

ROBERT Y. STUART- NEW CHIEF FORESTER

Major R. Y. Stuart becomes Chief Forester on May 1, 1928. Robert Young Stuart was born on February 13, 1893, in Carlisle, Pa., the son of William Chalmers Stuart and Janet (Morris) Stuart. He is of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

He prepared at the Carlisle (Pa.) High School, and received the degree of B. A. in 1903 from Dickinson College, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta and Raven's Claw. He spent the summer of 1903 in travel abroad and from October, 1903 to June, 1904, was traveling sales agent for the Aluminum Cooking Utensil Company of New Kensington, Pa. He graduated from the Yale Forest School with the degree of M. F. in 1906, receiving the degree of M. A. that same year from Dickinson College.

He was married December 9, 1907, in Harrisburg, Pa., to Miss Janet Wilson of Harrisburg, and has two daughters.

During the summer of 1905, before graduating from Yale, Stuart was a forest student in the United States Forest Service. In July, 1906, he was appointed forest assistant for Montana and northern Idaho (District 1) which position he held until January 1, 1908, becoming forest inspector in the same region. From December 1, 1908 to January 1, 1910, he was assistant Chief of operation, at Missoula, Montana. He was then promoted to assistant district forester of the same district with headquarters in Missoula, Montana. In January, 1913, he was appointed forest inspector in the branch of

forest management (timber sales) in the Chief Forester's office, Washington, D. C.

He remained as an inspector of timber sales in the Washington office from 1913 to 1917, when upon the entrance of the U. S. into the World War, he volunteered for staff duty with the first Forestry Engineer troops and went to France in August, 1917, as a Captain of Engineers. In France he served under Col. W. B. Greeley in timber examination and acquisition work, later becoming chief of the Lower Pyrenees Forestry Section. He was in France until early in 1919, returning to the United States as a Major, and reentered the Forest Service. He stayed in the Government Service until 1920, when he left to become assistant to Gifford Pinchot, Commissioner of Forestry of Pennsylvania. When Mr. Pinchot became Governor of Pennsylvania in 1923, Stuart became Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. Then, in March, 1927, Stuart returned to his first love, the U. S. Forest Service, taking charge as Assistant Forester of the branch of Public Relations, in Washington, D. C. And now, in 1928, he succeeds to the position of Chief Forester of the U. S. Forest Service. He has thus served in many positions in the Forest Service from forest student, through forest assistant, forest inspector, assistant district forester, assistant forester, to Chief Forester, and as assistant forest commissioner and secretary of the forestry department for Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania made notable strides in forestry progress under the leadership first of Pinchot, then of Stuart. To list only the proposed \$25,000,000 bond issue to buy state forests, its splendid state-wide system of fire lookouts and its enormous forest nursery now turning out 20 million forest seedlings a year, shows the magnitude of the State's program and the earnestness with which its citizens view the forestry problem.

He is a member of the Episcopal church. He is a Senior Member of the Society of American Foresters, was its president during 1927 and presided at the 27th annual meeting in San Francisco, December 16-18, 1927. He is also a member of the American Forestry Association and the Order of Ho-o Ho-o.

Major Stuart has thus had broad forestry experience in both the West and the East, and is familiar through his inspections with forest conditions on the Pacific Coast, in the South, the Lake States and New England. His 22 years of public service in the Forest Service, in the Army, and with the State of Pennsylvania, his wide experience in the fields of administration, research and public relations fit him for the new responsibilities that will soon come to him as head of the Government's forestry work.

Major Stuart has been in the Northwest several times having spent several days here in December, 1927. His plans call for his spending from August 1 to August 15 in Oregon and Washington.

ROBERT Y. STUART

I don't have any information in hand on Bob Stuart. I do know that he started his career in the USFS, was a professional forester. He left the FS and went with Pinchot to Pennsylvania when Pinchot was Governor. Came back to FS as head of I&E and went from I&E to Chief in 1928

FERDINAND A. SILCOX

Silcox was a professional forester, graduated MF 1905 at Yale. Went to work for FS July 1, 1905 as a "Forest Assistant" which grade later was called "Junior Forester". Became District (Regional) Forester, R-1 in 1910 and Chief in 1933. He left FS sometime around 1918 and became an arbitrator for printing industry. I'd say he had been out of FS about 13 years when came back as Chief. Was personal friend of FDRoosevelt.

Some reference sources: "Who Was Who in America"
"Dictionary of American Biography"
Society of American Foresters (they have a complete file -- or did have --including applications for membership)

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Biographical Sketch of Robert Y. Stuart

By Frank J. Harmon

Robert Y. Stuart had served for 13 years in administrative forestry posts in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and for 7 years in the State of Pennsylvania before becoming Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in May 1928, succeeding William B. Greeley. Stuart took over at a time of increasing Federal-State cooperation in fire protection and tree planting, and rapid growth in State forestry, all encouraged by the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, but a continuing recession in lumber industry. A Timber Conservation Board appointed by President Hoover resulted in a Forest Service report which led Hoover to ask for restricted timber sales from National Forests.

Forest research was greatly stimulated and the nationwide timber survey was begun with enactment of the McSweeney-McNary Act three weeks after he became Chief. Reforestation and stand improvement on National Forest land was boosted by the Knutson-Vandenberg Act of 1930. He put into effect a system of primitive, wild and natural areas, and based grazing fees on livestock prices. The Depression and the New Deal Administration of Franklin Roosevelt resulted in sudden greatly increased responsibilities for the Forest Service under Stuart. In March 1933 its big report to Congress, A National Plan for American Forestry (Copeland Report) was issued, calling for more public forests and their more intensive management. A few weeks later large funds were made available for forest conservation and improvement, research, and land acquisition, and the Civilian Conservation Corps was established. Stuart and his assistants worked at top speed to get the first camps established and forestry work there underway. Many new National Forests were established during his term of office, and field work began for later establishment of

National Forests throughout the South and southern Midwest. Stuart died October 23, 1933, leaving the new Chief, F.A. Silcox to carry on the expanded work.

Stuart was a native of Pennsylvania and entered the Forest Service in July 1906 upon receiving his M.F. degree from Yale University, and began work in the Northern Rocky Mountain District where he became Assistant District Forester in charge of operation and then silviculture, which included timber sales and planting. He served there under both Greeley and Stuart. In November 1912 he followed Greeley to Washington to serve under him again, as assistant chief of silviculture. After two years overseas in the 10th and 20th (forestry) engineer regiments in France during the first World War, where he became a major, he returned to the Forest Service, but only for a year. He resigned in 1920 to accept the post of Deputy Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania, serving under Commissioner Gifford Pinchot and then becoming Commission in 1922 when Pinchot became Governor. In 1923 his position was changed to Secretary of Forests and Waters. Early in 1927 he rejoined the Forest Service as Assistant Forester in charge of Public Relations, and a year later became Chief when Greeley left to take a post with the western forestry industry.

Like Greeley, he favored encouragement of fire control and good forestry practices on private land rather than regulatory action, although he saw great damage by forest exploitation^{at}. He believed better forest management would come about by increased scientific knowledge, more Federal-State cooperation, more and better State forestry agencies, relief from burdensome taxation, and the example of National Forest management. He advocated enlarging Federal forest holdings in the East, West, and Alaska to serve this function of practical

education by good example, and he urged cooperative study and action to insure orderly marketing of timber to prevent overcutting and land depletion. He saw that some restraint might be needed, but believed that should be left to the States.

In March 1934 the forest tree nursery on the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana was named by the Forest Service in his honor.

References:

Biographical sketches of Robert Y. Stuart prepared by Forest Service information staff, in file of History Section, Forest Service.

Henry Clepper, Leaders in American Conservation, (New York: Ronald Press, 1971), pp. 308-09.

"Robert Y. Stuart, Indefatigable Worker," by Henry Clepper, Journal of Forestry 59:11 (November 1961), p. 800.

Annual Reports of the Forester, 1928-1933.

Service Bulletin 17:23 (November 6, 1933), pp. 1, 2.

