

For an informal appraisal of Leon F. Kneipp, see C.N. Woods' reminiscences, "Forty-One Years in National Forest Administration," (1943) (typed form), in Woods' biographical file, here, Part II, pages 41-42.

Photos of Leon F. Kneipp - former Asst. Chief for Lands, Forest Service

1. With first "Use Book" Committee that composed rules for operation of FS, late 1905, Washington, D.C. Fifth man standing, left to right. FS photo, negative in National Archives, RG-95G-242,311. (On p. 199, "100 Years of Federal Forestry," A.I.B. 402, USDA, Dec. 1976, GPO.)
2. Closeup, 1906, Santa Fe, New Mexico, while Supervisor of Pecos River Forest Reserve (it became Pecos National Forest in 1908). Photo may have come from a family album. It is small in size, on page 16-A of bound transcript of 3 tape-recorded interviews with Kneipp, 1964-65, by interviewers of the Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, ~~197~~ Published 1976. Photo not numbered. Front view, in suit.
3. March 1907, Deadwood, So. Dakota, large group, Ranger meeting on steps of building. Kneipp is at right. RG-95-225,053, National Archives.
4. 1907. Colorado, place unknown, in front of brick building. Second of four Forest Service men attired in first official uniform. Scott Leavitt at left and Smith Riley at right. RG-95-242,318, National Archives.
5. 1915. Closeup of Kneipp as District Forester, Ogden, Utah. Probably from family album. On page 16-A of bound transcript of interviews by Bancroft Library, published 1976. Photo not numbered. Front view, in suit. Beard.
6. 1918. Kneipp at his desk as District (Regional) Forester in Ogden, Utah. On page 16-A of transcript of interviews by Bancroft Library. Not numbered. in white shirtsleeves.
7. Early 1930s, with Earl W. Finker, Milwaukee. Milwaukee Leader Photo. Region 9. Page 184-A of transcribed interview volume, Bancroft Library.
8. Closeup front view at his desk just before retirement, probably 1946. Unmarked. Page 184-A of interview volume.
9. Closeup front view, probably 1930s. Very good shot. Page 16-A of book. Not marked or numbered.
10. Frontispiece for the interview book. Retirement ceremony photo, F.S.' Washington. Not numbered. ~~Dec.~~ 31, 1946. ~~1~~ Part of a group retiring together. See item in his file for other names.

2-1-78

Note:

Charles C. Randall, retired USFS
Information & Education official,
→ has some papers of Leon Knipp
→ on his service in Southwest and
has promised to send them to the
History Section, F.S.

- F.J. Harmon

Randall lives at 1717 Besley Rd., NE, Vienna, Va.
22180. 938-2590. Summers at Worcester,
Mass.
He was just over 80 years old in 1979.

3225
Dorothy Martin

About 1935 Mr. Kneipp made a trip to Europe under the auspices of the Pack Foundation to observe land use and forest management activities in several western European countries.

Mr. Kneipp has two sons - one a doctor and the other an attorney. ^{John A., Potomac, Md.} ^{Robert F.}
Both reside in the Washington area. ^{Older son - attorney - died with wife in}
— airplane ~~crash~~ ^{crash} around 1968-70. Worked for D.C.
Corporation Counsel's office. Retired - no children.

Dr. John A. Kneipp moved from Potomac, Md. to Wash, D.C.
in 1976 or 7. Has children.

Office address - 730-24th St, N.W. 338-6168.

Home address - 2715 Dumbarton Ave., N.W. 20007.

338-3155

Write-up about Lee Kneipp and
Sylvania Tract.

December 6, 1978

In a discussion with Frank Harmon, Forest Service History Section, on December 4, 1978, on an experience with Lee Kneipp, he suggested I write my recollections.

In the summer of 1937 Lee (Leon F.) Kneipp, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service for Lands; Stanley F. Wilson, Associate Regional Forester, and Leslie S. Bean, Assistant Regional Forester for Recreation and Lands, both in Region 9, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Writer* stood on a lake shore in the Sylvania Tract near Watersmeet, Michigan, in the Ottawa National Forest. We were discussing the merits of purchasing the Sylvania Tract, a superlative area of lakes and timber.

