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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Retiree Recollections

INTERVIEWEE: C. Sydney Tremewan

INTERVIEWER: Victor Goodwin, Humboldt National Forest
George Gruell, Wildlife Staff, Humboldt National Forest

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INTERVIEW BETWEEN C. S. TREMEWAN AND VICTOR GOODWIN

This is an interview between Victor Goodwin and C. S. Tremewan, known to his Elko friends as Syd Tremewan. We are going to endeavor to not only get down Syd's reminiscences and recollections of his career in the early Forest Service in Northern Nevada, but also some of his impressions of the early livestock and range conditions in this range area of Nevada.

Perhaps it might be well to add here, parenthetically, that Syd was the first Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest.

Victor Goodwin: Syd, the first question we have to ask you is when and where were you born?

Syd Tremewan: I was born in Austin, Nevada, on August 11, 1881. My folks were Cornish people who came over to Austin to work in the quartz mines at the time the first quartz mining was started there and in this country. The quartz mines were worked almost entirely by Cornishmen.

V.G.: Yes, without the Cornish, it is a certainty that Nevada's hardrock mining would have faired very badly. Syd, as you well know, the Cornish were generally, or slangly known, as Cousin Jacks. Would you like to tell us where the nickname originated?

S.T.: According to my recollection, when the Superintendent or the Foreman of a mine wanted a new man, knowing that he couldn't pick one up anywhere in this country, he used to ask the Cornishmen where he could get a good miner. The Cornishman always said, "Well, my cousin Jack, over in the old country, is a good miner. I'll send and get him." From that, they came to be known as Cousin Jacks.

V.G.: That is very interesting, Syd. Now to get more into your history, did you grow up in Austin, or when did you come to Elko County?

S.T.: My folks stayed in Austin until the Silver mines went down. The mining practically ceased over there. Then, in 1887, we moved to Tuscarora. In the meantime, my Father had died in Austin, and my Mother and her brother came over to Tuscarora and lived there until the summer of 1889. At that time, Tuscarora was one of the liveliest mining camps left in the West in the silver mining industry. The reason was that there was more gold discovered with the silver in the mines around Tuscarora than in most of the camps. However, in the summer of 1889, larger silver mines started to close down and my folks bought a ranch on the North Fork* now known as the Evans Ranch. We got caught in the hard winter of 1889 and 1890. The cows that we had, we had brought from Austin overland and we were keeping them in Tuscarora. My Mother, during that winter, fed them on potato peelings and scraps from the table and bran that she had shipped in on the stage, and we pulled through without losing any of the few cows that we had.

*North Fork of Humboldt River.

V.G.: How many cows did you have at that time, Syd?

S.T.: We had 9 head of milk cows. That's probably the reason that we saved them. If we'd had more, we'd probably have lost the whole bunch.

V.G.: Now, Syd, we would be interested in knowing a little bit about your scholastic background before you started your career with the Forest Service.

S.T.: My scholastic background wasn't much in my early days. I went to school in Austin just a short while before we moved, and after we came to Tuscarora, I just went to grammar grade. We didn't have first to the eighth grade like they do now. We had the primary department, the intermediate department, and then the grammar department. That was the extent of my scholastic education. What education I got after that, I got after we moved out on the ranch. I used to sit down at the table with a little miner's candle burning and I used to read until 11:00 or 12:00 at night. That was the extent of my scholastic education.

V.G.: Syd, you have told us that you and your folks had settled on the North Fork of the Humboldt River in the old Evans' place and began ranching. Could you go on from there and tell us about your ranching experience prior to when you started with the Forest Service?

S.T.: About this time, the nomadic sheep started coming into the southern part of the state in the summertime and eating off the summer ranges around where we were living.

V.G.: Syd, you say about this time; what year were you speaking of?

S.T.: Well, about the years 1889 to 1901. Because of these transient sheep, we found it necessary to find better range, so we sold the ranch on the North Fork and bought the ranch on the mouth of Meadow Creek on the Bruneau River, and we moved over there. Quite a few people were moving into that district at that time. We found it necessary to establish a post office, and I was appointed the first postmaster of the post office of Rowland. At that time, I wasn't quite 21. But they overlooked it and I got the appointment.

V.G.: That's very interesting, Syd. As you can see, Syd, we have George Gruell, the wildlife man on the Humboldt National Forest here with us. Perhaps he would like to ask a question or two.

