



National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

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February 2010

John F. Squires and the Logan Forest Reserve

By Scott Bushman

Bushman graduated from the University of Utah in 1978 with degrees in geography and history. He attended Utah State University in the Masters of Forestry program from 1981 to 1983. He began working for the U.S. Forest Service as an Youth Conservation Corps enrollee in 1972, on the Wasatch National Forest, in Utah. His career has been predominantly in Fire Management. He served as Superintendent of the Logan Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) for 20 years and retired in 2009 as the Assistant Fire Management Office on the Logan Ranger District. He served two details to Russia as IHC program developer for Russian Fire Protection Service. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Hyrum History Museum and the Hyrum City Library Board. He now lives in Hyrum, Utah

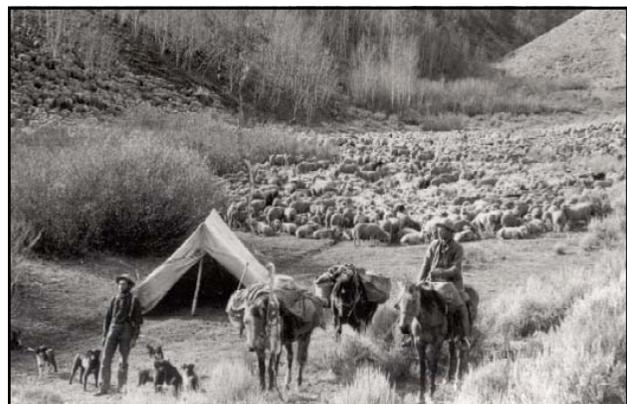
When Moroni Price stood in front of the Cache County Commission and let fly his assessment of conditions on the nearby Bear River Mountains there must have been both chuckles and murmurs of approval. "I've been here since the mountains were little hills, and not until recent years have I suffered for lack of a decent drink of water, but after seeing dead sheep and other animals that continually find a burial place in our streams, I have reached a decision to drink whiskey from now on."

Mr. Price's comments came during a lengthy public meeting held by the Cache County Commission in Logan, Utah, on February 15, 1902. The meeting's purpose was to address the deteriorating condition of the surrounding mountains due to over-grazing and deforestation, and to discuss the possibility of creating a public forest reserve. With overwhelming support, the Commission adopted a resolution to petition President Theodore Roosevelt to create a public Forest Reserve in the mountains east of Cache Valley. The Commission also created a Reserve Committee to oversee the resolution and appointed local businessman and educator Joseph Howell to lead the committee.

It is not known if the town barber, John F. Squires, attended the county commission meeting that night but it is possible. After all, the Squires Barbershop and Model Billiards Hall were located just two blocks south of the Cache County Court House, near the corner of Center and Main. As the town barber, it is likely Squires knew Moroni Price. What is certain is that Squires was a friend of Joseph Howell and well aware of the issues being



John F. Squires
Age 86 in "Rangers" uniform, 1934



Sheep Camp
Near Tony Grove Dipping Station, circa 1900

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National Museum of Forest Service History

A Nonprofit Corporation

P.O. Box 2772

Missoula, MT 59806-2772

Phone: 406-541-6374

Fax: 406-541-8733

E-mail:

nationalforest@montana.com

Web Site:

www.nmfs-history.net

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Membership Dues

Student	\$15
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Lifetime	\$1,000

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Campaign for the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center Moves to New Phase

By Dave Stack

The last three months has been a busy time for YOUR Board of Directors and the Regional Directors and Representatives.

The Board of Directors has discussed and approved: 1) The Organizational Strategic Plan; 2) Business Plan; 3) Capital Campaign Strategic Plan; 4) Campaign Prospectus or Case Statement; 5) Established the Capital Campaign Committee and 6) Elected four to the Board of Directors.

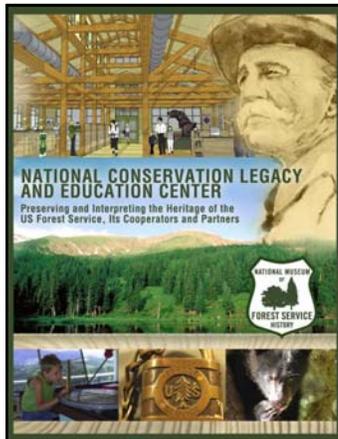
New Members of the Board of Directors: Keith Argow of Virginia and Larry Craig of Idaho were elected to the Board in November. Keith is Chairman & CEO of the Forest Fire Lookout Association and Larry is the retired U.S. Senator and co-founder of New West Strategies. Patricia Nelson Limerick of Colorado and Ted Stubblefield of Washington were elected to the Board in February. Patricia is Chair of the Board, Center of the American West and Professor of History, University of Colorado and Ted is a natural resource consultant and Forest Service retiree.