The Sylvania Tract, an area of around 14,000 acres at that time, had been appraised and then optioned at \$50. an acre. The discussion soon came to priorities: Whether Region 9 would spend \$700,000 of its \$800,000 that year on the Sylvania Tract as against wider allocation of the available land purchase funds.

I remember Lee Kneipp saying, "Does R-9 want to spend most of its money on one tract when it could but 300,000 or more acres of cut-over land, much of it well-stocked, throughout the Region? It is the Region's decision, but I don't think you can afford to put your eggs in one basket. There are greater longterm values."

*- Clare W. Hendee, then Supervisor of the Ottawa National Forest

Region 9 decided not to buy the "Sylvania Tract" and did buy 300,000 or more acres throughout the Region. I was disappointed. However, later events showed this to be a good decision.

In 1965 the Forest Service finally purchased the Sylvania Tract of 14,890 acres for \$5,730,000. The acreage was not precisely the same but nearly so. The price was 7 to 8 times the original optioned price in the 1930's even though they were very different dollars.

Much has been said by me and many other Forest Officers about land purchase priorities and Lee Kneipp's philosophy—similar to the above illustration. By the late 1960's much of the land purchased in the 1930's in the Lake States had increased in value much more (10 to 20 times) than the increase (7 to 8 times) in the Sylvania Tract.

Fortunately the Sylvania Tract remained intact for later purchase.

There were other tracts that were cut, sub-divided etc. which may have been a different priority and story. Limited funds caused hard decisions. Many tracts were lost.

Hindsight now tells me that Lee Kneipp guided the land purchase policy generally in the right direction considering the limited funds and the size of the job to be done.

Clare W. Hendee
Forest Service (retired)
Former Deputy Chief for Administration, WO
December 6, 1978

Notes on Telephone Conversation Dec. 4 with Clare HENDEE
(Retired Deputy Chief for Administration)

He recalled a field examination of the Sylvania Tract on the Ottawa National Forest in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1936 when he was Forest Supervisor there, with Leon Kneipp, Assistant Chief, Forest Service, for Lands; Stanley F. Wilson, R-9 Assoc. Regional Forester to Lyle Watts; and Leslie S. Bean, Asst. Regional Forester for Recreation and Lands.

At that time the Forest Service had an option to purchase the tract for \$700,000-\$800,000. It seemed like a golden opportunity to many of the foresters, including Hendee and others. It was a 14,000-15,000-acre area of northern hardwoods used as a hunting area for a major industry and had not undergone timber harvesting. (It was actually later acquired by the Forest Service in the 1960s.)

Hendee recalls saying, "It would be a tragedy if we could not exercise our option." He recalls Kneipp replying that although he agreed it was a beautiful area, funds for land purchase were very limited, and "we can't put all our eggs in one basket." (At the time Hendee recalled that the Forest Service was paying \$5 to \$6 million a year for forest lands.) Kneipp advised that it would be "better to buy 300,000 acres of lower quality land and build it back up, to make the best use of the money. Kneipp had the reputation for preferring to buy "acres than quality", Hendee said. Hendee observed that Kneipp was a very logical man, not swayed by emotion, with an eye to the future increase in value of land that might not look so good at the moment. He had disappointed many people by his position, as he did on that day. Region 9 did follow his recommendation, Hendee recalls, and the land did improve greatly in value as well as substantially increase the Forest holdings.

Hendee concluded that "Time proved him (Kneipp) sound. He was one of the soundest in judgment of all of the Forest Service officers we ever had."

I asked Mr. Hendee to write up this incident some time soon if he could, and he said he would and send it to us.

LEON F. KNEIPP

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He entered the field of forestry on May 8, 1900 as a forest ranger in Arizona. From 1904 to 1907 he served as forest supervisor on what are now the Carson and Sante Fe National Forests in New Mexico. In 1907 he was appointed forest inspector, but upon reporting to Washington was instead assigned to the Service's Branch of Grazing in Washington, D. C., where he served initially as Chief of the Division of Grazing Control, being promoted in December 1908 to the position of Assistant Forester; assuming charge of the Branch of Grazing in 1910, when its former head, Albert F. Potter, became Associate Chief of the Forest Service.

