Sam Dana coming to visit you there?

MRS. GREELEY: Well, there were a number of young foresters who came down to get their breaking in. I don't think Sam Dana was with them.

MORGAN: "Cap" Eldredge was there, wasn't he?

MRS. GREELEY: No, I don't think so. I don't remember that.

MAUNDER: What did they do--did they send these young men out to your husband to sort of "build the frame?"

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, to get broken in. As I remember they were there in summers. But that was really before I was married--before we were married. My mother and my two sisters and my brother and I camped on the Sequoia--that was before we were engaged. Billy's mother was there, too. That was the time I remember when these young foresters were there. But when we went on to New Haven, the class of 1907-08 was there--Dave Mason, and Barrington Moore are two whom I know, but as I remember when Sam came it was when we were in Missoula, after we were married. He came out there.

MAUNDER: I think that's right. It was to Missoula that he went.

MRS. GREELEY: Well, he was in the Forest Service out there for awhile, I'm quite sure.

MORGAN: Missoula at that time was still a pretty wild and woolly town, wasn't it?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, it was--very wild and woolly. On the town side it was pretty wild on a Saturday night, but our side, of course, was residential. The University was very small at that time, too.

MAUNDER: Well, now how did a couple of Congregational preachers' kids feel in such an atmosphere as that? You must have been kind of real puritanical people, weren't you?

MRS. GREELEY: Well--no, not really! It was surprising how Billy revolted against the strictness with which he'd been brought up. I think the very fact that he had been so strictly brought up--I, too, had rather a strict bringing up and yet not as much as my husband's, was responsible for a period when we went through just a general revolt against all the things we'd been brought up to think were the absolute in everything.

MAUNDER: Did you stop going to church and all the rest of it?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MAUNDER: You see, I was a minister's son, too!

MRS. GREELEY: Oh, you were?

MAUNDER: Yes.

MRS. GREELEY: What was your denomination?

MAUNDER: Methodist.

MRS. GREELEY: At that time even worse, I guess, than the Congregationalist.

MAUNDER: Yes.

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, we revolted just against everything; we didn't go to church; we didn't bring our children up to go to Sunday School; we didn't do anything. Now I think it was a big mistake, because I think there's something you get by being sympathetic toward a church.

The only church up here is a little Episcopal church. I felt I could be more help if I became confirmed, as they call it, rather than in just sitting on the outside--but I'm still not a very good Episcopalian.

MAUNDER: You still have some intellectual quibbles over Christianity?

MRS. GREELEY: Definitely! But it's the only church here and it's only right to work with it. I can work with them in perfect sympathy, but it's the doctrines that bother me terribly.

MORGAN: In Missoula the Forest Service personnel were rather close knit, weren't they?

MRS. GREELEY: Very, and that's one of the very lovely things about being in the Forest Service. People are so good to you. You run across somebody your husband went to school with or who had been in another place with you. Take the Ovid Butler's--Billy never felt a trip to Washington was complete unless he'd gone to see Ovid Butler.

MAUNDER: We just honored Ovid, you know, the other night . . .

MRS. GREELEY: It was in the paper.

MORGAN: I've often wondered, Mrs. Greeley, if the Colonel when he came home at night, for instance in the Missoula period of time, ever talked to you about the administrative problems he was having?

MRS. GREELEY: He never talked about it at home. It seemed the one thing he wanted to do when he got home was to forget it all. If he wasn't working at home he usually read. And he always played with the children for awhile. I never really knew anything about the problems. Of course, there were a good many sheep problems that would appear in the paper--a question of the sheepherders and that sort of thing and I perhaps would ask him something about it and he'd say, "Oh, I don't want to talk about it. Let's forget it." So I really know very little about it. I've learned more from what you wrote about it than I had really known. I just knew in a general way what things were.

MORGAN: In other words, when he got home he just didn't want to . . .

MRS. GREELEY: He just didn't want to think about it. When he had to work, he'd work; but otherwise he'd do something else. He loved to work with his hands. He made a crib for Molly, and he made a high chair for her. He loved to work with his hands, so that there was really very little office talking at our house after he got home.

