

JFK's Visit Thrills Thousands

By NORMAN B. LEHDE

Under a clear, early Autumn sky, President John F. Kennedy dedicated the Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies at Milford yesterday.

Addressing a friendly, orderly crowd, estimated at between 12 and 15 thousand persons, that listened with rapt attention to his words, the President of the United States paid tribute to Gifford Pinchot, first Chief Forester of the nation and the Pinchot family.

"Every great work is in the shadow of a man" the President said.

Noting that this was the start of a tour that would carry him to many conservation sites throughout the country, the Chief Executive said that there was no more fitting place to start such a tour than "In this state, in this town, in this house!"

The President recognized both Gifford Pinchot and his brother Amos, in his speech. The work of Gifford Pinchot, Mr. Kennedy declared "marked a beginning of a professional approach to conservation resources."

The President called on his listeners to follow the lead of Gifford Pinchot and continue to make use of the resources left the nation. "In the field of resources, opportunities lost can never be won back!" Mr. Kennedy declared.

When he told the audience lining the hillside of the natural amphitheatre at Grey Towers that he hoped

conservation action would soon include the Tocks Island National Recreation Area on the Delaware River, there were resounding cheers and applause.

While the President was speaking, the crowd sat transfixed. The only movement was the action of cameramen, both amateur and professional. The only placards in sight, proudly displayed by ILGWU members, waved cheery notes of welcome to the President.

At the conclusion of his address, President Kennedy pulled the cord unveiling a tablet imbedded on a giant Pike County boulder. He was flanked by Dr. Gifford B. Pinchot, son of the forester, Governor William W. Scranton, Secretary of Agriculture Freeman, Secretary of the Interior Udall and Chief Forester Edward Cliff, as the stone was revealed.

The inscription read "Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies 'For greater knowledge of the land and its uses' Dedication by President John F. Kennedy, Sept. 24, 1963, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service and the Conservation Foundation."

For many Milford residents the visit of the president had a storybook flavor. This was something out of the wonderful world of the Brothers Grimm. But the familiar figure of the TV screen and the magazine cover was for real. He was here in their midst addressing them, talking about their neighbors, the Pinchot family, emphasizing this state, this

town, this house.

One could feel a spiritual buoyancy that was lifting Milford into a niche from which it must not fall. This is the home of the conservation pioneer, the President was telling his listeners. The Conservation Institute will carry on the work of Gifford and Amos Pinchot, of Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt.

Much is left to be done, the President reminded his listeners. The Conservation Institute at Milford, at Grey Towers, the home of Gifford Pinchot will lead in the effort to see that it is done.

When the President left the platform he was cheered and students joined their elders in lifting hands in friendly farewell. Pike County is famed as a Republican stronghold but there was little show of partisanship in civic efforts to prepare for the dedication or at any time during the program.

The bigoted and the bitter were ignored by those who participated in the preparations for Mr. Kennedy's visit. They were neither seen or heard at Grey Towers, on Tuesday. Milford was proud of the singular honor of a visit from the President of the United States. That pride was shown in flag lined streets, flower boxes filled with autumn color and a spirit, also entered into by the rest of the area, which kept workers and committee members busy day and night.

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Prior to his appearance on the platform, the President enjoyed a brief tour of Grey Towers. At the start of his tour he met a group of conservation leaders and invited guests on the terrace lawn of the Towers.

If it was a bright and sunny day for Milford, it was also a bright and sunny day for the Forest Service and the Conservation Foundation.

Edwin P. Cliff, Chief of the Forest Service, was the presiding officer for the program. He opened by thanking the Delaware Valley Joint High School Band and their Director, Harold Eaton for their part in the program.

Chief Cliff introduced Gov. William W. Scranton. The Governor stated that he was thrilled at the outpouring of people for the dedication of Pinchot Institute. He reminded his listeners that a great conservation act, Project 70, would be on referendum for the voters of the state at the November election. He drew resounding applause when he extended a warm welcome to the President.

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"The Institute will have the hopes and best wishes of the Pinchot family," Dr. Pinchot concluded.

Chief Cliff then introduced Samuel Ordway Jr., President of the Conservation Foundation.

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Mr. Cliff introduced Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Freeman reviewed the history of the Forest Service since its early years when it was under the Department of the Interior. He noted that a letter prepared by Gifford Pinchot to President Theodore Roosevelt when the Service was transferred to the Department of Agriculture still serves as a guide for the work of the Service. Secretary Freeman then introduced President Kennedy.

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Dr. Gifford B. Pinchot, a biologist and biochemist at John Hopkins, standing where he doubtless