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From August 6, 1924 to January 1, 1925 Mr. Kneipp was granted leave of absence to serve as Executive Secretary of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation. In this capacity Mr. Kneipp organized the work of correlating all public, semipublic and private agencies interested in the development of outdoor recreational activities and the use of the national resources of the country for recreation.

An authority on outdoor recreation problems, Mr. Kneipp was a pioneer in the movement for preservation of wilderness tracts, and in the development of the Forest Service program for maintenance of designated wilderness areas.

Mr. Kneipp has written widely on forestry subjects and he is the author of important sections in the monumental Copeland and Western Range Reports. As head of land acquisition work of the Forest Service, he has had a leading role in expanding the federal forest purchase program under which more than 18 million acres have been purchased for national-forest purposes and over 3 million acres acquired through exchanges and donations, a program which has been described as, in the aggregate, "the biggest real estate deal since the Alaska Purchase".

He is a senior member of the Society of American Foresters, and a member of the Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

Washington, December 10, 1946

"Lee" Kneipp, Forest Service Land Expert, Retires; Howard Hopkins His Successor:

(For December 15 Release)

Retirement of Leon F. Kneipp, for the past quarter century in charge of land acquisition and planning for the federal forest service with headquarters in Washington, and the promotion of Howard Hopkins, until recently chief of the Division of Private Forestry, to be Mr. Kneipp's successor, was announced today by Lyle F. Watts, chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kneipp severs his active connection with the Department December 31, 1946, after nearly 47 years of continuous service. The appointment of Mr. Hopkins who as head of the Timber Production War Project directed the Forest Service wartime drive to increase the supply of timber and forest products for war purposes becomes effective January 1, 1947.

Biographical Data on Kneipp and Hopkins

Mr. Kneipp who was born in Chicago, Ill., November 30, 1880, is the oldest active Forest Service officer both in age and length of service. He has played a leading role in developing and expanding the federal forest purchase program under which more than 18 million acres have been bought for national forest purposes and nearly five million acquired through exchanges and donations. In the aggregate, this program has been described as "the biggest real estate deal since the Alaska purchase."

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USDA 2659-46

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Mr. Kneipp has written numerous articles and publications on forestry subjects, and is the author of important chapter in the monumental Copeland and Western Range reports. As head of the land acquisition work of the Forest Service he has had a leading part in the greatly expanded federal forest purchase program through which more than eight million acres have been added to the National Forest system in the past three years.

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**LEON F. KNEIPP, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE FOREST
SERVICE IN CHARGE OF LAND ACQUISITION**

Heds up Forest Service land purchase program under which some 17 million acres have been purchased for national forests -- in the aggregate, probably the biggest real estate deal since the Alaska Purchase.

One of the fathers of the movement for preservation of wilderness areas. Also a leader in the development of outdoor recreation opportunities.

A pioneer forester. Native of Chicago, born November 30, 1880. Started out as forest ranger in 1900 on Prescott National Forest, Arizona, in days when rangers had to be pretty tough. Later, supervisor of Pecos Forest Reserve, New Mexico, and Jemez and Taos National Forests. In 1907 appointed Forest Inspector. 1915 to 1920, Regional Forester in charge of Intermountain Region.

In 1920, to Washington in charge of Branch of Lands and in 1935, became Assistant Chief in charge of Land Acquisition Division.

1924-5, served as executive secretary of the Advisory Council of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, with duty of correlating work of all public and private agencies interested in development of outdoor recreation activities and use of national resources of country for this purpose.

The forest land purchase program is carried on under the Weeks Law of 1911, and the national forest system east of the Great Plains has been built up largely through this program. Most of the lands acquired have been denuded areas, cut-over and burned over, and a huge job of rehabilitation and restoration of these lands to productivity is being carried on by the Forest Service.

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"The Pecos National Forest

Forestry and Irrigation, 1905

Grazing in the National Forests

Proceedings of the Society of American Foresters,
November, 1902

"The National Forests and the Livestock Industry,"

American Forestry, February, 1913.