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Revised Version
Chief of R M Peterson
Feb - March 1983*

Robert Young Stuart (1883-1933)

Fourth Chief of the USDA Forest Service (1928-1933)

Robert Stuart was born on a farm near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on February 13, 1883. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at Dickinson College in nearby Carlisle, and entered the Forest Service in July 1906 upon receiving his M.F. degree from Yale University. He began work in the northern Rocky Mountains where in the great fire year of 1910 he became assistant District (Regional) Forester, for operation, and then silviculture, which included timber sales and planting. He served there under both William B. Greeley and Ferdinand A. Silcox, who both also became Chiefs. In November 1912 he went to Washington to serve under Greeley again as assistant chief of silviculture.

After two years overseas with Greeley in the Tenth and Twentieth (Forestry) Engineer Regiments in France during the first World War, Stuart returned to the Forest Service, but only for a year. He resigned in 1920 to become deputy Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania under Gifford Pinchot. Two years later, when Pinchot became Governor, Stuart became Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania and, after 1923, Secretary of Forests and Waters. Early in 1927 Stuart rejoined the Forest Service as Assistant Forester in charge of public relations, and became Chief a year later when Greeley resigned.

Although he was a Pinchot associate, Stuart, like Greeley, favored relying on encouragement of fire control and other good forestry practices on private land, rather than relying on Federal regulatory action. He advocated enlarging Federal forest holdings in the East, West, and Alaska to promote

practical education by example, and he urged cooperative study and action to insure orderly marketing of timber of prevent overcutting and forest depletion. He recognized that some restraint of private cutting practices might be needed, but understandably, with his State experience, preferred to leave that to the States.

Stuart's term as Chief saw forestry research greatly stimulated and a nationwide timber survey begun following enactment of the McSweeney-McNary Act; reforestation and stand improvement on National Forests boosted by the Knutson-Vandenberg Act of 1930; the implementation of a system of primitive and natural areas under the L-20 regulation of 1929; and the revision of grazing fees to reflect livestock prices.

The Depression and the New Deal resulted in greatly increased responsibilities for the Forest Service. In March 1933 it compiled a two-volume report requested by Congress, A National Plan for American Forestry ("The Copeland Report"), calling for more intensive management and expansion of public forests. A few weeks later, appropriations were expanded for forest conservation and improvement, research, and land acquisition, while the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps provided vast new manpower. Stuart and his assistants worked at top speed to get the first camps established and forestry work there underway. Many new National Forests were established during his term of office, and field work began for later establishment of National Forests throughout the South and southern Midwest. In 1933 Dickinson College conferred on him an honorary D.Sc. degree. Overwork must certainly have contributed to Stuart's sudden death at his desk on October 23, 1933, in his 51st year.

References: Henry Clepper, "Robert Y. Stuart, Indefatigable Worker," Journal of Forestry 59 (Nov. 1961): 800. Harold K. Steen, The U.S. Forest Service: A History (1976).

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(For FHS)

December 1980

Biographical Sketch of Robert Y. Stuart

By Frank J. Harmon

Robert Y. Stuart had served for 13 years in administrative forestry posts in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and for 7 years for the State of Pennsylvania before becoming Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in May 1928, succeeding William B. Greeley. It was a time of rapid growth of Federal-State cooperation in fire protection and tree planting, and in State forestry, but there was a continuing recession in the lumber industry which led to a policy of restricted timber sales from National Forests.

Forest research was greatly stimulated and the nationwide timber survey was begun with enactment of the McSweeney-McNary Act three weeks after Stuart became Chief. Reforestation and stand improvement on National Forest land was boosted by the Knutson-Vandenberg Act of 1930. He put into effect a system of primitive, wild and natural areas, and based grazing fees on livestock prices. The Depression and the New Deal Administration of Franklin Roosevelt resulted in sudden greatly increased responsibilities for the Forest Service under Stuart. In March 1933 its big report to Congress, A National Plan for American Forestry (Copeland Report) was issued, calling for more public forests and their more intensive management. A few weeks later large funds were made available for forest conservation and improvement, research, and land acquisition, and the Civilian Conservation Corps was established. Stuart and his assistants worked at top speed to get the first camps established and forestry work there underway. Many new National Forests were established during his term of office, and field work began for later establishment

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Revised
(Final)

Biographical Sketch of Robert Y. Stuart

By Frank J. Harmon

Robert Stuart was born in Cumberland County, Pa., in 1883. He entered the Forest Service in July 1906 upon receiving his M.F. degree from Yale University, and began work in the Northern Rocky Mountain District where he became Assistant District Forester in charge of operation and then silviculture, which included timber sales and planting. He served there under both Greeley and Silcox. In November 1912 he followed Greeley to Washington to serve under him again, as assistant chief of silviculture. After two years overseas in the 10th and 20th (forestry) engineer regiments in France during the first World War, where he became a major, he returned to the Forest Service, but only for a year. He resigned in 1920 to become Deputy Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania under Gifford Pinchot and two years later became Commissioner when Pinchot was elected Governor. In 1923 his position was changed to Secretary of Forests and Waters. Early in 1927 he rejoined the Forest Service as Assistant Forester in charge of Public Relations, and a year later replaced Greeley as Chief.

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References:

1. Henry Clepper, Leaders in American Conservation (New York: Ronald Press, 1971), pp. 308-09.
2. Henry Clepper, "Robert Y. Stuart, Indefatigable Worker," Journal of Forestry 59:11 (November 1961), p. 800.
3. U.S. Forest Service, Annual Reports of the Forester, 1928-1933.
4. U.S. Forest Service, Service Bulletin 17:23 (November 6, 1933), pp. 8-9.

ROBERT YOUNG STUART

By HERBERT A. SMITH

Assistant Forester, United States Forest Service

MAJOR ROBERT YOUNG STUART, D. Sc., Chief of the United States Forest Service, was instantly killed by a fall from a seventh-floor window of the Atlantic Building, the Washington headquarters of the Forest Service, on the morning of Monday, October 23, 1933.

The precise circumstances are unknown. He had begun the day's work betimes, alone, in a room that was probably overwarm. Rising from the papers which had begun to receive his attention (as was evident from their place and condition on his desk) he seems to have crossed to the Associate Forester's office, found no one there, lifted a window for air, and in a sudden onset of vertigo or fainting lost his balance and fallen outward.

He had had occasional attacks of vertigo for some time, had been indisposed over the week-end, and had almost yielded that morning to Mrs. Stuart's plea that he stay at home and get more rest. For two months or more, indeed, he had been suffering from the effects of the severe strain which the enlarged responsibilities and opportunities for forestry under the "New Deal" had involved. But he had held himself sternly to his task, with no outward evidence discovered even by his closest associates that his powers of endurance were becoming seriously overtaxed.

On the day of his death he was at his desk a full hour before the official time of opening. At the door of the Atlantic Building he had smiled encouragement and assurance to his anxious wife, as they parted. Many know that smile of "Bob"

Stuart's—of our strong, trusted, capable, loved leader; and we are sure that he walked that morning to his accustomed post of duty and his unexpected death with a will set to meet firmly whatever the day might have in store.

For in him courage, purpose, and high resolve were matters of course. With them were singularly combined simplicity, genuineness, heartiness, and friendly spirit. A very rock of a man in dependability and uncompromising loyalty of motive, he was also unassuming, approachable, deeply human, considerate, generous. There was nothing aloof, pretentious, or austere in his make-up. Of Scotch-Irish blood, he blended with sturdy ruggedness of character a quality of homely warmth, openness of sympathy, quick and deep responses and wide interests. He was a noble comrade, a staunch friend, a true American of the best kind; country-bred without provinciality, democratic without a trace of commonness. None could know him without admiration and trust, nor lose him without lasting grief.

The pages of the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY in one or two recent issues have disclosed a disposition in some quarters to disparage the quality of public leadership in forestry matters exercised of late from within the profession. While it is not uncommon for side-line critics watching the game to criticize the choice of plays, it does not necessarily follow that advance toward the goal would in fact have been facilitated had their desired field strategy been pursued. With all that has been said in mind, the writer cannot do otherwise here than express his deep con-

viction that both the leadership of the Forest Service and the exercise of such public leadership as was within his power by the late Chief of the Forest Service needs no defense, but has been throughout competent, sagacious, and far-seeing as well as deeply conscientious and inspired by the strongest sense of responsibility. Regarding the latter there can be, it is true, but one mind.