MAUNDER: What were his other major interests in his leisure hours with you? What sort of things did you do?

MRS. GREELEY: Well, he loved to garden and there was always a Sunday walk with the children. We'd go out in the woods--the whole family--which everybody enjoyed. Then he did a great deal of writing of articles and that sort of thing in his evenings. That was really more of his work, I think at home, than anything else.

MAUNDER: Writing articles?

MRS. GREELEY: Writing articles for newspapers, or speeches for some place, but there never was very much discussion at home.

MAUNDER: Was he an active member of any civic groups, or did he avoid that?

MRS. GREELEY: He had a Boy Scout troop, but he was tired or busy at night and just didn't have enough time to stretch around. One thing he did love was amateur theatricals and he made quite a success with that. There were several community plays that he appeared in--he could act--he loved acting.

MORGAN: Was this in Missoula that he did this, Mrs. Greeley?

MRS. GREELEY: No, this was in Chevy Chase. No, we really weren't in Missoula long enough for him to have any community setup and there was so much pioneer work to be done in forest organization--it was when the districts were just made. The public didn't understand about the Forest Service. There was a lot of opposition to it. Later when we lived in Chevy Chase things cleared up a little bit.

MAUNDER: And there he got into this amateur acting.

MRS. GREELEY: Well, occasionally. Of course, another thing that interrupted our life was that just as soon as we began to make friends anywhere or get any invitations then he'd have to go out on a trip--we never had any real friends together. I suppose the same thing's true of both of you men. Billy knew lumbermen and I knew the people I was thrown in with. I always knew Forest Service people because they came to the house and we had them in for dinner. Always, of course, the men were entertained when they went out of town, so we women had the field men in when they came to town. Thus we'd know the men, but we wouldn't know the women.

MAUNDER: Who did your husband count among his most intimate friends in the Forest Service when he was in Washington?

MRS. GREELEY: You know, it's awfully hard to tell.

MAUNDER: You mentioned Ovid Butler . . .

MRS. GREELEY: Ovid Butler was a very close friend; David Mason was another and there are lots of men in the lumber industry now since we've been here that he felt very close to. Bob Stuart was an awfully close friend of Billy's--they were together in France and roomed together. Billy felt very close to the men he worked with. Many of the men in the Tenth Engineers became close friends.

MAUNDER: What were your special interests in those days, Mrs. Greeley?

MRS. GREELEY: I can't seem to remember that I had much but children and housework. One thing I did develop when the children were little was bird watching. We had quantities of birds in Chevy Chase and out in our yard when I was with the children I began to be interested in them. I think that's when I started becoming interested in gardening, too. There were always a lot of civic things you could do that didn't really count, you just did them.

MAUNDER: Like what?

MRS. GREELEY: I was one of the trustees at a public school. They had trustees, I guess they called us--board of somethin' or other.

MAUNDER: School board.

MRS. GREELEY: School board. I was quite active in the civic end of the Chevy Chase Women's Club--the educational side. The teacher's salaries were very low in Maryland when we first went there to live. We lived over the border in Chevy Chase, Maryland. I remember going out to a hearing before the school board--the county school board in Rockville, Maryland--in which we were trying very hard for better education for the negroes in Maryland. I heard a man get up--actually this happened--and said, "Show me an educated negro, and I'll show you a damn fool"--that's in my generation and that's just outside of the city of Washington. So we didn't get very much, very far, but I suppose that was a small beginning. The negroes were educated in chicken houses and with books used from the white children's schools. Now it's quite different.

MAUNDER: You made this a personal cause even though there were other women . . .

MRS. GREELEY: There were a lot of us interested in that sort of thing, and we had gone out, the whole delegation of us, to see if we couldn't do something for bettering the education of the negro there.

MAUNDER: Did you accomplish something?

MRS. GREELEY: I don't think so. Only I think the more we talked about it and the more we agitated, the more people woke up.

