

Original

6/6/66

(Corrected Tape Recorder Notes)

SHELLWORTH/MAUNDER

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MAUNDER: Why did the stockholders enter the lumber business in southern Idaho? Just briefly sketch what those reasons were.

SHELLWORTH: Well, that's a pretty big order. There's a big historical story: that the big lumbermen had been used to the idea of shipping at the Atlantic Ocean and going west. They were shipping their lumber in the gulf states and Minnesota, and there wasn't good timber from there on to the western slopes of the Rockies. And the continental railroads were just breaking through in the west coast. Three of the continental railroads were just breaking through in the west coast. Three of the continental railroads were just breaking through in the west coast.

FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.

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MAUNDER: So the stockholders saw southern Idaho as the next logical point in the exploitation of forest regions?

This appears to contain portions of the April + December 1963 interviews done by Maunder, and it discusses similar topics.

There is no record of a 1966 interview, thus we believe this to be a consolidation of the 2 1963 interviews. MAS 1/21/94

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MAUNDER-SHELLWORTH TAPES

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MAUNDER: Why did the stockholders enter the lumber business in southern Idaho? Just briefly sketch what those reasons were.

SHELLWORTH: Well, that's a pretty big order. These are my impressions: that the big lumbermen had been used to the idea of starting at the Atlantic Ocean and going west. They were running out of timber in the gulf states and Minnesota, and there wasn't much timber from there on to the western slopes of the Rockies. And the continental railroads were just breaking through to the west coast. Three of the continental lines went through north Idaho. The amalgamation of three short lines into the Union Pacific system was just beginning to break. That was the Northwestern, the Union Pacific and the Oregon Short Line and the Washington and Oregon Railway and Navigation Company were consolidated into the Union Pacific system which opened up right straight through Idaho.

MAUNDER: So the stockholders saw southern Idaho as the next logical point in the exploitation of forest regions?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, except I'd say all of Idaho because it was all the same area; the "Inland Empire". Now that buying started right around the turn of the century--1901 or '02. They supposed on the basis of the history of the lumber business that saws would travel that way. But about that time Teddy Roosevelt opened up the Panama Canal. That made coast lumber, by wet bottoms around to Chesapeake and New Jersey and railroad back as far as Cleveland, cheaper than the railroad rate from point of origin in the west through to Cleveland.

In addition to that, freight rates from the Inland Empire to Omaha and the east were the total of the rate from their point of origin west to the coast and back to the point of destination, because the big production on the coast was given a special rate. Congress finally stopped that by a congressional act, saying that the rates must be in sequence clear through the line.

MAUNDER: A lot of the stockholders who were involved in investments in the Inland Empire were also the same families that were making large investments in the West Coast.

SHELLWORTH: Yes.

MAUNDER: So in a sense what they were doing they were putting the In-



MAUNDER: land Empire timber land in mothballs for a while, is that right?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. But there was a lot of them that didn't have any ownership on the coast, and they got terrible beaten for years and years and years. They had to keep forking money up for expenses-- taxes, forest protection and getting no dividends.

Anyway, during the lean years the industry had to pay taxes and The Barber Lumber Company was the first one I knew of that went out. My memory was that the Barber Lumber Company stockholders had to buy and pay for some 12,000 acres of timber only, on state land, in Boise Basin. They had to put up a sum of money, I think it was \$100,000.00, towards the cost of building a logging railroad, from the Intermountain railway at Junction of Moore's Creek and Boise River. Before that they had figured on driving Moore's Creek, but they found out that because of the sand in Moore's Creek driving there was impossible. Not only they couldn't drive the logs, but the pond at Barberton, filled up with placer sand seven million feet up bull pine went to the bottom of that pond, and they had to empty the pond and sluff sand out to get it.

MAUNDER: In other words, Harry, the industry moving west into Idaho out of the Lake States found that they could not deal with the timber in the same way that they had before.

SHELLWORTH: Yes.

MAUNDER: Now, the one significant economic development that permitted the industry to survive was this tremendous agricultural development of the state and the building up of towns and farms.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. Southern Idaho by reason of federal irrigation projects began to grow much faster than they had expected. Also the Mormon church began to spread in southeast Idaho.

MAUNDER: And this required a local supply of cheap lumber.

SHELLWORTH: Yes.

MAUNDER: How much of your production went to that market and how much went east of it?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know. You can get that accurately from the Weyerhaeuser Sales Reports.

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MAUNDER: All of your lumber was sold through Weyerhaeuser Sales--

SHELLWORTH: Yes, except local yards. But Weyerhaeuser Sales had priority for orders they wanted to fill on the transportation going east. And they had a representative in our office and I presume, in the other manufacturing offices, Potlatch, Rutledge and Lewiston. Anyway, during the lean years the industry had to pay taxes and carrying costs--protection and that sort of thing. That weeded out a lot of the outfits that didn't have enough capital. And caused some consolidations which were very fortunate.

MAUNDER: Was there any feeling of fear that these consolidations were putting the control of the timberlands too much at the hands of a few people?

SHELLWORTH: Oh, I don't recall anything of any importance. Sometimes in political fights, especially when it came to taxes. The minority party was always howling out that the eastern people were devastating our forests and shipping it out of the state and we'd better tax them while we had them. And that added, of course, to the burden.

MAUNDER: What was the process that you followed in acquiring your timberlands, Harry?

SHELLWORTH: Within the territory where we wanted to increase our holdings, it was just the ordinary system of purchase. We bought the individual timber stone claims. There were some few ranch homesteads that would have a 40 or an 80 acre or something like that. We'd buy that if we could but it, (at a reasonable price,) if not, we forgot it.

MAUNDER: At what point did the company start to seriously get into the land business?

The first big purchase was 33,000 acres of state land with a twenty-year cutting contract. Scrip was probably the biggest methods of purchase and of those there were several kinds. There was Aztec Land and Cattle Company from the southwest; and from the north, Northern Pacific Railroad. They gained scrip for selection of lieu lands as they called them in any of the nine northwestern <sup>public</sup> land states. And that scrip went on the market (was sold on an acreage basis). Some had limitations; others had almost none. Those that had no limitations became almost priced out of business. Valentine, for instance, was the best, and most expensive. Was used for more valuable land selections; dam sites, resort values, etc. (No reservations in favor of homesteader locations. Its value was like a demand note). The government just couldn't stop it through the courts, and there was no.

reservations on the title. It was fee simple--sky high and earth deep. Because of the need of that in critical places like dam sites or oil wells or something of that sort it went to a terrific price, many, many times its original value. The others which had some restrictions more or less, either as to where it could be relocated or as to the quality of its fee simple title stayed more near the original price. There were scrip companies that bought that up and sold it for the purpose of making a profit, speculating, in other words. And we got a lot of that through the Moses Scrip Co. of Montana; also some 55,000 acres of Aztec Land and Cattle Co. Scrip. There was another deal--the Utah and Idaho Land and Livestock Company on the Middle Fork Weiser River, some 7,600 acres from stockholders of the company and also the original locators. Each holder of 160 acres became a one share equal stockholders of the company.

MAUNDER: Most of these larger purchases had already been made before you came with the company in 1905.

SHELLWORTH: That's true except in the scrip. They had the scrip, but it had not yet been located. I located quite a good deal of the scrip.

MAUNDER: In other words; you cruised the area and determined the lands on which the scrip would be cashed.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. I either cruised it, or I got the cruise reports on which to work out and make the selections. That's a long tedious thing, because by the time you got to the United States Land Office in Washington and back with a patent sometimes it was four or five years. That took a lot of administrative work.

MAUNDER: At what point did the company start to seriously get into manufacturing and cutting the land?

SHELLWORTH: The Barber Lumber Company started--I would say in 1904 or '05. A very short time after they had this trouble with the Western Federation and those trials of Moir, Haywood and Pettibone and then they were stopped. It was very expensive for them.

MAUNDER: How much did it cost the company?

SHELLWORTH: It was rumored about a half-million. There's a story about John Weyerhaeuser--it was either John or Charles and I think it was John -- loaning money to one of the big stockholders (this stockholder and President of Barber Lumber Company was then the

Governor of Wisconsin, (hear say only), because they had to have \$150 capital;--they were almost bankrupt.

MAUNDER: Was this loan made after they got into trouble or was this Weyerhaeuser money in before?

SHELLWORTH: No, I think it was after, but I'm not sure of that. Then after the consolidation, the Barber mill started up <sup>again</sup> in 1914 and the Emmett mill started up in 1916. And many years later the Cascade and Council mills started up. These mills were started primarily because of new condition in freight costs and retail demand in our local territory and the difference in the market.

MAUNDER: How much did the war influence this new prosperity?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know. I have only one first-hand memory that I can think of that might be an answer. During the first World War, we were approached to get out a very fine grade of ponderosa pine, B or better, as near A as it can be graded. We had to take the contract whether we liked it or not. I helped select a piece of timberland, because I knew what we had, and they wanted 125,000 feet of ponderosa pine B.M. It had to be prepared according to the army specifications for cutting, milling, hauling and curing. Hauled by truck, piled dry and loaded to the saws without being dumped in the mill pond and all that sort of thing. A lot of it in our estimation was poppycock, but we couldn't refuse to do what the army asked. It had to be cut so many feet above it was to be hauled on trucks, and the trucks in those days didn't amount to much. Then to the railroad and taken to the mill, and instead of being dumped in the pond and going up the chute with all the logs, it had to be put on the roll-way to the saws by machinery. They had a man that they said was experienced to classify them. The logs were cut in the length they wanted run through and trimmed, and dry kilned the way they wanted with a certain amount of pressure and so forth. The amount that they got out of the 125,000 original logs that they accepted <sup>was small</sup> (they paid full scale for stumpage of the tree.) All other costs were additional. And the whole damn thing was a nuisance. And what they shipped, we hear afterwards, in conversations, (I couldn't say whether 'twas right or not)--even most of that was discarded--the major part of it wasn't used. And then after they had that mess they decided that the Sitka spruce on the coast was a hell of a lot better for airplanes. Still we had to do what the army told us, period. I hesitate to state the cost figures because they were enormous. Instead of coming out.

*above the ground and better first kind, much*

off of the saw at \$14, \$15, \$16 a thousand, it was something like \$150 a thousand. Now I was to select the site where we could get the timber plot for the amount that they wanted in the shortest space, the shortest distance from the mill. That's all I had to do with it. The rest I heard, was conversation, bull sessions amongst the employees of the mill. How far to value it I couldn't tell you.

MAUNDER: Well what other contributions do you feel your company made during World War I to the war effort? Did you turn out a lot of lumber for army contonment?

SHELLWORTH: That would have to come from our retail yards and whole-sale. I didn't have anything to do with it.

MAUNDER: Well, in your end of the business, could you see any, did you know of any demands that were being made?

SHELLWORTH: No.

MAUNDER: How did the war affect your labor supply? Were you hurt by the draft in the mills and in the woods?

SHELLWORTH: The draft board made a list of key men, important to the industry, and as far as I can remember, all of those, including our manager, Barton's son, missed the draft. I don't know of any deficiency or any want at all, at the mills, but I was very little around them. My work was in the woods and public relations.

MAUNDER: Well did you have any problem in finding competent help to do your work for you in the woods?

SHELLWORTH: No, we had our own crew with us all during the war.

MAUNDER: In September, 1919 there were wide-spread strikes in the woods, and companies in the Inland Empire were particularly hard-hit by these. Humbird Lumber Company, Rutledge, Potlatch, Bonners' Ferry were almost all crippled by the strike in 1919. Only Boise-Payette was little affected.

MAUNDER: How did it happen that Boise-Payette escaped this situation then?

SHELLWORTH: I would say it was because we were isolated from the rest of them. We didn't have any union trouble. The men we had were

mostly local men who'd been out of jobs a long time.

MAUNDER: Was the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen strong here at that time?

SHELLWORTH: I heard of it, but do not believe it affected us.

MAUNDER: How did your company deal with the IWW people?

SHELLWORTH: I remember that in Cascade, where we had our first logging camp, the IWW men set fires in the forest. One day they set seven of 'em in a row. Mostly they used great big three-pound coffee cans with holes put in above the bottom and turned over a fire that was lit in the duff. And they were strung out, seven of 'em in a row. The logging department had some suspects. I got in the line-up at the Cascade Post Office for the mail in the evening when the train come in, as soon as the office opened up. I had the names of these men, and as I went into the Post Office I saw there were none of 'em behind me. I asked for their mail and got it.

MAUNDER: How could you get their mail.

SHELLWORTH: Well, the postmaster was a friend of mine, and he knew what it was about. I gave him the list of names the day before, and he handed me the mail. I stuck it in my pocket and walked out of the Post Office; the U.S. Marshall following me and I turned it over to the logging superintendent.

MAUNDER: Well weren't you in grave danger--violating a federal law by tampering with the mails?

SHELLWORTH: Yeah. But there was a U.S. Marshall, in line next behind me, and I was also deputized, by the County Sheriff.

MAUNDER: Did you open their letters to see what was in them?

SHELLWORTH: I didn't but I passed them on to someone who did. He found their names and proof of their affiliation with IWW. But we didn't find anything regardin' the fires in our woods. We turned the evidence over to a deputy United States Marshall, who went on the train with the saboteurs when they left town. For some reason or another it was suspected that they had some stuff in a small handbag, but between LaGrande somewhere and Portland they threw it out of the train. This



U. S. marshall got off and went back and found it, and in it they found evidence, they were looking for.

MAUNDER: What became of these men?

SHELLWORTH: They never come back here. I don't know whether it was on our account or not, but in Portland they were arrested and were tried. I made a point not to know any more about it.