Major Stuart was born in South Middleton Township, Cumberland County, Pa., February 13, 1883. His early education was in the grade schools of Pennsylvania, at first in Harrisburg and later at Carlisle, where he also went through high school and attended Dickinson College. He received his B. A. degree from Dickinson in 1903, aided his father in business for a year, and then enrolled in the Yale School of Forestry, where he was graduated with the M. F. degree in 1906—three years after William B. Greeley, whom he was later to succeed as Chief of the Forest Service, and one year after Ferdinand A. Silcox, who succeeds him. In the same year he received the degree of M. A. from Dickinson College. Along with his fellow-students at Yale he thereupon took his place in that relatively small group of early foresters who began in 1900 to enter the ranks of the profession with an American training, and to follow the still earlier and smaller group of pioneer leaders. Upon them was to fall the major part of the task of establishing on firm foundations the great and ever-growing superstructure of forestry in the United States.

Forestry is too new a thing in the United States to have developed a substantial retired list. But the men who came from the forestry schools during the first decade of the century are today the veterans. The present outlook strongly suggests that forestry may be moving forward into a fresh period of rapid expansion and new adjustments. If so, the

year 1933 is likely to stand as a landmark, signaling the transition from the cycle of the first third of the century to a mid-century larger place in the national life. In the nature of things, it will be a period of changing leadership as the foresters of the second generation take over the rôles which their predecessors have hitherto filled. Of the latter many, it can be hoped and expected, will remain long on the stage; but the period which is peculiarly theirs is at an end.

To Major Stuart fortune assigned the rôle of leadership of the Forest Service during a half-decade when little progress could be made—a hard period of struggle against checks and restraints of many kinds. He fought vigorously and steadfastly to move towards new positions, and to organize the forces at his disposal for their most effective employment; he was given the welcome opportunity to see the way suddenly open ahead; but he was not privileged to go on into the land of fulfillment of his hopes. By his untimely death his record was closed at the turning point—if the future confirms that it is the turning point—when the cycle inaugurated with the advent of Gifford Pinchot had swung through its full course.

One of the striking evidences of Mr. Pinchot's early success in awakening the interest of the Nation in forestry matters was the number and the quality of young men who, as soon as technical schools for training foresters were established, turned to the new profession. For it was a profession with a wholly unpredictable future; those who entered it did so on faith. Compared with the numbers of the students preparing for other professions, of course, the embryo foresters were few indeed, in the nature of the case. The major appeal was to men with a readiness for adventure, a bent toward an outdoor life, and zeal for public service. That the result was to bring into the schools a highly

selected group of men is evidenced by reading the rolls of the early classes, thickly studded with names familiar to every forester.

Stuart's class was the fifth to emerge from the Yale School of Forestry. The Forest Service had been formed less than a year and a half before. Stuart had had a month's temporary employment in it, as "Forest Student," in the early fall of 1905. On July 2, 1906, he was appointed a Forest Assistant and sent to Montana, with assignment to the Hell Gate National Forest, under Supervisor E. A. Sherman.

After two years of timber-sale work, mainly on the Hell Gate, Stuart was promoted, July 6, 1908, to the grade of Inspector and attached to the inspection district headquarters at Missoula, Mont., with Sherman then its chief. On December 1 of the same year, when the Forest Service reorganization that converted the six western inspection districts into executive districts went into effect, Stuart became Assistant Chief of Operation in District 1. His promotion to Assistant District Forester in charge of Operation in the same District took place January 1, 1910. This rise in three and one-half years to a position which at the present time would not normally be filled by a man with less than 15 years of administrative experience was not an exceptional rate of promotion for capable men in that formative period. Directly above him were District Forester Greeley and Associate District Forester Silcox—who in 1911 succeeded Greeley.

On November 1, 1912, Stuart was transferred to the Washington office of the Forest Service and promoted to the second place in the Branch of Silviculture, acting as inspector under Branch Chief Greeley. There followed participation in four and one-half years of steady upbuilding of technical standards and administrative efficiency in the national forest timber-sales work. In the spring

of 1917 came the entrance of the United States into the World War; and Stuart sought and was accorded military leave, to take a captain's commission in the 10th (Forest) Engineers. He was overseas from September, 1917, to June, 1919.

Upon his arrival in France he was assigned to headquarters of the American Expeditionary Force, to assist in the acquisition of timber for the operations of the 10th and 20th Engineers—the two forest regiments. He was promoted to Major October 1, 1918, with assignment to general headquarters at Chaumont to assist in cordwood acquisition for the advance section. On February 19, 1919, he became commanding officer of the 5th Battalion of the 20th (Forest) Engineers and district commander of the forest troops in the Gien District. For his services with the American Expeditionary Force he received a citation from General Pershing.

He returned to the Forest Service July 19, 1919, but resigned May 15, 1920, to accept the position of Deputy Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania, under Gifford Pinchot as Commissioner. This was Pinchot's personal selection for his right-hand man on assuming the commissionership. Major Stuart succeeded to the office in 1922, following Pinchot's resignation to stand for Governor. On June 15, 1923, after Pinchot's election the previous November, Stuart was elevated to the newly created position of Secretary of Forests and Waters. This placed him in the Governor's cabinet and gave him one of the leading assignments in Pinchot's first administration of the affairs of the State of Pennsylvania. Among the varied duties which thus fell to him were service as a member of the Tri-State Delaware River Treaty Commission, from 1923 to 1927, and as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Sesquicentennial Committee in charge of the commemorative Exposition of 1926.

Upon the expiration of Governor Pin-



ROBERT YOUNG STUART

1883-1933

shot's term of office Major Stuart re-entered the United States Forest Service, February 16, 1927, as Assistant Forester in charge of the Branch of Public Relations. Including as this Branch does the conduct of coöperation with the states, the new position brought him into close touch with the public problems of forestry in all parts of the country, and not least in the Eastern States. These problems were carefully studied; at the same time the relations between the Service and state forestry agencies were strengthened and made more sympathetic than perhaps ever before. Upon the resignation of Colonel Greeley as Forester and Chief of the Forest Service, May 1, 1928, Major Stuart was chosen to take the vacated place.

In appointing him, Secretary of Agriculture Jardine acted upon the advice of Colonel Greeley, who had picked his successor just as he had himself been picked for the place by Colonel Graves on his retirement. The Forest Service is proud of its ability to develop competent leadership; and there was no question of the competence of the new Forester or of the wisdom of the succession. But the task assumed was one of manifest difficulties and perplexities; and these were not to grow less as the years passed. The Forest Service was strong internally, and under Major Stuart has made steady progress as an organization keyed up to render public service of a high order. Externally, however, the conditions were exceedingly unfavorable for pushing forward comparably with the forestry needs of the country.

The pressure for retrenchment in expenditures; the demand for curtailment rather than expansion of all forms of governmental activity, and especially of federal activities; the determined insistence on the superior capacity of state and local agencies, as against a central agency, to take care of the public welfare; the exaltation of business individ-

ualism, and the ascendancy of the counsels of the spokesmen for business in the shaping of public policies; the constant harping on the dangers and the ineptitudes of "bureaucracy"—all these were symptoms both of a state of the public mind and of a governmental attitude highly unsympathetic with advocacy of a vigorous course of action. The plain fact of the matter is that during most of the five years that Stuart was Chief of the Forest Service he had in large measure to spend himself battling against obstacles and adverse forces.

Some of the obstacles were due to the constantly growing complexity and cumbersomeness of the governmental machinery which has to be worked to get anything done. For a number of years there has been a conspicuous trend in the federal establishment towards setting up centralized checks and controls of various kinds, which act as a ball and chain on executive performance through divisions of authority, diffusions of responsibility, slowed-down action, and costly waste of effort. The burden of inertia thus imposed not only hampers effective performance—more disheartening than hostility or open opposition—but also depresses the spirit. When all the circumstances are impartially weighed, the degree of progress actually made in developing public policies of forestry and in enlarging programs and performances during Major Stuart's five years calls for admiration.

