

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are now over 400 of our alumni graduates of the Auburn Department of Forestry, who I hope will be kept informed of the activities at Auburn and of our Alumni Association through this annual newsletter. If you are a recent graduate of our school, we heartily welcome you to our Alumni Association.

This year and next your interests will be represented by the following officers:

## President:

Glenn M. Plummer '57  
Camden, Ala.

## Vice-President:

Herman W. Neiswender '58  
Greenville, Ala.

## Secretary-Treasurer:

S. Jim Burns '59  
Montevallo, Ala.

In addition to the above officers we are aided by members appointed to our executive committee. These members are:

Edward Branch, Montgomery, Alabama

Joe Heath, Chapman, Alabama

Buck Ernest, Eufaula, Alabama

We now have a permanent Historian who is responsible for our Association records. Buddy Branch has volunteered for this job and will serve as safekeeper of our records and maintain a continuity between officers each time they are elected.

The aim of and the reason for existence of the Alumni Association is to bind alumni together both professionally and socially, as well as further the interests of the Department of Forestry of Auburn University. In order to do these things, the executive committee has decided to continue the use of class secretaries, fill existing secretary vacancies, and also appoint area correspondents based on the number of alumni within a geographical area. If you are asked to serve in one of these capacities, please respond favorably. The Association needs each of you. In order to help us keep up with each other and with happenings at Auburn, we plan to have a news bulletin each fall and spring. These will be in addition to this newsletter and will be comprised mainly of information sent by you to your area representative or class secretary.

## ALUMNI BRIEFS

1968 Alumni Association dues are now payable. If you have not received a membership card, then your dues have not been paid. Please send Jim Burns, Route 2, Box 900, Montevallo, Alabama 35115, a check for \$3.25 to cover your 1968 dues. While doing so, enclose a note about yourself and confirm your present address and class. If you are a 1967 graduate, please send Jim your address and you will receive a card free from dues payment. Your Alumni Association offers one year free membership to graduating seniors.

Buddy Branch, our Historian and member of the Executive Committee of the Association, is presently setting up the mechanics for administering a Memorial Fund within our Alumni Association. Correspondence or information regarding this activity should be addressed to Edward G. Branch, Alabama Division of Forestry, Administration Building, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

At our recent Executive Committee meeting in Auburn it was voted to appoint a By-laws Committee with members to serve a term of at least two years or until replaced by action of the Executive Committee. The committee has as its chairman Ted Hazen, Chatom, Alabama. Other members are Harry Dunn, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Bill Baggett, Haleyville, Alabama; Jim Haynes, Columbiana, Alabama; Virgil Willett, Camden, Alabama. This committee will review our By-laws and make recommendations for changes and additions as necessary. Presently, they are considering membership changes.

The Auburn Forestry Foundation has asked the Alumni Association to increase their activities in the solicitation of money for the Foundation. The Foundation can not actually solicit funds and the Association therefore supports them by raising money. Send your contribution to George Wood, Route 2, Box 14, Cottondale, Alabama.

We hope to see as many of you as can possibly be there at our next meeting during the Alabama Chapter Meeting on August 23, 1968, Mobile, Alabama.  
Glenn M. Plummer '57

## THE AUBURN FORESTRY FOUNDATION, 1967

The past year has been a quiet one for the Auburn Forestry Foundation. Most alumni who had been contributing to the Foundation contributed this year instead to the fund for the proposed new wing to the Auburn Forestry Building. This was in accordance with the recommendations of the Auburn Department of Forestry which had asked that top priority be given to the drive to raise money for the new wing.

Only \$185.00 was received by the Foundation in contributions last year, most of it from one donor who was fulfilling his pledge. Of this amount received, \$198.75 was made available to the Auburn Department of Forestry to supplement its budget and \$46.25 was invested in a trust fund which is being built up for an eventual endowment for the Auburn Department of Forestry.