1913
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* Choose "Print" from your browser to print the document. Choose "Back" on your browser to return to the document.

Leon Frederick Kneipp
(1880-)

Number of Source Citations:1

Biography Index. A cumulative index to biographical material in books and magazines. Volume 1: January, 1946-July, 1949. New York: H.W. Wilson Co., 1949. [BiIn 1]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE
AND REFER TO



WASHINGTON

F
Statistics
10-day report

May 16, 1939.

Regional Foresters,

ALL REGIONS.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Mr. Headley's F-Statistics-10 day Report circular letter of February 10, 1939 in regard to the submission of the telegraphic reports.

Because of the small amount remaining in the funds received through the deficiency appropriation, we desire to make sure that expenses incurred on the unappropriated public lands are not included in your estimate of expenses to May 10. In this connection, please see the last paragraph of Mr. Headley's letter of February 10, in which the statement is made that the wire for the period ending June 30 should contain at the end of the wire a separate statement giving an estimate of expenses incurred by you on the unappropriated public lands under your protection. These latter expenses should not be included in any of the FF expenditures reported regularly in the 10 day wires.

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. M. Granger".

C. M. GRANGER,
Assistant Chief, Forest Service.

Reorganization

September 11, 1946

ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN
Region 3, U.S. Forest Service

No. 37

KNEIPP VISITS HIS OLD REGION Assistant Chief L. F. Kneipp was in the forest country where his career began 46 years ago, when he visited the Prescott National Forest this week. On travel through R-3 in connection with land activities (he is in charge of land acquisition and forest land planning), Mr. Kneipp was met at Prescott 9/9/46 by Sim Strickland of our Division of Watershed Management and Lands. They traveled over the Kaibab and Coconino forests, then met Regional Forester Woodhead at Flagstaff on 9/10 for the rest of the trip to Albuquerque. At the R.O. today Mr. Kneipp said he would be in R-3 another week, traveling with Strickland.

Mr. Kneipp recalled that in 1900 he was appointed ranger on the Prescott Forest Reserve, then under the General Land Office. He was in Santa Fe from 1905 to the middle of 1907, in charge of the Jemez, Pecos River and Taos Forest Reserves, which later became the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. From there he went to Washington.

Death of Leon Kneipp, FS Pioneer

On October 29 after a short illness, Leon F. Kneipp, 85, former assistant chief in charge of lands, died at the Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center.

Mr. Kneipp was a member of the original group which established the USDA's Forest Service in 1905 having begun his career as a forest ranger in the Territory of Arizona in 1900. In 1907 he became a forest inspector and later headed Forest Service Range Management. ^{He} ~~Mr. Kneipp~~ was named assistant chief in charge of lands in 1920 serving in this capacity until his retirement in 1946. During ~~this~~ this time he was instrumental in acquiring for the United States some 20 million acres of forestland east of the Mississippi and 4 to 5 million acres in the West. [After his retirement Mr. Kneipp had continued to live in Wash.]

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U. S. Forest Service
LEON F. KNEIPP

moted to be a forest inspector. Made an assistant chief of the Forest Service in 1908, he served for a time in the Branch of Grazing, and became chief of the branch in 1910. In 1915, he was named district forester in charge of Forest Service operations at Ogden, Utah. Five years later, he returned to Washington as an assistant chief in charge of land acquisition and planning.

Mr. Kneipp is a widely recognized authority on outdoor recreation. He pioneered in the movement for preservation of wilderness tracts and in the development of the Forest Service program for maintenance of designated wilderness areas. He is the author of numerous writings in his field, including sections in the Copeland and Western Range reports.

Mr. Hopkins came to his new post after 23 years of service in various Forest Service regions, branches, and activities, including six months in the division of land planning in 1933. In addition to directing the Timber Production War Project, he served at various times as associate regional forester at San Francisco, Calif.; assistant director of the New England Timber Salvage Administration; and assistant regional forester for the Northeastern States at Philadelphia. He became chief of the Division of Private Forestry at Washington in 1941. He is a graduate (1923) of the Yale School of Forestry.