All in all his leadership of the Forest Service was a leadership of poise, vision, and competence. Without letting himself become swamped in detail, he kept himself acquainted with all that he needed to know in order to guide and decide properly. Never hurried, he was conspicuously accessible and prepared to consider promptly, carefully, and thoroughly whatever needed his attention. His powers of work were very great, his mind open, his judgment level, his de-

cisions clear-cut, his will unvacillating. He commanded in full the respect, trust, and loyalty of those under him, and was able to unite them in effective term work.

The Forest Service is not a machine which requires a driving power from without in order to operate, but has a life of its own. It was definitely a part of Major Stuart's policy, as its head, to foster the spirit of initiative and self-development which, for want of a better term, goes by the somewhat misleading name of "Forest Service democracy." Its essence is coöperation for a common end, plus an insatiate quest of new and better ways. As an organization the Forest Service unquestionably is stronger, more close-knit, and more efficient in its functioning than it was a half-decade ago; and for this the quality of its leadership, always sympathetic and encouraging but with no lack of firm control, must be given no small portion of credit.

In succeeding to Colonel Greeley's position as Forester Major Stuart fell heir to membership on the National Capital Park and Planning Commission,

on which he served continuously to the time of his death, with deep interest in its work. He also succeeded Greeley as chairman of the Forest Protection Board, made up of representatives of the various federal bureaus directly or indirectly concerned in the protection of federal timbered lands and designed to bring about a better coördination of protective activities for these lands. He gave freely of his time to the service, in various capacities, of the Society of American Foresters, of which he became a member in 1911 and a fellow member in 1930; in 1927 he was its President. He was a member of the Masonic order, and of the college fraternity of Phi Delta Theta.

He was married December 9, 1907, to Janet M. A. Wolson, of Harrisburg, Pa., who survives him, with their two children, Janet Crichton, born July 19, 1920, and Helen Roberta, born January 22, 1924. His body lies in the Stuart burial plot at Carlisle, Pa., where each generation of the family from the time of the Revolution is represented. On the maternal side the family history in Pennsylvania spans two full centuries.

THE STATE FORESTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

BY

SAMUEL S. COBB, DIRECTOR
PENNSYLVANIA BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Written in 1975.

Forestry, as a function of the process of State Government, came to Pennsylvania early. It was one of the handful of States to formally initiate a state forestry program prior to the year 1900.

The term "State Forester" has, over a period of many years, become the title attached to those individuals who have served as the chief administrator for the various State Governmental agencies that are responsible for the implementation of forestry at the State level. In most cases the individual's actual work title varies from State to State. It has also varied, over time, within a State. Such has been the case in Pennsylvania during the eighty years existence of its governmental forestry program.

For the purpose of this series of individual sketches I have selected, as the men to be considered the State Forester, those who served as the Chief Administrator for the forestry activities within the Department. These men have, as you will see, carried a variety of official titles. The term "State Forester" has never had official standing in Pennsylvania.

The man who succeeded Gifford Pinchot, to become Pennsylvania's fourth State Forester, was R. Y. Stuart. Major Stuart had served as Deputy Commissioner of Forestry under Pinchot, until the latter took leave to run for Governor in April of 1922. Stuart served as Acting Commissioner until Pinchot's inauguration in January 1923, whereupon he was appointed by the new Governor. He had already recorded an outstanding career in both professional forestry and in the military.

Robert Young Stuart was born in Cumberland County's South Middleton Township on February 13, 1883. His elementary and secondary schooling was received in the public schools of Harrisburg and Carlisle. He attended Dickinson College at Carlisle, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1903. He then matriculated at the Yale University School of Forestry, receiving his Master of ^{Forestry} Arts Degree in 1906. Upon graduation from Yale he joined the U. S. Forest Service and was assigned to duty on the new National Forests in the Northern Rocky Mountain area. There he served with increasing distinction under then District Foresters William B. Greeley and Ferdinand Silcox, both subsequently Chiefs of the Forest Service. In November 1912 he was transferred to the Washington Office as Assistant Chief of the Silvicultural Branch. He remained in that capacity until 1917, when following the entry of the United States into World War I, he took military leave and was commissioned as a Captain in the 19th (Forestry) Engineer Regiment. Stuart was sent to France in September of 1917 and assigned to the American Expeditionary Force headquarters. His duties were to secure timber for the 10th and 20th Engineers, the two forestry engineer units overseas. He was promoted to the rank of Major in October 1918 and later commanded the Fifth Battalion, 20th Engineers.

Stuart returned to the U. S. in June, 1918 and rejoined the Forest Service in July.

In May of 1920 he resigned from the Forest Service to become Deputy Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry.

During Major Stuart's tenure as State Forester, running from April of 1922 until June of 1923, he continued the work pushed by Pinchot in developing the forest fire lookout system, strengthening the new District system and in the purchase of land for the growing State Forest system. Then in June, 1923 Pinchot appointed Stuart to the Cabinet level post as the first Secretary of the new Department of Forests and Waters. In that capacity, as overall administrator of the Department, in which Forestry was now a Bureau, Stuart maintained a close relationship with the State's public forestry activities. He also served as a member of the Tri-State Delaware River Treaty Commission and in 1926 was Chairman of Pennsylvania's Sesquicentennial Committee which staged the great Exposition in Philadelphia.

With the end of Governor Pinchot's first term of office, Stuart returned to the U. S. Forest Service in February of 1927 as Assistant Chief in charge of Public Relations. On May 1, 1928 he was appointed Chief of the Forest Service, succeeding William B. Greeley.

R. Y. Stuart was to serve as Chief of the Forest Service at a time of momentous events in the forestry sphere. When the great depression struck and Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President, it fell to Stuart to lead the Forest Service into the hectic emergency programs that ensued. He was ready and willing and to his credit must go the start of the historic Civilian Conservation Corps Program and vastly expanded programs of land acquisition and road and trail development on the National Forests. To Pennsylvania, with its growing State Forests, the C.C.C. program led to much the same tremendous development in roads,

trails and recreational facilities as was true on the National Forests.

Then, suddenly on the morning of October 23, 1933, Robert Stuart died, in the best tradition of foresters and cowboys, with his boots on and at work in the dawning of a new week of intense activity.



SERVICE BULLETIN

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Heaton Roosevelt

Vol XVII No. 23

Washington, D. C.

November 6, 1933

Maj. Stuart was Appointed
Forester - 1928

WE MOURN OUR CHIEF

With grief beyond measure, the Forest Service records the loss of its loved, trusted, and honored Chief. Major Stuart died at his post of duty. Though ill, he came to the Atlantic Building Monday morning (October 23) betimes, to enter upon the work of the week. Before the official opening hour, his work and life had reached their sudden and tragic end.

Officials in all branches of Government Departments in Washington are deeply shocked by the death of Major Stuart.

Word of the tragedy reached Secretary Wallace in New York by telephone. "I am profoundly moved," the Secretary said. "Major Stuart was carrying tremendous responsibilities in connection with the emergency programs. His death is a great loss to all of us, both personally and officially. He was an efficient, highly respected public servant, not only in the national task of rehabilitating our forests, but also in the new and strenuous work of guiding the forestry work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and of helping with many phases of the public works program."

"Major Stuart made lasting and noteworthy contributions to American forestry," Assistant Secretary Tugwell said. "Under his direction we have seen the development of a cooperative policy in forestry, a policy which coordinates the activities of Federal, State, and private interests in timber and water conservation. The 'National Plan for American Forestry,' for which he was so largely responsible and which he placed before Congress during the last session, is a monumental piece of work. For the first time it lays the foundation for a national program of forest planning. This broadly conceived plan synthesizes the best and most forward-looking ideas in Federal, State, and industrial forestry and, when finally adopted, will guarantee the permanence and wise use of our forest resources.