George Gruell: Syd, you speak of the Bruneau. I take it you mean the Bruneau River which is a tributary to the Snake River in Idaho. But just what portion of the Bruneau watershed was this good grazing. Where was it located?

S.T.: It's a good thing you mentioned that, because not all of the Bruneau Basin was quite as good for grazing. The district that I had in mind was from the state line south to below Charleston. It covered an area of about 25 miles across. All of this is in the northern part of Elko County, and is part of the Humboldt National Forest.

V.G.: By northern Elko County, of course, you mean Elko County which is the northern most county in Nevada. Now, while we're discussing the Bruneau, let's get your impressions of the early range conditions when you moved over there.

S.T.: When we moved over on the Bruneau to live, about 1900, the grazing in that area was the greatest I have ever seen. We took cattle to Omaha, 2 year old steers, long twos, that weighed 1,132 pounds in Omaha. It was possible to go out and cut the hay on the range on the ridges and it was probably as good a hay as a person would want to feed cattle. But these conditions didn't last long. The sheep began to crowd further and further north and increase in numbers until it was getting tight grazing over there again. And this is what caused us to begin to look for some methods of protection and caused me to start talking about the Forest Service.

V.G.: In other words, Syd, this was the first time you began to think about a career, perhaps, in the U.S. Forest Service.

S.T.: Yes, that's right. I had been talking to an attorney in Elko, Frank S. Gedney, who was also a stockman who had been raised in Ruby Valley. He had been talking to Mr. Pinchot and President Roosevelt in Washington and came back with the idea of having what was then called Forest reserves created in Elko County. He said stockmen were getting good protection from them in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and in other places, and from there, we started. Mr. Gedney had circulated a petition on which he secured the names of 90 percent of the ranchers and stockmen of the Ruby Valley and he succeeded in having the Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve created. He suggested to me that we do the same in the northern part of the county. I got the help of Frank H. Winter who was an assemblyman in the Nevada Legislature, and we started with the petitions, and we also secured upwards of 100 percent of the stockmen out of northern Elko County. I won't say that we had all of the stockmen that were using the Forest, because a great number of the stockmen up there were sheepmen, who had their ranches in the southern part of the state, and used the northern part of Elko county as their summer grazing land. They were tromping the range to an extent that we had to do something.

V.G.: It was in May of 1906, then, that the Independence and Ruby Mountains Forest Reserves were established. Was it about this time, Syd, that you became attracted to a career in the U.S. Forest Service?

S.T.: Yes. In April of 1907, Inspector F.W. Reed was sent to Elko to put them under management. I was introduced to him by Mr. Gedney, and after listening to him talk conservation for awhile, I decided that I had found something worthwhile and immediately made application for examination papers. I took the examination for Forest Ranger, passed, and was put on the Northern Division.

V.G.: In other words, Syd, that was how you obtained your first appointment with the Forest Service. Now, I have heard lots of stories about this early Forest Ranger examination, and I am sure you probably have some very amusing and interesting recollections of that. Would you mind putting them on the tape for us?

S.T.: Well, that really is comedy. At the first examination, there was an old fellow from the East who had conceived the idea of coming out here and getting into conservation work, and when he was asked how telephone lines were measured, he said, "With a tape line." And the timber around Elko is rather limited, and they had to take us out to some little short cedars and had us estimate the number of telephone poles and things that could be cut off an acre. Some of the answers were really ridiculous.

V.G.: This examination, Syd, as I recall, was partly a written examination and partly a very practical-type examination.

S.T.: That is right. The written part of the examination probably extended over 2 or 3 hours, and then we took a packhorse out in the country a little ways and we had to tie a pack on. They mentioned several ways of putting it on and especially the old diamond hitch was mentioned. And out of the seven who took the examination, only one other man and myself were able to tie a diamond and the rest of them couldn't even put the pack on. As a result of the examination, two of us passed and I secured the appointment as Ranger on the Northern Division. At that time of the year, my main duties were guiding the sheep across the established trails from one side of the mountain to the other and up into their summer ranges. That and watching for trespass were about all the duties we had during the first year, although we did build a couple of frame ranger station cabins.

V.G.: This was in the summer of 1907, I take it.

S.T.: That is right.

V.G.: Where did you build these cabins? You mentioned the Northern Division; you're talking about the Independence Mountains. Did you build a cabin there?