Private Lands Inside Parks

Further delay in starting a program of acquisition of nonfederal lands inside the boundaries of national park system areas will involve ultimate large increases in cost and, besides, will mean that scenic and historic resources that should be preserved will be destroyed or impaired, declared Newton B. Drury, director of the National

Park Service, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Drury estimated that it would require \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000 a year for 20 years to purchase the lands needed to block up the Park Service's holdings and eliminate other ownerships.

"The large amount of nonfederal land inside the national parks and monuments (amounting to more than 600,000 acres) over which the National Park Service has no control is a constant threat to the integrity of these areas and a serious impediment, in many cases, to sound development and economical and effective administration," he asserted.

Calling attention to the failure of the last Congress to make an initial land acquisition appropriation of \$350,000, Mr. Drury pointed out that the unwillingness of the appropriations committees of the House and Senate to recommend the item was largely explainable by the opposition of western members of Congress to the removal of further lands from the tax rolls.

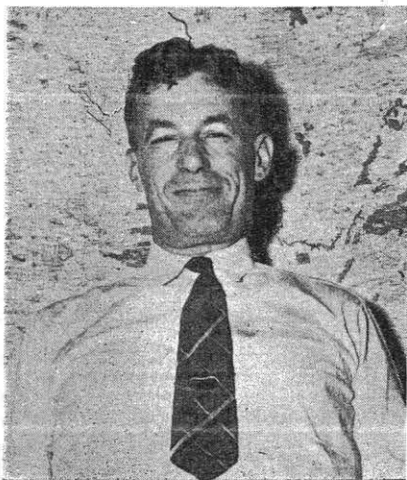
"This fact," he added, "emphasized the disadvantage under which the Service labors, by comparison with other Federal agencies which are permitted to return a portion of their income for the support of local units of government."

Industry Forestry

The St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company of Tacoma, Wash. employs one technically trained forester for each 25,000 acres of forest land. Norman Jacobson is chief forester and believes that forestry by foresters pays.

Weyerhaeuser Timber Company with headquarters at Tacoma, Wash. employs 75 foresters and forest engineers. All these men have forestry degrees; 35 from forestry schools in the Pacific Coast states, 8 from eastern schools, 22 from the middle west, and 10 from other western schools. In all, 15 schools of forestry are represented with the University of Washington, Iowa State College, and the University of Idaho ranking first, second, and third in the greatest numbers employed.

The breakdown of specific positions indicates that foresters are diversified in their abilities: 35 are engaged in full-time forestry work, 6 are in the engineering departments, 6 in laboratory research, 5 are in executive positions, 8 are working in the plants, 5 are with logging crews, 5 are doing office work, and 5 are engaged in miscellaneous jobs such as safety engineering, purchasing, accounting, and contract supervision. Their leader is Chief Forester Clyde S. Martin who is also vice-president of the Society of American Foresters.



U. S. Forest Service
HOWARD HOPKINS

Croix de Guerre for Ritter

Back from the wars with the right to wear a *Croix de Guerre* where his necktie hangs, Ed Ritter gives a conservative explanation of his experience as combat engineer and logging boss warrior.

John E. Ritter, as he is more formally known on the rolls of the U. S. Forest Service, Philadelphia, is an author, too, by virtue of a little something he dashed off about de-Nazifying Germany's foresters between the time he laid down the title of major and went back to work clarifying Clarke-McNary Law application for the New England states.

The decoration recently came through; that is, the diploma certifying to the award of the *Croix de Guerre* 1940 by the Government of Her Royal Highness, the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and Duchess of Nassau, has been received from the Adjutant General, together with notice that the War Department approves of the acceptance of this foreign decoration. The jewelry itself has not yet arrived.

It seems that Major Ritter not only got mixed into the Battle of the Bulge, but just before that interesting event he had been displaying American know-how in speeding up logging operations in Luxembourg forests and mills for some of General Eisenhower's personnel who didn't have time to wait. He had enjoyed a quiet interval dodging V-bombs along the English coast until he got into Aachen in October, 1944. From then on it was work in the woods and at the mills until Von Runstedt opened up on December 16. He tells some colorful and interesting stories about the morale and the drive during those two months around the little 50-thousand per day band mills at Korich, Mersch, Dikrich, Junglinster, Steinfort, Roadt, Bour, Beckerich, Esche, and other such places.

