Louis Hill (pronounced Louise) loved the forest and visited the West as often as he could. He was an energetic, enthusiastic forester and a businessman who dedicated himself to preserving and managing forest properties. He realized a future vision in reforestation, and throughout his life, he energetically pursued active forest management. Louis was a spark plug to the industry and a man who stimulated others to combine good forestry practices with high expectations.

Louis Warren Hill, Jr. had many names and titles during his active life, from May 19, 1902 to April 6, 1995. One of his earliest names was Ot Que Katsip Imo (Little Fieo Piny Rider), given to him in 1914 when he was accepted into the Blackfoot Nation. He spent his summers in their territory and explored western Montana with his family and new friends. In the West, he learned to hunt and fish and even tell Blackfoot hunting stories in sign language. He went for moose-hunting trips, traveling on horseback beyond the known trails. He connected with the West, and he was proud of his association with that part of the world. During the twenties, his mother took his two brothers and his sister (Jerome and Cortland Hill and Maud Hill Schroll) shopping to the conservative men's clothier Brooks Brothers in New York City. In 1914 when he was accepted into the Blackfoot Nation, he took his young bride to reside in Sweet Home, Oregon. He lived with Forester Eugene Ellis, where he literally learned the forestry business from the ground up while the father's company; the Great Northern Railway (1926–1929). He attended the annual Oregon "timber" meeting with its blue book Oregon regularly until a year before he passed away. He always attended the annual Oregon "timber" meeting with its blue book agenda and meeting schedules. He often commented on the management of the forest and studied the financial projections and expenses while considering the use and practice of fertilization and reforestation. He saw to it that the Hill property was consis-

Louis returned to live in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and visited Oregon regularly until a year before he passed away. He always attended the annual Oregon "timber" meeting with its blue book agenda and meeting schedules. He often commented on the management of the forest and studied the financial projections and expenses while considering the use and practice of fertilization and reforestation. He saw to it that the Hill property was consistently reforested after harvest, long before this practice became Oregon law. But Louis’ vision went far beyond the forest boundaries. Always a champion of many, he encouraged others to participate in their communities and exchange ideas. Louis was a charter member of the Japan-American Society and fought successfully to establish sister-city exchanges, particularly between Saint Paul, Minnesota, and Nagasaki, Japan. He sponsored East Asian studies at various institutions and collected and contributed to Asian art collections at diverse cultural institutions. Louis was awarded the medal of “The order of the Rising Sun” from Japan in 1987 for his educational and cultural contributions to U. S. and Japanese relations. In 1972 he was awarded the title “Honorary Swede of the Year” by the Svenkarnas Dag Committee. In 1956 he was presented with the “William Stillman Award” by the American Humane Association for saving a horse from certain death by drowning in a North Dakota river.


Louis was fun and funny. He could recite Robert Service’s “Cremation of Sam McGee” and he wrote limericks and rhyming couplets. He could command attention or alternatively be a quiet listener. He loved walking and touring his property. He was skilled with a cythe and he worked incessantly to rid his property of numerous weeds and Box Elder trees. Louis enjoyed every breath he took. His enthusiasm was infectious. John Driscoll, the great grandson of Frederick Weyerhaeuser, describes Louis as follows:

"He was one of those people who, when he saw you, would light up like a Christmas tree. He made you feel like you were the person he most wanted to see, right at that moment. It was unbelievable. He was remarkable in that way."

Louis’ role in the creation of the World Forestry Center’s “Talking Tree” was pivotal. After the first unsuccessful attempt in 1971, a second, much more realistic “Talking Tree” project was supported by Louis in 1972. It is 5 feet in diameter and 60 feet tall. It makes a truly inspiring introduction to the World Forestry Center.