Regional Directors and Representatives provide additional local contacts with prospective donors and NMFSH Members. Larry Gadt is the National Director. Committee members include: Lynn Biddison, AZ; Denny Bungarz, CA; Jerry Coutant, GA; Bjorn Dahl, CO; Jerry Gause, CA; Tom Hamilton, WI; Dave Jolly, AL; Jim LaBau, AK; Jack Lavin, ID; Douglas Leisz, CA; Steve Mealey, OR; George Roby, CA; Dave Scott, OR; John Sherrod, AK; Dick Smith, ID; Lynn Sprague, ID; and Dave Wright, ID.

Campaign Prospectus -- The plans for the [National Conservation Legacy and Education Center](#) are described in a new full-color booklet. The Center is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the heritage of the Forest Service, its cooperators and partners. See the Site and Floor plans on the NMFSH website, (www.nmfs-history.net/news/architecture.html) Thanks also to John Jenott of Fort Jones CA for the Gifford Pinchot painting, shown on the cover .

Capital Campaign Committee: Chair Larry Gadt and Members: Keith Argow, Lynn Biddison, Dave Jolly, Douglas R. Leisz, Tom Pettigrew, Lynn Sprague, Dave Stack, and Tom Thompson. The Committee meets every two weeks with Board member and Campaign Co-Chair Max Peterson and campaign consultants, Liz Madison and Jennifer Flaster.

Thanks to the hard work of our Capital Campaign Committee, we have applied to a charitable foundation, corporate foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities with requests totaling \$1 million. These funds will help us meet our goal of attracting the \$9.5 million needed to meet the capital campaign goal of \$12.7 million and open the Center in 2012. Individual gifts will help us match the grant funds we are requesting. Each potential funders requests that we provide updates on all contributions while they consider our grant applications.



Prospectus Cover

\$32,141 received from 2009 Reunion Committee

The Reunion Committee, Beryl Johnston, Chair, donated all remaining funds to the NMFSH after all reunion expenses were paid. The Board of Directors thanks the Reunion Committee and all volunteers for a successful Forest Service 2009 Reunion and their donation to support the NMFSH!

discussed at the Reserve meeting that night. He had seen first hand the rapid deterioration of range, water and timber quality in the nearby mountains over the last twenty years.

In Utah, early pioneer settlement in the mid-1800s was characterized by small agricultural towns, with an emphasis on community living and self sufficiency. Agriculture was centered on small farms, household gardens, raising livestock and growing alfalfa and hay for feed. Livestock was generally kept in valley pastures in the winter months and set loose to graze in the high mountain pastures in the summers. In 1880, 10,000 sheep from Cache Valley grazed in the surrounding mountains. By 1900, that number had risen to an estimated 300,000, and the resulting impact to the mountain pasture, timber and watershed had been disastrous.

By 1880, Utah was changing both economically and socially. With the coming of the railroad in the late 1860s, the territory was moving from isolation and self sufficiency to commercial integration with the rest of the country. Sheep and cattle were becoming big business with Eastern markets available by railroad. The mountain pastures of the Wasatch and Bear River ranges, with rail access close at hand, proved ideal for local and regional business interests. Herds were brought into the area in the early spring, released into the mountains to graze through the summer and then shipped either to market or to winter pastures in the fall. Because of the long standing conflict between the federal government and the Mormon Church over the practice of polygamy, Utah remained a territory until 1896. This meant little or no government oversight. The range was free and unregulated. According to local sheep man, William H. Smart, “the range was being ruined, the streams were polluted—full of silt, and often flooding—and the citizens were getting angry.” It couldn’t last.

