He has many names. Most call him Stub. Some call him Mr. Stew-
art. A few call him Loran. By whatever name he's referred, he's
known to be an Oregon State Parks, the man who has guided,
advised for and sustained the magnificent state park system
that graces Oregon. There is much more to this living legend than
Oregon State Parks, however. Stub Stewart's firm hand has guid-
ed governments, charitable organizations, corporations, trade or-
ganizations and myriad institutions in Oregon and beyond. He
is more than a man who has distinguished himself as an Oregon
leader. He is a unique Oregon product.

Stub Stewart is a natural leader because of his intelligence,
work ethic and commitment to the ideals inherited from gen-
erations before him. His grandfathers, strong Oregon pioneers,
instilled in Stub the virtues of hard work and economy. His fa-
ter's wisdom and strength profoundly influenced Stub's de-
velopment. The genetic imprint of these strong Oregonians who
lived, worked and played hard are manifested in the man who
has eclipsed previous generations.

Loran LaSells Stewart was born in 1912 in Cottage Grove, Ore-
go, the first child of LaSells and Jessie Stewart. Never to be
tall, he acquired the nickname "Stub" early in his wanderings
through his father's logging camps. The name stuck for a lifetime
and is familiarly used by those who hold great affection for Stub,
by those who know him only slightly and by those who wish
to know this legendary man.

A brother and sister followed Stub in the Stewart household
and together the children enjoyed the Oregon outdoors with a
sense of exploration and adventure. Under the nurturing eye
of their mother, camping, firearms and horses were part of expe-
ditions into the Bohemia Mountain country and Oregon's great
outdoors.

Stub's father served in France during World War I. Upon
returning from the war he became a partner in the Bohemia Lum-
ber Company, a three-year old operation born in the mountain
country east of Cottage Grove. Through his years Stub worked
for his father's company in the mill operations and in the
woods. Mill and logging crews did the boss' son no favors
and Stub learned the workings of the company through hard
worst experience.

Upon graduating high school his parents insisted that, unlike
previous generations, Stub would attend college. Then known as
Oregon State Agricultural College, now Oregon State University,
the institution with arguably the best forestry school in America
attracted Stub. He returned in 1932 with a degree in logging en-
gineering. In the bleakness of depression era Oregon jobs were
few. He worked for a year as a tutor for the young grandson of
a prominent Oregon author, Elizabeth Lambert Wood.

When a job opportunity came with the U.S. Forest Service,
Stub launched his career with distinction. He engineered a par-
ticularly difficult road crossing of a section in the Cascade Range.
Over the next nine years he moved through a succession of Forest
Service assignments in Oregon. Intelligent, knowledgeable, often
brash, Stub's penchant for direct action and speaking his mind
struck sparks in the bureaucratic environment of government ser-
vice. For this stubby remarks that he might have been better off
to have heeded his father's admonition, "you'll never learn any-
thing with your mouth open." He was no career bureaucrat.

In 1942, the U.S. Army claimed Stub for service in World War II.
His education and his experience as a tutor cast him as an in-
structor in field artillery. He spent 23 months in China training
America's allies there. At war's end Stub left the army as a Lieu-
tenant Colonel.

He returned briefly to the employment of the U.S. Forest
Service, restlessly moved into private industry and then, upon
learning that his father's Bohemia Lumber Company was for sale,
chose to make a play for the company. Partnering with his brother
Pye and his brother-in-law Larry Chapman, Stub persuaded his
father to sell the run-down sawmill with its questionable timber
supply to the three. LaSells Stewart reluctantly made the sale,
shaking his head and exclaiming, "those damn kids!" During the
next 45 years, first with Stub as the innovative president and later
the board chairman, the company grew to become Bohemia, Inc.,
a publicly held company with 2,700 employees and operations
ranging from British Columbia to central California.

From the beginning the company deployed a penchant for
innovation and diversification. Stub acquired a reputation for
being a creative leader whose thinking was not limited by tradi-
tional timber industry ideas. Soon Bohemia branched into the
plywood business, introduced new designs for logging equip-
ment, was a pioneer in particleboard manufacture and, by 1960,
steadily acquired mills and timberland. Under Stub's guidance
Bohemia embarked maximum resource utilization and inventive logging operations. The company pio-
nounced efforts to route sawmill and tenor press waste back into
production. For years, the company was fascinated with possibil-
ities of producing usable products from bark, historically a waste
product. Ultimately, Bohemia embraced a technology to extract
industrial grade wax from bark and operated an award-winning
plant that operated for a decade and achieved numerous environ-
mental awards. Always innovative, Stub led Bohemia in diverse directions.

The company added value to its own basic products by produc-
ing manufactured homes. The company fashioned the world's forest
community with its efforts to log with helium filled balloons,
lifting logs from difficult and fragile logging sites. Stub's business
vision extended beyond the forest. Bohemia operated a tourist
railroad, a plastics plant, a restaurant in Hawaii, a campground
on the Oregon coast, a country club, housing development proj-
ects and a marine construction company.

If Stub Stewart had distinguished himself only as Bohemia's
leader, the accomplishment would have been extraordinary. He
did much more, however. His civic life, if anything, was more
diverse and active than his business life. As a member of the
Federal Reserve Board of San Francisco, he contributed to the de-
velopment of national economic policy. Representing broad in-
terests, he was a principal author of a landmark settlement that
ended the worst timber industry strike of the century. As a mem-
ber of Oregon's Board of Higher Education during the temporar-
y United States era, he helped save a university system from those
who would have dismantled it. As a loyal alumnus of Oregon
State University, he generously supported the efforts of the uni-
versity and the school of forestry. As a forest products industry
executive he served as chairman of the National Forest Products
Association. As a conservationist, he served as Chief White Tail
Association. As a conservationist, he served as Chief White Tail

In 1999, Stub was presented the Harry A. Merlo Award for a lifetime
commitment to producing quality, affordable building products on
a sustainable basis. Presented by the World Forestry Center, the
Merlo Award is one of many that grace Stub's office, home
and mountain cabin. He has been named first citizen of his home-
town, Cottage Grove, and of Eugene where Bohemia was based
in its later years. More than one editorial writer has observed
that if a similar State of Oregon award existed, Stub would be
the first to receive it, an observation that was underscored by the
fact that only two Oregonians have ever received distinguished
service awards from both of Oregon's major universities. Stub
was one of them. In any discussion of statesmen in Oregon, Stub's
name is at the top of the list.

Stub's Bohemia Inc. operated until 1991, when shrinking fed-
eral timber supplies led to the sale of the corporation to Willa-
ime Industries. Stub has continued his active civic life, serving
often as confidant and advisor to leaders in his industry and state.
The governor's door is always open to Stub and he regularly calls
with only Oregon's interests in mind.

Appreciately young and intellectually active at age 92, Stub's
work is far from finished in Oregon. A recent accomplishment is
the placement of a tall flagpole on a prominent point in Eugene
where political pressures caused the removal of a cross. Now,
Stub's stately flag, permanently lighted, presides over Eugene. But
he has Oregon's larger interests at heart. He's currently advocat-
ing for and helping to fund necessary tax reform that will assure
a better Oregon.

Stub Stewart's life story is far from complete and Oregon will
continue to benefit from his firm and selfless vision for his be-
loved state.

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