MAUNDER: Harry, I encounter some people in the lumber industry who have a rather negative feeling toward the U.S. Forest Service. I don't in reading any of your correspondence files get that feeling as a matter of fact, I have the feeling that you were on a very harmonious--

SHELLWORTH: I worked with them, but there were exceptions. Some of Pinchot's pets were just hard to get along with. There was L. P. Knipe, E. R. Sherman and oh, two or three fellows that faded out, and didn't amount to much. We ran across those and they muddied the water once in a while, but they generally faded out. As a whole I got along beautifully with them. And then Dick Rutledge of the Forest Service became my life long friend. Also Archie Ryan of the Department of Interior. We became acquainted when he was Inspector of Land Filings and I was scripping timber land for the Company.

MAUNDER: Aren't your lands surrounded on three sides by U. S. Forest Service lands?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, in the Boise National Forest, we had 26,000 acres on the North Fork of the Boise and Crooked River--that was the heart of the ponderosa pine section of that watershed. The rest of it was all the Boise National Forest.

MAUNDER: And wasn't the management of your company for a long time quite antagonistic towards the Forest Service? And likewise the Forest Service antagonistic towards your company?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. That was our manager, Barton. I just can't understand how he ever got a job. He wasn't big enough to have a job like, that over other men. He granted you nothing, he did all the strutting. I'll tell you, Maunder, I couldn't tell him what I was doing sometimes because he'd go around and brag about what he was doing--of what he'd had me do--and spill the beans. I couldn't tell him, when he wanted me to get out and fight the sales tax, that it was not going to be a law,

because I would have had to tell him that the Republican organization had told me that their orders were not to let that bill get to Charlie Moore, the governor, but if it did that he would veto it. And if I had told him, he'd have gone out and told C.C. Anderson, the merchant prince here in Boise that, he'd told "he would have Harry to do that, and that he was sure that it was all done." Because his youngest son was engaged, (and afterwards married) the niece of the merchant. He had no sense of timing of how to handle 4th Estate information or when to say a thing. He was just a damn psalm-singin' strutter. The Esprit de ~~corps~~ <sup>of</sup> under Barton was nix.

MAUNDER: And you credit, or discredit, him with the bad relations with the Forest Service?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. John Weyerhaeuser of the second generation and Bill Musser were always my friends. Bill Musser had been president of our Payette Lumber and Manufacturing Company--one time I told Bill that I thought it was a mistake to sell off some of our, for the time, virgin timberland. I thought we should keep it. We were maybe losin' money, of course, but I said, "If this is an investment at all, hell's bells! There's customers born ever' damn night, but there isn't any more timber acreage, every day."

MAUNDER: But they were still ordering you to sell it.

SHELLWORTH: No. Bill Musser and John Weyerhaeuser were receptive. They were both worried about no profits for years, but they were receptive and inclined to believe me. Now unfortunately they told Barton, and Barton just raised the hide off me. "By God, he was the manager of this company and I wasn't supposed to talk to anybody but him." Well, I learned my lesson there, but I learned it the wrong way because the next time when the thing came up under Jack Moon I just kept my mouth shut. Based on what I'd done before, I decided that I had no business tryin' to tell the management what to do. And although it was at least given out that I didn't object, I knew it was not wise to sell or trade the Boise River timberland to the U.S.F.S.

MAUNDER: This was about 1937 or '35?

SHELLWORTH: No, it was earlier than that. Anyway after this they asked me if I could sell ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> cut over timber land. I said, "Yes, in time. We can sell that cutover land for \$2.50 an acre, includin' the timber on it." We were to sell some of it plus probably a dollar a thousand for the timber that could be cut. And I told 'em that <sup>th</sup> along the ridge <sup>the timber land</sup>

at their Summer home  
between Long Valley and Meadows that there was timber there that smaller mills could probably take as much off of it in stumpage measurement as we had in our first cutting. And they ordered me to sell-- I sold I think it was 14,000 acres to Carl Brown. And Elwood, Brown took more off of that in saleable timber in the cutover land than we had taken out of it in virgin timber, and it made a fortune for them. And the only advice I made up there and stuck with it was that it would be better to sell the little timber we had around the Payette Lakes for the reason that if we, a big foreign corporation, cut it, we'd have one hell of a howl from this country about despoiling the Payette Lakes, south Idaho prime Summer Resort. In the final matter we traded that to Forest Service on a selective cutting basis and got timber for it.

MAUNDER: I want to talk about some of these people with whom you've been associated. You've certainly known the third generation of Weyerhaeusers. Bill and F.K., haven't you?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, But I came in when the second generation was old and tired and about ready to quit, and the third generation had already come up to a certain degree. Coming up they had formed their friendship with the young men coming up the same way that were friends of theirs. They had friends at court where my friends at court had "gone away." But John Phillip in particular was just as fine as his old dad. He never failed to hunt me up when he came to town. I liked him very, very much. I liked F.K., too, but I didn't know F.K. as well as I did John Phillip.

MAUNDER: F. K. was in St. Paul with the sales company during the years you were with the company, I imagine.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, he was.

MAUNDER: Did he ever come out on any of these pack trips, or hunts with you? He's a greater hunter, you know. He loves to hunt and fish.

SHELLWORTH: I didn't get to see him on any hunting trips. No, I'm sure I didn't.

MAUNDER: What about the Mussers? Can you tell me anything about the Musser family?

SHELLWORTH: Bill Musser is right along with John Weyerhaeuser, at

least his equal. I used to join the Mussers <sup>at their summer home</sup> at the old logging camp over on Leech Lake, Minnesota every October. And after that, and before going home, I met his family a week or so at Muscatine and Iowa City.

MAUNDER: Do you know John Musser?

SHELLWORTH: As I know the other young men of the third generation. John Phillip and Fritz Jewett best and then F. K. and Young Davis. That's about all of the third generation that I really know.

MAUNDER: You knew Fritz Jewett pretty well.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, but one of his Potlatch men was envious of my public relations success and closer to Fritz. This man, I know he had something to do with stopping the Christmas presents I used to receive from North Idaho Lumber Companies. At first he didn't bother me much, but later he seemed to think I was this "bird dog."

MAUNDER: Harry, you first became active in the political scene when you were working for the Payette Lumber and Manufacturing Company.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, I can't tell you exactly why I started to do it except I had an interest in people. I like people. I don't think there's anything in the world more interesting to watch, but I have no desire whatever to push anybody around and nobody's going to push me around. I started out very largely taking care of old friends that I'd known for years. They'd come to Boise and hunt me up, and I'd talk with them about this and that. I told them what the hates and friendships were in the different sections--I knew those by heart.

MAUNDER: In other words, you were a source of intimate information to the political chieftains of the Republican party.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, and on two or three occasions, to Democratic friends. I can't tell you how many off-hand, but several governors and several prospective candidates for governors used to come by Boise and pick me up in their cars to take me to the convention as their guest.

MAUNDER: And what did you do at a convention in the way of special services?

SHELLWORTH: Meet my old friends and find out what was in the air, what was being cooked and who was cookin' it, and then get the word back

to the governor or candidate. And that way they got their levels for smoothing things up with trades. Somebody got a bridge, somebody got a ferry, somebody got a road, somebody got a county division or something of that sort. In early legislative days, in Idaho, the committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries was a very important committee. Almost as important as Finance, Ways & Means or State Affairs.

MAUNDER: In other words, you found what things individual delegates were most anxious to get for their own voting community.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, I was probably as well-informed about such matters as any man of my age could be. I could give them information about political factors and men in the state that they didn't know, information which they figured I knew how to evaluate. Getting information and evaluating it properly are two different things. We had two men in our party that had exceptional ability--Ike Nash could get more information than any man I ever knew, but he couldn't evaluate it. His best friend, Dave Burrell could evaluate, it but he couldn't get the information. But when I gave it to him he knew how to use it and work it.

MAUNDER: Most of this information, Harry, you carried in your head.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. Except this one thing--I had one of these little card systems on individuals. But I didn't take that to these conventions, it was then, and has always remained, my personal property.

MAUNDER: Did you ever have any official capacity in the party.

SHELLWORTH: None whatever. Not even a precinct <sup>Committee</sup> ~~middleman~~, nor was I ever appointed to any office, with a monetary consideration. I was put on the first state forestry board and had the longest tenure as a member at the time of my retirement in 1947. Before we had the Fish and Game Commission I was nearly always a member of some committee of some association, Fish and Game, Roads, Bridges, etc., most always my own county's Fish and Game Committee. Because of my reputation or whatever you want to call it, other fish and game associations in other counties would send a man to talk to me to see what we could do about this thing or that. I liked to give the "dope" to those people on the "Fourth Estate" level only, and I liked to have it appreciated.

MAUNDER: The returns, as far as you were concerned, were what?

SHELLWORTH: A personal assurance that when I went to a man and talked to him I was talking to a friend. I wanted him to listen to what I said.

and that's all I asked. I never, so help me God, ever asked any man to vote for anything that I was proposing. My conduct was correct-- I plead my case before the proper committee and only there.

MAUNDER: I'd like you to spell out for us in some little detail the intricacies involved in getting a piece of legislation through the state legislature in Idaho. The procedures you had to follow, the people with whom you had to deal and who you had to know personally in order to accomplish this work.

SHELLWORTH: As soon as the election returns were in I studied them. I used to have (until I destroyed it) a complete card filing system of these men in public life in Idaho anywhere from their drinking habits, gamblers, Chippy Chasers, Psalm Singers, or whether they were straight-shooters with their wives. His religion, any peculiarities that affected his way of thinking. I used all the means that a man needs to try to keep a record, but principally the information was for my personal use, only, after the man was elected. There would be a newspaper story of him and his background and his family, biographical. It would go into the "card," which was an envelope with his age and his county and his affiliations; also newspaper clippings. When I pulled that out I might have a man of some promise.

MAUNDER: Now did you subscribe to all the newspapers of the state or did you subscribe to a clipping service to get this information?

SHELLWORTH: Neither one. I subscribed to the important papers only. I've been going to the Statesman office in Boise ever since 1890 and can always talk to somebody in there in the top echelon. Well, maybe you think that isn't a valuable asset! *I was "Printer Devil" and newsboy for the Statesman for 2 years*

MAUNDER: And did you compile this file exclusively yourself or did you have your secretary's help in this?

SHELLWORTH: I did it myself. And that file was never in the office of the lumber company or anyone else's hands, but my own. You've got to be careful about that.

MAUNDER: What sort of things, Harry, did you dispose of? Was it your feeling that they might be defamatory? You said that there were certain things that you felt were too intimate to pass on.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, and hurt somebody's son or grandson. For instance some of the stuff about Mary McConnel's father. Mrs. Borah--her father was a wild one. Some of that stuff I cut out.

MAUNDER: Did you find it useful to report to this file repeatedly then as you dealt with individual problems?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, it helped me know a man better, and I wouldn't have to go at him blind. For example, some of them were very proud - one fellow for instance, of a horse that he had. And I had that horse's pedigree and performance record out of "AMERICAN STUD", in my file. When I went and talked to him I showed him clippings. If there was something like that that I thought I might use I kept duplicates. But actually most of my work was based on long-time friendships and long-time understanding of the conditions in Idaho and knowledge of the people who were going back and forth to the legislature. To put it just as frankly as possible the basis from which you worked is established before the legislature meets in its first regular session. The election of the speaker of the house is a very important thing. Then the selection of the minority and majority leaders in both houses and the selection of Committee Chairmen. With my knowledge of people and the help that I could give the party leaders; I would have some influence in selecting efficient chairmen for the important committees. Now that's a double project. The chairmen of the important committees generally and the speaker were made members of the sifting committee towards the end of the session generally the 45th day; to cut out the stuff that they couldn't spare time on. If you felt there was something in there that you were interested in getting out of the way, that was a good place to send it. Keep it at the tail of the list after the sifting committee made out a new calendar of bills for the legislature. The main thing, you wanted to do was to get your friends, that were interested like you were, on the right committee. And, as far as possible, help make them chairmen. Committee members were chosen in the same proportion as the membership of the legislature. A certain per cent were Republicans and a certain per cent were Democrats. On the majority, side you'd try to get a man on that committee who knew what you were after was efficient and was friendly. And that's the reason I can say I never asked a man for a vote. I went before those committees, presented my case as best I could, observed all the ethics, and talked as if every one of them were my friends, and that was all there was to it. And you nearly always got a satisfactory report out of the committee. And the quicker you got your bill out of the committee, the better it rated on the floor and the least likely it was to go back into an adverse committee and be held for wild amendments. That's what you wanted to guard against.

MAUNDER: What was your relationship to the state chamber?

SHELLWORTH: <sup>Representing which</sup> Our company was at all times one of the supporters and

members. I most often represented the timber companies in the meetings. There's where I met such men as Stanley Easton, the head of the mines, and R. E. Putnam, head of power. Albert Campbell and Sid Smith representing the livestock associations, Ray McKaig representing the Grange, Warren G. Swendsen, long-time State Reclamation Engineer. I don't believe there was a time when I didn't go to these meetings two or more times annually, generally March and October.

MAUNDER: Well, Harry, it's commonly suspected that certain of our representatives in government are not adverse to taking a small remuneration for assurance of their vote on a given bill or, more often, for guarantees of their action as members of committees which may either call off a bill or push it through to the floor for a vote. Can you tell us to what degree this practice was prevalent in the Idaho legislature in the old days and how it is now?

SHELLWORTH: I've had some fellows try to hold me up, but no one ever succeeded.