It was while inspecting one of the mills at Dikrich that the German shells began to come in for direct hits on a zeroed trajectory.

"It was the first warning I had of Von Runstedt's counter-offensive," said Major Ritter.

Although informal, the notice was conclusive and meant the end of his lumbering operations. But the Duchess didn't forget. At the suggestion of her minister of state and president of the government, she had the honor of awarding the cross and a citation "for exceptional services rendered in the interest of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg."

Born in Republic, Wash., Ritter at an early age joined the Forest Service for summer work until his graduation from the University of Washington in

1926. Then he administered yellow pine sales as a junior forester and served as chief of party in cruising most of the Weiser National Forest. After chasing dendroctonus beetles in Utah and Wyoming, he completed a timber survey of the Wyoming National Forest in 1930 which had been begun in 1915 by Lyle F. Watts.

A year at Yale 1930-1931 brought him a master's degree in forestry. Subsequently he served on several additional western and eastern national forests until assignment to the Division of State and Private Forestry in the eastern regional office.

From V-E day until August of last year Major Ritter was among those who tried to restore Germany's forest economy and reconstitute its forest service. In the December issue of *American Forests*, and in coming issues of the *Journal of Forestry*, he tells of the effect of Nazi politics on German forestry.

Stauffer Oklahoma Forester

Donald E. Stauffer, supervisor of state parks in Oklahoma for four years, has succeeded Glen R. Durrell as director of the Oklahoma Division of Forestry and State Parks. Mr. Durrell resigned recently to become head of the Department of Forestry at Oklahoma A & M College at Stillwater.

Mr. Stauffer is a 1930 forestry graduate of Michigan State College. Prior to his appointment as assistant state forester in Oklahoma in 1940, he had experience in nursery management, city forestry for Lansing, Mich., and park work with the C.C.C.

In 1942 he was placed in charge of Oklahoma state parks with the title of supervisor.

Lumber Outlook for 1947

A year-end review of lumber industry accomplishments in 1946 and prospects for 1947 was made late in December for the affiliated regional associations of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association by R. A. Colgan, Jr., executive vice-president.

He emphasized the fact that, despite production difficulties, lumber output in 1946 was about 31 billion board feet instead of the 24 billion feet predicted last April.

Distribution handicaps contributed to the lumber scarcity. An important factor was shortage of freight cars, he said, and strikes that tied up unloading of freight and the shipment of lumber by sea from the west coast to the east. Government pricing policy and attempts to channel distribution handicapped normal distribution through retail yards.

Citing the research work being carried on by the N.L.M.A. and its affil-

ate Timber Engineering Company, Mr. Colgan anticipates an imposing list of new products and new uses for lumber.

The lumber outlook for 1947 is bright, the N.L.M.A. says.

"The strides of the research program, the progress of tree farming, the healthy relationship between forest drain and forest growth, the one trillion, 600 billion feet of standing sawtimber, the relaxation of war and post-war controls, the ability of the industry to keep up with demand, all contribute to optimism on the part of lumber producers," Mr. Colgan reported.

Laminated Structural Lumber

A folio dealing with the recommended minimum standards for design and fabrication of glued laminated structural lumber has been published by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association, and is available upon request.

The detailed specifications given in the publication will be found valuable by architects, engineers, building officials, and others who require accurate information on the subject.

Dealt with in the booklet are the special factors to be considered in designing laminated structural members, as well as the grades of lumber demanded, and appropriate working stresses.

It contains recommended specifications for the materials (lumber and glue), and their preparation for use. Proper stress transferring joints are covered, as are specifications for workmanship.

Requests may be addressed to West Coast Lumbermen's Association, 1410 S. W. Morrison Street, Portland 5, Ore.

Attention, Railroad Foresters!

All foresters employed by railroad companies in whatever capacity are requested to send information about themselves to James F. Spiers, forester, Agricultural Department, Central of Georgia Railway Company. Mr. Spiers' address is 317 South Main Street, Statesboro, Ga.

