



Charles S. Chapman

1880-1940

Though working with the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company for most of his career, C.S. Chapman always made it clear that the best interests of the entire forest products industry were his primary concern. He was trained as a forester and did extensive work in fire prevention, in researching salvage possibilities for burned areas, and in forestland management.

Born in Connecticut, he grew up there and received his B. Agr. from Connecticut State College in 1898. He then entered Yale as a member of its first forestry class and graduated in 1902. After graduating, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company employed him in 1903 to examine its Pacific Coast holdings and advise on proper management. During the following years he explored many phases of his field on the east and west coasts of America, both as forester for the U.S. Forest Service and, at other times, for private companies.

In 1917, he enlisted in the Army, attended Officer's Training Camp where he was commissioned as Major in the 10th Engineers, and was sent to France in September of that same year. In 1918, still in France as a section forestry officer, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. In 1919, he was attached to the technical staff of the Peace Commission in Paris. He was discharged in April, 1919, and remained Lieutenant Colonel in the Engineer's Section of the U.S. Reserves.

He returned to the States to the Western Forestry and Conservation Association (W.F.C.A.) in Portland where he was manager and forester from 1919 through 1924. In this position, local legislation and protective affairs became his responsibility. In 1924, he was elected secretary-treasurer of W.F.C.A. and served in this position until his death in 1940. Also, during the years between 1911 and 1925, he was manager and secretary of the Oregon Forest Fire Association which had

its headquarters in Portland. After 1925, he remained active in this organization as a lifelong member of the board of managers.

In 1924, he became chief forester for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. Handling property tax matters for Weyerhaeuser as well as forestry matters, he stayed in close contact with public officials, both state and national. In the late twenties and early thirties, he initiated and supported changes in the property tax laws which were designed to encourage better forestland management and reforestation by the forest products industry. Having first-hand experience in so many areas of forestry, he was acutely aware of the private versus public struggles, and tried always to represent both sides as fairly as possible. In the late thirties when the extent of the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service came into question, he was recognized as qualified to express the consensus of opinion in the industry. He urged a strict limitation of the power of the U.S. Forest Service "to police the industry," and had the background to define and justify this limitation.

Chapman was a frequent contributor to forestry journals. He made many speeches exploring and describing various aspects of forestland management and in 1934 was editor of *Leaving Cutover Lands Productive: Douglas Fir Region*. After joining Weyerhaeuser in 1924, he became a conservation force within the industry, a difficult and admirable position. "Chap," as those who knew him well called him, was one of the best-liked men in the industry, partly due to his awareness and consideration of what was in the best interest for everyone.

On September 4, 1919, he married Ethel Montgomery in New York City and they had two children, John Sidney (who died in 1922) and Anne, now Mrs. William Merserau of Portland.

He was chairman of the advisory council for the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station in 1926 and 1927, and vice president of the Society of American Foresters in 1928. He was a member of many organizations in his field including the Coos County Fire Patrol Association (president, 1932-40), Oregon Conservation Association, Washington Forest Fire Association, Washington State Forestry Conference, Pacific Northwest Logger's Association and the National Lumber Manufacturer's Association. In these and other forestry organizations he supplemented his work for Weyerhaeuser.

In 1952, twelve years after his death, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Foundation established the Charles S. Chapman Memorial Fund in the School of Forestry at Yale University. It is a tribute to Chapman's life work: his dedication to both public and private concerns in forestry.