

AN IMPORTANT INTERLUDE

And now--the beginning of the third and final episode of my Forest Service career.

I returned to Kalispell from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 15, 1911. Early in January of 1912 I went to work for the Northern Idaho and Montana Power Company as an operator in the Power House at Bigfork, Montana and continued in that capacity until July 1916. During this time I completed a course in civil engineering with the American School of Correspondence at Chicago, Illinois. During this time another most important event in my career occurred when Kathryn R. McCrea of Kalispell consented to be married to me on April 29, 1914.

Among other activities that I engaged in was membership in the National Guard of three States. While attending the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio in 1901, 02, and 03, I had received considerable military training in the Military Department of the University and had joined Company 'G' of the Ohio National Guard. When I returned to Montana in 1906 I had joined Company 'H' of the Montana National Guard; and while I was in Pittsburgh in 1910 and 1911, I was attached to Company 'K', 18th Pennsylvania National Guard. In addition to considerable training as an infantry soldier, I had qualified as Expert Rifleman with both the Krag Jorgenson and new Army Springfield. In 1916, when the National Guard was mobilized for duty on the Mexican Border, I just had to be a part of it.

Companies 'F' and 'H' Second Regiment Montana National Guard were mobilized at Fort Harrison near Helena; and, due to delay in finding a substitute for my job at the Power House, I arrived at Fort Harrison about 12 hours after the Regiment left for the Border at Douglas, Arizona. When I applied to the State Adjutant General for transportation to join the outfit, it was suggested that I become a part of a troop of Cavalry that Paul McCormick of Billings was trying to organize and accompany the Troop to the Border where I could join up with Company 'F', of which I was a member. When I reported to Captain McCormick, and he learned that I had considerable experience in military drill and organization, he offered to make me First Sergeant of the Troop he was trying to organize. To make a long story short, I went to the Border with the cavalry Troop, was transferred into the Machine Gun Company of the Second Montana with L. A. Foot, an old friend whom I had trained in the School of the Soldier when he first joined the National Guard as Captain. The Regiment returned to Montana in time for the 1916 elections. That was the end of my military career.