With the conclusion of the drive to raise money for the new wing by June 30, activities in behalf of the Foundation are being resumed this year.

Officers elected Saturday, March 2, 1968:

George W. Wood,  
President  
Windell W. Vickery,  
Executive Vice-President  
Virgil Willett,  
Vice-President  
Walter G. Andress,  
Secretary  
W. T. Ingram,  
Treasurer

## WOOD TECHNOLOGISTS TAKE A TRIP

Seven students in Wood Technology attended the two-day Architectural Tour on April 25-26. This trip was sponsored by the Alabama Forest Products Association and the Southern Pine Association. Dr. H. O. Beals accompanied the students on the tour. Some former students met on the tour included Charlie Hamilton, Dick Edwards and John Bradford of Scotch Lumber Company, Fulton, Alabama, Bill Wright of Grove Hill, and Bill Huggins of Timber Structures, Greenville.

## SECRETARY-

### TREASURER'S REPORT

As of May 1968, we have some 460 graduates located in each of the southeastern states and as far away as California and Connecticut. Last year's secretary, Harry Dunn, claims we are a bunch of gypsies and keeping up with each graduate is a monumental task. The Department of Forestry provides the secretary with an IBM listing of each alumnus and his current address twice each year. So as you move around please let the secretary and the Forestry Department know about it.

President of the Alumni Association, Glenn Plummer, has a committee taking a close look at our by-laws. One of the items being examined is clarification of what constitutes a voting-member in the Association. Until recommendations are made a voting member is defined as any member who has paid his dues during the current year or year just ended. Dues may be paid as directed elsewhere on this page or through your Class Secretary. Please pass along notes of job changes, type of work, promotions, and other personal information for publication in the Alumni News Bulletin scheduled for early October.

We urge every alumnus to maintain close contact and to become more involved with the activities of his Alumni Association.

—Jim Burns '59

### BELIEVE ME!

School is just as demanding as I remembered it. After 5 years with T.V.A., I decided to rejoin the student ranks and work on a master's degree.

I am conducting a study on photo-interpretation of forest species and condition classes for my thesis. T.V.A. had an interest in this area of research and granted me a year's leave of absence and the photography I would need for the study. I have 8 sets of photographs (scales of 1:12,000 and 1:20,000; panchromatic and infrared black and white and true color and infrared Ektrachrome) of a 1x10 mile forest area taken over the Bankhead N.F. in Lawrence County. Some species are easy to recognize while others may be unidentifiable. The major difficulty appears to be the separation of upland oak species.

The results of the study should give a little better idea of the possibilities of species identification on aerial photos.

—Ken Northrop '62



Alumni Association sponsored the first dinner for seniors in Forestry in 1967.

### ALUMNI USE NEW LAND CLEARING MACHINE

Joe Heath '66 and Leighton Skinner '66, Land Management Foresters for Union Camp Corporation at Chapman, Alabama, are using a land clearing method new to Alabama. They are constructing for the use of a Le Tourneau G-80 tree crusher to clear a 2,000-acre tract of land southwest of Chapman.

The three drums (wheels) on the machine are eight feet in diameter and have knives twelve inches in length around the drums that cut up the fallen trees. The knives are self-sharpening as they dig into the soil.

The contractor (W. C. Bates, of Albuquerque, N.M.) has modified the machine so that it now will mow down large trees and then cut the trunk and limbs into small pieces of wood.

The gross weight of the machine is 180,000 pounds. It is 27 feet wide, 20 feet tall and 45 feet long. It is diesel-electric operated and travels about six miles per hour. Each wheel contains a 600-hp electric motor. Equipped with lights, it usually runs a minimum of 12 hours per day.

The Union Camp operation started out on an experimental basis, but results must be good, as they plan to clear 3,000 acres with the tree crusher in 1968.

The 2,000 acre tract (now serially seeded) can be seen on the East side of Interstate 65, between the Georgiana and Garland, Alabama interchanges.

