

OSCAR EVANS

By Phil Haddock

We were working out of Placerville, on the Eldorado--although we did venture in our survey work up close to French Meadows along Chipmunk Creek. Unless boundaries have changed, the places we camped, and the alternate government sections cruised and mapped, were in the Eldorado Forest but in Placer County between the Middle Fork of the American and the Rubicon Rivers.

The project was under the late Oscar Evans of Region 5, Timber Survey Crew. I joined the crew after commencement at U.C. in May 1934--a week or so after they began the 1934 season on the Long Canyon project. Our first camp was on Ralston Ridge at Brushy Springs. The crew chief was Jack Mitchell. Oscar ran two camps that summer, and spent little time with us, favoring the crew on the Klamath (Beaver Creek Area) to a greater extent.

Others on the Long Canyon problem that (exceptionally dry) summer included F.R. "Sody" Sodolsky. (Later D. R. was on the Tahoe for many years--even yet.) Perhaps you know him--if so, say hello, but he may have retired. John S. Hall is the only one I've seen recently, and that was in 1968 in San Francisco. Others were Byron Beattie (USFS lately in the W.O.), Irving Pearce, Forest Bales, Elmer Hitchcock, Donald L. Burdick (long time Forest Engineer for C-Z in Washington), and Gus Hayes, who in 1953 at long last was working for Seagrams in white oak foresty in the Ozarks (I think). Norman Dole, Region 5 Office in S.F. was also there, if I recall correctly. I think I saw him in 1964 or 1968 and at our U.C. Forestry School 50th anniversary get together.

Our summer included four camps, the first one at Brushy Springs, then in July (I think) we had to use pack stock for a camp on Grizzly Creek (west of Devil's Peak) and another pack camp further east at a spring (I think it was on Little Wallace). From that spot we had great days in lonely sugar pine and several days conveniently ended our cruises--we took time out before climbing back out for a dip in the deep pools of the Rubicon, just below Hell Hole. The last camp was on the road at Lower Meadows where we stayed until we packed it up in late September about the time of the first snow flurry.

During that very dry summer we saw numerous rattlesnakes, dispatching 5 in one day on the South Ponderosa pine, block out slopes above the Rubicon. For the pack camp we had an old gray mare - Susan and a mule "Cleo."

Time marches on. I'd like to gab but don't want to seem a "gabby old man". I have two more years before reaching retirement age on the Faculty of Forestry here at U.B.C. and do have an interest in forest history (belong to the F.H. Society)--especially that of California. So someday I may drop in and bore somebody. I tried to contact Mitchell a few years ago but he never answered my letter. He was in Blister Rust control for many years, and the last I heard was instructing forest technicians in Susanville.

As a graduate student at U.C. I later spent a summer at Stanislaus Branch, '41 and '42 and other places for the Experiment Station, and for Perry Barr at Blodgett Forest near Georgetown, as well as instructing at Meadow Valley (Camp Califorest) on the Plumas (in 1938).

After the war, I left California for teaching work--first in New York, then Washington (Seattle) and since 1953 here in British Columbia,

This is long enough, so I'll sign off.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Phil Haddock  
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