

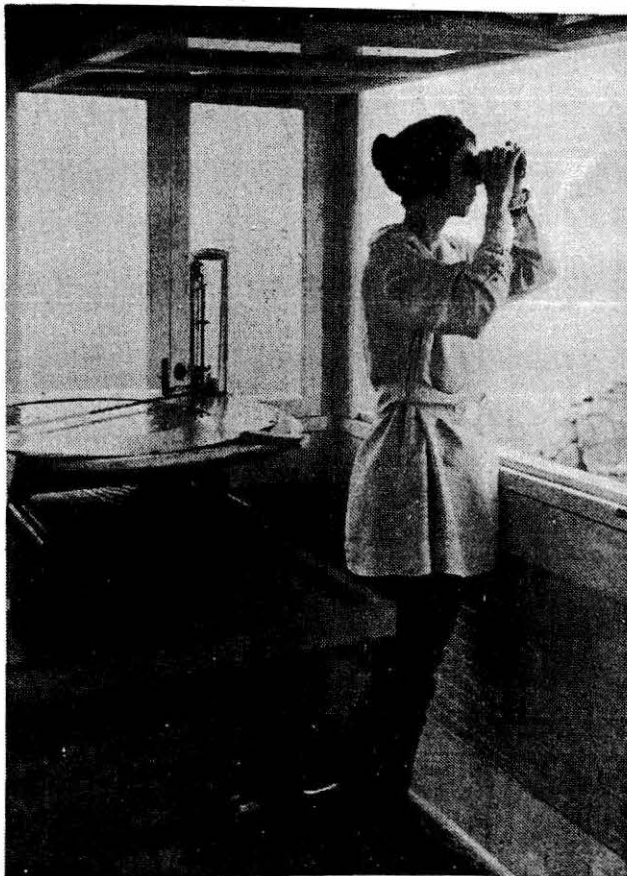
The figures on the totem which illustrate this legend are, reading down, as follows: Raven, with halo representing the sun; the three small figures, sons and daughter of the sun; face, Raven's grandmother; the descending Raven and the frog. On either side of the lower Raven's head are three fish representing the sea life which he saw during his journey with the frog.

-- Linn A. Forrest, Recreation and Lands, R-10

(Editor's Note: The term "Totems" and the sketch of the totem pole were selected to distinguish the historical-biographical department of the new Bulletin (1) because the word "totem" refers to a peculiarly characterized group or clan; (2) because the carvings on the pole are symbolic of memorable historical individuals, accomplishments and happenings representative of the clan; and (3) because this means of designation was considered different, colorful, and in keeping. Selection of biographical and historical material for "carving on the pole" is made irrespective of individual position or location. Suggestions and write-ups of Forest Service people, places or projects are invited.)

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WOMEN PLUG THE GAPS



(Photo, No. 42829A, by F. E. Colburn)

Miss Helen Dowe, one of the women Forest workers of the World War I period, "manned" the Pike National Forest's primary fire lookout on Devil's Head for several seasons. Intriguing feature of current personnel adjustments is the extent to which local women will replace men serving in the armed forces or employed in war industries.

Service-wide policy now permits the employment, during war conditions where qualified men cannot be hired, of properly qualified women at lookout stations when, in the opinion of the Regions, they can qualify as local dependent citizens, are not required to go to fires, and special circumstances apply which make the employment of lady lookouts appropriate.

Miss Dowe married John Burgess, one-time R-2 engineer. Mrs. Burgess has retained her interest in forestry and has given many talks about her experiences.

HELEN DOWE

Helen D Dowe Burgess

BIRTH 19 Nov 1889

Colorado, USA

DEATH 22 Dec 1975 (aged 86)

Denver, Denver County, Colorado, USA

BURIAL

Fairmount Cemetery

Denver, Denver County, Colorado, USA

Devils Head was the duty station for the nation's first female fire lookout. Miss Dowe served as fire lookout on Devil's Head from 1919 through 1921. Due to the shortage of able-bodied men brought about by World War I, Helen Dowe applied and was hired as the fire lookout during the summer of 1919, giving her the distinction of the first woman fire lookout in America. Her position drew national notice, making her a role model for women throughout the country. This was noted by The Denver Post (19 September 1920) that reported, "The success she has attained as the first woman fire lookout, and the widespread publicity she has received in magazines and motion pictures, have led thousands of girls throughout the country to make applications for similar positions." It was reported that she had received thousands of letters from women nationwide desiring to follow in her footsteps. The paper further stated that, "She has demonstrated that a woman is fully as efficient as a man as a forest fire lookout--probably more so." Helen Dowe spent three seasons as the lookout on Devil's Head. She was assisted in 1919 by Nina St. John of Ottawa, Kansas, and by her aunt the following year.