Many visitors from over the south have been in Chapman to see the machine in operation.

### ALUMNI AWARD TO OUTSTANDING SENIOR

The recipient of the 1967 Outstanding Senior Award was Robert M. Shaffer of Opp, Alabama. The Alumni Association presented a copy of the "Forestry Handbook" to Robert who majored in Forest Management. Robert was a member of Xi Sigma Pi, active in the Forestry Club, and recipient of the Edward A. Hauss scholarship. Congratulations Robert!

### DUES REMINDER

This is to remind you that 1968 dues are payable. If you were a 1967 graduate you will receive a free membership card for this year.

Please make your \$3.25 check payable to Auburn Forestry Alumni Association and send to Jim Burns, P. O. Box 252, Montevallo, Alabama 35115, along with your news.

### BUILDING ADDITION

The final plans for the addition have been prepared by the architects. They are currently being studied by University officials, State Building Commission, and the U. S. Office of Education. (A Grant under Title II, Public Law 88-204, from the U. S. Office of Education is included in the financing of the building). Following these reviews, the plans will go back to the architects for additions and corrections. However, we have still not acquired commitment of sufficient funds to meet the architect's estimate of the cost of construction.

# STUDENT NEWS

## FORESTRY CLUB

The Auburn University Forestry Club is a student organization with the primary aim of bettering the relationship among the students enrolled in Forestry at Auburn. The Club sponsors the annual Winter Awards Banquet and the Auburn delegation to the Association of Southern Forestry Clubs' Conclave. Membership in the Forestry Club is open to all students enrolled in Forestry and to members of the staff. One staff member is appointed as Faculty Advisor to the club each year. Dr. L. E. DeBrunner is serving in this capacity for the current year.

The Winter Awards Banquet was held on February 22 at the Auburn Elk's Lodge. Professor H. G. Posey served as emcee and Mrs. Mary Sizemore spoke to the group on the subject of "Foresters' Wives." It was a very entertaining speech, enjoyed by everyone. The following awards were presented at the banquet: Bill Anderson received the E. A. Hauss Scholastic Improvement Award; Arthur Coleman received the L. M. Ware Outstanding Senior Award.

The 11th Annual Association of Southern Forestry Clubs' Conclave, was held at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. Twenty students represented Auburn at the Conclave. Auburn placed in eight events giving a total of 127 points, only 1/2 point behind second place Steven F. Austin.

As we look back over the year we can see that the Forestry Club was successful in fulfilling its purpose of promoting fraternal relations among the students enrolled in Forestry at Auburn University.

## XI SIGMA PI

"The intention of Xi Sigma Pi is to honor the student who excels scholastically and who has a personality that would tend to make him successful in forestry work. The fraternity aims at stimulating scholarship in forestry and at bringing together in good fellowship those students who have shown exceptional ability."

The activities of Sigma Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi for 1967-68 began with the initiation of new members in the Faculty Dining Room of the War Eagle Cafeteria on November 7, 1967. The initiates were Tommy Fell, Gary Haas, Michael Legg, and Robin Sanderson, undergraduates, and Michael Golden, a graduate student.

## CHRIS GOES TOPLESS

In 1947, Summer Camp came to Auburn Forestry and was located at Little River State Forest at Uriah, Alabama. With it came Prof. H. E. Christen, otherwise known as Chris, and his rusty brown felt hat. Prof. Chris and his brown hat have been a familiar sight to some 400 Auburn foresters in and around the forest of the Little River State Forest.

Summer Camp 1966 was the last one to be held at Uriah and Prof. Chris was finally able to "hang up his hat" and retire it from service.

But some of the more enterprising students of that last camp got together and decided that the hat, a symbol of Prof's devotion and help, should always be a part of Auburn forestry. One of them "borrowed" the hat from its peg on the wall of the instructors' barracks at the old camp and brought it to Auburn. A trophy was made and a silver plaque attached under the hat, that read:

This hat was worn by Dr. H. E. "Chris" Christen at Forestry Summer Camp, Little River, Alabama, 1947-1966. Given to the Dept. of Forestry in appreciation of his service.