MAUNDER: In other words, you've had legislators come to you and as much as say "Well, for a consideration I'll vote your way on this bill."

SHELLWORTH: Well, not as bluntly as that, but they would intimate what they expected me to do for them. One fellow, R. E. Whippin, at one time he was very powerful. He was a mining man by training. He started out in one of those little counties. On the other ticket was a man who was absolutely unscrupulous and just hated anybody that had a dollar more than he did, especially corporations and damn surely any foreign corporations. But a good runner, a good political racehorse. This same candidate had no use for the national forests or for anybody in the forest game. He had the belief, more or less common at that time, that when the government helped put out a fire they were helping a private business. Now Guy Main<sup>s</sup>, the Boise forester at that time, and I were very much interested in a road from Banks, Idaho up the Canyon to Garden Valley and from there on up to Lowman which would open up not only all of the Forest Service timber back up behind there but also open up our timber, on the low<sup>er</sup> part of it, a short route to the railroad. We went over the political situation touching this road we wanted. Main<sup>s</sup> knew Whippen very well: "He's not only a good man but he can talk and he knows all the conditions. You won't have to teach him anything about this. He knows that country as well as you and I know it." We went and talked to him, had dinner with him at his home, and he said he'd run. And he did and he won. He was with the legislature at



MA least a half dozen times. He had a hell of a good record. He also became the engineer of a small power plant for a mining company up there and with his educational background he was very much a success. But that thing blew up and he was out of a job, about that time a company in Lewiston (now part of Potlatch) wanted to build a dam. In the state of Idaho according to the constitution, the State owns the beds of all meandered streams (surveyed) are property of the state, and you can put no dams in or anything else except with the permission of the state. They talked with the county and city people up at Lewiston and they got all the political backing in the world they wanted.

A man by the name of John Graham, a lawyer from Twin Falls, (a long-time friend of mine,) who had been on the public utilities commission for many years. Also Mark Means, a man of high political standing in north Idaho had both given it clearance, because part of the proposition was that a power plant was to be put up at the dam and that the city would have open power from it. But this Whippen, with his slight background as an electrical engineer, being out of a job, decided that he wanted that job. An old judge from Lewiston, a very fine gentleman, (on the committee), went to Whippen and asked him to take the bill on the floor of the Senate. But Whippen wanted the assurance that he'd have the job as superintendent of that power plant. Well, this old judge (who was probably about seventy then), was very much disturbed. He called me up, I went over to the hotel and talked to him about it in his room. I wrote on a piece of hotel stationery "Tell the son of a bitch to go to hell." I folded that up and sealed it, handed it back and I said, "When Whippen comes back, just hand that to him. Then we can mark him down." A Mr. Erb also from Lewiston (and also on the Lewiston Committee) came in the next day and I met him at the train. I told him about the note and we went over to the judge's hotel room to meet him. I told Erb what had happened, and I reminded Erb that I knew him better than I did the judge. Then I said to him, "Ask the judge to show you the letter that I wrote and sealed yesterday on the desk there." George Erb said I know Whippen too well!!! The Bill went through the house without a Vote against it, and when it went to the senate, and Senator Whippen got up and went on a tirade about the "terrible lumber barons," breaking all the constitutional powers, keeping the small sawmill operators out of the stream bed, etc. "The hatchmen of the timber barons, are probably behind the curtains now, "telling you men what, when and where to vote. The Senate passed the bill anyway. There were two or three votes against the bill; the rest were for it. Whippen was permanently politically retired by his county next election time.

MAUNDER: Harry, when you turned over the reins of your job to your successor to what extent did you pass along to him a lot of these tricks of the trade that you know about?

SHELLWORTH: Only if he came and asked me for it and I thought he understood the ethics of the Fourth Estate. I cleaned my records except for things that I wanted for the future. On the other hand, there was a fellow in north Idaho who had come out of University of Idaho at Moscow with a forest education. He's a good man, went a long ways, a Prussian character, but in personality and political practice, he and I did not mix; when he got out of college and went to work for one of the Weyerhaeuser companies, and the first thing he decided to do he was to come down to Boise and tend to this public relations work. He came down here and set up in three rooms in the hotel with a lawyer and a clerk, for the duration of the Legislative Session, and everybody in the town looked on it as a high power lobby. Very few people knew that I was doing any lobbying. I just lived here and knew these legislators; most of them I also knew there fathers. I wasn't going to throw that away on a fellow that was going to tell the world that he was my boss and what he was doing. And he thought because he was working for a larger company that he was going to tell me what to do. When he started to tell me that I had to report to him and tell him what I knew about politics, I told him where to go. I just wouldn't do it, that's all. So he got mad about it and as soon as he got back to Lewiston he got the manager of the Potlatch Company to quit sending me a Christmas check - which I had never asked for. At that time there were 4 or 5 companies in North Idaho that sent me a Christmas present every year. Never less than \$250 to \$500 a company. There was three Weyerhaeuser affiliated companies and three absolutely independent companies, big companies. Humbird, McGoldrick, Blackwell and Bonners Ferry.

MAUNDER: Was this money coming to you in recognition for services that you were rendering to industry as a whole through legislation?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, but only as a gift. I had never asked or hinted for it.

MAUNDER: And how much did this Christmas present amount to altogether, Harry?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I think never less than a thousand dollars. It wasn't always the same. It wasn't an obligation. I never asked for it. They would write down here and ask me to do so-and-so for them, and I did it to their satisfaction, and it was just a return. The "Prussian" figured

he was representing these North Idaho Companies now, so they didn't need to pay me those Christmas presents. He talked the manager, C. L. Billings of the Potlatch Company at that time into it and they cut it. It didn't hurt any because my boss, Jack Moon, made it all up to me. He gave me a thousand dollars a year boost.

MAUNDER: Did this money then stop coming to you from up north?

SHELLWORTH: Well, eventually it did. But not right away. It finally was through the years, except that two outfits sent me a Christmas checks until I retired.

MAUNDER: I get the very clear impression from all of this and from what I've read in your personal papers, Harry, and the clippings you've given me, that there was a very close rapport all the time between the leadership of the Republican Party, the key men of the various industries of the state, and of the key newspapers of the state. From what quarter did your political opposition come? I gather from what you've said that there was really precious little opposition in these early days.

SHELLWORTH: It was almost entirely Republican state with very few exceptions until the F.D.R. landslide.

MAUNDER: Was there any conflict between various interests within the Republican Party.

SHELLWORTH: None of importance until direct Primary days. Well, of course, there were minor conflicts, but those were generally ironed out. We had the old system of the conventions and the platforms. Our platform convention was held first, and if you didn't subscribe to that you didn't get the nomination for the convention for state offices. That's the way it should be today. You take everybody howling, and a lot of them are not informed. They were better informed, and better able to pick out a man in that county or in their precinct by going back to the minimum unit to represent them rather than bringing the whole damn precinct go down there and howl together. There's no order in that. That's the reason I'm not a direct primary man. I believe in the party organization and party responsibility. If a man can't adhere to the platform he's got no right to expect financial help from the party in his campaign, and that's where it should come from.

MAUNDER: Well, Harry, now that we've sketched in some of the background for your work, will you describe some actual jobs that you did? Let

us see the theory in action on an appointment or a piece of legislation.

SHELLWORTH: One ~~June~~ <sup>platform</sup> we had as usual, our ~~program~~ committee convention and then after the platform was adopted, we would have the nominating committee convention. And Frank Gooding, Bert Connor, and Joe Peterson were all candidates for United States Senator. That was to be Gooding's first term. Lawson of the Capital News was against Gooding all the time. Lawson was also Chairman of the Ada County delegation to the convention, held in Weiser and he wanted to influence the selection of the Republican candidate for Secretary of State. There were 5 votes in the Ada County delegation. The idea of a second woman of the State Land Board of five was his idea; so Lawson became Chairman of the Ada County delegation. Calvin Cobb, owner and Editor of the Boise Statesman had fallen out with Borah over the World Court plan, and Lawson of the Capital News jumped into the fight for two reasons.

1. He wanted to become Senator Borah's key man in Idaho, and
2. He wanted to get all of the State's printing through the office of the Secretary of State. Gooding had declared himself as against Borah's idea of the World Court, so he won the antagonism of the Borah people. Lawson was trying to make himself known as Borah's man and saviour in Idaho.

MAUNDER: Was Borah recognized as the head of the party in Idaho?

SHELLWORTH: He was at one time. At first he wasn't because he was a little too liberal for the oldtimers. And he played for the Grange people more than anyone else. He made his big promises to them. So things were getting pretty bad by the second day of the convention. There was nobody making headway on the platform, and it looked as if Lawson was going to control that committee and get the platform he wanted, which he figured Gooding would not take, because Gooding had expressed himself definitely against Borah's idea. They put about twelve of us fellows that were sort of, well, you might say strategists in a great big room, including the chairman, Jack Thomas, and the big leaders of the party, and the Banker at ~~Gooding~~ <sup>Weiser</sup>. I was the only one there that didn't have any rating. I got a call from the local banker's daughter, who was giving a cocktail party for the delegates. She said Maud Paul (that was Gooding's married daughter) was over there and was tipsy and was talking too much. She knew that I knew the Gooding family very well, so she said, "Get over here and get this woman and put her in a room and lock her up." Well, I went over there and Maud was just magpie-drunk. I told her that she was hurting her dad's chances and that she'd better get home and get to bed.

So I took her back over and as we passed the desk I told the clerk, "Charlie, get one of the chamber maids to follow us upstairs immediately and help me put Mrs. Paul to bed." We waited outside and waited and waited and that girl didn't come. Finally that damn chambermaid showed up. Mrs. Paul wore a dress with the old hook and eyes fasteners down her back and because she wanted to talk I was having a hell of a time getting her unhooked. And I knew that I had important news because she asked me about what was going on and I said, "This doesn't look very good. Lawson has got that committee to himself over there and he's going to make a platform that your father won't follow." She told me, "Well, father's changed his mind on that." And I said, "Maud, do you know what you're talking about? Do you know what you're talking about?" "Yes," she said, "He's concluded that since France has repudiated its financial obligations to the U.S., Borah's right on it." And I said, "Why in the hell doesn't he say something?" She said, "You know Dad. He'd never admit he was wrong." And I talked to her again along that line and then went back to this room where these party strategists were. Jack Thomas was laying there with his hat drawn over his head and I asked him, "How are things going?" "I don't like it. This is the second day and we're not making any headway." "Well," he said, "Harry Lawson's raising hell." And I said, "Jack, I just came from taking Maud Paul home. She was talking too damn much, and Annabelle Barton called me up and told me to get her home." I told him what she said, and as he sat up he said, "Say that again." He called to Ike Nash, (who was State Land Commissioner, he was afterwards also chairman of the party)--he said, "You get ahold of Lawson, and we'll go to my room, and you and I and Dave Burrell--(Dave Burrell was a real political strategist) "we'll talk to him." And he said to me, "You've got to come in with us." And I said, "No, I'd better not, Jack. Lawson and I have had words within the last six hours. I did not want a second woman on the State Land Board. He shook his fist in front of my face in the Hotel Lobby and said Miss So and So is going to be nominated as Secretary of State whether you like it or not. I did not answer him although I could have bet him, at that minute the only vote a woman would get from the Ada County delegation would be his. The next day the Ada County vote was 4 to 1 against his candidate and he, never again, was elected on the Ada County delegation. I told him, 'you'd better leave me out of this.'" He said, "Well, maybe that's right." So they went and they made this proposition to him that would soften that platform up so that Frank could get up on the floor and say that he reserved the right to fight for his own ideas on the convention floor, in a nice way, but

that when the party spoke he would follow the party. And I said to Thomas, State Chairman, "You know, Frank, has made that statement before." Thomas said, "Yes, I don't think we'll have trouble on it." That smoothed it over. Gooding was nominated, and that was all that was necessary. Lawson's candidate for Secretary of State, was not nominated.

MAUNDER: That was tantamount to election.