Helen Dowe was born in Denver on November 19, 1889. She grew up in Denver and graduated from West Side High School. She spent several summers at a resort at Palmer Lake where she was a riding instructor. In 1909 she is listed in the Denver City Directory as a teacher. It appears she began working for the Rocky Mountain News in 1910 and is listed as a librarian for the News in 1912. She apparently began working for the Denver Times later in 1912, where she was employed for nearly eight years as an artist colorizing photographs. While stationed at Devil's Head, she reportedly spent her spare time colorizing photographs of mountain scenes for the Forest Service and preparing a topographic map of the forest (Denver Times, 18 July 1919; The Denver Post, 19 September 1920).

During the summer of 1921 she participated in a survey of forest lands in southern Colorado. John Burgess, who had been a surveyor and draftsman for the Forest Service beginning in 1916, was one of the surveyors on the project. Miss Dowe served as "chainman." Burgess and Dowe announced their engagement on October 1, 1921, and were married that December (Record-Journal of Douglas County, 16 December 1921). Burgess continued working for the Forest Service until 1923, then became an engineer for the Water Commission in Denver, a position he held for over 35 years. After her marriage, Helen served as a topographer for the Forest Service and later worked as a draftsman for the Bureau of Reclamation. She died December 22, 1975.

Helen was born to the Dowe family somewhere in Colorado, as per the 1910 census, which also gives us her mother's name, LYDIA, born in Indiana in 1858. And the biological father was born in Massachusetts. Her mother Lydia remarried Fergus W Cochran before the 1910 census as it names Helen as "Stepdaughter".

District 2 (Cont.)

the bigger our business, the greater our usefulness.

The Permanent Order of Things to which we belong is a source of infinite strength, and the progeny of the forests now being planted and improved may grace the hillsides and mountains after the pyramids of Egypt have crumbled, and contribute in a great degree to the prosperity and happiness of our kind. So who can conceive a greater service than in contributing in however small a way to a work which must carry on, improve and extend as enduringly as Time.

The Forester, with Assistant Foresters Carter and Headley, and Inspector Kelley were in Denver for the week attending the allotment conference.

Mild Winter in Michigan: For the first time since the creation of the Forest Rangers on the lower peninsula of Michigan have been able to use their automobiles through the entire winter. The weather has been exceptionally mild and for the two months of January and February alone, an excess of 3600 above the normal temperatures has accumulated. The fire season has not been opened officially through reported fires, but the hazard on March 7 and subsequently has been equal to that of the same time in April in other years, as the entire Forest area is without snow.

Headquarters of the San Isabel Moved: The headquarters of the San Isabel are being moved from Westcliffe, Colorado, to the Federal Building in Pueblo, Colorado.

Planting Operations Started: This is the earliest spring in years, and nurseries and planting work have already started. At the Bessey Nursery, Nebraska Forest, all of the transplants were dug the first week in March and planting started on March 10. No such record has occurred since 1911.

At the Monument Nursery on the Pike, a crew started to work on March 16, digging trees and preparing them for shipment. Since these trees will be planted at high altitudes, it will be necessary to bury them in snowbanks until planting sites open up.

A pleasing feature in this spring's operations is the abundance of labor and the willingness of the men to work at considerably lower rates than were paid during the past several years.

San Isabel Relief Map: Miss Helen Dowe, the fire lookout of Devil's Head on the Pike, is in Pueblo putting the finishing touches on the painted relief map of the San Isabel Forest. The map attracted a good deal of attention while on exhibit in the window of the Denver Dry Goods Company, where it was displayed through the cooperation of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. As soon as finished, it will be placed in the "San Isabel Room" at the Congress Hotel in Pueblo.

Huber C. Hilton has been appointed to fill the Supervisor's place on the Medicine Bow Forest left vacant by the resignation of Earl S. Peirce. Hilton entered the Forest Service in July, 1911, and was employed in the Rocky Mountain region until August 1915, since which time he has been in charge of the Michigan National Forest.

Robert G. Schreck, Forest Examiner for five years on the Superior Forest, Ely, Minnesota, leaves shortly to assume the duties of Supervisor of Michigan.