I imagine it's pretty much improved now. Art and Ann are living over on the Maryland side and Lynn is going to Maryland High School which is excellent. That was another thing--our schools didn't measure up with the D. C. schools. Our children went to the Maryland school and the standards were not as high. I think that was why we really went out for higher standards for all children; negro children included. And I couldn't believe it that Art wanted to live on the Maryland side because there was a brand new high school in the District which was exceptionally good. We'd gone out when our children were little to try for better standards for the Maryland schools. Well, another thing--the Marylanders hated us people who were outsiders who came in from the outside upsetting their traditions. I'm sure that's over with. This was a long time ago when you come right down to it.

MAUNDER: This was back before World War I?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MAUNDER: How long were you in Maryland then, while your husband was stationed in Washington?

MRS. GREELEY: We were there eighteen years. We've lived out here now longer than we've lived any place.

MORGAN: Did you ever have an opportunity to meet Gifford Pinchot personally, Mrs. Greeley?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MORGAN: What were your impressions of him?

MRS. GREELEY: He was polite and courteous and very charming. He was not chatty, but he was a very pleasant person to meet--perfectly cultured.

MAUNDER: Was there a great deal of night work to be done by the men in those days? Did they have to . . .

MRS. GREELEY: You mean the men . . .

MAUNDER: The men in the Forest Service. Did they have lots of meetings in the evenings?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, there were quite a lot, and of course our living out as we did made it a little difficult. If we'd lived right in town it would have been quite simple.

MAUNDER: How did your husband commute to work?

MRS. GREELEY: He went on an electric car--crowded in the morning--crowded in the evening--took him about an hour to get in and get out--standing both ways. I'm surprised he wanted to do it, but he, well none of us would have been happy if we'd lived in town.

MAUNDER: Did he buy a car eventually and drive?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, I think we were the last people in the neighborhood to have a car. It was an open Studebaker. "It was nonsense to have a closed car--why we were all hardy people--had been outdoors all our lives." So we bought an open car. Billy had a few lessons and we started right out to Vermont. Every time anything looked the least bit scary we'd all yell, "Look out! Look out!" How he ever got there and kept his senses, I don't know.

MAUNDER: You used to go to Vermont in the summer?

MRS. GREELEY: We did after the children were more or less grown up. We began by going up to New Hampshire. Billy had a close friend--Coolidge, Joe Coolidge--whose family owned quite a bit of property along Lake Winnepesaukee and Joe arranged for us to have his parents' house one summer. That was the beginning of our going up to Vermont--I mean going north for the summer. We went two years to the Coolidge place in New Hampshire and then we went one summer to Vermont. We rented a farm near where my grandfather Dwinell was born--ran into a lot of various cousins and finally bought that place. Then we went there for the summertime.

MAUNDER: When you say you went for the summertime, did you and the children go up ahead of your husband or did you all go together?

MRS. GREELEY: Usually we went ahead. Those were the only times Billy ever took a vacation--after we bought that Vermont place. Then he'd come and stay for awhile, or else he'd come and go home with us. The area was still very primitive in a way. This was in the hills of Vermont, and except for a pickup truck, a telephone, and a milk separator, they lived exactly as their ancestors had lived. There was a woman there who still corded and spun her own wool; there was an old man who was the son of a Revolutionary hero--you can't believe that, but it was really true. This old man was the son of the third or fourth wife of a Revolutionary soldier. He made his living by going around appearing at D. A. R. organizations and so forth, and showing himself off as the son of a Revolutionary hero. We just loved that Vermont experience.

MAUNDER: You must have got some of your furniture while you were up there, Mrs. Greeley?

MRS. GREELEY: We did. Many of the pieces were made by a real craftsman who lived in the Vermont hills. Some of the others are family pieces. Some we bought at an auction in Vermont.

MAUNDER: What sort of things did you do there in the summertime?

MRS. GREELEY: There was swimming, by going several miles downhill and several miles back up again. The children used to play in the creek and that sort of thing--picked strawberries and do all the things that people do--but there was nothing except the good, natural things to do. We had no sports or anything like that. We were out amongst the people--the natives who lived there.

MAUNDER: Real New England!

MRS. GREELEY: Real New England. One summer I stayed on with the two younger boys--Molly and Art went back to Washington because they were in high school--just so Hank and Dave could go to the little one room country school to see what it was like. It was the same country school my grandfather had gone to and I thought it was well worthwhile for the boys to see what a difference there was. They even had a water bucket for the water--drank out of the gourd. Our boys had about a month of that--I don't know whether they remember it or not.