"Under Major Stuart's leadership we have seen the development of a comprehensive forest research program as authorized by the McNary-McSweeney Act. We have seen a rapid improvement in efficiency of National Forest administration, resulting in a marked increase in the effectiveness of fire control which resulted this year in the lowest losses ever recorded on the National Forests. He was responsible for the establishment of the primitive area and natural area policy which insures the permanence of unmodified areas of forest land for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes; and for the establishment of a new policy of grazing use on the National Forests, under which the fees are based on live-stock prices rather than on a fixed-price basis. Major Stuart was vitally interested in and

saw the completion of the Forest Taxation Inquiry which proposes an equitable basis of taxing forest lands; he showed that a fair tax system should insure that conservation areas carry their fair share of the tax burden but at the same time should not prohibit or discourage their utilization for conservation purposes.

"I recently visited a number of the National Forests. I was deeply impressed by the efficient organization which Major Stuart supervised. I know that the entire Service and all citizens interested in conservation will miss his leadership in a field to which he devoted his life."

Major Stuart became Chief Forester in 1928. He entered the Forest Service in 1906 as a forest assistant immediately after his graduation from the Yale School of Forestry. For the past 27 years - with the exception of the War period when he was a commissioned officer in the Forestry Engineers' branch of the A.E.F. and for a time when he was Deputy Commissioner and later Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania - Major Stuart was engaged in conservation work for the Federal Government. He literally grew up in the Service, entering the Forest Service just one year after it was established under President Theodore Roosevelt.

Since 1928 the United States has made a large extension of the National Forests, particularly in the Eastern States. Major Stuart worked tirelessly for this acquisition program and was recognized as a leading exponent of Federally managed forests.

He was a member of the National Park and Planning Commission and of the Society of American Foresters.

We of the Forest Service knew him best and worked with him in his various tasks undertaken in the full spirit of the Forest Service ideal of the Nation's best interest. He earned our loyalty, our respect, and commanded our utmost effort. To the many tributes from his fellows in official life we add our own of affection and esteem and deepest sorrow.

A FUEL HYGROGRAPH

By H. T. Gisborne, Northern Rocky Mt. For. Expt. Sta.

In order to obtain more continuous records of certain factors of fire danger at lookout, smokechaser, and guard stations, automatically recording instruments are needed so that even when the station operator is away chasing smoke the record will not be lost. Hygrothermographs serve this purpose for humidity and air temperature, and recording anemometers are available - at \$225 each - for wind velocity. But until recently there was no method for automatically recording duff and wood moisture.

Last March, starting with a crude sketch that might have been attributed to Lucifer K. Butts, the writer described to M. E. Dunlap, of the Forest Products Laboratory, the objectives which we hoped to attain instrumentally. Matt promptly went into a huddle with himself, called a few signals to the instrument shops of the University of Wisconsin, and by mid-July "Mrs. Robot," as this device is now called, was on her way to a touchdown.

Operated continuously from July 20 to September 20, this instrument gave us the first minute-by-minute record of duff and wood moisture ever obtained. In addition, Dunlap had incorporated a wind record, thereby eliminating the \$225 cost of a single magnet register. The present instrument is, therefore, really more than a fuel hygograph, but the only other appellation proposed - "Forest Xerograph" - sounded somewhat too epideictical for everyday use.



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Thomas Roosevelt

Vol XVII No. 23

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November 6, 1933

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Henry A. Wallace

Rayford Tugwell

SERVICE BULLETIN

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Franklin Roosevelt

LIBRARY
U. S. Forest Service
REGION 5

Vol. XVII No. 24

Washington, D. C.

November 20, 1933

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1933.

My dear Mrs. Stuart:

Mrs. Roosevelt and I were shocked and deeply grieved to learn of the sudden death of your husband and send you our heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow.

Major Stuart's eminent services to the Government have earned the gratitude of the country and his loss will be keenly felt by all of us.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

When a layman first comes into contact with the Forest Service he is most impressed, if my own experience is any criterion, by the unity of purpose, the enthusiasm, and the esprit de corps to be found there. It is true that these things are a product of a vigorous tradition, but traditions of this sort do not prosper unless there is leadership to nourish them. In his kindly, unselfish way, Major Stuart supplied such a leadership during his service as Forester. He was true to the finest traditions of the Service.

Of Major Stuart's many contributions to the cause of conservation, of his unceasing efforts in behalf of the emergency program inaugurated by this Administration, it would be difficult to speak too highly. At the moment, however, I want simply to pay tribute to his qualities as a man. I shall always remember him with admiration and with affection.

R. G. TUGWELL

In the accidental death of Chief Forester Robert Y. Stuart of the U. S. Forest Service, the American people lost one of the staunchest defenders of the Nation's natural resources and one of its ablest administrators. In his patriotic devotion and vision, Major Stuart foresaw the far-reaching benefits of President Roosevelt's plan to improve the forests for the benefit of all the people and to use them for the special purpose of giving hundreds of thousands of young men a chance to work, to develop their abilities and character amid wholesome surroundings in the great outdoors, and to help their families out of the slough of depression.

When the call of duty came, Major Stuart was found ready, and at all times thereafter he threw his own energies and experience and the strength of his established organization into the titanic effort which made a great success of the President's emergency conservation project. His thorough knowledge of men, his familiarity with every detail, his unflinching interest and kindness, won for Major Stuart the respect and friendship of all those who with him carried the project through to its present high standing in the program of National Recovery.

ROBERT FECHNER

The members of the Forest Conservation Conference, inexpressibly shocked at the untimely death of their distinguished friend and co-worker, Major Robert Y. Stuart, wish to record at this time their deep sense of loss in his passing and their sincere appreciation of the sterling qualities that during his many years in the service of forestry have called forth the respect and esteem of all who knew him. In view of the unselfish service of Major Stuart through his many years, his great contribution to the advancement of forestry, his unswerving faithfulness to duty, and the high standard of personal integrity in public office which he ever upheld, it may be truly said that he devoted his life in the service of his country.

(Resolution adopted by the Forest Conservation Conference Meeting in Washington, October 26)



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Robert Roosevelt

Vol. XV111 No. 3

Washington, D. C.

January 29, 1934.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Harrisburg

November 15, 1933.

Bob Stuart was a Forester of great attainments and real distinction. He was a kindly and considerate gentleman - a man of good will in the finest sense. We served together in the United States Forest Service.

In the old days, when the fight to conserve and protect the National Forests against lumbermen, sheepmen, and other exploiters of that time was still in full swing, Bob Stuart was a tower of strength.

It was because of what I knew about his work in the West that I asked him to help me when I became Pennsylvania Commissioner of Forestry. I have always congratulated myself that I was fortunate enough to get him as Deputy Commissioner. His work in that post made it inevitable that he should be promoted to be Secretary of Forests and Waters in my Cabinet when I became Governor. And I am sure it was the high character of his work in Pennsylvania which brought him his well deserved step to the highest place a forester may reach, Chief of the Forest Service and Forester of the United States.

His death is a great loss to the profession of forestry and to the Forest Service. It is also a very grievous blow to his multitude of friends. Bob Stuart not only rendered services of high importance to his country and his profession, but his death left a great gap in the hearts of those who knew him.

He was my friend for nearly thirty years, and his departure is a deep and lasting sorrow.

GIFFORD PINCHOT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES In reply refer to
BUREAU OF FORESTRY RM-F
DO

P. O. Box 1467

February 10, 1975

Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

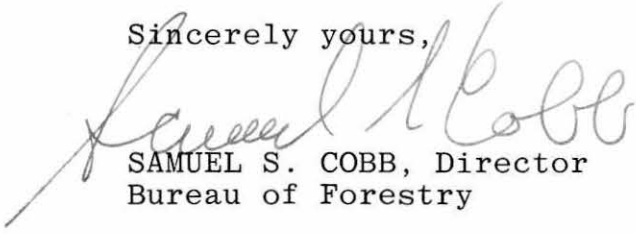
Mr. Frank J. Harmon
History Unit
Administrative Management Division
Forest Service, USDA
Room 4115 South Building
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Mr. Harmon:

I wish to express to yourself and through you to Chief McGuire, my deep appreciation for the material you so kindly sent me with respect to Major Robert Y. Stuart.