District 4 - Intermountain District

Forest Pictures in Demand: The past week four reels of Forest Service pictures were displayed in two of the Boise movie theaters and at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital. Also, local Forest slides and a set of "Forest

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Devil's Head Photographic Trip, September 28

The thirty two members taking part in this trip were favored with an unusually beautiful day for sight seeing mountain climbing and photographing and the entire party enjoyed all to the fullest extent. Eight automobiles loaded full left the Library on Sunday morning on the Club's annual photographic trip. Jackson Creek and Devil's Head Mountain offers one of the most interesting one day trips out of Denver by automobile. One can make the climb to the summit of Devil's Head at an altitude of more than 9000 feet or can eat his lunch among the aspens along Jackson Creek at the base of this mountain. The amateur photographer seeking the more artistic in photography will find this the ideal hunting ground. Only a few members took part in this portion of the trip where some practical demonstrations in lighting composition and exposure were made. The balance of the party made the climb to the summit where there was a most magnificent view of Pikes Peak and the surrounding country. Miss Helen Dowe was their guide during their short stay and all were unanimous in their praise of this plucky little Fire Lookout in whose hands has been placed for safe keeping this National Forest

Trail and Timberline
Colorado Mountain Club
No. 17, January 1920

The First Girl Forest Ranger.

The Atlanta Constitution (1881-2001); Sep 9, 1920;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Atlanta Constitution (1868-1942)

pg. 10B

The First Girl Forest Ranger.

(From Leslie's.)

Miss Helen Dowe, of Denver, holds the distinction of being the first woman entrusted by Uncle Sam to act as fire-guard in the national forests.

Miss Dowe, who moved to Denver several years ago in the hope that the climate would prove beneficial to her health, is a newspaper artist by profession, and it was when she overheard her managing editor explaining the work of the foresters that she first became imbued with a desire to enter the service. Her ambition and efforts were constantly directed to that end, until she received her appointment as fire lookout in the Pike national forest in Colorado. It was merely an experiment on the part of the forest service officials, and the close of the summer season was to terminate the arrangement.

As is often the case, however, when "a woman is on the job," Miss Dowe sprang a few surprises that caused the decision to be reversed. Her artistic education became an asset in this new position, for she found ways of improving the forest reserve maps in such a way that the department was greatly impressed. Her clean record and intelligent management of the post convinced the officials in Denver that she should be kept on the payroll.

Making More Money.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Mar 31, 1921;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1987)
pg. 112

Making More Money.

Artist Tires of Confinement of Studio—Becomes Member of Uncle Sam's Forest Guard.

EVERYONE asks me how I happened to become a forest guard," admits Miss Helen Dowe, solo lookout in the little house stationed on the top of the "Devil's Head" in the Pike National Forest, in Colorado, "and I have to agree that it is a rather unusual profession for a woman. But I love it and, in addition to the salary, there's a great satisfaction in knowing that I am acting as additional fire insurance for the great trackless sweep of public land which extends almost as far as the eye can reach, even from a perch on the roof the world.

"Up to two years ago I was an artist on a Denver newspaper, but I have always loved the mountains. We have so much more chance to get acquainted with them here than easterners do and I had climbed and tramped all over them. My work inside an office seemed dull and confining after all the magnificence of the Rockies, and I determined to get out of doors every minute that I could. So I applied for a position in the forest service.

"It took some time for us to convince them that a girl would make a good fire lookout, and I did it, and I was sent to the Devil's Head station, where I have been for two seasons. I'll be back there in May, but I also hope to take the examination for forest rangers during the summer. That's been thrown open to women, you know, and presents another splendid opportunity for us to get along in the world."

Miss Dowe is versatile and it is a saying of those connected with the forest service that she can "build a cabin, paint one of the western sunsets or play hostess to visitors in her eerie lookout" with the same facility in which she keeps her eyes always open for the first sign of the deadly fires which continually menace the national parks.

Akron Weekly Pioneer (Akron, Washington County,
 May 16, 1919
 "Colorado News Notes"

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Article > View > Hits > > > >

and an increase of 25 cents a day for board, amounting to 50 cents a day less money, when they met to consider and vote on such a request from the mine owners. The prevailing wage is \$4.50 for an eight-hour day.

Miss Helen Dowe has accepted a position as lookout for the forestry service and will spend the summer on Devil's Head mountain, forty miles southwest of Denver. It will be her duty to report forest fires in the surrounding area of 7,000 square miles, which includes Pike's peak. Miss Dowe is the first woman lookout to be chosen for this important work in the Colorado-Wyoming district.

The women of Breckenridge yanked Summit county over the top in the Liberty Loan right on time with the rest of the state. The county's quota was \$30,300. The women alone brought

hip. Bridges took the gun away from the older man and gave him a terrific beating with it. Of the two, Cooper is the more severely injured.