SHELLWORTH: And the next morning the Statesman came out with a picture of Frank Gooding sitting in front of a table with a handkerchief stuck in his collar and a knife and fork in his hands on the table and a great big platter with a crow on it with his wing tip and tailfeathers and feet still on, and the banner head was "Frank Gooding Eats Crow." Another time there was a Republican from Elmore County, Charlie Farraday who ran an automobile shop and a gas station combination. He was very popular there and very popular in the party. At that time only the east Wing of the capitol building in Boise had been built, and they wanted a large appropriation, something like two million dollars or five million dollars to finish it. There wasn't any idea that they'd have any trouble; but neither was there any idea that they should take any chances because there was always the possibility that these little mountain counties figuring on the tax cost, would knock it down. Farraday, as usual, was made the chairman of the senate finance committee. The bill for the appropriation was in his committee, the Senate Finance Committee. We had prohibition then and the prohibition officer was an appointee of Borah's. This fellow entered Charlie Faraday's room, without search warrant and without permit, in the hotel and found Charlie had a case of booze. The fellow took it to the county courthouse for evidence and was getting ready to make a charge against the senator for having liquor in his room. I was on the committee from Boise to do all possible to get that appropriation through to the west wing of the capitol. Jess Hawley, a very prominent lawyer there, was chairman of the committee. There were five or six of us. Jess called me up and said, "For God's sake, get down here quick. We've got trouble." And I got down there and Charlie Faraday had told Jess about this violation of his privacy without warrant and he said, "Get it back in my room or you'll get no damn appropriation for the new wing of capitol. And that goes." We were just sick because we knew Charlie Faraday was no bluffer. We had quite a session and went off in the side room and talked it over. Jess knew that I knew Borah pretty well. He said, "For God's sake call up Borah and tell him to call that crazy s.o.b. off." So I went back over to the company office and called Borah up in Washington and told him what the setup was, and

He said, "Well, you know I can't do that." "Well," I said, "Senator, it's got to be done. You know Charlie Faraday. He asked, "where will you be in half an hour?" I said, "I'll be here in the Boise Payette Lumber Company office." And I gave him the number. And he said, "You be there and I'll call you back." And he said, "Remember you never called me, and you never talked to me about it, and I don't know anything about it." I said, "I certainly do, Senator." Borah said, "Where are you going now?" I said, "I'll go back to the Owyhee and wait." I went back and told Jess where I'd be for an hour. And very shortly after that and in less than half an hour a call came in and Fred Mann who was chief clerk of the Hotel said, "There's a telephone call for you." I said, "Who is he?" And he said, "It's your friend from Meridian." And he asked me to meet him outside of the hotel on the corner of Main & 11th Street. I went down and met him. He asked me about it and I told him. I said, "It's got to be done. You know Charlie Faraday as well as I do." And so he said, "I'll go up and see what I can do. I've put that in the sheriff's office and registered it." And he said, "I'll put in a call for you." I went back and waited. Pretty soon Charlie Faraday came down and ran right into Jess Hawley and me and said, "Everything's all right. It's all back in my room." And almost at that instant this telephone call and Fred Mann said, "On the line here for you, Harry." And I went over and I said, "Yes, I know, it's all settled." One of the experiences that I think of most often is the wonderful coincidences that happened, when R. E. Shepherd and I were the representatives of the State Chamber of Commerce to meet Carl Gray, head of the Union Pacific, to make this trip around the hinterland behind Sun Valley. Nothing was in place in the Sun Valley plans ~~then~~ except the surveyor stakes for the foundation. And from what I heard I got the decided impression that the Union Pacific stockholders were pretty much alarmed at spending that money up in that country for a ski resort. They figured that Averil Harriman had "sold his father something" in this Ski Resort deal. So eight members of the Board came out with their legal secretary, and three directors of the Union Pacific Railway Company, including Ed Schmidt, their public relations man from Omaha. The president of the Idaho Chamber of Commerce, ~~R. E. Shepherd~~, joined them at Pocatello; I joined them at Shoshone U. P. Station below the Sun Valley location. They were going to be there four days, and they decided that each one of them would take a half a day, riding with me in my Buick Convertible Coupe. Well, I think because the road was best from Shoshone to Ketchum they decided that Carl Gary would go with me, the first half day. Well, we had a beautiful half day together and during that day it came up that he had been a passenger on the S. S. Santa Anna when I was a cabin boy about 1895 or '96 and that he'd been into a combination theater and saloon

MAUNDER: From what quarter was the opposition coming to that legis-  
lation?

Tell story  
of how we got  
Union Pacific  
to come to Sun Valley  
through a lookout  
in the Sawtooths

Zookhart  
1925

and restaurant called "Hell's Kitchen" at Panama City, the same night I was. That night a local bandit, "Pablo San Antonio" and his men came in from the hinterland, and took half a dozen Can-Can girls off the stage, to the mountains above where the Culebra had stopped the Frenchmen, "LeSessups." (I seemed to sense that some of the "girls" were not greatly alarmed.) Gray said, "What a coincidence". I was there that night too. Well, the next morning Ed Smith was in charge, he said, "Mr. Gray will ride with you the rest of the trip." He went through the whole trip with me. They were very much pleased with what I showed them about the country. They especially enjoyed a trip to Forest Lookout in the Sawtooth Mountains. It seemed to reassure them in regard to the whole Sun Valley project. The day was clear. I told them that from this Lookout you could see Montana and Oregon and Washington with field glasses. And Gray walked over to Schmidt and said "Do you hear that, it's Tremendous!!!"

MAUNDER: Well, Harry, looking back over this whole period in your work with the state legislature and also with national affairs, what do you think of as the most important accomplishment in your life?

SHELLWORTH: Our forest law in Idaho. In 1925 there was a compulsory forest fire protection law setting up the machinery for the organization and protection of the forests. It set up the State Forest Board. I think the greatest value of that bill was the personnel, and the background of that personnel, of that board. It was thoroughly comprehensive. It was the vehicle through which everything else came later.

MAUNDER: Harry, there's a little bit in one of your letters having to do with the Idaho Forestry Law, which created the state forestry board. It was nip and tuck. You had a number of years in which you had been laying the groundwork and trying to get this thing through. It was 1925 when you finally got it through.

SHELLWORTH: We started in '17. Our legislature is biennial. '17, '19, '21, '23 and '25 -- and in '25 I found out one of the big things about that when I was talking to a Mormon state president in southeast Idaho who I had known many years. He was a banker in the Mormon First Security chain, and he'd been with me on some of these trips. He'd told me "your gold lace lookouts" had done me more good than you possibly could believe." We had to convince those people that we were going to be good stewards, that we weren't just putting shacks on top of those mountains that we were there for keeps.

MAUNDER: From what quarter was the opposition coming to that legislation?



SHELLWORTH: There was no unanimity on forestry laws in either party except where they wanted to gain the emotionalists and the short thinkers. In Idaho, it's my honest belief, we had the toughest place in the world to break in and get over this idea of "let's-get-together-and-see-how-far-we-can-ride-in-the-same-boat." You had to have understanding and sympathy with all the different segments of the electorate; the farmers, the recreationists and the grazing associations, and the usual "sobsisters" that you have on any question. They're the emotional thinkers, and when their time comes they do the loudest howling. It's your clear thinker that doesn't get up and tell the world that his is the only right way. When that fight first started, mining was supreme in Idaho. The construction of the railroads more or less abetted that statement because it went into the mining and then also into timber. The timber buyers arrived after the railroads had started, and they'd come in second. North of the Clearwater, it was all timber and mining, south of that placer mining and a little mining but not a great deal. Then the third element was stockmen--at first largely sheep men and then cattlemen and always a certain amount of horses--horses being transportation and communication. The irrigationists were a big influence because they were small location irrigation tracts through the south part of the Idaho south of the Salmon River. We had to get a bill or forestry law that was agreeable to all those people who thought that their interest was paramount in the timber watersheds. If we didn't we couldn't get anywhere.

MAUNDER: In other words, you had to get a coalition of different interest groups.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, when we got the unanimous endorsement of the State Editorial Association, (even if I had changed my mind and used all of my knowledge and strength against the bill I couldn't have stopped it.) It ran away with us. I was at a meeting of the Western Forestry in Spokane Hotel. W. H. Laird was the president of that association. And I think there was one independent lumberman up there, Fred Herrick, who was the sort of "Cappy Ricks" style of man. Had no regard for anybody except what he could put over on them. He got up in the meeting as I'd explained this bill and that we'd met these different elements. And this fellow got up and tore into it. He wanted to know whether I was a gum-boot irrigator or a shepherd or a representative of the Grange or the Sporting Club or the Sunday schools. I had had a little bit of annoyance from that fellow before and I knew that this was it. So I stepped down off the podium, right down in front of him, shook the bill in his face, and I said, "Mr. Herrick, we will take this, or these people will write it and tell us to go to hell." When I got back up on the podium

old Bill Laird put his arms around me. "By God," he says, "I admire your guts." And the beauty of it is, we've never had any trouble with it since then. We've never had any legal action against it. Our constitution was a copy of California's, and it was religious, in that you couldn't interfere with the property rights of an owner. We had to get this forestry law and forest protection tax on the basis of public health, public safety, and police protection. It's a good thing that it's been on there so long. Some of the best jurists in the state today tell me that it's a good thing that custom has sealed off the court fights that we could have had. That first bill was passed under Gov. Charles Moore in '25. Then in 1929, under Governor Hank Baldrige, we got a tax law called the Reforestation Tax Districts--they changed the name later. These two laws are the legal background for our TREE FARMS of today.

MAUNDER: Did this have anything to do with the McNary-McSweeney Act? And the Clarke-McNary law?

SHELLWORTH: I think indirectly, the answer is yes. The law provided that if your cutover lands met with the approval of the State Forester as being in a condition to produce a new crop, then for a maximum of fifty years it would be placed under taxation on a basis of a cutover forest. The growing timber on it was free of taxes, and the land under it was listed to two and a half an acre.

MAUNDER: To what extent, Harry, were these legislative acts following patterns which had already been set in other states?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know.

MAUNDER: Who wrote the legislation?

SHELLWORTH: The four men representing different segments of the electorate all sat in on it together with the forestry committee of the legislature that we talked to.

MAUNDER: Your main role in a sense was helping to clear the way for this stuff in the legislature. Their more specific role was to formulate the details of the acts.

SHELLWORTH: Which they could help us push through the legislature by their recommendations with their government. In other words, the power behind them was a hell of a lot more than the power behind me. Mine was the power of my friendship over the years with men that I had grown up with. Then the third act was in Ben Ross's administration

in '35. And that was to strengthen and make such changes as experience showed to be advisable in those first two chapters. It was really a legislative requalification and we now have a code.

MAUNDER: Now these were accomplishments that you would mark as being important milestones in your career in working with the legislature?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. It also gave me a prominence in the northwest and then eventually in Washington. The thing I'm proudest of is that such men as Charlie Cowan, Chapman of Tacoma, Norman Jacobsen, Clyde Martin, Rex Black, Stuart Moir and E. T. Allen, the foresters of the west, recognized my work.

MAUNDER: Tell us something a little bit about these men. E. T. Allen, for example.

SHELLWORTH: I don't believe there's any other educated, green tie forester, that I got as much really technical help from as I did from E. T. Allen. Up until the time when he got off-base. It was a pitiful price that he paid for his liquor.

MAUNDER: Did anybody try to help him, straighten him out in any way?

SHELLWORTH: I don't think there's any question but what George Long did. George Long hired him and George Long admired him and George Long was a man. On that basis only, I'm quite sure in my own mind that he did everything that he could think of.

MAUNDER: How long did this take, this period of his going downhill?

SHELLWORTH: He went awfully fast. And there's some hint of marital troubles. But, that's just gossip. Those things I don't know anything about.

MAUNDER: What about Clyde Martin? You knew him pretty well?

SHELLWORTH: Very well, and I admire him. And as far as men have affection for each other, I have affection for Clyde Martin, Chapman and for Whisnant of the Logging Congress; also Charlie Cowan of Western Forestry. Whisnant is the first man that tried to get me to write some of these things up.

MAUNDER: How important do you feel Archie Whisnant was?

SHELLWORTH: I have no way of evaluating it except that I liked him. I talked to him about many of these matters.

MAUNDER: You've always had with you the people who have cried out against the so-called timber barons. From what quarters has this view been most strong in the state community?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I think it's one of those dormant volcanoes that doesn't amount to much except just about election time. Then it's stirred up by the man that's running for a ten-cent office. "He wants to get that up and get it hot." He'd wreck a million dollar state, for a ten cent office.

MAUNDER: Where does he derive his support for this?

SHELLWORTH: Like any other place in the United States down at the lower level of selfish interest, of education or intelligence. There's always a big percentage of it. That's the "piano" most politicians play. And I've seen it time and time again when there was no reason for it. For instance, there was the Western federation trials of miners. - (See "Rocky Mountain Revolution" by Stewart Holbrook) who hired John Nugent as an attorney and spent, it was generally agreed, over a million dollars in trial, solely for the purpose of some sort of a verdict against Steunenberg who was already a dead man and Borah who was an attorney for the lumber companies and our company, too. They wanted to be-smirch Steunenberg's memory and malign Borah so that Nugent would have a better chance of getting to the United States Senate. Nugent and six other attorneys, all with political ambitions more or less worked solely to arouse public sentiment that would get the opposition out of the way of Nugent. Nugent was chief of that bunch.