While I have not had the opportunity as yet to review the material in detail, a hasty perusal indicates that it is exactly the kind of material that I need for my purpose.

Sincerely yours,


SAMUEL S. COBB, Director
Bureau of Forestry

*I called 12-12-80- Richard Thorpe, 717-787-2703.
Asst. and - said he would check & send us copy if found.*

TO

Mr. Samuel S. Cobb, Director
 Dept. of Environmental Resources
 Bureau of Forestry
 P.O. Box 1167, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

3

Febr. 5, 1975

FROM

Frank J. Harmon
 History Unit, Administrative Management Div.
 Forest Service, USDA Room 4115 So. Bldg.
 Washington, D.C. 20250

SUBJECT

RM-F (Major Robert Y. Stuart)
 DO

MESSAGE

I am replying to your letter of Jan. 17 to Chief John McGuire regarding biographical data about Major Robert Y. Stuart, who served as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service from May 1, 1928 to Oct. 23, 1933.

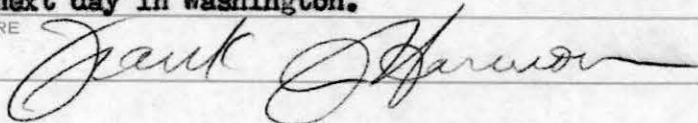
We do have some background material about him, of which I am enclosing copies for you. We have just had some more extensive biographical sketches made of our Chiefs, and I enclose one for you, although it is not a finished draft for publication.

We also have references to 8 articles written by him, in addition to the annual report of the Chief of the Forest Service, which you might want to consult. The articles are

- (1) Forestry in a New Era, Journal of Forestry, Vol. 31, No. 2, Feb. 1933, pp 111-116.
- (2) The National Forests Today, American Forests & Forest Life, July 1930, p. 405.
- (3) That 25,000-Man Job, American Forests, Vol. 39, No. 5, May 1933.
- (4) Exit Greeley, Enter Stuart, by Dixon Merritt, The Outlook, March 7, 1928, p. 373.
- (5) Recent Applications of Science to Forestry, Proceedings of the 5th Pacific Science Congress, 1933. Vol. 1, p. 567.
- (6) Relation of the National Forests to a Policy for the Unappropriated Public Lands, Journal of Forestry, Vol. 29, No. 3, March 1931, p. 316.
- (7) The Next 25 Years, Journal of Forestry, Vol. 28, No. 4, April 1930, p. 429.
- (8) The Relations of the Forest Service to the Mining Industry. Vol. 19, No. 3, March 1913, American Forestry magazine.

I presume that you know that he died of a fall from his office window on the morning of Oct. 23, 1933. He was to have taken a major part in a lumber code conference the next day in Washington.

SIGNATURE



REPLY

SIGNATURE

DATE



Routing Slip
CHIEF'S OFFICE

	<u>ROOM</u>	Date: <u>1/21</u>	<u>ROOM</u>
_____ McGUIRE	3008	_____ THORNTON	3013
_____ CLARK	3008	_____ ROGET	3013
_____ RESLER	3010	_____ NELSON	3016
_____ BARTHMAIER	3010	_____ McROREY	3016
_____ DEINEMA	3101	_____ HOUSLEY	3019
_____ SHIELDS	3101	_____ PETERSON	3029
_____ DICKERMAN	3007	_____	
_____ YOUNGS	3007	_____	
_____		✓ Tom JONES	

COMMENTS:

Tom -

Maybe "History" would have something on Stuart.

Howard

Frank - Will you please handle.

Tom

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES In reply refer to
BUREAU OF FORESTRY RM-F
DO

P. O. Box 1467

January 17, 1975

Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

The Honorable John R. McGuire
Chief, Forest Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Chief:

I am appealing to yourself and the Forest Service for assistance in a small endeavor I am undertaking. It appears that the background data on a number of the men who have served as State Foresters here in Pennsylvania since the founding of our State Forest Service is rather fragmentary. This is particularly true of about four of the men who served after Gifford Pinchot's two-year tenure as Commissioner and State Forester from 1920 to 1922.

The individual I am particularly interested in and would presume that the Forest Service would have fairly good records on is Major R. Y. Stuart.

Major Stuart served as State Forester from 1922 to 1923 before becoming Secretary of the then new Department of Forests and Waters. Since he left that position to become Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, I am in hopes that you have a substantial dossier on his career. Copies of any actual material that may be available and references to publications which we could secure would be deeply appreciated.

Thanking you for whatever you can do for me in this respect, I am

Sincerely yours,

Samuel S. Cobb
SAMUEL S. COBB, Director
Bureau of Forestry



ROBERT Y. STUART

Robert Young Stuart was born in South Middleton Township, Cumberland County, Pa., Feb. 13, 1883. His education was in the public schools of Harrisburg and Carlisle, at Dickinson College (B.A. 1905) and at the Yale School of Forestry (M.F. 1906). In 1906 he received also an M. A. degree from Dickinson College, and in 1933 the same institution conferred upon him the honorary degree of D. Sc.

He entered the U. S. Forest Service July 2, 1906, as Forest Assistant, and was assigned to the North Rocky Mountain District, in which he rose through successive promotions to the position of Assistant District Forester in charge of Operation, serving in that capacity under District Forester William B. Greeley and later under District Forester Ferdinand A. Silcox. On November 1, 1912, he was transferred to the Washington Office of the Forest Service and promoted to Assistant Chief of the Branch of Silviculture, under William B. Greeley as Branch Chief. He continued in this position until the spring of 1917, when following the entrance of the United States into the World War he was placed on military leave and commissioned Captain in the 10th (Forest) Engineer Regiment.

He was sent overseas in September, 1917, and assigned to headquarters of the American Expeditionary Force to assist in the acquisition of timber for the 10th and 20th Engineers - the two forest regiments. October 1, 1918, he was promoted to Major with assignment to general headquarters at Chaumont to assist in cordwood acquisition for the advance section. On February 19, 1919, he became commanding officer of the 5th Battalion of the 20th (Forest) Engineers and district commander of the forest troops in the Cien District. For his services with the American Expeditionary Force he received a citation from General Pershing. He returned to the United States in June and to the Forest Service in July, 1919.

In May, 1920, he resigned to accept the position of Deputy Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania, under Gifford Pinchot as Commissioner; whom he succeeded in 1922. On June 15, 1923, after Pinchot's election as Governor the previous November, Stuart was appointed to the newly created position of Secretary of Forests and Waters, with a seat in the Governor's cabinet. From 1923 to 1927 he served also as a member of the Tri-State Delaware River Treaty Commission, and in 1926 was chairman of the Pennsylvania Sesquicentennial Committee in charge of the Exposition of that year.

At the expiration of Governor Pinchot's term of office Major Stuart reentered the U. S. Forest Service as Assistant Forester in charge of the Branch of Public Relations. On May 1, 1928, he was

FB 5, 1929

appointed Forester and Chief of the Forest Service, succeeding Colonel William B. Greeley when the latter resigned. Under his wise and competent guidance the Forest Service continued the steady progress which characterized its history through the periods of his predecessors, Pinchot, Graves, and Greeley. (Among the outside duties which fell to his lot during his term of office were service on the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and service as chairman of the Forest Protection Board, made up of representatives of the various Federal bureaus directly or indirectly concerned in the protection of Federal timbered lands.)

Less than a month after the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt the Unemployment Relief Act opened the way for carrying out the President's plan for the organization of the Civilian Conservation Corps. New and heavy responsibilities were at once placed on the Forest Service; and these were greatly increased as the general recovery program took shape, through allotments of \$20,000,000 for the resumption and tremendous acceleration of land acquisition for national-forest purposes and of \$40,000,000 for road, trail, and improvement construction and maintenance on the national forests. Major Stuart responded with joyful eagerness to the heavy demands thus laid upon him and the Forest Service, as a welcome opportunity to advance forestry and the public welfare. His sudden death on the morning of October 23 as he was entering on the duties of a new week brought his work to an untimely and tragic close.