With the adoption of the Reserve proposal by the Cache County Commission in February 1902, events moved rapidly. The petition was sent to President Roosevelt and, on May 12, 1902, the General Land Office removed the proposed Reserve from “settlement, entry or purchase.” Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester for the Bureau of Forestry, had been appointed by President Roosevelt to oversee the establishment of Forest Reserves under the Department of Interior. Pinchot sent friend and newly appointed “Boundary Man,” Albert F. Potter, to Logan to investigate the Reserve proposal. Potter was directed to meet with local community leaders, assess support for a reserve, survey the proposed reserve and report back to Washington. Potter’s report, along with numerous



Logan Reserve, Utah, 1902

From Albert F. Potter’s report on the proposed Logan Reserve. Shows burnt spruce and fir forest that has been grazed

US Forest Service Photo

photographs taken of the area, confirmed the ruinous conditions in the Bear River Range.

On March 4, 1903, Logan Reserve committee member, Joseph Howell, was elected to the U.S. House of Representative as a Republican. Howell was now in a perfect position to lobby for the Reserve. In May, President Roosevelt undertook a cross country, whistle-stop tour of the West to advocate his new land conservation and reserve programs. In mid-May, the President met with conservationist John Muir to discuss the creation of a National Park in Yosemite. On his return trip to Washington, Roosevelt stopped in Salt Lake City, where he gave a speech in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. During his speech, Roosevelt declared the establishment of the Logan Forest Reserve. “Our mountain forests must be preserved from the harm done by over-grazing,” Roosevelt said to thundering applause. “Almost every industry depends in some more or less vital way upon the preservation of the forests. And while citizens die, the government and the nation do not die and we are bound to use such foresight in using our forests and ranges as will keep them for those who are to come after us.” The date was May 29, 1903, the same day legendary entertainer, Bob Hope, was born.

With the Logan Forest Reserve now a reality, it fell to Congressman Joseph Howell to appoint a new Reserve Supervisor. The offer went to his friend and barber, John Fell Squires of Squires Model Billiards and Barbershop in Logan, Utah. Howell knew Squires “as a man who loved to get out in the mountains a great deal.” The choice of Squires proved to be both wise and instrumental in creating local support for the Reserve and later the Cache National

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Forest.

John F. Squires was born in England in 1846, where his parents became early converts to the Mormon Church. The Squires family immigrated to the United States in 1853 and settled in Central Utah, where Squires' father, John Squire senior, opened a barbershop and John Jr. worked on the family farm. At the age of nineteen, Squires was drafted into the Territorial Militia where he served for three years fighting in the Blackhawk Indian War. After the war, the Squires Family moved to Salt Lake City where John senior opened another barbershop. In 1872, John Jr., now trained in the family business, moved to Cache Valley in northern Utah where he opened the valley's first barbershop. Over the years, Squires

expanded his barbershop to include a drug store and a billiards hall. During these years, he established himself as a community leader, businessman and a lover of the outdoors. His reputation

was such that when Church leader Brigham Young traveled to Southern Idaho to negotiate a treaty with the Shoshone Indians, he requested Squires to accompany him as traveling companion and personal barber. When Joseph Howell approached Squires about taking on the Reserve, Squires was in his mid-50s, receiving a small veteran's pension from his Blackhawk War days and barbering at his own leisure. At a time in life when most men are thinking of retirement, John Squires jumped at the offer.

Squires first order of business was to establish a Reserve Headquarters, which he did—above his drugstore on 21 West Center Street. He then hired two "Reserve Assistants," James Leatham for the south end and Dave Theure for the north end. Next, Squires did the unthinkable. He began to issue grazing permits. Within two years, the number of sheep grazing on the Forest Reserve was cut in half. To better manage the Reserve and, as he put it, "keep an eye on the herders," Squires and his Reserve Assistants begin building Guard Stations. These stations gave the Reserve rangers a place to work out of during the summer field season which lasted from

"snow melt to snow fall." It was normal for rangers to spend 100 days each summer in the saddle and a roof over head must have seemed a well deserved luxury. The Tony Station at the Tony Lake turn off was built in 1907 to regulate and monitor sheep herds as they were "dipped" prior to being released onto the range. The Tony Station still stands today and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

By 1906 Squires, now in his late 50s, was feeling the strain of balancing his local business interests and his Reserve responsibilities. The National Forest system had been established in 1905 under the Department of Agriculture, with Gifford Pinchot as the new Chief. At that time the Logan Reserve became the Bear River

National Forest, with Squires as the new Forest Supervisor. In 1908, the name was changed to the Cache National Forest. The new National Forest



Willard W. Clark's Forestry Class

Utah Agricultural College, Summer 1907. Clark is standing front center with right hand in pocket.

greatly enlarged the old Reserve, incorporating a large portion of Southeast Idaho and Northern Utah. Because of the ever growing workload, Squires requested that the Forest Service find a new Supervisor. However, not wanting to completely give up his position in the Forest Service, he agreed to remain as the Assistant Supervisor at a decrease in pay.