MAUNDER: Did they have any newspapers with them?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know whether I can trust my memory on that or not. I know, for instance, Alford Sr. of the Lewiston Tribune always took in his editorial column some shot at the forestry--not particular the private forestry, but all forestry. He was under the impression that the taxpayer was paying for fire protection and forest protection. I can give you another case of the same thing -- stirring a hornet's nest for political profit. We had bought state timber on some 22,000 acres of state land with a twenty year contract for removal. We

found that because of the change in the rate of cutting from east to west that it appeared the saws jumped over the Rocky Mountains and went to the coast and didn't stop in the Inland Empire and that our twenty years would be up and we wouldn't have sawed that timber, so we wanted to buy the fee under it. We made an offer to the State Landlord to buy that land if it didn't go too high. Ten dollars was the constitutional minimum per acre. We wanted to be assured that all the reversionary rights were ours by the purchase of the fee simple of the land. That was going along very fine when five or six Democratic attorneys decided to enter the case as friends of the court and make a case to defend the school fund, as those lands were separated by the admission act for the schools, the university, the penitentiaries, the insane asylums, and so on. These five Democrats, including Nugent as their leader, wanted to make political capital out of it. A Supreme judge, a northern judge, Judge Ailshie, was expected to run for re-election to the Supreme Court, Idaho. He got out of that case on the theory that he had been an attorney for some lumber-owning interest in Winchester, Idaho, Billy Geddes, Manager. Our Supreme Court Judges at that time were nominated and elected on Party tickets. He asked to be relieved from the pinch on that question because of his prejudices, having been an attorney for that outfit. His real reason in my opinion, was that he didn't want to get in that spot because in the next election he was going to run for re-election as Supreme Court Judge. His real reason was that he had no guts and was afraid of the "friends of the Court" lawyers. (At the next election he was defeated). The Potlatch Company was owner of state timber cutting contract - 20 years - and greatly interested in this case. Wm. Deary was head of the Potlatch Company at that time and some of my friends in North Idaho advised him to come and see me in regard to the entrance of the Democratic Attorneys as friends of the Court. I liked Deary; he was a very brusque, hard talking fellow but a straight shooter. He wanted to know "what the lay was". I am sure he knew that two of these Democrat Attorneys were friends of mine. One, Tom Martin, was at that time a pal of mine of fishing trips. Joe Pence, another, who was my next door neighbor and his son and mine spent most of their play time in a sand pile in my back yard. Deary came down with a whole stack of their deeds and that sort of thing. Nobody ever knew it, Martin and Pence had our State Timber Purchases eliminated from the complaint. I'd met him a time or two, and he was pretty chesty and crusty about what he told people to do; he expected they would do it. Hoover introduced me to him, said that he wanted to talk to me about it. Deary had a table in our office on which he spread out all of these deeds and he started to tell me what to do and how to do it. I wasn't particularly interested in the job, but I'd done a lot of work for the company up there,

and so I told him, I said, "Mr. Deary, if I handle that I'm gonna handle it my way." And he looked me right square in the eye and then he pushed the whole thing over and said, "Do just as you damn please." So that's Deary. We got to be great friends. Tom Martin withdrew from the case. Nugent was tryin' to build him up for State Senator, *from Ada County,* and himself up for United States Senator. He'd gotten this money from the western federation for the trial of Mower, Haywood and Pettigole. But he wanted more money. Well, I think that Martin, *who* was also a friend of Hoover, the manager, and I think that he just felt that he didn't want to have anything to do with it. And he may have felt that the case wasn't worthy. I rather think that was his idea. I know Joe Pence felt that the motives behind it weren't exactly right, but he was with the political party and he just felt that he had to go along with it. But the decision blew that up. We won the case. The friends of the court were just thrown out at the first hearing. The ruling was that when we bought the land, we bought with it all rever- sionary rights that went with the land. In other words, when that contract expired, it expired to the owner of the land, and not to the state because they didn't make any special reservations in the deed.

MAUNDER: Harry, I want you to tell me now what you were called upon to do at the national level in Washington, D.C. and of the associations you had with men like Senator Borah and others who represented the state of Idaho in the national capital.

SHELLWORTH: Well, I'll say this. That there never was a time when I went to Washington that I didn't feel that if I didn't call on all of our delegation that they would be offended. I went back to Washington with nearly all of the Western Forestry delegations in E. T. Allen's time.

MAUNDER: How often did they go there?

SHELLWORTH: Whenever there was an important bill up. For instance, the original watershed bill for forestry was the Weeks Law built entirely for the northeast, only \$400,000 a year. We wanted that broadened to all navigable streams and watersheds and creeks. I'll have to give you a little preliminary there so you can understand this. The Bureaus in Washington have a habit of taking a man in their outfit who has a good personality and was a good fiscal man and was a good man for that kind of work and as soon as possible get him in to the Bureau of Budget as a minor clerk or anything to get him in there. Then he works up. The Forest Service had a man by the name of Scott out in Idaho who was good and had a personality. He made friends in

Clyde Martin had tipped me off that the members of our Washington party intended to give me a dinner party at the next U. F. C. A. meeting and suggested that I be ready to tell them about "Scotty's help". I answered that I would want any remarks I made to be on the Fourth Estate level and not in the Hotel dining room. He assured me that the company would be selected, and as most of them were University men, it would be in the Portland University Club. When Colonel Hamer, (a resident member of the Club,) overheard them talking about their plans, my name, he introduced himself and told them some stories about my army experience in the Phillipines; (embellished with plenty of "Corral Dust," and was asked to act as Master of Ceremonies.) Hamer, also a lawyer, was the attorney for the U.S. Customs Collector for the Portland Port. When we were all seated, I noticed that the place at the end of the table was vacant and as Mrs. S. and my place cards were first at the right, with the first two seats on the left also vacant, I thought, presumably, for Martin and his lady. When Hamer was escorted in by them - my surprise was complete. I did not know that Hamer was in Portland - had not heard of him since our Regiment was mustered out in 1899.

*Funding for lookouts*

*Footnotes*

the Boise forest office. But he'd gone to Ogden, Utah, and by this time I had lost track of him. So I didn't know anything about Scott. I had not seen him for years, though when he was located with U.S.F.S., out here we were very good friends.

MAUNDER: By this time he was in the Bureau of the Budget?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, as an assistant director. I had these pictures and slides of my gold-lace lookouts, and we were to meet the director of the Budget Bureau in Washington. Well always it's the same old excuse you hear that when you have an important meeting like that--the top man doesn't show up. "He's very sorry, but his assistant will be there because the director has been called to the White House." The meeting was in a great big audience room with a monster table. I was to the right of the entrance door and whoever it was brought Scott in--took him all the left way around the room shaking hands. I knew who it was, but the years and his progress had changed him, and I wasn't sure; I couldn't place him. I just knew that I knew him. He got down to the last two men next to me and he shook hands with them in a hell of a hurry and he came around and said hello and said, "Why you damned old timber thief!" and embraced me like a long lost brother. And we talked there and then he went back to the head of the table. Clyde Martin was the senior of the party. When the meeting started, I leaned over to him and I said, "We ought to strike for a million and a half. Let's wait and see what developments come." The meeting was going fine and Scotty was just tickled to death with my gold-lace lookouts. He knew what kind of old shanties there had been up there before and then nobody could get up there except on shoe leather or horseback. He said, "It's marvelous." The Forest Service people themselves were friendly. That was another big help. It was a cooperative setup. We adjourned for lunch and came back and I asked Scotty, I said "I think we ought to get two million because this thing is spreading, this thing is beginning to get developed." And he said, "Well, you're certainly entitled to it. I don't know whether you can get it, but you might as well try." And that's what we tried for. Well, before this meeting none of our party knew that Scotty and I were old friends. That evening at dinner in the Mayflower Hotel, I got the damndest ribbing at keeping my mouth shut at things they thought I should have told them.

At the Western Forestry and Conservation Association in Portland, they blew a terrific party in the Portland University Club dining room with Thomas R. Hamer, an ex-congressman from Idaho, as master of ceremonies. *He was then U.S. Customs duty for the port of Portland, and had been the Regimental Commander, 30th Infantry Regiment in the Spanish-American war in the Philippines. When he heard the W.F.A. assembly was talking about my work, (he was a resident of the U. Club.) he made himself known, and was invited to take the Toast masters job.*



MAUNDER: All of this because the delegation had been successful in getting the extension of the Weeks Act to include the western states?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. *You should have heard Hamer shovel the "Loral Dust"*

MAUNDER: How much was allowed on the first breakthrough? Two million dollars?

SHELLWORTH: A million and a half or two million dollars, one or the other.

MAUNDER: But they attributed this in large part to your knowing Scott?

SHELLWORTH: I got the glory that I wasn't entitled to. Fortunately, especially under Jack Moon I was "loaned on" company expense. He would never let the governor or anyone pay my expenses, and no other company paid it. And that's the reason I have so much regard for Jack Moon.

MAUNDER: You made these trips to Washington always at company expense?

SHELLWORTH: Absolutely.

MAUNDER: And with no aid from the party or from any other quarter.

SHELLWORTH: No, sir.

MAUNDER: What other legislation did you take an active part in working on in Washington? Did you have anything to do with the Clarke-McNary business?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, I was invited back there as a witness with a lot of people from the west and all over the state. There were several meetings, and I went to all those meetings, either at the request of my own state or at the request of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association.

MAUNDER: Did you ever have anything to do with the affairs of the American Forestry Association headquarters in Washington?

SHELLWORTH: No, except that I always went there. I knew the fellows in there and always got a lot of information and help and a very cordial reception. I knew Harris Collingwood and liked him. Let me tell you about another job I did in Washington, when Gov. C. A. Bottolfson was finishing out his term as governor. Bott was to be succeeded in two months with a Democrat, Charley Gossett. We were very much

afraid (and it proved to be right) that Senator Jack Thomas's life-time was limited to weeks. Bott called me up and said there was a scribble in the paper something about I was going to go to Washington, D.C. the first of the year. This was along in December. And he said, "For God's sake, if you can arrange to go to Washington, I'll take it out of my expense account." He knew that I knew Jack Thomas well and that we were real friends. He knew about that little incident of personal relations back to the Weiser convention at a critical time the second day of the convention which steered the course of that convention, and got Frank Gooding nominated. He said, "Try and get him to resign for the sake of the party. So I can appoint a Republican successor for the balance of his term. "Governor Gossett will have to be in office there for two years," and he will appoint a Democrat for the balance of Thomas's term. I talked to Jack Thomas across his big desk, and he said, "No, Harry, there's been two or three other boys that came in and talked to me, and I thought pretty soon they'd send you out here. But I'm not going to do it."

MAUNDER: Did he know how sick he was?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. But he thought he'd beat it. Afterwards his public relations man told me he'd seen other senatorial funerals with the trains across the United States and all that, and he came to Borah's funeral, and he wanted a funeral like that. And he sacrificed the party for that funeral because he didn't last more than two months. Gossett, the new Idaho Governor resigned his office and Lt. Gov. Williams became Governor and appointed Gossett to the vacancy. Charlie Gossett was a fine man and well liked.

MAUNDER: Now Senator Borah had represented your company as legal counsel prior to the time that he was elected senator.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, clear up until shortly after election he came in our office and paid back the balance of his retainer, (for a couple of months). He told us that he would do whatever he could for us as soon as he was in the Senate but he didn't want to be in a position of being in our pay when he went back to Washington.

MAUNDER: I see. Did you have any part in getting him nominated and elected?

SHELLWORTH: I don't remember anything in particular, but I know for certain that if there was anything that I could do at that time I did it.

MAUNDER: He was highly regarded by you and the company.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. He was a friend as far as I personally was concerned.

MAUNDER: And how did you keep in touch with Borah then in the years when he was in the Senate?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I saw him every year; Borah didn't write letters.

MAUNDER: Did he telephone you?

SHELLWORTH: On two or three occasions, at least, maybe more.

MAUNDER: How did you communicate back and forth?

SHELLWORTH: Mostly when I went to Washington or I would write him. If the matter wasn't urgent enough to write, he'd wait until he saw me. In Washington I was one of the few people that knew that Borah went over to his office in the Foreign Relations Committee about half an hour or an hour before session and laid down on a lounge for a rest. Not to sleep but merely to rest. And that people who were in his confidence were sent by Miss Rubin, his secretary over there, or she would take them over, and they'd sit in a chair alongside him and talk to him like you and I are talking. I did that many times. One time while I was there he introduced me to Vandenberg of Michigan, who had just come into Borah's office. I had gone to see him and he told me that he had a luncheon engagement with Vandenberg. Borah was the majority leader and Vandenberg was a member of foreign relations committee. Borah invited me to come and go with us. I'll introduce you to the Committee members. When we went into the Senate dining room, he introduced me as "Idaho's Politician anonymous."

MAUNDER: You say that at this particular time Borah was majority chairman?

SHELLWORTH: He was the chairman of the foreign relations committee, and Vandenberg was a member of that committee. The committee is composed in proportion to the two parties -- if, for instance, 60 per cent are Republicans and 40 per cent are Democrats and the committee is five, there'll be three Republicans and two Democrats.

MAUNDER: What kind of information did Borah seek from you?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I can't recall anything in particular except that I knew if Borah wanted any information from me he'd ask for it, and I knew if I wanted anything from him I could ask for it.

MAUNDER: Well, were you in any way, shape or form a means for him to keeping him in touch with things political back in Idaho?

SHELLWORTH: I don't believe that there was ever a year passed that he didn't ask me for some information. I have in my files a letter from Walter Bottcher, a U.P. Pressman and he wanted my estimate of the political situation in Idaho prior to the election. I visited around with my friends that I knew over the state. I had a month or two to do it in. I wrote a dozen or more pages of information about the different counties and then a summation of the situation there and in the west. As far as I knew you have the original copy in the files I sent you. Simply as my opinion. His secretary gave that to the national party headquarters as a guess as to what was going to happen in Idaho. It was published as Bottcher's guess and, fortunately proved accurate.

MAUNDER: In what other ways, Harry, did you serve his interests as a Senator?

*Primitive Area*

SHELLWORTH: When Borah was thinking about running for president, Anderson wanted me to take him and Borah and their wives for a trip into the primitive area and get some pictures there showing him fishing, outdoor life, and that sort of thing. His closest personal friend, in Idaho, was C. C. Anderson, owner of the C.C. Anderson chain of stores, and (it is my private belief) Borah's advisor on business matters, and politics. We took the trip, three automobiles, Anderson's two nephews, my son, and Ansgar Johnson, Sr. (probably Idaho's most efficient photographer), and my assistant, Arthur Coonrod. We went by way of McCall and Warren, Idaho to the Edwards Ranch on Big Creek Meadows. Very scenic and lots of game. The late spring run of Salmon was on. Johnson's photographic work was superb. His pictures told the story. Idaho received the finest kind of publicity from Johnson's work. At that time, Johnson was the Staff News Photographer in Idaho and adjacent areas in the northwest, for the New York Times. In fact, nearly every Sunday Edition of the Times had one or more of his Photogravures in it. Often full page photos. There is, in the Idaho Pioneer History Building here in Boise, a photograph album of the photos taken on this trip. The album, 12"x15" (?) together with explanatory titles for each photo. There are three of these fine albums, mine is the one in the Historical bldg.; the other two owned by Anderson and Borah. Anderson financed the entire trip. On the trip, the idea of Borah's running for president was thoroughly discussed every evening. On Edwards house porch, the

last evening, during our final talk. Borah asked me what I thought was his worst handicap. Remembering Funston's failure to make the grade, I answered, "Political Geography" and recalled to his attention that the Army and Navy, wanting another Teddy Roosevelt, thought Funston was their best bet and started to "frame his hero picture." Too much of that story to come in here. However, Borah turned to Anderson and said, "C.C." that's it. A very short time after that Borah announced that he was not a candidate.

