

EDITOR'S NOTE

by James G. Lewis

Although we did not intend it to be, this issue has evolved into another anniversary issue. Our 2005 issue celebrated the centennial of the U.S. Forest Service by looking at the documentary sources of inspiration for the federal land management agency. And now the 2006 issue comes sixty years after the death of the Forest Service's first chief, Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot, however, makes only a cameo appearance in two articles. In **"It is to preserve life, to work for the trees": The Steward of Mexico's Forests, Miguel Angel de Quevedo, 1862–1946**, Emily Wakild examines the life of a man who can be regarded as the Gifford Pinchot of Mexico. While the parallels between the two men are numerous and begin with the dedication of their lives to conservation, even more compelling are the differences. Pinchot, born months after the end of the Civil War, led the conservation crusade with the full backing of his friend, President Theodore Roosevelt. Quevedo, born in the midst of civil war, carried out his crusade against the backdrop of revolution. Like Pinchot, he also trained in Europe, but as a civil engineer. Both spent their careers exhorting and chastising their fellow countrymen over deteriorating forest conditions, but Quevedo did so while trying to stay alive as one government after another collapsed in violence and revolution. The two men met only once, when they were both at their peak of influence and just before each fell from power. Although Quevedo returned to national prominence to lead another conservation crusade in the 1920s and 1930s, he is, unlike Pinchot, little remembered in his own country sixty years after his death.

Wakild, who recently finished her doctorate in Latin American history at Arizona State University, spent the summer of 2005 conducting dissertation research at the Forest History Society and used some of that material in preparing this article. Many of the photographs accompanying the article are drawn from the Milton K. Lockwood Collection in our photo archives. Lockwood was an American forester who toured the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Chiapas in the 1920s and the images are contemporary to Quevedo's second conservation crusade.

The year 2006 also marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Forest History Society. Founded by F. K. Weyerhaeuser as the Forest Products History Foundation in June 1946, FHS has become the world leader in preserving forest and conservation history. To celebrate the anniversary, the Society held a banquet and invited U.S. Forest Service chief Dale Bosworth to deliver the keynote address, **The Role of History in Caring for the Land and Serving People**, which is accompanied by sixty years of **Forest History Society Highlights**.

The centennial of the Great San Francisco Earthquake triggered an outpouring of books and articles, almost all of which took conventional looks at the earthquake and recovery efforts. We offer three articles that look at the intersection of forest history and the San Francisco earthquake. In **Citrus Fruit and Forests: The Story of California's Fruit Growers Supply Company**, retired Weyerhaeuser forester Ted W. Nelson writes

about the birth of what would become Sunkist Growers, Inc., and how the earthquake forced its predecessor, the California Fruit Growers Exchange, into timberland management in order to secure a wood supply for its boxes. Elizabeth Hull, our Technical Services Archivist/Librarian, shares another fascinating photo essay drawn from our archives. **Redwood in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires** pulls images from a photo album assembled by the Redwood Car Shippers Bureau shortly after the earthquake "to promote the effectiveness of redwood as a fire-retardant construction material." For years prior to the quake, builders and insurance companies had touted redwood as an ideal construction material because it did not easily burn. This essay offers visual proof of that early assertion.

While in many instances natural disasters often bring out the best in people, they can sometimes bring out the worst in government agencies. Pamela Conners, the former historian on the Stanislaus National Forest, found that to be the case after the San Francisco earthquake when a handful of men from the U.S. Forest Service tried to contribute to relief efforts. Our third article about the earthquake is **A First-hand Report Concerning the Fire and Earthquake Situation in San Francisco**, written to Chief Pinchot by Edward Allen, an agency employee whose attempts to coordinate efforts with civic leaders and military officials met with frustration at every turn.

Lest the reader think that this entire issue is about anniversaries, we offer excerpts from Albert Way's interview with pioneering forester Leon Neel of Georgia. Way, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Georgia, says Neel and Herbert Stoddard developed the model of ecological land management, now known as the **Stoddard-Neel Method**, in the 1950s and 1960s. What Stoddard and Neel developed was, in effect, a way of breaking the cycle of overcutting and deforestation that began some 4,700 years ago in ancient Mesopotamia and has repeated itself over and over as Europeans moved from the Old World to the New. In an excerpt from historian John Perlin's book, which looks at the "role of wood in the development of civilization," readers embark on **A Forest Journey** that ranges from deforested Portugal to heavily forested Madeira and on to the New World, mapping a little-known part of forest history—the pivotal role wood played in the Age of Discovery.

This issue also marks the end of one forest journey and the beginning of another. Our last issue was the final one for which FHS President Steve Anderson served as editor. In order to devote more time to his myriad other duties as president, he has decided to relinquish editorial duties of *Forest History Today*. He and I will consult on the content and direction of the magazine as we explore new possibilities and directions for it, and he will continue to solicit articles on the magazine's behalf. Please join me in thanking him for ten years of excellent work as editor, and, more importantly, as FHS President. For us here at FHS, that is the most notable anniversary of all. □