Lambing now is under full swing throughout the San Juan basin and the sheepmen are receiving far better returns than they anticipated a few weeks ago. As a general rule, the annual lamb crop has averaged from 90 per cent to 120 per cent, but owing to the severe winter weather and the scarcity of feed it was predicted that this year's crop would be high if it averaged 60 per cent; whereas sheepmen now say the crop average will be from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

Jack Alfreds, of Craig, received news of the death of his former partner, "Tex" Evans, at an army hospital in France. When Tex went to Rock Springs to enlist eighteen months

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Shenandoah.—S. H. Marsh, Harrisonburg (WU); W. H. Stoneburner, deputy forest supervisor, Edinburg (WU); E. R. Conrad, examiner of surveys; Clarence H. Burrage, forest assistant; Helen W. Gordon, clerk.

Ranger District: Deerfield.—H. B. Eye, Deerfield.

North River.—J. William Bowman, Bridgewater.

Potomac.—Arthur A. Wood, Lost River, W. Va.

Massanutten.—John W. Crisman, assistant forest ranger, Edith.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Monongahela.—H. L. Johnson, Elkins (WU); W. H. Sullivan, examiner of surveys.

Ranger District: Dry Fork.—Charles E. Long, Gladwin.

DISTRICT 8.

ALASKA DISTRICT.

Alaska. Office, Juneau, Alaska.

CHAS. H. FLORY, district forester; M. L. Merritt, assistant district forester; B. F. Heintzleman, logging engineer; Wellman Holbrook, national forest examiner; Lyle Blodgett, pilot and gas engineer.

ACCOUNTS.—Louis King, special fiscal agent.

NATIONAL FORESTS.

ALASKA.

Chugach.—C. T. Beach, forest supervisor, Cordova (WU, P); L. C. Pratt, senior clerk.

Ranger District: Cordova.—W. J. MacDonald, deputy forest supervisor, Cordova.

Katalla.—O. A. Strand, Katalla.

Seward.—G. C. Haneman, Anchorage.

Tongass.—Charles T. Gardner, forest supervisor, Ketchikan (SC, U. S. A., WU); Robert A. Zeller, forest examiner; Marion C. Thompson, senior clerk.

Ranger District: Ketchikan.—J. M. Wyckoff, Ketchikan.

Petersburg.—J. L. MacKechnie, deputy forest supervisor, Petersburg.

Juneau.—J. P. Williams, Juneau.

Sitka.—George H. Peterson, deputy forest supervisor, Sitka.

Craig.—H. E. Smith, Craig.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Forest Service.

SERVICE DIRECTORY.

April, 1922.

This directory is issued semiannually, and is for the exclusive use of members of the Service and cooperating bureaus.

Unless otherwise indicated, the officers in charge of the individual Forests are forest supervisors, and those in charge of the individual Ranger Districts are forest rangers.

The express address of the ranger district is the same as the headquarters unless otherwise indicated.

(WU) indicates Western Union; (P) Postal; (C) Continental.

OFFICE OF THE FORESTER.

WILLIAM B. GREELEY, Forester.

EDWARD A. SHERMAN, Associate Forester.

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.

H. I. LOVING, chief of finance and accounts.

ACCOUNTING.—J. H. Kerrick, M. B. Baldenburg.

AUDIT AND TRANSPORTATION.—W. H. Shir-Cliif.

APPOINTMENT RECORDS.—Blanche A. Judson.

OPERATION.

ROY HEADLEY, assistant forester; Paul D. Kelleter, forest inspector; G. G. Anderson, assistant in personnel; Evan W. Kelley, inspector.

MAINTENANCE.—G. M. Randal.

SUPPLY DEPOT, OGDEN, UTAH.—J. G. Falck.

ENGINEERING.—Fred D. Mendenhall, district engineer; J. L. Brownlee, assistant district engineer.
MAPS AND SURVEYS.—J. Burgess.
Drafting.—L. S. Good.

NATIONAL FORESTS.

COLORADO.