MAUNDER: Now when did you first get to know Governor C. Ben Ross?

SHELLWORTH: I can't tell you, but a long time. I've known him a long life-time before.

MAUNDER: This went back to long before he became governor.

SHELLWORTH: Oh yes. And before he went to Pocatello to live for a while. (I always suspected he went down there to strengthen his stand with the followers of the Mormon Church) and the railroad people, who were the big league then. Then he came back. He had a farm near Parma; that's about 60 miles from Boise. He was well-known and well liked in the Lower Boise Valley, and particularly by the Grange. W.W. Deal was the master of the Grange, and Ray McKaig was their legislative agent. I worked with both of them.

MAUNDER: In other words, by going to Pocatello he was laying the groundwork for future political ambitions.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, yes. He didn't like Borah, (I am sure that was mutual), and he wanted to beat Borah. And that couldn't be done. And I knew it at that time, Borah had Idaho hypnotized. Ross knew he had to get the help of the Mormon Church and of personal friends to accomplish that. He was practical to that extent--but he overrated his ability, *if it had not been for the "Mormon" landslide.*

Borah had the Grange, which was the biggest slice of votes and also the most solid and cohesive, and next the Mormon vote in the southeast which had a little different angle. Those are the two big ones. South of the river was 34 counties; north of the Salmon River was 10. There had been a time in this state when the north end, because of the money that was being spent in putting three transcontinental lines through the state, the opening of the mines, and the buying of timber, was the big political dog, and this end of the state was the tail. Irrigation and livestock brought about a very fast change, and the Mormons were the better politicians. They divided counties and got their control

of the Senate, and they gradually worked up where the things were absolutely reversed, and north Idaho politically was the tail of the dog, and the south was the dog.

MAUNDER: And Borah had that figured out and had entrenched himself in the south.

SHELLWORTH: Yes.

MAUNDER: Well why did Ben Ross think he had a chance?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know, I never talked with him about it, because he never asked me. But all of us let ourself esteem, sometimes, color our judgment. I think he wanted to beat Borah so bad and he was so well pleased with the progress he'd made that he over-estimated the values.

MAUNDER: How do you account for the fact that Ross has been successful in politics here on the state level in the face of Borah's opposition?

SHELLWORTH: Strictly his personality. He was likeable, and he was that western type that was frank, and straight out at you. He did not use the Cowboy strut.

It had just been worn too long. Later Ted Walters, State Attorney General, went back to Washington as an assistant to Ickes as Secretary of Interior and dressed up like a circus cowboy. And it didn't pay off. They just didn't have any use for him.

MAUNDER: Did you ever have the feeling that Ross's program, and particularly that which related to the CCC, had any bearing at all on Ross's future ambitions in politics? Was he trying to shore up his Republican strength here so that he might be in a better position to do battle with Borah?

SHELLWORTH: I certainly do. I think any man who knew politics in Idaho at that time and had that ambition would have had to taken that gamble. It was a natural one. This was a Republican state, and he had to gain through disaffections in the Republican party to add to his Democratic party line to get anywhere on winning those offices.

MAUNDER: Were you aware at the time of his ambitions?

SHELLWORTH: I think I was. I was pretty well versed in political reasoning

*Explanation about Shellworth's file in ex C.C.C.*

at that time. I was thinking of it a great deal.

MAUNDER: You were in touch with Borah, I suppose, all through this period. What was Borah's attitude towards Ross and his ambitions?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I'm just guessing. Borah's judgment of politics was tops. He seldom made any mistake that I can see. My presumption is that he assayed it just as I did and didn't think it was worth wasting any time on. Because he was that kind of a man; he didn't waste any powder.

MAUNDER: In your past dealings with Ross, I am sure you formed some opinions of him. What is your impression of Mr. Ross as a man, a politician, and an administrator?

SHELLWORTH: On all three counts very definitely favorable. I knew him very well, and I enjoyed his trust. We had different party loyalties.

MAUNDER: He was a Democrat and you were a Republican.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. Yet he wanted me to represent him at the first meetings of the Roosevelt administration on the Civilian Conservation Corps allotments of camps and work and so forth. I know one time he said to me, "Damn it! Why in hell aren't you a Democrat?" Another two Democratic chairmen since then, Dave Bush and Bob Coulter, made practically the same crack at me. Because I gave them the information straight, and they could use it. They were responsible. Anything that I gave to those fellows on 4th estate level, it wasn't my story, it was theirs.

MAUNDER: Can you tell us anything more, Harry, about Ben Ross as a man? What kind of a man was he? Just describe him to us.

SHELLWORTH: He was above average height. He was a handsome fellow, and I think if you look through some of the photographs I've sent you you'll find a picture of him in my chaps in front of the Rocky Mountain Ranch in Stanley Basin. I haven't anything except very fine ideas about him. I think that he was a real politician. He didn't let little things stop him. I'd like to give you a little anecdote about Ross. One time he called me up and asked that I go to Washington. "Well," I said, "I don't know. I'll have to see Mr. Moon, president of our company." He said "I've already seen him. He said you can go."

MAUNDER: What was the general attitude of people in the Boise-Payette Company when Ross was elected governor?

SHELLWORTH: There wasn't any particular attitude.

MAUNDER: Now all this time during Ross's administration you were of course very deeply involved in the legislative affairs for your company and the forest products industries.

SHELLWORTH: Yes.

MAUNDER: What appeals did you make to state government on behalf of your industry to help perhaps alleviate some of its depression problems?

SHELLWORTH: None. I loved politics, especially parliamentary practice.

MAUNDER: Looking back over the years, do you feel that the Ross administration dealt adequately with the problems of the Depression in Idaho? What did you see as the problems of the Depression, in Idaho principally, to be.

SHELLWORTH: Well, it was in everything. The prices of everything had gone down. One thing I distinctly remember is that potatoes, which was a big product sold at \$.55 a hundred, sacked. Hell, the freight and the sack cost that much. Boise Payette Lumber Company had paid no dividends for a number of years. Also the freight rates were against the Inland Empire. And we were just waitin' it out. When that timber was bought, it was the expectancy of the buyers, that the saws would be turning in less than 20 years. Well, Great Scott, it was damn near 30 years after they purchased that stuff before we could get it to the mills! In other words, the opening of the Panama Canal cleaned out all of those who weren't properly capitalized for the longer harvest time. Idaho made even those who were well capitalized sick of the job. And it was after the middle of the depression that things broke and we could begin to come back.

MAUNDER: And you came under completely different management.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, I'm sure that our company paid no dividends until-- well into Jack Moon's administration. Then they were not very great; the conditions didn't warrant. But Jack Moon brought 'em back in.

MAUNDER: What was the general climate among people in the company? Wasn't this kind of a depressing thing?



Shellworth became Director  
C.C.C.

Direct  
Director or  
Coordinator

SHELLWORTH: Absolutely! The things like that, of course, you couldn't do anything about. But my overall impression of Ross's program was very favorable. Things that I knew about.

MAUNDER: How did Ross deal with the unemployment problem?

SHELLWORTH: We got some of our young fellows into the CCC camps, there wasn't anything you could do about it. We were in the dumps, financially, and we were in the dumps mentally too.

MAUNDER: In a sense the New Deal provided some kind of a solution.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. Anything that brought a payroll of any sort, even the little money that these CCC boys got was good. It was money.

MAUNDER: Well, Harry, we seem to have arrived at the CCC. I'd like you to tell us about your role as director of the CCC in Idaho, beginning with Ross's appointment of you.

SHELLWORTH: The man still in office as State Forester was Ben E. Bush, a Republican, and Senator Borah's brother-in-law. His wife was Mamie Borah's sister. Ross and Borah were at outs, so that Ross would not send Ben Bush to Washington. And Ross, in order to get him out of the way, went against recommendations of the State Forestry Board for his reappointment as State Forester. Ben Bush had been the State Forester, and prior to the creation of our Forestry Code he was the State Timber Agent, which was the same thing, for many years. But Ross was ruthless when he went after things. He appointed this man, I can't remember his name, without consulting us at all. He was a graduate of the Oregon Agricultural College and he was not a forester, but his family was strong politically in the southwest of the state.

MAUNDER: Strong Republican?

SHELLWORTH: Strong Democrat. That was just one of those appointments that was strictly political with Ben Ross. He was a loyal Democrat, and represented an element in Washington County that he wanted to credit with an appointment. He didn't stay there but a few months. He showed up that he didn't have the ability. Anyway you can see that with this going on everyone knew that Ben Bush was just absolutely taboo. Dick Rutledge, who was in Washington, and ex-governor Charlie Moore, who was then Land Commissioner in the Interior

Department, had written a letter to Ross telling him to send someone back there who could talk for Idaho generally. They knew of his feeling against Ben Bush, and they knew of course of the personal friendship, particularly of my father and Ben Ross, and myself and Ben Ross as a man. And so they purposely did not, they told me afterwards, suggest anyone; they figured that Ross would naturally look to me because I had been doing that kind of work for a long time. So Ross gave me two letters to those two secretaries, Ickes and Wallace saying that I was his sole representative for the State of Idaho. "I'll take care of the expenses," he said, "I'll back you." When I got back I saw Moon and told him. He said, "That's all right, but you send your expense bills to me; don't send any to the governor." Boise-Payette paid all of my expenses on that CCC thing. The other members of the State Land Board sent to Washington, the man who was then their prospect for State Forester, Franklin Girard. And with him back there was Ted Walters, who had been given an appointment in Ickes' department, and James Pinckney Pope, our senator. Neither one of those men had had previous experience in Washington, especially no departmental experience. I soon found that everything that we did, every day, was phoned by these other three people back to the papers in Boise or to their friends and that it hindered our possibility of success. So I just clammed up on them. I gave them no information whatever.

MAUNDER: To what extent was Ross personally interested and committed to this CCC idea?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know that I could answer that with accuracy. My belief is that he thought it was a good thing from every angle. I know that he never at any time had anything but compliments for me and my work and the things that were accomplished. I went in to his office every time I could get back to town and had a few minutes. I told him what was being done.

MAUNDER: Do you recall any details of that April 1933 meeting in Washington, D. C.? Who was at the meeting?

SHELLWORTH: Wallace and Silcox and Burlew?, the assistant to the Secretary of Interior. And the National Forester was represented by nine regional foresters.

MAUNDER: Ickes, was he there representing Interior?

Tally up camps

SHELLWORTH: No, I had a session with Ickes later in the auditorium of the Department of the Interior. But the organizational meeting was in the National Forestry Office. The first few days were indoctrination. We had two days of lecturing of what all this was all about, and we had an army officer there explaining the military control of those camps.

MAUNDER: As I get it, the program of indoctrination was in the hands primarily of the army and the U.S. Forest Service.

SHELLWORTH: Yes, and the Department of the Interior too.

MAUNDER: Now you met with Wallace. What was your impression of Henry Wallace?

SHELLWORTH: I wasn't particularly impressed one way or the other. I thought he was just, oh, just sort of a milk-toast. Silcox did most of the talking, and he always did a hell of a lot of it. When they asked as a preliminary forecast from the different states represented there to give them a tentative idea about how many camps they wanted, because they wanted to know about how many camps they could fill in this district. Girard (who was to be State Forester next April 1st) got up and said they'd take all of them. Just clowning. And the fellow from South Dakota said that they didn't think they wanted any. And the fellow from North Dakota said they might take one or two (it might be the other way around). Then they told us we'd have to have a complete statement of our plans, and submit them. They wanted detailed plans--number of camps, location -- how many men they would handle -- and the work hours of each job.

MAUNDER: Did they then expect that these plans would be drawn right there on the spot--and presented to them?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, within a few days. There was a terrific pressure to get those kids out of the slums in the East and get them to the West. They didn't seem to realize that at that time of the year there was anywhere from two to ten feet of snow in places where the camps would be. And I told Rutledge, who was sort of a mentor for me, that it couldn't be done. He says, "I know it can't." "But," he said, "You can do it as well as anybody can do. You know more about Idaho than anyone that I know of," And he said, "I know that no one can dispute your stuff anyway, and I'll help you." And he brought me two men from the Washington U.S. F.S. office there; one was a legal man, and

*Valby  
about bringing  
up camp*

the other was a map man. He brought a lot of maps, and then he brought me over a good stenographer. Rutledge stayed with me during all the time. So did Archie Ryan, for the Department of Interior. We went to the Mayflower for dinner and then went upstairs to my room. I had a separate room fixed up for this, and we went back there to work and it was nearly four o'clock next morning when we quit. Then we had an early breakfast, went back up, and we just got the stuff cleaned up so we could close totals about ten o'clock. We had a meeting that morning at ten o'clock. (Most of the other meetings were at nine o'clock.) Idaho's was the first plan on the table! Laid on the table for consideration by the nine regional foresters under the United States Forester. Each state's program had to be submitted to the regional forester in its area and then the U.S. forester brought it before the group. Also, ours was the first one approved.

MAUNDER: Did you get everything that you asked for?

SHELLWORTH: As far as I remember, yes.

MAUNDER: You came back from Washington with quite a large package.