MAUNDER: I suppose your husband was back and forth across the country a good deal?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, he was always away in the summertime--that's why I felt justified in being away. He always had a long trip in the summer. That, of course, was the season when he could get out into so much of the country that he couldn't the rest of the year.

MAUNDER: He would go on a long summer field trip?

MRS. GREELEY: He'd be gone probably three or four months in the summer--or three months anyway--and then, of course, in the winter Congress was always in session, so he had to be around Washington and couldn't make so many trips.

MAUNDER: He was very often involved then in working with the congressmen.

MRS. GREELEY: Yes. Bureau Chiefs are, and I've been surprised to see how much Art is having the same experience. He writes about the committees he has to be with and the questions that are asked and how he has to bone up to be sure he gets all the answers--well, that was the same experience his father went through. That's a harrowing experience--to have to appear before a Congressional committee.

MAUNDER: Why, because they probe so sharply?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, and they know so little, so many of them--so little and you have to go into the background to explain--of course, Billy was there in the early days of forestry when people really didn't know very much. They had no real conception of what forestry was or what the Forest Service was trying to do. There was so much opposition to the Forest Service. The people's idea was that the forests were being locked up--people, of course, had used them just as they wanted. To educate the public in proper use of the forests was the hard part of it in the early days, I think.

MAUNDER: Did he come home sometimes feeling it was almost a hopeless cause to try and educate these congressmen?

MRS. GREELEY: Oh, I think he did. Nights he'd come home and lie down on the davenport and sleep. I usually knew whether it had been a very bad day with Congress by whether he had any animation left after dinner.

MAUNDER: Do you remember his commenting about any particular congressmen or senators at that time that he knew personally, or whom he found particularly difficult to deal with?

MRS. GREELEY: I can't remember. There were a lot of issues that came up. One of the worst issues as I remember was the matter of range and stock allowed on the forests. The trouble with the stockmen and the cattlemen was to confine them to areas that they should have and not let the cattle--and the sheep particularly--roam all over the forest. He had a good many experiences in Montana with the Basque sheepherders and the story--I guess you quoted it--about the Basque sheepherder who went from one place just as the forest officers would try and catch him. Sometimes they would just move over the line into the next county and nothing could be done. Those are the kind of things they were always fighting.

MORGAN: During this period he had many opportunities to change jobs at a considerable increase in salary. Did he ever consult you in these matters?

MRS. GREELEY: Oh, you mean my husband . . .

MORGAN: The Colonel, yes.

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, he always talked it over with me.

MORGAN: Did he ever seriously consider leaving the Forest Service prior to 1928?

MRS. GREELEY: I don't think so. He was offered several jobs at different times and a lot of them meant an increase in salary, but he loved the Forest Service. I think the hardest thing that ever happened to him was when he changed and became manager of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association. He was made to feel, I think, by foresters of the Pinchot school that he'd sold out to the lumbermen. It was very hard for him because he'd been devoted to the Forest Service and to what he considered was the best way to handle forestry. Of course, it was just about that time there was a heavy depression--that was 1928 and 1929. The lumbermen, of course, were individualists and it was almost impossible to get them to pull together at first. The whole picture has changed. Lumbermen and foresters work together now.

MAUNDER: What motivated your husband to make the change from the Forest Service?

MRS. GREELEY: Well, he always felt that a man shouldn't stay too long on the job--on a real job. He was made to feel that here was a chance to get foresters and lumbermen to cooperate. He came out with rather an idealistic idea. I think George Long, from Longview was the man who more than anybody else made him realize that this was his chance.

MAUNDER: You knew George Long very well?

MRS. GREELEY: I didn't.

MAUNDER: He did?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MAUNDER: And you feel perhaps that George Long persuaded him to come out.

MRS. GREELEY: I think I heard Billy say it was what George Long said more than anything else that made him feel that this was the chance. But it was an awfully hard break, and as I say, nobody was pulling together--everybody was just competing with everybody else.

MORGAN: Was there any particular person that made the Colonel feel that this was a general feeling in the Pinchot school that he had sold out?

