

SECRETARY TO 7 CHIEFS DIES

The next to last direct living link with the old Division of Forestry under Gifford Pinchot's leadership was broken on October 7 with the death on her 103rd birthday of Mrs. Edna (Frost) Crocker, who joined his staff on December 12, 1898, five months after Pinchot himself was hired, becoming the second stenographer. She typed for Pinchot and his assistants, Henry S. Graves and Ed Griffith, who had been hired in October, and George B. Sudworth, one of the few holdovers from Bernhard Fernow's regime. Then she became the personal secretary to Overton W. Price, who was named Associate Forester soon



the secretary. Graves resigned in April 1920 to be succeeded by William B. Greeley, with whom she is pictured in the adjacent photograph taken in 1924. Greeley resigned in April 1928 to be succeeded by Robert Y. Stuart, who was himself succeeded in 1933 by Ferdinand A. Silcox, whose successor was Earle H. Clapp in 1939. The last Chief she served was Lyle F. Watts, who replaced Clapp in 1943. Mrs. Crocker retired December 30, 1944 after 46 years of service as secretary in the Chief's office, a record not likely to be approached again. *Information Digest* for November 11, 1944 said her retirement marked "the end of the first forestry epoch." She was then 68. At 91, she entered the Powhatan Nursing Home in Falls Church, Va. She remained mentally alert until her death, although her sight and hearing virtually disappeared by the age of 100. Her 100th birthday in the fall of 1976 coincided with the 100th anniversary of the hiring of the first forestry agent in the Department of Agriculture, Franklin B. Hough.

after being hired in June 1899. Price remained in that position with Mrs. Crocker as his secretary until he and Pinchot were fired in January 1910 by President Taft during the Alaska coal land leasing dispute with Interior Secretary Ballinger. By September 1910 Mrs. Crocker had become secretary to Henry Graves, who had left his post as Dean of the Forest School (set up by Pinchot at Yale University in 1900) to become second Chief of the Forest Service on Pinchot's indirect recommendation several days after Pinchot left. From then on her position as Chief's secretary was unchallenged: Chiefs came and went but she remained