

C O N T A C T

Region 9

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 20, 1943

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"TREE LADY" LEAVES FOREST SERVICE

On May 6 sixty-five Regional Office friends gathered for a "coming out" luncheon at the City Club for Miss Margaret March-Mount who is leaving the Forest Service on June 7 after 30 years' faithful service for Uncle Sam.

Under the able direction of Toastmaster (I-know-a-lot-of-stories-that-I-can't-tell) Vic Isola, the party proceeded at a lively pace.

The speakers were Bill Barker, her first chief in this region; Shelley Schoonover, chief when she came to the Milwaukee office; Vic Isola, her present overseer; Mr. Price, who said he hoped she would continue the excellent work she has been doing; and Elisabeth Strandness, who tramped the wooded sections of Michigan with Miss March-Mount before either one was transferred to the R.O.

Mr. Isola presented the guest of honor with a "Regional Office Roster," a walnut-framed plaque of birch inscribed with 96 signatures. Miss Strandness presented the gift from Regional Office friends - a sterling silver vase.

Then Miss March-Mount, looking very smart in a yellow suit and wearing a purple orchid corsage, made a witty and interesting talk which was punctuated from time to time by gales of laughter from her co-workers.

It is impossible to summarize a successful career in a few paragraphs - it would take at least a book, but here are a few highlights:

Miss March-Mount's debut in the Forest Service was in Region 2 on the Bighorn National Forest, Sheridan, Wyo., going from there to the Shoshone N.F. at Cody, Wyo. While at Cody, Miss March-Mount realized her early ambition and acted as publicity agent for the Cody Club; she was responsible for the revival of much of the Buffalo Bill history. In May 1928 she was transferred to Munising, Michigan (then a part of Region 2) under Forester-in-Charge Barker, where Miss March-Mount acted as administrative assistant, which meant handling everything from fiscal reports to publicity work.

The attention which her publicity work received led people to believe that the Regional Forester's office was at Munising. When they learned it was in Milwaukee (Region 9 having been established in 1929), there was quite a little agitation to have it moved to Munising, to no avail. Inasmuch as the Regional Forester's office could not be moved to Munising, and the need for publicity work was urgent, Miss March-Mount transferred to the Regional Office.

Her work here gained impetus after she got her first toe-hold with the Federated Women's Clubs. While conducting tours of our Forests, her enthusiasm helped to develop and gain popularity for the Squirrel Club, which is now a national organization pledged to aid in the prevention of man-caused forest fires. As a direct result of her efforts, the reforestation program was given considerable publicity and resulted in many thousands of dollars invested in cooperative plantations and school children's forests.

While her work is officially at an end as a member of the Forest Service, unofficially we know she is just beginning and, as she says, "getting on with the job."