#

IN MEMORIAM

A radio talk by Ranger Bill (Wallace I. Hutchinson, assistant regional forester, U. S. Forest Service) during the Western Farm and Home Hour Monday, October 23, 1933 over Station KGO and eight other stations associated with the Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company.

- - -oOo- - -

Yes, friends, I have some news for you today, that to all us rangers in the Forest Service is mighty sad news. Our Chief Forester, Major Robert Y. Stuart, was accidentally killed this morning by a fall from the seventh story of the Atlantic building in Washington, D. C., where the Forest Service has its offices.

"Bob", as we rangers all affectionately called him, was not only a fine forester but a real man. I can say that with feeling because I've known him for over twenty years. There's a tragic note in his passing, too, because he was to have taken a prominent part in the big lumber code conference called by the Secretary of Agriculture for tomorrow morning in Washington.

Perhaps you'd like to know something about our chief - the man who was at the head of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers. His was a big job, for he had to supervise not only the work of thousands of men, but the protection and management of 161 million acres of National Forests throughout the United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico, an area one-and-a-half times the size of the state of California. Only a few weeks ago he was out here on the Pacific coast making an inspection of the forestry work that the C.C.C. boys were doing in the national forests of the West.

Major Stuart was born just fifty years ago at Middletown, Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish ancestors. After finishing high school he entered Dickinson College and graduated from there in 1903, then going to Europe to study forestry. In 1906 he graduated from the Yale Forest School, and later received the honorary degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Science from Dickinson.

Bob Stuart first joined Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers away back in 1906, - when a lot of us old timers were headed West. He landed up at our district headquarters in Missoula, Montana, a green forest assistant from "back East." But in six years he had worked himself up to the position of assistant district forester, and then they called him in to Washington, and made him a forest inspector.

During the World War he was one of the first to volunteer and he entered the Army as a captain of the 20th Engineers, Forestry. After serving over seas for two years he returned to the United States as a major, and took up his old job in the Forest Service. In 1920, when Gifford Pinchot was Commissioner of Forestry for Pennsylvania, he left the Forest Service to join him in his work, and then when Mr. Pinchot became Governor of Pennsylvania, Stuart was made Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. But he still had a warm spot in his heart for the Forest Service, so he came back to us in 1927 to head the office of Public Relations at Washington, and then on May 1, 1928, he was made Chief Forester - the highest position one can attain in the Forest Service.

(over)

And now, Bob Stuart has crossed the Great Divide. Never again will he look upon the snow-capped peaks and quiet valleys, the forests and the birds and flowers he loved so well. But his name will be emblazoned on the honor roll of foresters who have fought a good fight so that our children and our children's children may know something of the unspoiled beauties of forests and hills. And we, his rangers, who have tramped the hills and fought forest fires with him, how we shall miss him, miss his kindly spirit, his interest in our work and welfare and the inspiration that he always brought us to do better and greater things!

Yes, my friends, this old world would be a hard world indeed to live in if it were not for the friendship and inspiration of such men as Bob Stuart.

- - - - -

Stuart

3-26-34

4

OUR NATIONAL FORESTS

Forest Service Forefathers - Robert Young Stuart

It should be said of Robert Young Stuart ("Bob Stuart" to his associates) as of Henry Solon Graves and William Buckhout Greeley - "once a forester, always a forester." He lived and died a forester, from the beginning of his career to the accident which brought it to an untimely end.

Graduating from Yale Forest School as Master of Forestry, he immediately entered the Forest Service as Forest Assistant, and was successively thereafter Forest Inspector, Assistant Chief of ^{Silviculture} Operation in the Washington headquarters office, Assistant District Forester ^{for Operation (Northern)} of the Montana-Idaho District; Forest Engineer with the rank of Major in the A. E. F.; Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner, and Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters for Pennsylvania; Chief of the Branch of Public Relations for the U. S. Forest Service, and Chief Forester ^{five} for ~~four~~ years, ending October 23, 1933, on which day occurred the fatal accident which made him the first martyr to the forestry cause.

In Stuart's first year as Chief Forester, a new Forest District was established, the Lake States District, in which region the need for forest practices had become insistent. Forest-fire studies were carried forward at the forest experiment Stations in California, the South, the Lake States, the Northwest, and the northern Rocky Mountains. At the Southern Forest Experiment Station also, naval stores studies were pursued by Forest Service specialists. Soil erosion investigation was another major research project.

The fire season of 1929 was one of major disaster. Unfavorable conditions - even more unfavorable than those of 1910 and 1919 - put 1929 in the same severity class. The fire seasons of these three years have given abundant proof of the necessity for constant vigilance in the detection and suppression of fires. ^{for fire-control,} ~~As~~ direct evidence of the value of preparedness/~~is the fact that~~ ~~is the fact that~~ the 1933 fire season was one of the best in national-forest history, although burning conditions were much above normal in the Lake States and the Northwest. Much of the success in keeping down the fire danger ^{due to} was ~~the success of~~ the Civilian Conservation Corps. ~~is the fact that~~ Not only did the C. C. C. do ~~good~~ good work in catching fires while still young and disposing of them promptly, their very presence on the national/forests, and adjacent lands emphasized the importance of the forests and the need for care with fire and acted as a deterrent to incendiarism.

During 1930, farm forestry made rapid advances under the terms of the Clarke-McNary Law. Better forestry practices were adopted on 21,350 farms. ^{-30,} During the winter of 1929/~~and 1930~~ local unemployment was brought forcibly home to field officers of the Forest Service and some relief was afforded by hastening construction programs already financed. Opportunities for providing employment were greatly increased when the Act of December 20, 1930 appropriated three million dollars for the construction of roads and trails for protection and utilization of national forests. ^{Also} ~~During~~ the fiscal year 1931, special appropriations were made for insect-control work and administrative and range improvements on the national forests, and portions of the 1932 appropriations were made immediately.

available on passage of the agricultural appropriation bill, for the control of white pine blister rust, ~~and~~ construction and maintenance of improvements on public camp grounds, and for other improvements. The number of temporary employees put to work by these funds increased more than fourfold from January to June, 1931, in which latter month there were 21,568 relief employments on the national forests. Then, too, the recreational use of the national forests increased ten-fold from 1916 to 1931.

The fiscal year 1933 was rich in ^{forestry} accomplishment. It saw the publication of "A National Plan for American Forestry", a report prepared in compliance with the so-called "Copeland Resolution" calling upon the Secretary of Agriculture to advise the Senate as to the desirability of Federal aid to the States "in the utilization for forestation purposes of those areas in the United States suitable for forestation only." This report embodies the results of the most comprehensive survey of the entire field of United States forestry possible within the time and with the resources available.

Soon after this monumental task of the Forest Service had completion, reached/~~xxxxxxx~~ the Emergency Conservation camps entered the kaleidoscopic scheme of things, enrolling 300,000 men. Allotment for road, trail, and improvement construction and maintenances as a part of the public works' program to provide employment and to stimulate recovery amounted to \$40,000,000. The President also allotted by Executive Order \$20,000,000 for resuming and accelerating the acquisition of lands in the East for national forest purposes. Thus did the government forest work get a threefold impetus in one year, the effects of which can not yet be measured in renewal of manpower and improvement of forest conditions.

THE recent accession of Major Robert Y. Stuart to be chief of the United States Forest Service calls to mind anew the comparatively short time the Government has been befriending the American tree and the great magnitude this work of guardianship has now attained.

Major Stuart, the records show, is but the fourth in a vigorous line of succession whose accomplishment cannot be measured in years. The line began with Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief Forester and Rooseveltian conservationist, and was carried on by Henry Solon Graves and later by Colonel William B. Greeley, the immediate predecessor of the new chief.

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Since the Roosevelt-Pinchot days the problems of the National Forest Service have changed. The fight to arouse the public to the danger American timber faced at the hands of "predatory interests" has been notably well won. Crusading has given way to a policy of cooperation with States and private land-holders to the end that an effective check may be placed upon the peril of depletion.