The kind of information desired includes forester's full name, address, company by whom employed, title or nature of employment, department of railroad in which employed, education, and length of railroad service.

This information is urgently needed so that a complete list of foresters employed by railroads may be compiled.

All readers of *FORESTRY NEWS* are asked to bring this notice to the attention of railroad foresters whether or not they are members of the Society.

Twelve foresters are known to be employed by railroad companies, but it is believed that the number is much higher.

No. 30

1630
November 7, 1966Death of Leon Kneipp, FS Pioneer

On October 29, after a short illness, Leon F. Kneipp, 85, former Assistant Chief in charge of Lands, died at the Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center.

Mr. Kneipp was a member of the original group which established the USDA's Forest Service in 1905, having begun his career as a forest ranger in the Territory of Arizona in 1900. In 1907, he became a forest inspector and later headed Forest Service Range Management. He was named Assistant Chief in charge of Lands in 1920 serving in this capacity until his retirement in 1946. During this time he was instrumental in acquiring for the United States some 20 million acres of forestland east of the Mississippi, and 4 to 5 million acres in the West.

In 1959, Mr. Kneipp was the recipient of the first annual award of the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) of which he had been executive officer. He was cited for his "outstanding contributions to the public welfare through leadership and vision which helped bring about the protection and development of the National Forest System."

USDA Revokes Federal White Pine Blister Rust Quarantine

Revocation of the Federal white pine blister rust quarantine was announced by USDA and notice of the revocation was published in the Federal Register October 29. The decision was reached jointly by USDA, cooperating State regulatory officials, and the national and regional plant boards after review of the quarantine and its supplementary regulations. Consensus is that, under present conditions, protection for the white pine industry can best be provided by States involved. USDA officials stressed, however, that the revocation should not be construed as meaning that the white pine blister rust is no longer of importance in the United States.

Five-leaved pine stands of commercial value are designated as control areas by affected States. Accidental reintroduction of alternate hosts (such as currant or gooseberry plants) is prevented by including them in State quarantines of these control areas. Such State quarantines also help prevent spread of the disease by requiring that 5-leaved pines be inspected and certified before being moved into control areas.

29 April 1975

Re: Transcription of Tape Interviews with
Leon Kneipp, former Assistant Chief,
U.S. Forest Service

Leon Kneipp worked
for Opeda for some
years after retirement.

(Annette Husik)

(Sey. Landclassif. Ofc)

Statement - Nov. 1978 -

to Frank Harmon
History Section

Mrs. Fern Ingersoll of Washington, D.C. (270-5219) called History Office April 22. She is transcribing the interviews for the Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library, University of California. (Editing, that is.)

She has a photo of him getting an award, with a long Forest Service ribbon. A man with black cap and gown, and a man with white cap and gown are on either side of him. There is a banner with the Forest Service emblem in the photo.

It is planned to include this photo in the frontispiece of the bound volume of the interviews.

She is seeking information for the photo.

The man in the black cap and gown is putting the long ribbon on Mr. Kneipp, and is reading a citation.

Mr. Kneipp's older son and wife were killed a few years ago in an ^{airplane crash} ~~automobile accident~~ ^{at 800 Quebec St.} ~~off~~

→ His younger son is a physician in Washington, living in Potomac, Md. Dr. John A. Kneipp. Home phone 299-6166. 12301 Stoney Creek Road. moved to 1976.

I referred her to Dr. Richard McArdle, retired Chief; Clare Hendee, Retired Deputy Chief for Administration; and Lee Prater, retired photographer


FJHarmon

TO Dr. John A. Kneipp
2715 Dumbarton Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

3

5 December 1978

FROM Frank J. Harmon, History Section, A.M.
Forest Service, USDA
P.O. Box 2417
Washington, D.C. 20013

