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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.



ROBERT M. LOVELAND, M.D.  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
6003 MELROSE AVENUE  
HOLLYWOOD 38, CALIFORNIA

December 30, 1969

The Board of Regents  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Gentlemen:

It has been a rare privilege to enjoy an increasing acquaintance with the work of Dr. Maurice Hornocker. Enthusiasm is apparently contagious and now several of my friends are also most impressed with the work of this brilliant young scientist. We are convinced that Dr. Hornocker's talent goes far beyond wildlife management, and that he will be one of the great ecologists of our time. We are writing because we feel strongly that those who make important contributions to ecological knowledge deserve the gratitude and the support of those who are concerned about the survival of the human race.

Foremost among those to whom we would express appreciation is the Board of Regents, particularly for your wisdom in appreciating the educational value of the Taylor Ranch and for your fortitude in preserving that important facility for the people of Idaho. It appears quite evident that the Taylor Ranch is the key to a wealth of important research which will have its best opportunity for development under the auspices of your great university.

Thanks are due also to Mr. and Mrs. Jess Taylor for their willingness to make a considerable sacrifice in order that their lovely property might be used in this most appropriate of all ways.

In addition to our thanks we are enclosing a somewhat more tangible evidence of our support in hopes it may be used to signify the great respect we have for Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, your Board and Dr. Hornocker.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor at Taylor Ranch have several most worthwhile pieces of Idaho memorabilia. It would be proper for this material to remain at the ranch. We feel it is possible that Mr. Taylor might make these keepsakes available if he could be assured they would receive adequate care. We would like to propose that the enclosed check be used to provide cases or other protective devices to permit safe display of this material, in consultation, we would suggest, with your university archivists.