The man selected as the new Supervisor was Willard Weld Clark. Young, enthusiastic and energetic—with a Forestry degree from Cornell University, Clark represented Pinchot's new Forest Service. He was passionate, professional and educated in the science of modern forestry. He made a good balance to Squires' homegrown, practical approach to land management. As the new Forest Supervisor, Clark greatly benefited from Squire's local knowledge and public respect. While the local paper made note of some good natured kidding between the "Eastern College" boy and the "old pioneer veteran" by all accounts they got along well. As Squires focused on the field, Clark begin working on building a new Forest Administrative organization. In 1907, Clark established and taught a new Forestry Short Course at the

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K.D. Swan Photo Documentary on Montana PBS

Northern Region Photographer 1911—1947

By **Joe Nickell** of the Missoulian Newspaper

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As a longtime employee of the U.S. Forest Service, Marcia Hogan was well aware of the photographs of K.D. Swan. A Montana-based Forest Service employee himself from 1911-1947, Swan spent his career documenting some of the most breathtaking landscapes of the Northwest in large-format black-and-white images that populated Forest Service offices and brochures for decades.

But when Hogan and fellow Forest Service employee Libby Langston visited an exhibition of Swan's photography several years ago, the pair found themselves intrigued by a seemingly simple yet surprisingly vexing question: Why did Swan devote so much time and physical energy to photography?

"I'm a photographer, too," said Langston, "and I know it must have been really difficult to take those photographs in such remote locations with such cumbersome equipment. I really respect that dedication ... and so we just started thinking about doing a documentary about him."

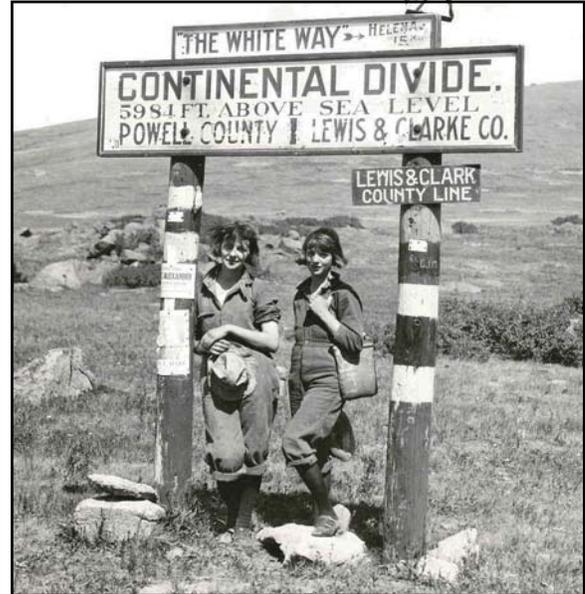
That documentary, titled "The World of K.D. Swan, Early 20th Century Photographer and Conservationist," will air statewide twice this weekend, on Montana PBS. In 25 minutes of interviews layered with approximately 120 of Swan's photographs, the documentary explores the personal story and historical context of the Massachusetts-born photographer who helped change the way Americans view their national forests.

Hogan said that figuring out who Swan was proved to be the easy part, thanks to his daughter, Helen Swan Bolle, and longtime Forest Service ranger Bud Moore, whose career overlapped Swan's.

"That part of the project was great, because we had two people in their 90s who knew him and could tell us about him," said Hogan. "So we were able to get a pretty good sense, I think, of who he was."

But still, the question remained: Why did the U.S. Forest Service – which was still in its infancy when the Harvard-educated Swan was hired to work on the Jefferson National Forest (now known as the Lewis and Clark National Forest) in 1911 – devote the time and resources to allow Swan to shoot thousands of photographs over his career?

To answer that question, Hogan and Langston turned to several historians, including Carlie Magill; Char Miller, the leading forestry historian in the country; and Mary Murphy, a professor at Montana State University.



Hikers at Priest Pass 1922

K.D. Swan Photo

Helena National Forest, Montana

What they learned was a surprise to them.

"Before Swan was hired, when they created the national forests, it was radical and controversial – this idea of the government withdrawing hundreds of thousands of acres from the public domain and saying land is a public asset that should be managed for conservation," explained Hogan. "So because that was radical and controversial, they felt they had to advocate for it, and photography became very important to that."