SUBJECT

Mementos of Leon F. Kneipp

MESSAGE

I am sending you separately the recent issue of our newsletter, History Line, which shows your father in a group in Colorado in the first official Forest Service uniform in 1907. I thought you might not have seen the photo. We also have a photo of your father in a large group of rangers at Deadwood, S.D., the same year, and one taken in 1924 of the Lands Branch in back of the Atlantic Building downtown. There are probably one or two closeups, possibly including the one used in the blue interview book, in our audio-visual file in Rosslyn; I have not examined it. Most of the photos used in the book appear to have been borrowed from the family, or came from Region 4 in Ogden; they do not seem to be numbered, as are all Forest Service official photos submitted to the Washington office. If there are any photos you especially want and do not have, we will try to get them for you. I am also sending you two other recent issues of History Line, and a copy of my article on Franklin B. Hough, first U.S. forestry agent and chief of the old Division. Also a FS press release from the late 1930s or early 40s. I was just talking by phone today to Art Greeley, who thought it was you instead of your brother who had been killed. He said you were a great huntsman and master of the annual fall hunt of the Potomac Hunt Club. We plan to prepare a booklet with biographies of former Forest Service leaders, including your father, of course. I cannot find anything about your mother in our data; could you furnish us something about her? Also your and your brother's wives, and your children. Since we have two prints of the 1924 photo, I am sending you one. I am happy to have located you and it was a pleasure talking with you on the phone today.

no
reply →

SIGNATURE ~~Mr. Greeley informed me your brother was a lawyer with the D.C. Corporation Counsel.~~

REPLY

Frank J. Harmon

SIGNATURE

DATE

Leon Kneipp, 85, Dies; Forest Service Pioneer

Leon F. Kneipp, 85, retired assistant chief of the Forest Service in charge of lands, died Saturday at the Washington Hospital Center after a short illness.

A member of the group which established the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service in 1905, Mr. Kneipp began his career as a forest ranger in the Territory of Arizona in 1900.

He was appointed supervisor of the Pecos River Forest Reserve in New Mexico in 1904 and in 1905 he was one of the eight men from various parts of the West who went to Washington to establish new rules and procedures to govern the administration of the National Forests.

In 1907, he became a forest inspector and later became chief of grazing control for the Forest Service. He was made assistant forester of the Forest Service in 1908 and in 1914, as district forester, he was given charge of all national forests in Utah, southern Idaho, western Wyoming, northern Arizona and most of Nevada.



LEON F. KNEIPP

Mr. Kneipp became assistant chief of the Forest Service in charge of the lands branch in 1920. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1946.

During his administration of the lands branch, he was instrumental in acquiring for the United States approximately 20 million acres of

natural forestland east of the Mississippi River and four to five million acres in the West.

In 1924, Mr. Kneipp served as executive secretary of President Coolidge's Committee on National Outdoor Recreation, whose members included Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, and Theodore Roosevelt Jr., then Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Kneipp was a member of the Cosmos Club and the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture of which he was executive officer. In 1959, the organization gave him its first annual award, and cited his "outstanding contributions to the public welfare through leadership and vision which helped bring about the protection and development of the national forest system."

He lived at the Mar-Salle Home for the past two years and for many years before at 2122 Massachusetts ave. nw.

Surviving are two sons, Robert F. Kneipp, 2800 Quebec st. nw., and John A. Kneipp, 12301 Stony Creek rd., Potomac, Md.

Andrea K. Oates

Lillie Reid, Secretary

Forest Service, USDA
History Section
P.O. Box 2417
Washington, D.C. 20013

22 November 1978

Dr. John A. Kneipp
~~12301 Stony Creek Rd.~~
~~Potomac, Md. 20034~~

Dear Dr. Kneipp:

The recent issue of History Line, the Forest Service's history newsletter, shows your father, Leon Kneipp, in the first uniform, on the front page. I thought you might like to see the photo in case you had not seen it before. Fern Ingersoll of Takoma Park told us you were his surviving son, when she was completing the editing of the taped interview with Mr. Kneipp of the 1960s.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Harmon

Frank J. Harmon
History Section

1915, 1918, Ogden, in book
1906 - in book p. 16-A ←
late
* 1905 Use Back Center 1905 242-311
Calo. #2. 1st uniform - 242-318 (956) 1907
186999 - 1924 - ~~large~~ Landly Wash, D.C.
225053 - ~~landed~~ S.D. - 1907, March. Ranger reg.
large jumper. (same year as other group).