SHELLWORTH: The largest number of CCC camps of any state west of the Mississippi excepting California. The State Forester from California and Rex Black, representing the timber people in both California and Georgia was there, were in Washington with me. Rex Black was an old-time friend, very smart. We worked together. We got in the two states, more camps, many more camps, than all of the other western states put together.

MAUNDER: Was that due to the fact that you had the most influence on the Department that was assigning these camps down there?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I think so, yes. Rutledge of U.S.F.S. and Ryan, Dept. of Interior. For instance, Rutledge was one of the nine Regional Foresters who acted as a Board to decide on all of these plans after they were put in. Archie Ryan represented the Department of the Interior for any work on their plans. And they were both old-time friends of mine.

MAUNDER: So they were very sympathetic with the plans that you had.

SHELLWORTH: I couldn't have done without them. And then from my previous work in Washington, I knew a lot of old departmental heads. I

knew some of the senators' secretaries. And I found in my experience in Washington that if you had the friendship of the senator and the interest of his secretary you could go a long ways. They'd get things done for you that you couldn't have done otherwise. I can give you an example of that-my previous Army service. As soon as I heard that officer talk about the military control of the camp set-up, I knew what that was. It was detailed, in the old Army quartermasters' manual; I knew the previous editions, and this Edition, the latest, was of 1930. He said that it was out of print and that they might have to mimeograph copies of the camp rules and regulations and have them on our desks in the next day or two. That was plenty of warning for me. I got up and went out and phoned to Jimmy Young in Borah's office and told him that I wanted that manual and just as many copies as he could get, at least 3, before the next day, and I got them that afternoon. I got three to work with. I sent my copy, sometime later, when I got back to Boise to Ross. I wrote to him right along, memorandums every night, and sometimes I called him up long distance, kept him informed. But the understanding was he wouldn't give anything to the newspapers unless I told him he could. I gave one to Rutledge. And the other one to Rex Black of California and I used the other over in the workroom in the Department of the Interior, making our stuff up. The next day, sure enough, the army man came back and said that they were all out of print and there'd be no copies at all except those that couldn't be issued -- couldn't be let go; but they would, within a day or two, have the mimeographed worksheets all out for all of us. Rex Black came over to me, and whispered, "You damn Timber Thief, how'd you get those?" Borah's secretary had scrounged them up from various places around the capital. One from the Q.M. General's office, one from the Committee Room of the Military Committee of the House and one from the same Committee of the Senate.

MAUNDER: "Was there any particular fear of hope expressed at the meeting by any of those attending concerning what the Corps might or might not become?"

SHELLWORTH: Well, the only thing I can remember that's anywhere near an answer was that there was some expression, "that any time you start one of these things you can never stop it." Any time you have a new tax it's never stopped. You have a temporary tax to meet a war cost or something like that, it keeps on goin'. Along that line, yes, there was some criticism. Also some said they didn't figure that these boys would be worth a whoop in hell in the woods for anything.

MAUNDER: Can you recall whether you enunciated any of these fears at the meeting?

SHELLWORTH: Oh, no. That was none of my worry.

MAUNDER: From what quarter did they come?

SHELLWORTH: Well, it was just a sort of an impression I've got of people talkin' around me. I did have this doubt--I don't think I ever expressed it--as to what real value they would be if we didn't have enough overhead to show them how to do the work. However, I changed my mind to some degree on that.

MAUNDER: Now you did have a meeting with Ickes.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. Archie Ryan arranged for it, and he invited Rutledge over. And there was Chapman and Burlew and Ickes and this old-time departmental clerk in the Land Commissioner's office (I can't remember his name -- Captain?). They told me I could have only 20 minutes. You see, this Shafer Butte lookout up here above Boise, was on the public domain, and Archie Ryan fixed it so that it couldn't be taken up by land claims. I had pictures and slides, of it fixed up to help me show people here around Boise what I was doing. I had glass negatives of it--interiors and exteriors and orientation and everything. I said I'd answer questions as I went along. Dick Rutledge helped me, and so did Archie Ryan, of course my friend, Archie Ryan said, "This lookout is one of the finest in the United States and one of the most beautiful and most efficient," and oh, he just piled the corral dust on. And he said, "It's on public domain." And he mentioned some order number. "It's reserved under that order. That cannot be taken up under the land laws." And I could see Ickes lean forward and look at it, you know. And they kept asking questions. It was an hour and twenty minutes before they quit. Burlew had come around up to the stage before he went out and congratulated me, and he said, "How come that you give us an advantage over this Forest Service, Dick Rutledge? Why do we rate over him? He's your personal friend?" I said, "Because our territory joining him was too far away." I said, "Yours is public domain and there's over 16,000 acres of public domain up under this lookout." They were quite impressed.

MAUNDER: And Rutledge was right in there pressing for you--

SHELLWORTH: Oh yes.

MAUNDER: Well how long were you in Washington, Harry?

SHELLWORTH: Oh, four or five weeks. I had to get back in a hurry to get ready for the first camps. We got more than we asked for, because, in addition to our allotment of camps, there was three train loads, that would be about six camps, that were in the allotments of Washington and Oregon, which weren't ready for them. While they were enroute, those states gave notice that they couldn't get ready for them in that time--snow and so forth. Dick Rutledge got me on the telephone and says, "Can you handle 'em?" And I said, "Yes."

MAUNDER: How did you handle them? How did you house them out there?

SHELLWORTH: They took them right from the train here and took them to the camps in trucks. Our Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association boys helped them up to the camps. I had a friend up in Meadows, automobile man up there, Chet Irwin, and I phoned him that I had enough for three camps in the Meadows area. He knew where these three locations were because I'd talked with him about it and we had done a little preliminary work, and he said, "Well, we can't get them there!" "I can get the one up in Big Meadows," but, he said, "It's going to be a hell of a job, but I've got to get a tractor to pull the trucks up." "Well," I said, "You get 'em up or you lose 'em." He says, "We get 'em." And he pulled them in, over the snow, over a road that was never meant for anything but a tractor to go over, and got them into those campsites.

MAUNDER: What month was that?

SHELLWORTH: The latter part of April, possibly the first of May.

MAUNDER: Snow is still a problem that late?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. As fast as we could we moved them on out to their regular camp locations, but I didn't get the one up to Shafer Butte till July. Why there's drifts there thirty feet deep right now, right on the road that we afterwards built! We had a trail we could get up with a caterpillar truck, but the last two miles had to be finished after they got there. I put them up there in what we called a mile-high camp up on top of Eaglestens Summit. That's only about five thousand feet B.M. The other place, Shafer Butte, was 7,591 B.M.

MAUNDER: How much of the year are those places snowed in?

SHELLWORTH: Well, if I get the Shafer Butte road cleaned out so we can get up there with trucks by the Fourth of July or as near the Fourth of July as possible, I'm perfectly satisfied.

MAUNDER: And then when does it close down again?

SHELLWORTH: Ordinarily, late October or maybe sometimes, in the long seasons, early in November. But it was having the men we had that knew how to handle that stuff. If you'd put some of the damn political ward heelers in there, they'd never get out of town. When the camps were established out here, they came trainloads with all sorts of stuff that evidently was bought for political paybacks. For instance, pecan flooring from Indiana.

MAUNDER: Why was pecan flooring from Indiana sent all the way out here?

SHELLWORTH: The gossip was that the owner of this big flooring outfit was an Indiana corporation that had put a lot of money in the campaign for Franklin D so they bought a lot of this stuff, which then was a drug on the market. Every train had a carload of this damn pecan flooring, which was black and dirty and just practically useless. And we had carloads of corrugated iron culverts in sizes too big for use in a little mountain gulches. We had that piled up at our camps. Some of it stayed there and was turned over to the state afterwards, some of the pecan flooring we used for kindling wood.

MAUNDER: You say the supposition was that this pecan wood was shipped out here because it was a political pay-off to some corporation that had supported Roosevelt. Did you ever see anything more definite than just a work of heresay that would support that?

SHELLWORTH: No. That was the talk and the belief.

MAUNDER: But who was supporting the belief? Was it coming from the local opposition?

SHELLWORTH: Well a lot of the stuff was so damned ridiculous that it caused comment, and everybody talked about it. For instance, one place I had some pictures of these CCC boys from one of the eastern camps unloading sixteen-inch firewood from a carload of it to take to the camps in the timber! There were so many things that looked like pay-offs. And of course I can't say if it is true at all, but I



believed it. kind of work better than I could and I get them because I couldn't do without them. I had to have them to get this job done.

MAUNDER: Would you say that politics was particularly a problem in the Idaho program?

SHELLWORTH: Not in our particular position. I had the backing of Governor Ross.

MAUNDER: In other words, you would say then that for the most part politics did not interfere to any great extent.

SHELLWORTH: I think it did in other places. I'd say from my experience, particularly in the camps, being Ross's coordinator of CCC work in Idaho was a very satisfactory thing except for the political interference with the appointment of the help. But Governor Ross gave me the strongest backing right straight through. It might have been in '34 but I think it was late in '34 because I was still active in the mountains, and the snow hadn't come--I came in town, intending to go out the next morning. When I went to my office I found a note, or the telephone girl said that I was to call the governor when I came in. I called him. He wanted me to come up to the State House. He said, "Tommy Coffin: -- that was the Idaho congressman's here with some other people. "They want to grill you." That was the warning he gave me. I was figuring on going right back out to the woods that day after I got through my desk in the morning. So I went up to Ross's office in my woods clothes. I found there, Dick Rutledge representing the Region 4 of the forest. I had checked with him on all the things we did, so that our work meshed with their camps inside the national forest; our roads come to their roads; our lookouts were in the angles that represented the best protection from theirs. It was all covered in that way. Also present was Tommy Coffin, our Idaho congressman, Archie Ryan of the Department of the Interior, and another Congressman who was supposed to be the head of the committee on political patronage. He was from some other state in the East, or Middle West, but I'm not sure. I can't remember his name. Winant, or something like that. And he was a "pretty feisty" kind of an individual. He started tearing into me. I just listened to him. They were questioning my CCC appointments, saying that most of them were Republicans, and he told me that he understood that my payroll of overseers and that sort of thing from blacksmiths on up were all Republicans. And I told him that I presumed they were, because there were a whole lot of Republicans in Idaho, and that I hadn't paid any attention to politics at all. "That I didn't know and didn't give a damn what their politics were." The Depression had left a lot of our people unemployed that worked in the woods and they

could do this kind of work better than I could and I got them because I couldn't do without them. I had to have them to get this job done. He got a little nasty to start off, but Ross "buted in" and he said, "Mr. Shellworth will give you any information you want," as much as to say, "Cut off that abuse." Ross was in a sense telling this congressman that the abusive attack was not necessary--And so he toned down then, but he asked what I was going to do about it. I said, "Nothing." He said, "You mean you're going to stand pat, that you're going to keep those men." I said, "Yes. As far as I know, until I resign." And so then Tommy Coffin jumps in. "Harry," he said, "you've got to see our side of it. The people that work for us are entitled to some consideration." These are not his exact words, but it's the sense of it. And he said, "Now you take Myron Swendson, you know that he and I are personal friends, and you know that he is an active Republican and a precinct committeeman and a worker." And I said, "Yes, but he's a damn good engineer and I needed a good civil engineer and surveyor."

MAUNDER: Did they bring up the names of other men you had hired?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. They spelled it out in some detail. And they brought up to me the names of some of the men that they wanted to place. I've forgotten just who, but I know of one of them. "Why," I said, "He wouldn't be worth a hoop in hell to me on the mountains."

I was in a bad position because Bob Coulter, the chairman of the Democratic Party, was also the State Land Commissioner, and he was with the other side in the quarrel with Ross over the appointment of the State Forester. Bob was an old-time friend of mine, and they don't make them any better. But I would, in his place, as the chairman of the party probably done exactly as he did. But I was in that up to my eyes, interested, and enthused, and a lot younger than I am now and a little bit more combative, and I made up my mind that I was not going to be interfered with. They asked Rutledge if he would take the thing over and do it, and he said, "No. I'm perfectly satisfied the way it's going." Now when I had taken the job, I had told Ross "I can't take this very long," and I had written out an undated resignation, longhand, and given it to Ross when I took the job. When I gave it to him, he started to tear it up, but I said, "Ben, don't do that. Put it in your desk for the time when you don't need me. I've got plenty of other things to do." So I said to Tommy Coffin, "The governor's got my undated resignation which he can use any damn time he wants to." Then Ross rummaged around his desk a little bit, and he took it out,

and he took up the waste basket, pulled it up in front of his knees, and just tore it to pieces in front of the patronage congressman and dropped it right in front of them. And then Mr. Winant (or whatever his name was) lit into me again, and I said, "Congressman, you can take this God damn job and stick it up your royal red rectum." I picked up my hat and walked out. To get this in the right perspective, I was tired. I was working. I was doing every damn thing I could. I was going the limit, and I had made up my mind right that moment that I was not going to take another damn word of abuse from anybody. I wasn't getting a dime for it. The only recompense I ever got was the joy of doing a good job. Well, the governor jumped up and run through his personal secretary's room and out into the Reception Room and caught me. And he put his arm around me and said, "damn it, Harry, I told you not to lose your temper." And he said, By God, I'm glad you did. You sure told those sons of bitches off." Then he returned to the meeting.

MAUNDER: You did not return.

SHELLWORTH: I did not return.

MAUNDER: And he kept you on then?

SHELLWORTH: You bet he did!

MAUNDER: Then there was no change in the set-up.

SHELLWORTH: Not a bit! Until Fall came when I insisted I was through.

MAUNDER: Well, from then on you had no trouble whatever from that committee.

