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November 17, 1977

School of Forestry
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho

To - The School of Forestry Historian

The April 1975 issue of CONTEXT carried an article entitled, WILDERNESS RANCH HOLDS PROMISE, DREAM FOR FORMER OWNER, JESS TAYLOR.

Subject of the story was the Dave Lewis ranch on Big Creek acquired in 1969 from Jess Taylor for wilderness research.

I graduated from the University of Idaho School of Forestry in 1926 and in 1928 was forest ranger on the Cold Meadows Ranger District of the Idaho National Forest. Big Creek, the Dave Lewis Ranch and Soldiers Bar were a part of the Cold Meadows Ranger District, and the article recalled fond memories.

The following resume' and the accompanying pictures will supplement the historical knowledge of what was then known as the Dave Lewis Ranch:

"Albany, Oregon - April 22, 1975

"I was forest ranger on the Cold Meadows Ranger District of the Idaho National Forest (now Payette N F) during the summer of 1928. I stayed at Uncle Dave Lewis' place for two nights during August 1928. One day I went horseback down Big Creek to its confluence with the Middle Fork of Salmon River (no trail then), swam the river and ate lunch on the Salmon National Forest. Dave told many interesting stories, stating that he had agreed to sell his place to Harry Shellworth, land agent for the Boise Payette Lumber Company, for \$6000 when he was through with it. I wonder what happened to that deal?

"Walter Estep had a ranch on Big Creek some ten miles upstream from Dave's place - seems like he bought the Routson Ranch, but I'm not sure of this. Estep had been a forest ranger, but either resigned or was terminated. I never met Estep, but heard much about him.

" "Blackie" Wallace, a fellow forest ranger resigned and during the nineteen thirties operated a dude ranch from the parcel described as seven miles up Big Creek from Dave's place that recently sold for 1.4 million dollars. This was then known as the Conyer Ranch.

"In late September 1928 I left the Salmon River Country for a year of graduate study at Yale University. My black horse, Coalie, was left at the Big Creek Ranger Station with instructions to give him to Uncle Dave when he came there in October to get his winter supplies. I never knew if Dave received the horse.

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"The 10-inch dutch oven now in my camp outfit was a gift from Uncle Dave.

"See pictures in my album of Coalie at the confluence of Big Creek and Middle Fork Salmon River. Also, of Uncle Dave and his dogs."

Very truly yours,



W. H. Bolles

WHB:emb

Enclosures