MRS. GREELEY: No. It was just the whole atmosphere--it was that whole school--the Pinchot people who felt that the lumbermen and the foresters had nothing in common.

MORGAN: There were no direct statements of that sort made in publication or . . .

MRS. GREELEY: No, just little jabs and little . . .

MORGAN: Inuendos . . .

MRS. GREELEY: And so forth and so on.

MAUNDER: And he was sensitive to this?

MRS. GREELEY: He was awfully sensitive to it. I heard him say that really the final thing that pulled the lumbermen together was the NRA--much as they all hated it. They had to come into line according to the NRA--and from then on they began to see--even the most rebellious--that there was merit in working together for good forest management.²

MAUNDER: I'm glad to hear that--because I remember the Colonel telling me that years ago and it's nice to have it confirmed from you.

MRS. GREELEY: Well, he did--very definitely--I heard him say that several times. Of course, several of them worked hard together on that. I can't even now tell you who they were, but Corýdon Wagner was one of them who worked with him--and Harlen Watzek. I keep meeting men who say, "I worked with your husband on NRA," and I hadn't known who they were at all. You see, so much of Billy's life was something I didn't know anything about.

MAUNDER: When he came home he liked to forget it?

MRS. GREELEY: Really it was after we came over here to live that he talked to me more about his personal reactions to things than he ever had when he was active--he seemed to enjoy it after he got here--maybe he had nobody else to talk to.

²National Recovery Act

MORGAN: I don't suppose there was any correspondence between Colonel Greeley and Gifford Pinchot after 1928, was there?

MRS. GREELEY: I don't think Billy had much correspondence with Mr. Pinchot. As I remember most of it was statements Pinchot made to other people or made in public-- I don't think he ever wrote to Billy--it was just as if he'd written him right off.

MORGAN: No mention of him whatsoever.

MRS. GREELEY: No.

MORGAN: I know in Breaking New Ground he completely ignores the Colonel's existence.

MRS. GREELEY: Mr. Pinchot just had no use for Billy that was all. Billy was a "traitor."

MAUNDER: Well, that animosity went back to the days when they were contending over legislation in the Congress, didn't it?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MAUNDER: In the early twenties when the Clarke-McNary Act and others were up for consideration?

MRS. GREELEY: I think the first break--again I'm not too sure, but the first break was over that--I can't even remember what the legislation was--but Pinchot testified on one side and then the committee called Billy up--I sat in on the hearing and heard him say--they turned to Pinchot and said, "Well, how does it happen that this young successor of yours believes this way?" Pinchot said, "Oh well, he's young," or something to the effect that the lumbermen had "pulled wool over his eyes."

MORGAN: Yes, I think that was the hearing on the Snell bill, which eventually became the Clarke-McNary bill.

MRS. GREELEY: I think I recollect that--my whole idea of what went on is vague.

MORGAN: Of course, Gifford Pinchot wrote an apology which was included in the hearing. However, it was a very backhanded apology--he apologized to Graves and very little to the Colonel for his statement. It was again a typical Pinchot statement . . .

MRS. GREELEY: Of course, he really didn't blame Colonel Graves, I don't think--the whole blame came on Billy. But Colonel Graves, I think, felt exactly as my husband felt about it. He and Billy worked together very harmoniously.

MORGAN: Did Colonel Greeley feel, do you think, that perhaps Graves was an even more important figure in the establishment of American forestry than was Pinchot?

MRS. GREELEY: Oh, no, I don't think so. Of course, Mr. Pinchot was the first one who really made a definite stand for forestry. The Bureau of Forestry hadn't amounted to anything until Mr. Pinchot, who was well trained and a prominent person, developed it. Colonel Graves carried out Mr. Pinchot's forestry ideas. I don't know just how much was original with him, but he certainly organized things and got them going in a more democratic way. Now I don't know--I'm just talking--that's just my impression, that's all. Billy always felt that Colonel Graves never received the credit due him for the way he developed the practical side of the Forest Service.

MAUNDER: What was your husband's feeling toward some of the other great foresters of his day--men like Fernow and Schenck--do you recall how he appraised these men?