S.T.: Yes, we built one cabin in Jack Creek, which is still on the ground, and one over the summit on the North Fork side, on what is called McAfee Creek, but it has been taken down and moved away. We built one in the Harrison Pass on the Ruby Mountain Division, and for a time, that was all we had. During this summer, I worked under Mr. Reed, as a Forest Ranger. In a short time, Mr. Reed's services were needed elsewhere and C. N. Woods was sent to take charge. I served under him that summer and in the fall; then he was taken to the Sawtooth Forest in Idaho and I was promoted to Forest Supervisor.

V.G.: How did you receive your appointment as Forest Supervisor, Syd. Did you have to take an examination on that?

S.T.: Yes, I took the Forest Supervisor's examination in Reno. And I was appointed the first Forest Supervisor in the State of Nevada. My appointment was vigorously protested by several of the large sheep owners. But it was just as vigorously supported by the small stockmen of that district.

V.G.: Could you tell me what the early living and working conditions were like when you first went to work for the Forest Service?

S.T.: Well, living conditions were just as they had been before. We furnished our own board and lodgings and our own horse. The only remuneration we got from the Government was when we were away from home.

V.G.: How about your working conditions? Were they quite rugged at the time?

S.T. They were. We quite often had to take a packhorse and a bed and camp under a fir tree somewhere and cook our own food. We lived just like we were cowboys herding a bunch of cattle.

V.G.: You described earlier the chaotic conditions which existed on the high summer ranges and the dog-eat-dog situations that developed every year as far as the livestock operations were concerned. Could you tell us, Syd, how management was established after the Forest Reserves and the National Forests were set up?

S.T.: We realized that there would be no use in creating the Forest Reserve unless some management was established so that there would be a regular order of business. I suggested that we hold a meeting of all the stockmen, both sheep and cattlemen, and talk it over and allot the range before they started in. So, we called a meeting for March 9, 1909, in Elko, and by the way, this meeting had been approved by the Washington Office. We had the stockmen put in their claims, and it was understood that priority of the use of a piece of range was to be the standard by which we allotted the privileges. This caused quite a few arguments, but I was very fortunate in having been raised right on this range, and whenever a man made a claim that he grazed a piece of ground for a certain year, I always knew without even having to have witnesses just where he did belong. It facilitated matters a whole lot. They talked it over and some of the fellows assumed that they were to have full privileges, especially the sheepmen; have the privilege to the range that they had been using regardless of whether it was just enough for them or three or four times as much as they needed. They supposed that they were going to get that piece of range. Well, that is one of the things that we ironed out. The stockmen all knew about the carrying capacity of the range, and as a rule, when I suggested that man's stock would only need a certain basin or a certain creek, it was pretty generally approved. And all in all, even though we had alot of arguments, we got that meeting over in pretty fine shape. We had very little kick from the stockmen themselves.

Realizing that we had decidedly too many stock on the range, I had recommended before we had this meeting, that people who had not used the range for at least 2 years were to be refused a permit entirely. The regulations had already stated that they must have used the range 1 year. When the talk was first rumored about that we were going to have a Forest Reserve, vast numbers of stock from other counties and other states were rushed into the Humboldt, so that the year before the Forest

was created, we had 560,000 stock on that piece of range. Realizing that this was entirely too many and that the 1-year limit wouldn't do, I recommended that we make it 2. So we were able to cut off quite a few transient sheep before we had the meeting. They were given to understand that they wouldn't be considered at all. The permits had been returned to them. We also had a maximum limit established regardless of the time they had been using, and with these two considerations, we were able to cut the stock down from permits or applications from 560,000 sheep to something like 350,000 the first year and that also helped alot.

½ million sheep in this part of Elko County

V.G.: Syd, this brings out another thing that you told me one time about the poor range conditions which existed on these summer ranges at the time the Forest Reserves were set up. The condition of livestock when they came off in the fall--do you want to tell us about that?