Much of that inspiration in fact traces to the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot. Named after the famous American landscape painter Sanford Robinson Gifford, who was a family friend, Pinchot was raised in a family that had earned its fortunes in the lumber industry. When then-President Theodore Roosevelt tapped Pinchot to lead the newly formed Forest Service in 1905, Pinchot soon began advocating for the importance of documenting the agency's assets to help sway public opinion in favor of the "radical" approach to land management.

"He grew up with this appreciation for images, and so from the start, he understood the power of photography in his work," said Hogan. "Images trumped information for him. By hiring people like Swan, the Forest Service ended up with this huge amount of images to document and convey the

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Memorials established to HONOR current and former employees, partners and groups since the last newsletter:

Robert E. "Bob" Peterson — nominated by Arthur J. Carroll

Robert W. Tice — nominated by Mary L. Tice

Forest Service History Memorials honor the living or memorialize deceased persons. For a minimum \$100 donation, we will format the biography and a photo submitted and maintain a record in our Forest Service History Memorial Book and on our web site.

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Glenn Storms

LOGAN, continued from page 4

State Agricultural College in Logan, teaching modern forestry practices to the largely rural, ranch oriented men, who made up the majority of rangers in the western Forests. Sadly, it was Clark's lack of practical "field knowledge" that was his undoing. Determined to master western horsemanship, he purchased a fine and spirited, but not-quite-broke horse. While mounting the horse at Card Guard Station, Clark lost control of the horse and was bucked into the air. Clark landed on the saddle horn on his stomach which caused an internal hemorrhage. Clark insisted he was all right but decided to stay at the cabin to rest before returning to Logan. He died three days later of what was determined to be pneumonia. Squires was reassigned as the Forest Supervisor until a replacement could be found for Clark.

Squires served as Cache National Forest Supervisor twice more as successive Forest Supervisors were transferred or promoted. In 1913, he transferred to the Regional Office in Ogden, where he worked until he retired in 1918 at the age of 72. Upon retiring, Squires returned to barbering but remained active in local Forest issues.

John Squires had reputation as "a man who knew the ground." On two occasions when Gifford Pinchot came to Utah to inspect National Forests, Squires was asked to ride with the Chief as guide and companion. The two men developed a warm and lasting friendship. In 1934, at the age of 86, Squires was selected to ride in the Logan Pioneer Day parade as Grand Marshal. Squires had his

picture taken wearing his old Reserve uniform and sitting on his horse. He sent a copy of the photograph to his old friend, Gifford Pinchot, then the governor of Pennsylvania. Pinchot wrote back as follows:

My dear Mr. Squires,

Your highly welcome letter just received, brings back to me the most delightful memories of very enjoyable times spent in the west years ago, and that photograph of yourself is a dandy. I can't begin to tell you how I appreciate your sending it to me. It was most thoughtful of you in every way.

Any honor that the people of Logan do you is, I am sure, merely a recognition of the full and helpful life you have lived and I congratulate both you and them on their action.

I am having days here just as strenuous as the old ones, but I am making progress on worthwhile things, and am enjoying the battle tremendously.

With every kind of good wish to you, and renewed thanks for your letter, which has given me very real pleasure, believe me.

Sincerely Yours,

GIFFORD PINCHOT



SWAN, continued from page 5

importance of these places, to enforce the idea that these are beautiful places that belong to the American public."

Hogan and Langston, who previously collaborated on a documentary about Primm's Meadow for Five Valleys Land Trust, said making a documentary about Swan proved educational even to them, as longtime Forest Service employees.

"Photography back then altered the way people apprehended the world," said Hogan. "It literally introduced the West to the East. I think today, it's hard for us to imagine the role of photography at the turn of the century. We're so bombarded with it now, we're a little desensitized to it. So it was interesting to go back and put ourselves in that mind-set and realize the role that Swan played in helping the American people understand

what the Forest Service was really about."

About 120 K.D. Swan photographs are used in the documentary "The World of K.D. Swan, Early 20th Century Photographer and Conservationist".

Order the 23-minute DVD from: Hogan Facilitation Services, 301 Keith Ave., Missoula, MT 59801

Cost: \$15.00 each + \$5.00 shipping/handling. Address check to Hogan Facilitation Services. 20% of proceeds go to the NMFSH. Email questions to marcialhogan@aol.com



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