The hat was presented to the Department of Forestry by the Forestry Club in appreciation of Prof. Chris's years of loyalty and service to the students, at the annual banquet in January.

The hat is more than a symbol of one man's dedication to forestry in general and Auburn forestry in particular, it is an expression of the man himself; his loyalty, his determination, his ruggedness and his ever-present help when it is needed. All the students in Auburn forestry say: "Thanks Prof."

The current officers of Sigma Chapter are Gary Haas, Forester; Tommy Fell, Associate Forester; Michael Legg, Secretary-Fiscal Agent; and Robin Sanderson, Ranger. Professor H. G. Posey is currently the representative of Sigma Chapter to the Executive Council. The current chapter roll contains 16 faculty members, 5 graduate students, and 5 undergraduates.

Sigma Chapter also acted as a welcoming committee and served coffee and doughnuts to visiting alumni on Homecoming Day.



Professor Christen receives plaque from Mr. DeVall.

## SUMMER CAMP 1967

For the first time since 1947, summer camp was not held at Little River. It was held on campus with fourteen forestry students attending. The first three weeks consisted of Forest Measurement on a tract of Kimberly-Clark land east of Opelika. While other Alabama citizens were changing to Daylight Saving Time, the forestry students were forming a new week which contained no weekend. Some students found it more difficult to run traverses at night than in the daytime.

After the course, the redbug immune, tick-infested students joined Prof. Chris for three weeks of Forest Engineering. The first two weeks were spent on road lay-out and land-line survey on the Tuskegee National Forest. The third week was used for a preliminary survey of the University's new arboretum.

The third course was Forest Regeneration in which many new methods of site preparation and regeneration were seen. During this course, the students got their only look at the wonderful set-up at Little River. Nights were also spent away from the campus in Site Evaluation as the students looked at the different sites found in Alabama. The last course, Alabama Forest Industries, consisted of visiting competitive as well as forest product industries. Many miles were put on the yellow bus as it went through its last summer camp.

No rattlesnakes were killed, Blueberry Hill did not get remodeled and the familiar sound of the Pensacola bus stopping for its regular passenger was not heard, but basically this camp was like all the rest—work.

# DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor . . . . . David M. Simmons  
Associate Editors . . . . Jimmy Burns  
Herman Neiswander  
Business Manager . . . Ronald Mahoney  
Faculty Coordinator . . L. E. DeBrunner  
Department Head Prof. Wilbur DeVall

## STAFF ADDITION

Seymour I. Somborg joined the departmental staff on January 15, 1968. Dr. Somborg will teach in the area of forest economics and initially will do research on the input-output of the forestry sector in selected South Alabama counties.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Dr. Somborg received the B.S.F. from Iowa State College (1941) and the M.F. (1946) and the D.F. (1962) from Duke University. He operated his own consulting firm from 1941 to 1960 serving an impressive clientele including Foster-Grant, W. R. Grace, and the Ford Motor Company. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a navigator (rising to staff navigator for Gen. Nadler).

From 1962 to 1964 Dr. Somborg taught at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. In 1964 he accepted a position with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and was assigned to Peru with a team of forestry scientists aiding in the training of Peruvians in the field of forestry. Dr. Somborg comes to Auburn from this assignment.

Professional societies to which he belongs include the S.A.F., American Statistical Society, American Society of Appraisers, and the Association of Consulting Foresters (Past President). Dr. Somborg is a registered forester in the State of Georgia (application made in Alabama) and is also a registered land surveyor in Georgia. He is included in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest," "Who Knows and What," "American Man of Science," and "Leaders in American Science."