SHELLWORTH: No trouble whatever.

MAUNDER: Were there ever any other efforts made to impose upon your political appointments?

SHELLWORTH: The Democratic party sent a man to go around the camps and find out what was going on, looking for something to pile up against me. He run a little hotel in the southeast of the <sup>state</sup> stable, and he was quite prominent as a Democratic politician. I caught up with him at the CCC camp at Holcomb, when he was telling my foreman there to take out three or four big culverts that we'd put in the dugway alongside the railroad track between that and our station. We put them in there

to keep from going down in to the borrow-pit in front of the station --for temporary use only, because it was sand and the things were easily taken out. I told him that he was not giving any orders in our camp and that he could write down anything he wanted to but not to attempt any orders; that if he did, I'd see that he was taken out of camp. He wasn't very bright, but he knew me well enough to know I meant what I said. And the funny thing about it was that Wakeman, the foreman, of the Holcomb Camp, was a Democratic precinct chairman in his precinct down west of Boise, and his father-in-law Davis was the Democratic Boise Post Master at that time. Wakeman had been a gyppo logger for our company, and he was a good one. He was a good road builder. And I turned to him and I said, "The next time any fellow like this comes here; you kick him out of camp. Don't you touch those. You leave them where I told you."

MAUNDER: Was that the end of it?

SHELLWORTH: He made his report to Bob Coulter, State Democratic Chairman, but I never had another bit of trouble at all.

MAUNDER: No unfavorable reports written?

SHELLWORTH: Well, I don't know. I think he probably sent back whatever he'd found up to that time. However, President Roosevelt himself received some favorable comment from the Forest Service about the work that was done in this particular area around here including my work so he sent the State Forester from New York, Nelson C. Brown, and was also his Hyde Park forester, as his private representative to come out and investigate, and make a confidential report. This forester told me that himself. And of course Brown, was an old-time friend and I had met him at forestry conventions and known him in national forest legislation.

MAUNDER: Was Brown a Democrat or a Republican?

SHELLWORTH: Democrat, of course. Well Brown just put the ermine cloak on me. I'd done a terrific job and all. I had no more trouble after that.

MAUNDER: Well, tell me now, what are your over-all impressions of the CCC? How important do you think it was, and what good did it accomplish?

MAUNDER: Was Boise Mountain -50- a CCC camp?

accomplish? ... it was, That was a dream of mine to have that 960  
... set aside for a park for Boise city. I sold Senators Pope and  
SHELLWORTH: I don't think there was any question that under the existing  
conditions it was very fine. I think that there were some serious  
faults in it. I believe, if the army could have been given more con-  
trol, exercises or drills or whatever it was, that it would have done  
those boys more good. We had a cook in the Shafer Butte, a very fine  
old ex-army cook, who took some of these boys and taught them  
cooking. Two of them, the "Joisey" boys, went a long ways from  
starting as cookhouse boys there. One of them eventually became  
a cook in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. I met him there in  
1949, and the other was working in the old Hotel Portland. The one  
in California became quite noted. If only all of my overhead men  
had been all of that kind of men--it would have helped. And of course  
there's a percentage of those boys that never would be any good any-  
way. There was a lot of duff in the outfit. But they came out, a lot  
of them, better off than when they went in. And it could have been  
better leaders and in particular, the army should have been given  
more control. There should have been more direction and instruction.  
There was things that those boys could have gotten a great deal more  
out of if we'd had more Army men with them, but we were limited,  
I think we had three Army men overhead and about seven men for each  
camp of 160 men. Let's see if I can name them. We had a super-  
intendent and an assistant who was supposed to do somewhat of a civil  
engineer or a fellow who's had some experience at road-building, and  
one truck driver, two cat drivers--and a blacksmith. We had horses  
and fresnos and that sort of thing. And one cook. The cheapest one  
of those in salary was the assistant to the cat driver, \$90 a month.  
And the cat driver got \$120, I think. The blacksmith got \$100.

MAUNDER: Did you find that the army's attitude was kind of negative in a  
lot of these camps? That they had a feeling that they were being put  
upon?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. Yes, I did. It wasn't universal but it was definite.  
They just thought, "Well, this is just another one of those damn fool  
political jobs that we've got to take care of or get out of the army."  
That was the attitude of some of them, not all of them. We had  
a major up here in this camp who was one of the best. He really tried  
to do something for the boys in the Shafer Butte camp. This attitude  
of his produced definite results. The camp's output of work was the  
best one in the five camps along the Boise Ridge. Boise Mountain Park.

MAUNDER: Was Boise Mountain Park a CCC camp?

C.C.C.  
Roads +  
Lookouts

SHELLWORTH: Yes it was. That was a dream of mine to have that 960 acres set aside for a park for Boise city. I sold Senators Pope and Borah the idea. They were all for it. But back in Washington, the Secretary of Agriculture said that if we would help them get that whole territory put into the Boise National Forest, they would do this work for us and the city wouldn't have any expense. That's another one of those federal promises that isn't worth a whoop in hell. They make a promise but "none of their employees have authority to make a promise or a gentleman's agreement," and if it gets embarrassing, that man's transferred to some other place and some other feller comes in and cannot find any record of any such agreement.

MAUNDER: Of course, there was a lot of federal money put into developing it to a certain extent, wasn't there?

SHELLWORTH: In recent years, yes. But not what they promised.

MAUNDER. Did the CCC accomplish something really worthwhile for the State of Idaho?

SHELLWORTH: Really worthwhile! Yes, sir, they accomplished things that represented dollars of saving in forest protection. The roads built, for example, I got the idea that if I built the roads on ridges that made them good forest patrol roads and afterwards would be a scenic road, and furthermore, I could get the approval of it faster. I was selfish about it; I wanted to get the work done. I also knew that if I had roads along the tops of these ridges, I could get on top of a fire before it could get on top of me.

MAUNDER: You say that the CCC roads that you built were of tremendous long-term value from the standpoint of access and fire protection. Were most of these roads built then on lands of Boise-Payette?

SHELLWORTH: Most of them were national forest, public lands, state lands, and Boise-Payette. It might be in this order: national forest (where we went through corners) and public lands that were not taken up for any purpose, state lands and Boise-Payette. And their other big value was it made my "Gold Lace Lookouts" open to the public, I put all that white paint on them that when people drove up there through Long Valley, 110 miles from Boise to Payette Lake, in the summer, they'd see the sun shining on the white lookout buildings from the valley and they'd get curious and go up the road. And when they got up there they found something that appealed to their sense of calmness and

*lookouts*

security and beauty, and also forest protection and permanency.

MAUNDER: Were these lookouts built in the time of the CCC?

SHELLWORTH: Some of them had been built before but they weren't anything very attractive. I got money for that development that I couldn't ever have gotten any other way. The labor was performed by CCC.

MAUNDER: How many of these lookouts were built by the CCC?

SHELLWORTH: I don't know how many of them on the national forests. I built seven in the Southern Idaho Timber Protective District, which covers timber lands, State, Federal and Private, from Council clear around to Long Valley, Garden Valley, Boise Basin, to Sunset Peak over on the Divide between the North Fork of the Boise River.

MAUNDER: Would you say that this is something of real importance to industry and to forestry?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. However, those things are so intangible that when you're working on that job you see what you're doing and you see the results but they are more or less intangible. But I know that those Gold Lace lookouts built up favorable sentiment towards our work down here, in South Idaho, and sometimes even brought a favorable comparison with the federal government work. School children, Campfire Girls and Boy Scouts went up there, and wrote essays about their trips for local papers in southern Idaho.

MAUNDER: How long were you actually involved in working on the CCC?

SHELLWORTH: I can't tell you. I started when I went to Washington.

MAUNDER: That would have been about what?

SHELLWORTH: April 1933. And it went into '34, but how far I don't know. I just don't remember, but more than a year. It was tiring. It was a big job. I had camps around here in southern Idaho that kept me on the go. I was driving twenty-five thousand miles a year over these mountain roads, and I was losing sleep and losing weight. That's why I had to give it up. I had to get back to my work for the company. I'd talked it over with Jack Moon, and he was inclined to want me to stay. But I said, "I can't do it. I've got too much

to do." I turned in my resignation. I told Ross, "These plans are all underway now." The Department of Interior men and the Department of Agriculture men can handle it. Anybody can carry it. I don't have to be in there." That's the reason I told Congressman Coffin what he could do with the job.

MAUNDER: Have you any comments to make concerning your personal relations with federal officials in operating the CCC?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, very satisfactory. It started many years of fine cooperation in Forestry.

MAUNDER: You certainly must have known Walters.

SHELLWORTH: Yes. But he didn't have anything to do with my work at all. I knew him as the Attorney-General of the state, and I had no particular opinion of him and hadn't anything to do with him. The U.S. Forest Service really had a sort of supervision over the whole combined planning. I worked very closely with Dick Rutledge. Dick and I went to work in the Idaho forests the same year. He had taken a ranger's course at Moscow. He was living in Long Valley then. That same year, 1905, I'd started my first year with the lumber company. Also Archie Ryan - we got acquainted when I was scripping land for the lumber company, buying railroad scrip and that sort of thing and placing it on timberland.

SHELLWORTH: I had a power of attorney from the scrip companies, and then I would quit claim the land to the lumber company as soon as patented. Dick and I worked together from then up until his retirement. Archie Ryan had charge investigation of land entries of the Land Division of the Department of the Interior - the Land Office; we became life time friends. The three of us, Rutledge, Ryan and I, worked together continuously, especially after the summer of 1905. We had a gentlemen's agreement on what we would do in forest protection that was never broken. It was a wonderful thing, a wonderful experience. Mutual respect and a feeling of complete dependence on each other in whatever we attacked together. I'd add Ben Bush's name to our group of perfect friends. He and I were together in the Philippines as members of the Idaho Regiment. I think in Rutledge's case the Forest Service did him an injustice. Silcox and the rest of those fellows were degree foresters and they wanted a degree man. We got Dick Rutledge an honorary degree through Moscow University because of his accomplishments, but that didn't register with the U.S.F.S. overhead. So Ickes and Wallace got together (I think it was prompted



by Silcox) and they fixed it up so Rutledge could transfer to the Department of the Interior to take over the position of Director of Grazing on the Public Lands of the Department of Interior without any loss of his civil service rights and status. He worked on that until he died. Ickes, I'm quite sure, had an understanding with FDR that he would back him in taking over the national forests and that Rutledge was going in there to become National Forester, but then they made him Director of Grazing and the other thing was dropped. I came out here and tried to interest some of our people in this idea, but they just couldn't believe it. And not only that, some of the most prominent gentlemen in industry wanted to know if I was trying to wreck the lumber companies. Ickes was always yelling about the lumber trust and that sort of thing. Well I said, "No. We'd just got through the scandalous Teapot Dome and that's the reason Ickes and Byrd are there." "Politically the Secretary of Interior belongs to the west and in time we will get it back." "Politics will swing back, and we'll get a Secretary of the Interior from the West, and that's what we want." "We're tired of this east coast--New England control." But they couldn't see it. I still think I'm right, because interior belongs to the West politically.

MAUNDER: Well, are you happy now that you've got a westerner as Secretary of the Interior?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. I don't give a damn who he is. The New England people, I'm off of. They want to rule the world. They don't know anything about harmonizing things; they want to keep goading the West and the South, and they are doing a job of it in everything. They have "Political Geography" on their side.

MAUNDER: What about your Senator, Senator Pope?

SHELLWORTH: He was a Democrat and a very great friend of my father's. And as a man he was O.K. He wasn't any world-buster at all; he was just a good man. And he was very smart in getting a good job with the Tennessee Valley, because he knew that he couldn't be re-elected.

MAUNDER: Harry, in your dealings with Mr. Coulter, what impression did you form of him?

SHELLWORTH: He was a very efficient politician, and I never saw a time when I didn't rely on his word. But he was the chairman of the party in every sense of the word, and that's the reason that he and Ross probably fell out. He had to take care of his workers, while Ross

knew that in this state he had to have something besides the party, which alone could never carry him through. It was not that kind of a state then, and I don't think it is yet. Ross and Coulter would approach a political question the same way except that Ross approached it from his angle, and Bob approached it from the party's angle. Bob is a very dear friend of mine.

MAUNDER: Tell me, how would you compare Ben Ross with Mr. Coulter in terms of their relationship with the party? Were they both conservative Democrats?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. But Bob was, as he should be, the working boss of the party, for the party. Ross was a Democrat, but he was also for Ross. I was a Republican, but sometimes there were Republicans that I didn't like, and I didn't hesitate to go across the lines for a friend. Bob was one of them. I got him started out of Valley County to run for the House of Representatives when he first came down here.

MAUNDER: As a Democrat?

SHELLWORTH: Yes. I helped him become Speaker of that House, too.

MAUNDER: How do you mean you got him started?

SHELLWORTH: I took some of my friends in Valley County, farmers, businessmen, bankers - men of standing in the community and we went over to his farm and talked him into running.

MAUNDER: What was your angle in doing this? Was it just purely a matter of personal friendship or was there a political angle?

SHELLWORTH: Both. The fellow on our party, Light Cantrell, was a radical, not a Republican. And Bob had the reputation of being a conservative Democrat. He stood high in the community. He was the best Democrat they had up in that county to beat a Republican.

MAUNDER: Light Cantrell had been in the Valley politics for some time?

SHELLWORTH: Yes, but he'd been County Commissioner, and he wanted to go up to the Legislature.

MAUNDER: In what ways was he radical?

SHELLWORTH: Any corporation was a red flag to him. He was an anti-business Republican.