

Mabel Kelly

A native of Nebraska where she received her education.

In early teens came with parents to Kalispell, Montana, where she spent three years teaching. At end of second year had come to the conclusion had missed her calling and decided to do something about it. Taught twelve months straight the following year to finance a course in business college. Before quite through was sent out on a job in the office of the most meticulous attorney in State of Montana. This led to being called to take depositions, reporting in the U. S. Land Office, Preliminary hearings in office of Prosecuting Attorney and at Coroner's inquests. The two latter brought too many contacts with the sordid side of life and, when offered a job in the Land Department of Potlatch Lumber Company in 1915, came to Potlatch. Before end of the first year was transferred to the position of Secretary to Mr. A. W. Laird, then General Manager. When office was moved from plant to new building <sup>up town</sup> in 1918 was placed in charge of the Stenographic Department, which position she held until the merger of Potlatch Lumber Company, Clearwater Timber Company and Rutledge Timber Company into Potlatch Forests, Inc. At that time many old employees were necessarily eliminated. When asked why she stayed on, Mabel replied "Probably because Mr. O'Connell, the new Unit Manager, liked the 'O.K.' on his letters.

Although she often referred to herself as "the busiest white woman this side of the Rockies", always found time to maintain an attitude of interest and helpfulness in all that pertained to the welfare of the community, its people and the place of Potlatch in the sun.

As part of ~~xxxxxxx~~ public service maintained and up-to-date card index on the over 600 service men from this community during World War II. At Legion Banquet once toasted as "The Sweetheart of Potlatch".

Honorary memberships in Polida Club and Women's Union.

Many years correspondent here for Elk River News, The Star Mirror, now The Daily Idahonian at Moscow, The Palouse Republic, The Spokesman Review, The Four L News, and, since its inception, the Potlatch Unit correspondent for The Family Tree.

During war active worker in Red Cross and T. B. Association

Charter member of Potlatch White Piners (25-Year Club) of Potlatch Forests, Inc. and has acted as Secretary much of the time since its organization in 1946.

Retirement effective July 29th, 1950.

Plans to make home with her sister Mrs. Ethel M. Evans, 919 Second Ave. E., Kalispell, Montana. Phone 226-L

Cordial invitation to all old friends to come and see her. Will be living only an hour's ~~xxx~~ drive from western entrance to Glacier National Park

Parties  
35 yrs Continuous Service  
see to H W Laird & J J O'K in 1930