S.T.: The conditions in the Independence Mountains, especially in the northern part of the county, had gotten so bad that when the ranchers took their steers off the range in the fall (steers they had been shipping out as fat cattle), they had to be fed for several weeks before they could be driven to the railroad for shipment. These conditions existed not altogether from their feed, but from running back and forth trying to beat one another to the best camps. We eliminated alot of this tramping back and forth by establishing trails. The establishment of allotments, so that each man knew where he was to go and how long he was to stay, was helped by establishing these trails and making them keep to their trail and not wander all over the country. This was one of the main advantages of having management on the range. With all of this fighting over the range, a custom had arisen among the hangers-on around the country of locating so called placer mines. Sheep mines we called them, which they leased out every summer to the sheepmen for water holes and gave them control, more or less, of the range around. This was one of the things that we stopped entirely and was a great benefit to the range. Mr. Williams, who had a permit for running 40,000 head of sheep, told one of the Forest officers that he had paid more for leasing these placer mines than his grazing fees amounted to in a year.

V.G.: You mean he paid more, before the Forest was created, for watering at these sheep mines than he paid after the Forest was created for the grazing fees?

S.T.: That is right. An interesting thing occurred after the big meeting which we held that day. Stockmen were told that they should send their grazing fees to the fiscal agent of the Forest Service at Ogden. And they were given the application blanks and, also, letters of transmittal to forward their money, but they couldn't remember and a good many weren't used to government regulations. So, knowing me personally, they filled the application and letter of transmittal out and forwarded a check for their grazing fees to me, and the check was made out personally to me. I found the morning or two after the meeting that when I opened my mail, I had $32,000 in personal checks addressed and made out to me. Gave me quite a little start. When I told this to Homer Finn, in charge of the office of grazing in Washington, and he said, "My God, it's a wonder you didn't faint."

In addition to the sheep mines, there is another custom that evolved up there. I suppose it was in other places around the country, too; buying up the Forest loose script that had been given to landowners in exchange for timber land in some of the forested countries. They were buying that and putting it on the springs and water holes throughout the District, and that was another source of trouble for us. There was nothing we could do about it but let them have it.

Perhaps I should explain the Forest loose script. At the time the Government created the Forest Reserves, in the big timbered countries, people had been owning small portions of land. In order to make a solid block, the government had issued them a title to so many acres of land wherever they found it. That is, government land. And, in a good many places, they didn't want to locate other ground, so they were allowed to sell this script to whoever wanted to buy it. These large sheep owners would buy this script on what had been timbered land and bring it out on the range and set it up on a water hole or a particularly good piece of grazing and, in that way, control miles of the country that they didn't own or were paying no taxes on. That was the Forest loose script scandal.

V.G.: On July 1, 1908, the Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve was consolidated with the Independence Forest Reserve, and the new combination then became known as the Humboldt National Forest, dropping the Forest Reserve name in accordance with the Act of March 4, 1907, which, in a nomenclature change, abolished the name Forest Reserve and replaced it with the term National Forest. Syd, your office headquarters for this new Humboldt National Forest were established in Elko then in the fall of 1908. From what you told me, your first office was a 12 by 12 foot room in the Harrington Building on Railroad Street in Elko above where the present Elko Drug Company store is now. One of your principal jobs, as I believe you told me, was the surveying and posting of the boundaries which you did as one of your principal duties as Forest Supervisor; one of your early duties. Would you like to comment on that?

S.T.: That was just about all of our duties for the first summer. The Rangers were taking care of the trespass by that time and the trails, and George Thompson, who was designated as Forest Assistant, came out here. Between us, we ran the entire boundary of the National Forest and established marks to identify them. That took practically the whole summer.

V.G.: Now on this boundary surveying, the boundary was actually surveyed out I believe. Did you use transits or compass or how was it done?

S.T.: We had a regular transit and we followed the boundary very closely as it was designated on the maps. We found nearly every survey corner where the government land was surveyed, and where it wasn't, we established what we considered the nearest corner we could determine. That was on our own volition.

V.G.: The main purpose of establishing a boundary was to make it easier to check on range trespass or timber trespass, I presume.

S.T.: Yes, and to establish the boundaries of the cattle and sheep allotments.

V.G.: Those were the exterior boundaries, and the interior boundaries were established by you and the rangers?

S.T.: Yes, with the natural landmarks, bridges, and creek bottoms.

V.G.: Syd, recapitulate a bit. You went into the Service in 1908 and you resigned in the spring of 1913, stepping out as Forest Supervisor. I think it might be well to get on the record here the various things that led up to your decision to leave the Forest Service. Do you want to tell us about it?