MRS. GREELEY: I think he felt they'd made great contributions. He admired Fernow immensely--Schenck got into a lot of difficulty you know, and I remember when Ovid Butler edited the life of Schenck--I think he sent some of the copy out to Billy to see. Billy didn't think too much of it.

MAUNDER: He didn't think too much of Dr. Schenck?

MRS. GREELEY: No, I don't think so, although he knew he was a good forester. It was the handling of the Biltmore question that I think Billy felt was wrong. Schenck used to care more, some of the foresters said, for going out with his dogs than he did for forestry--but you can't tell on those things--you can't tell how much truth there is in that.

MORGAN: He thought quite highly of Austin Cary, didn't he?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, he admired him very much. He and E. E. "Nick" Carter spent a long time out in the woods with Austin Cary one summer. In fact, I think I've got a picture somewhere of Billy and Austin Cary. Austin Cary was a

great character. When we were in New Haven on our wedding trip he came into town and Billy asked him up to our little apartment for dinner. I had never seen him. He was a wild looking kind of a person. And after dinner he threw himself down on the davenport, grabbed his shoes and took them off and said, "You don't mind if I take off my shoes, do you? My feet hurt me!" -- and laid down on the davenport. He and Billy got into quite a discussion and every time he wanted to make a point he'd thump on the wall, "I tell you, Bill! I tell you, Bill!" I thought we would get the landlady in after us.

MORGAN: I imagine as a young bride this came as somewhat of a surprise to you, didn't it, an old woodsman like that?

MRS. GREELEY: It was a little startling. I thought if this was my introduction to forestry-it was funny. Austin Cary was very kind. In Missoula when any of the husbands were away he was most kind about coming to see if there was anything he could do. He loved to drive--and he'd take the widows out on a drive--there never in the world was anybody kinder-hearted than Austin Cary.

MAUNDER: He married only late in life, didn't he?

MRS. GREELEY: Seems to me he did marry.

MAUNDER: He did. He married a woman desperately sick with tuberculosis whom he had known when he was a young man.

MRS. GREELEY: Yes.

MAUNDER: And he married her just to see that she was taken care of.

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, you're right.

MAUNDER: She died not too long after they were married.

MRS. GREELEY: You're right.

MAUNDER: He married her and he provided a home for her until she died.

MRS. GREELEY: Isn't somebody writing the life of Austin Cary?

MAUNDER: Yes, a young man in the South.

MRS. GREELEY: I saw that in the last Forest History.
Will it be published?

MAUNDER: We hope so.

MRS. GREELEY: He did wonderful work in the South--it was
pioneer work with lumbermen.

MAUNDER: Mrs. Greeley, looking around your home and especially the library, I notice that there are a lot of books of history, that there are a good many books of poetry and Dickens--and are these a reflection of your reading interests, or of your husband's?

MRS. GREELEY: Well, it's sort of a combination of both of us. Billy would never read just fiction for fiction--he loved historical novels--and, of course, the history books are all his--the straight history are his. Mine are the more frivolous kind. Billy did a lot of reading aloud. That's one thing we did with our evenings--he'd read aloud--it was before radio or anything else--and I'd do handiwork. I think that's why the Dickens set is so in pieces--because Billy read that aloud. His heroes were Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. His favorite authors were Dickens, Kipling and Shakespeare.

MAUNDER: Did this use to be readings that all the family would take part in, or just you and he?

MRS. GREELEY: Sunday nights he always read to the children--read aloud--oh, quantities of the old standard books--although not Don Quixote, but along that general line--The Three Musketeers--there were some that were awfully heavy it seemed to me. Westward Ho!--books of that type.

MAUNDER: Did the children love this?

MRS. GREELEY: Yes, they loved it. They always looked forward to it. There'd always be a walk Sunday afternoon and then we'd have Sunday supper and then Billy'd read aloud to the children until bedtime. We'd usually end up with hymns and then to bed.

MORGAN: Did he have any particularly favorite author?

MRS. GREELEY: He loved the old standard things--Lorna Doone and things of that sort that the children learned. I don't know whether it formed any taste for them or not--they read just as frivolously as anybody else--as all the rest of us do.