Though the Somborgs, Si and Harriet, have tried, they do not come close to the record for family size on the Auburn forestry staff. Debra Lynne will start her senior year at Tulane in September, Benjamin Lawrence will be a freshman in college (Vanderbilt or Duke), Sandra Jeanne will start high school, and Steven Jay will start cutting teeth.

A hearty welcome to the Somborgs!

five-year program. In the latter case we are considering a single degree program and a two degree program. The two-degree approach would lead to a B.S. degree in timber management at the end of four years and a B.F. degree in multiple-use forestry at the end of the extra year. Much discussion is going on at the moment and we don't know what direction we will finally go.

## ST. REGIS SCHOLARSHIP

For the second straight year an Auburn student has won a St. Regis Paper Company Undergraduate Scholarship. Sophomores from Florida, Georgia, and Auburn compete annually for St. Regis' southern scholarship. Gary Haas won the 1967-68 award and joins Art Coleman (1966-67 winner) on scholarship. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$800 for each student per year for the junior and senior years.

## THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The policy of having Ph.D. students enroll in other departments has come to an end. The Graduate Council has approved the department's request for a Ph.D. program and it will commence in September, 1968. At this writing there have been several applications received but no one has been officially accepted.

## CONCLAVE '69

The Department of Forestry and the Auburn Forestry Club will sponsor and host the Conclave of Southern Forestry Clubs on April 12, 1969. The affair will be held on campus. Preliminary arrangements have been made and preparations will continue throughout the year. Schools expected to be represented include Oklahoma State, Stephen F. Austin, Arkansas A. & M., Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Clemson, North Carolina State, and V.P.I. All alumni are invited to attend and see what happens, so mark the date on your calendar. Details can be obtained by writing the Forestry Club.

## N.S.F. GRANT

One of two proposals for undergraduate teaching equipment submitted by the department to the National Science Foundation in the spring of 1967 has been funded. The successful proposal was for a permanent weather station for use in several courses, but particularly in silvics. The equipment, including recording versions of all the standard meteorological instruments and some not so standard equipment, has arrived. Most notable of the unusual instruments is a nuclear moisture probe. A 50' x 50' chain link fence enclosure has been constructed near the new pesticides research complex not far from the forestry plots. Currently B. & G. is constructing a water line to the site. It is anticipated that this equipment will be installed during the summer and that it will be operational for the fall quarter.

## CURRICULUM

### "CONFUSION"

At the time of writing this item the curriculum situation is highly confused. We have until the end of the Spring Quarter to resolve this situation and submit a new curriculum to the University. This new curriculum would become effective in the summer of 1969.

Two forces are causing the confusion. First, the University has decreed that every curriculum on campus should contain material that would tend to broaden and liberalize it. To this end the following requirements have been laid down: 3 three-hour English Composition courses; 3 three-hour World History courses; 2 five-hour courses in Mathematics (including one quarter of calculus); and 2 five-hour courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Geology. Furthermore, 20 additional hours must be taken in areas outside the students basic field (social sciences and the humanities in our case). In addition, the total number of hours permitted us is 210 (without summer camp and 228 with summer camp). The second force is the Society of American Foresters' new set of curriculum requirements (quoted from the Journal of Forestry, vol. 65, no. 8, p. 583): "For a curriculum to be approved, it must include sufficient courses and educational experiences to insure its graduates of a working knowledge of the basic concepts, techniques and subject matter of (1) forest economics, (2) forest protection, (3) silviculture, (4) forest resources management, (5) forest resources use, (6) dendrology, (7) forest ecology, (8) forest measurements, (9) forest policy and (10) forest administration." (Italicizing added by editors).

In combination these requirements are forcing us into a corner. We can accommodate both only by developing a program that is deficient in the basic sciences. Some on the staff are willing to move in this direction. Other alternatives are: (1) ignore the S.A.F. requirements involving multiple use (the italicized items) and develop a strong timber management program; and (2) develop a