Arapaho.—John V. Leighou, Hot Sulphur Springs (WU); L. C. Anderson, forest assistant; A. E. Straub, jr., senior clerk.
Ranger District: Williams Fork.—Walter W. Wolf, Scholl (Exp. Parshall).
Fraser.—Ralph A. Polhemus, Fraser.
Sulphur.—J. L. Glendening, Hot Sulphur Springs.
North Park.—Frank R. Crow, Rand (Exp. Walden).
Timber Sale.—Neil J. M. Horan and J. C. McCallister, Fraser.
Battlement.—John W. Spencer, Grand Junction (WU); D. C. Montgomery, executive assistant.
Ranger District: Grand River.—M. S. Hulse, Rifle.
Muddy.—W. F. Gilliam, Paonia.
Lakes.—J. B. Robinson, Cedaredge (Exp. Delta).
Mesa.—D. E. Basham, Mesa (Exp. De Beque).
Collbran.—G. L. Sanders, Collbran.
Chochetopa.—Fred B. Agee, Salida (WU); Clarence E. Taylor, forest examiner; Victor H. Frey, executive assistant.
Ranger District: Carnero.—Tibo Gallegos, Saguache.
Saguache.—Frank L. Trickel, Saguache (Exp. Moffat).
Bonanza.— ———, Villa Grove.
Ponchas.—Joseph M. Cuenin, Salida.
Tomichi.—W. E. Shropshire, Sargents.
Cebolla.—John A. Stavely, Parlin.
Colorado.—Wm. R. Kreutzer, Fort Collins (WU); Lee P. Brown, forest assistant; G. C. Hougham, executive assistant.
Ranger District: Boulder.—Ray R. Clarke, Boulder.
Ward.—L. H. Ulrich, Boulder.
Estes Park.—Josephus Ryan, Estes Park.
Buckhorn.—R. R. Willey, Masonville (Exp. Fort Collins).
Poudre.—R. C. McConnell, Bellvue (Exp. Fort Collins).
Livermore.—Gilbert N. Hunter, Fort Collins.
North Park.—L. H. Carr, Walden.
Timber Sale.—D. M. Fraser and Glenn Dalton, Foxpark, Wyo.
Gunnison.—Theodore Krueger, Gunnison (WU); Maude G. Bray, senior clerk.
Ranger District: Pitkin.—Jesse L. Trickle, Pitkin.
Taylor Park.—Wm. A. Potter, Pitkin.
Crested Butte.—Arthur L. Mills, Crested Butte.
Anthracite.—Edwin L. Miller, Baldwin (Exp. Gunnison).
North Fork.—Thomas H. Thurman, Paonia

Holy Cross.—Alve L. Richey, Glenwood Springs (WU) deputy forest supervisor; Frank W. Becker, *Ranger District: Sheephorn.*—H. E. Flack, Radium
Red Cliff.—W. M. Scanlan, Red Cliff.
Avon.— ———, Avon.
Eagle.—Wm. S. Brown, Eagle.
Frying Pan.—V. C. Holcomb, Basalt.
Capital Creek.—Harold B. Perkins, Woody.
Aspen.—L. C. Shoemaker, Aspen.
Crystal River.—R. M. Bradshaw, Carbondale.
Leadville.—Harold L. Borden, Leadville (WU, P); F forest assistant; Mary B. Hughes, senior clerk
Ranger District: Buena Vista.—James L. Frame, F
Leadville.—Harry J. Smith, Leadville.
Dillon.—Edward F. Heaton, Dillon.
Blue River.—Stanley A. Mahan, Dillon.
South Park.—Rolla C. Prater, Fairplay.
Montezuma.—A. F. C. Hoffman, Mancos (WU); Robert forest examiner; Chester A. Lee, grazing
Kennedy, senior clerk.
Ranger District: Mancos.—J. Ward Emerson, Mancos
Dolores.—H. E. Kauffman, Dolores.
Glade.—D. S. Thomas, Dolores.
Norwood.—W. I. Wilson, Norwood.
Telluride.—Rich R. Thomson, Telluride.
Rico.—James G. Cayton, Rico.
Pike.—Ress Phillips, Denver (WU, P); Everard S. K aminer; Jacob Roeser, jr., forest assistant
executive assistant. Monument Nursery,
planting assistant, Monument.
Ranger District: Clear Creek.—W. B. Kelso, Idaho
Jefferson.—J. B. Fitzsimmons, Cassels (Exp. Gr
South Platte.—F. C. Parret, Buffalo Creek (Exp.
Lake George.—R. H. Treupel, Lake George (Exp
Devils Head.—Fred Stell, Woodland Park.
Pikes Peak (N).—F. F. Poley, Cascade (Exp. Co
Pikes Peak (S).—J. H. Patterson, Colorado Spri
Rio Grande.—R. E. Clark, Monte Vista (WU); Walter
supervisor; Lillie M. Grubb, senior clerk.
Ranger District: Pyramid.—E. L. Bennett, Creede.
Creede.—Roy M. Truman, Creede.
Alder.—J. L. Nelson, South Fork.
South Fork.—J. A. Hagerman, South Fork.
Del Norte.—William M. Darley, Monte Vista.
Conejos.—Edward O. West, Antonito.