S.T.: The first thing that caused me to be a little dissatisfied was the arbitrary action of the District Forester in arbitrarily moving the office from Elko to Gold Creek. His idea being that it was more in the center of the Forest area, but in reality, it was putting it out of reach of most of the people. I objected to it and advanced several reasons why, and at the same time, I proceeded with the moving of the office. He mistook my arguing about the matter for the fact that I hadn't moved. He sent an investigator out from the Ogden office to see. They found that I had already moved. But in the meantime, he had apparently taken a dislike to me. And from that time on, we could notice a different feeling. His arbitrary dictatorial manner of doing things, without paying any attention to the local men, was making quite a few of the officers dissatisfied. He started in immediately changing the regulations regarding the limits. We had a maximum limit, a protective limit, and a beginner's limit. He started raising the maximum limit and cutting down the smaller limits, so there was a dissatisfaction among the veterans of the Service. I just felt that we couldn't get along any longer, so I resigned.

V.G.: You speak of the maximum limit, Syd. Your feeling was that by increasing the maximum limit, the larger outfits would eventually take over the smaller ones. Was that your feeling?

S.T.: Yes. They were actually taking over. The maximum limit at first was 20,000, and we considered that that would have to be reduced later on. According to Mr. Pinchot's idea, it wasn't conservation to make a monopoly of the range rights. We had one outfit just at this time which caused the final disruption. One outfit purchased another and both of these outfits were above the maximum limit at the time. One of the purchasers came in and asked about taking over this other outfit, and I told him it was impossible because of the maximum limit. He told me that he had been into Ogden and that Mr. Sherman had told him that they would be allowed to transfer a large part of this other outfit, and they wouldn't pay any attention to the maximum limit. I wrote into Ogden, and Mr. Sherman told us that we were interfering with other people's business too much in restricting the purchase of these outfits and that he was going to continue to let these people go on. That really blew the top off, and I sent in my resignation. I told him it was because of

the fact that the Forest Service was created for the purpose of preventing monopoly on the range, and this system was creating monopoly, which at that time, was actually going on.

V.G.: You speak of District Forester. I might interject a note that the term now, of course, is Regional Forester, and the old Districts are now Regions in the Forest Service.

I think you mentioned one other thing, Syd, that happened in 1910, which caused you to begin to become discouraged. Would you like to comment on that? I had reference to Forester Gifford Pinchot's leaving the Forest Service.

S.T.: Yes, that really broke the spirit of the old Forest officers. It was called the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy and was taken up by President Taft. Mr. Pinchot was asked to leave the Service and the Supervisors felt pretty bad over it. Just at that time, we were having a Forest Supervisor's District Meeting and, also, the American Wool Grower's Association was meeting in Ogden. So that morning Mr. Pinchot was discharged, we were invited down to the Wool Grower's Meeting. Quite a few of us didn't know anything about the windup of the controversy and we went. As soon as the meeting opened, Senator Heyburn of Idaho, who had always been an enemy of the Forest Service and couldn't say anything mean enough about them, walked out onto the rostrum and said to them, "When the sun rolled over the Eastern mountains this morning, it marked a new epic in the history of the West. Czar Pinchot has been dethroned and the Western stockman is now free." Or something to that effect. And it caused quite a furor among the Supervisors, and most of them got up and walked out.

V.G.: In connection with Gifford Pinchot, we will bring in another little matter later, but in summary then, those were the reasons which led you to leave the Service in 1913.

V.G.: Syd, if you could live your life over again, would you continue your career with the Forest Service or would you have done as you did? Would you like to give us a little reaction on this, Syd?

S.T.: Yes, with the conditions existing at the time that we took up saving the range, it was at such a point that something had to be done, and if I had it to do over again, I would do just the same. If we hadn't taken hold at that time, there wouldn't be any grazing to administer by this time. We would have lost everything that we had. And while some things were done that were mistakes and could have been improved upon, strictly speaking, if I had it to do over again, I would do the same thing.

V.G.: Do you think you would have stayed on with the Service or do you think that things being as they were, it would have probably come out about the same way again.

S.T.: Well, with things being as they were, and not knowing that Mr. Sherman would soon be out or that they would stop that reduction of

the maximum limits, I guess right at that time, I would have done the same. Couldn't have done anything else. I hated leaving the Service worse than anything I ever did.

V.G.: Have you had any personal experiences with outstanding leaders in the Forest Service or in the field of conservation outside the Forest Service, which would give us an intimate glimpse into their lives? Here is where your acquaintance with Gifford Pinchot should be mentioned.