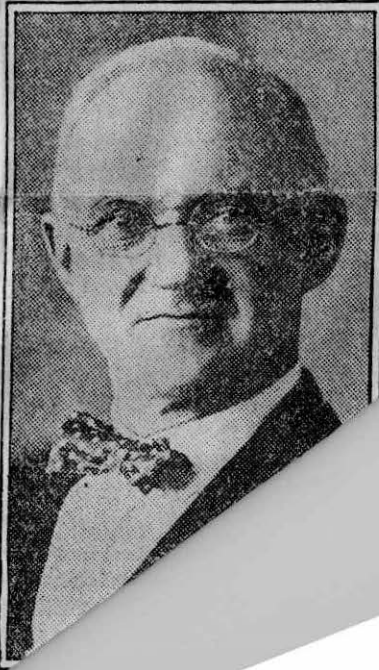
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Major Stuart's task is to carry on. To him falls the job of making the Greeley policy of cooperation with States and private owners bear fruit. By this means, or by whatever other means may become necessary, it is

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Keystone Photograph.
Major R. Y. Stuart.

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FLORETTA

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ft.—One of Transparent Velvet in a Lustrous Black, Centre—One of R
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R AUTUMN NIGHTS

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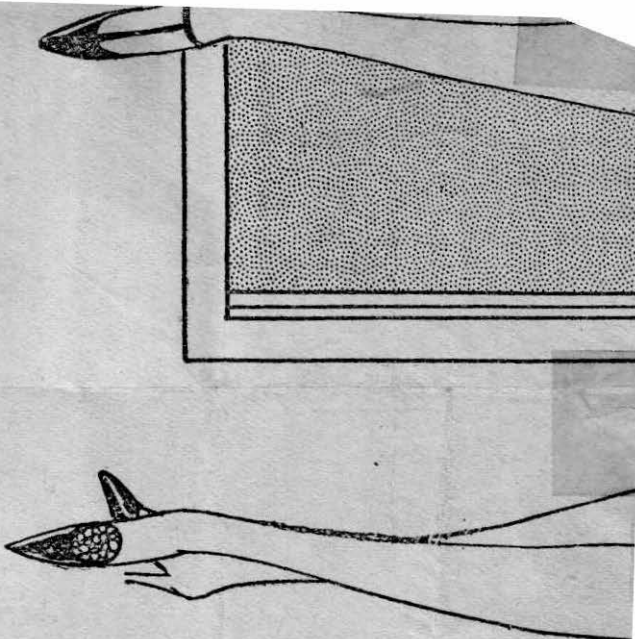
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NEW YORK TIMES, AUGUST 5, 1928

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Colonel Greeley's Work.

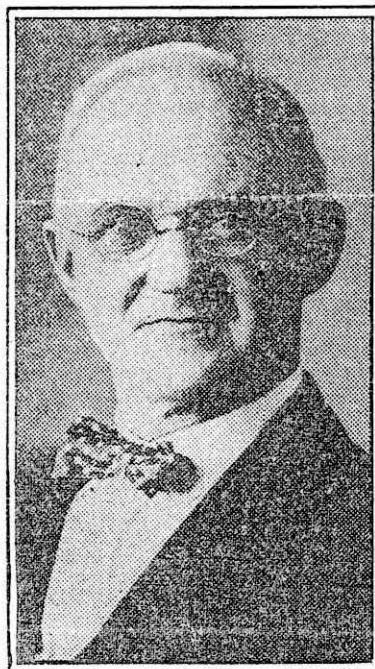
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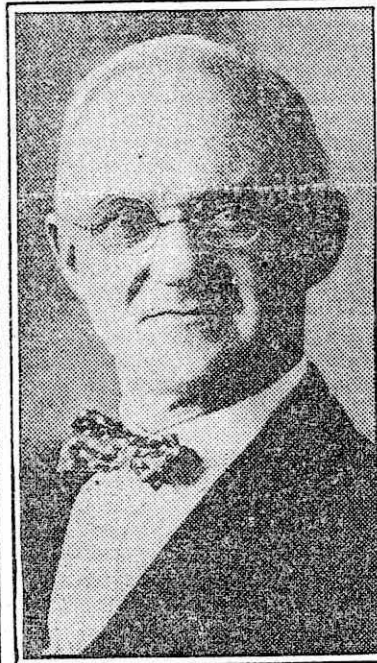
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Stuart
ADDRESS AT DEDICATION OF STUART NURSERY

June 17, 1936.

By E. A. Sherman, Assistant Chief, Forest Service.

I can think of no better way to honor the memory of an outstanding forester than to name a forest tree nursery for him. I can think of no better way to honor the memory of Robert Young Stuart than by giving his name to this particular nursery -- the largest in the South, and one of the largest in the world. For Major Stuart, as Chief of the United States Forest Service, was particularly interested in the expansion of forestry in the South, and in the reforestation phase of our national forest conservation program.

Creation of this nursery on the Kisatchie National Forest was decided upon before his untimely passing; it is, then, a fruition of his desire; the sturdy growth from a seed of his planting.

It is, I know, one of the characteristics of our age that we measure the value of things by their magnitude; to say that this is the biggest, the tallest, or that this was done in the shortest time -- cost the most money, these are common expressions of modern pride. But to sincere foresters, size and cost and speed are not the only measuring sticks; for the growth of a tree, of a forest, is a manifestation of Nature, and Nature spans more than the lifetime of a man. But when we say that here in the Stuart Nursery more seedlings than ever before are being grown and shipped to reforest more acres in the South than has ever been done before, we are not boasting of speed and cost and size. We are

expressing the pride of a job done which called for quick and sure action; a job that will bring large and continuing results in human welfare.

Through six years, Major Stuart, as Chief of the Forest Service, went through one of the most important phases of governmental forestry. It was a crucial period -- yet a period that caused few headlines in the papers. Glory, fame, -- these things were forgotten in his steady, incredibly difficult fight for an expansion of forest conservation throughout a country that badly needed strong leadership to save its vanishing resources. The job that Major Stuart took over on his ascendancy to the leadership of the Forest Service needed, cried for, a man of exactly his calibre. Strong, sure, unhurried, unflustered -- and hardheaded in matters he knew to be right -- he kept the Forest Service moving forward, strengthening its position, spreading more valuable information; moving toward that time he must have felt was coming when national attention and national interest would center as never before upon the Forest Service's function for the good of the nation. It is to the end of everlasting Justice that he lived to see our national policy embrace conservation as one of its major programs, in strong, liberal support of the principles he had labored to uphold.

His name lives on; his work lives on; his spirit is far from forgotten among the men of the Forest Service who worked with him, fought beside him, trekked the wildernesses with him. Without being too fanciful, I think we may consider that each of the millions of trees which will grow from the seedlings produced in the Stuart Nursery will bear some part of his indomitable spirit.

It is difficult for me to speak of "Bob" Stuart without personal emotion. I knew him almost as a father knows his son. After his graduation from Yale in 1906 his first regular assignment in the West was as my Forest Assistant at Missoula, Montana, when I was a Forest Supervisor. From our first meeting to the day of his death ours was an association of perfect understanding. During the first few years of that association he was my subordinate; during the last ~~six~~ he was my chief. I rejoice that no unkind word ever passed between us and that I never knew him to give utterance to an unworthy thought.

He was a Pennsylvanian of Scotch-Irish descent, educated in the public schools of Harrisburg and Carlisle, and at Dickinson College. After his graduation from that institution, he attended the Yale School of Forestry, class of 1906. In 1912 he was transferred to the Washington office of the Forest Service where he served until the entry of the United States into the World War. He was placed on military leave and commissioned Captain in the 10th -- or Forest -- Engineer Regiment, later being promoted to the rank of Major. For his services in the American Expeditionary Force, he received a citation from General Pershing.

In May, 1920, he resigned from the U. S. Forest Service to accept the Deputy Commissionership of Forestry in Pennsylvania, under Gifford Pinchot, one of the nation's great foresters and first chief of the Forest Service. Major Stuart was later made Secretary of Forests and Waters, following Pinchot's election as Governor. At the expiration of Governor Pinchot's term of office, Major Stuart reentered the Forest Service in charge of the Branch of Public Relations and on May 1, 1928, was appointed Chief Forester, succeeding Colonel William B. Greeley. He served until October 23, 1933,

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