S.T.: I had very little contact with conservationists outside the Forest Service. I have a corresponding acquaintance with Herman Work who has been an outstanding conservationist in Virginia. He has written several books and is a very smart man, and he was in the Forest Service at one time. He was out here and did some timber work. But outside of that, I have met very few distinguished conservationists.

But in the Forest Service, I met Mr. Pinchot and next, Franklin W. Reed and C.M. Woods, and the Regional Foresters who followed. I consider those three men the finest men I have ever met. Men with unimpeachable characters. Men who created greater influence on my life than all the other people I have met together.

V.G.: You are speaking there of Mr. Pinchot, Mr. Woods, and Mr. Reed. At the time that Mr. Pinchot left the Service, a group of you Forest Supervisors, just prior to that time, wrote him letters of support, and I believe you got a very interesting letter from him after he left the Service. I was wondering if you would care to put that into the record at this time.

S.T.: Yes indeed. The letter was written March 15, 1910, addressed to me, and Mr. Pinchot said:

> Dear Mr. Tremewan:
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> Ever since I ceased to be Forester, I have meant to write to you and to the other Forest Supervisors who served with me. Other matters have interferred but now the opportunity has come. The thing I want to say is that I am counting upon you to stand by the Service and to let nothing that has happened effect your own spirit or that of the men under you. The biggest and best thing about the Service is the loyalty of its men. If anything could make me prouder of the Service and the men of the Service than I am already, it would be to see them make the result of the present year the best that we have ever shown. Nothing would give me more satisfaction than that.
>
> Mr. Graves is the one man I could have chosen above all others to take my place. He has sense and courage. With him at the head I have no fears for the Service. I want you to remember that I shall measure my success in the Service not only by what was accomplished when I was Forester but also by what is accomplished under him. You are working for all the people of the United States and that is worthwhile. You would be doing me a real favor if you would show this letter to every one of your men.
>
> Sincerely,
> /s/ Gifford Pinchot

V.G.: There is an interesting note of local color and interesting Eastern Nevada and Elko County history, Syd, in connection with the Humboldt National Forest that I thought you might want to discuss. You will recall that in the fall of 1909, shortly after the Bruneau addition was added to the Forest, which included the present Gold Creek and Jarbidge Ranger Districts, David Bourne discovered gold in Jarbidge Canyon. After that happened, as you well remember, one of the last large gold rushes in the West took place to this new boom camp. The conflict and clash with National Forest regulations which occurred sometimes was humorous and sometimes wasn't. Would you like to give us a few details?

S.T.: Well, to start with, the Forest Service regulations required that any person starting a business of any kind with any use of the Forest resources must have a special use permit to conduct it. The people rushing into the mining camp didn't understand this, and having gotten away with the sheep mines, after the camp settled down a little bit and they wanted to put up stores and things, they started working the mining claim gig on the Forest Service again. So they started putting up stores and hotels and saloons and anything they wished, which, of course, caused a clash. They had considerable arguments and quarrels about it in wanting to set up their own business. In one case, there was a shooting. One man located a claim and another tried to build a store on it or something. Finally, the people got up a petition and sent it to the Secretary of Agriculture requesting that they be granted permits for saloons, which we had been refusing. Being turned down, there was quite a bit of bootlegging, and so forth, going on. I conceived the idea of a townsite, and I recommended to the Service that they illuminate a certain piece of ground suitable for building purposes for a townsite, and let them have it. The townsite idea caught on, and they sent a surveyor out there and he surveyed the townsite by meets and bounds, and we recommended it be eliminated. (From the Forest land.) It was approved and after the ground was eliminated, it was turned over to the District Judge to be sold. Any person occupying a lot having a building or anything on it was to be given the first chance to buy these lots at $40 each. These lots were marked out very well. After the lots that were occupied were sold, they sold the others first-come, first-served. Thus, we got rid of quite a rock out of our shoe on the townsite business.

V.G.: Syd, this about concludes our interview with you and your reminiscences of early days and the Service. George and I want to thank you for all your information and your time spent in making all these recollections, and we hope that you have many hale and hardy years ahead of you and enjoy your life in retirement.

S.T.: Thank you, and I want to say that this has been a pleasure to me. For many years, I have wished I could do something for the Forest Service.