

AUBURN FORESTER

W.A. WOOD
1928



Volume Two AUBURN FORESTER Number Two

Published by the Forestry Club, Department of Forestry, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

Staff

EDITOR VERNON YOW
 Reporters R. C. Wakefield
 Wm. L. Brown
 W. M. Stuckey
 E. C. Burkhardt
 H. A. Byrd
 R. B. Williams
 J. H. Smith
 D. C. Parker
 J. D. Guy, Jr.
 Faculty Advisor C. Willard Leach

GRATITUDE

When the next issue of the AUBURN FORESTER appears, a new name will appear on the masthead as editor.

It has been a stimulating and challenging experience to serve on the staff of the AUBURN FORESTER. There have been moments of discouragement, but they have been far surpassed by the rewarding relationships that have come as students and faculty have worked together to make the paper a success. Too, there is a genuine feeling of achievement when once an issue is completed and ready for distribution--a feeling always tempered by the recognition and resolution that the next edition must be an improvement.

To watch the growth of the Department of Forestry here at Auburn from a skeleton staff housed in a temporary cottage to the expanded faculty working under ideal physical conditions in a beautiful and well-equipped building has been a real privilege. There is every reason to believe that the AUBURN FORESTER can follow much the same pattern of expansion and improvement in the months to come. It is on this high note of expectation of better things to come that I say my farewell.

Ed.

WE APPRECIATE

The Forestry Club as a whole and the AUBURN FORESTER staff in particular feel a deep debt of gratitude to Professor Frederick H. Vogel, first faculty advisor to our forestry paper.

Professor Vogel gave complete and wholehearted cooperation to the paper and its staff throughout his tenure of office. Regardless of the problem which confronted us, Professor Vogel was unfailingly sympathetic and ready to attack the difficulty with promptness and enthusiasm.

There was no job in connection with getting the paper ready for the press that was too large or too small for Professor Vogel's attention if the need arose. In his advisory capacity he has served as writer, proof reader, assembler, and stapler. For the understanding, encouragement, and balanced perspective he proffered us, we wish to say a heart felt thank you.

Staff

SALUTE TO THE AUBURN REVIEW

The editor and staff of the AUBURN FORESTER extend their greetings to the editorial board of the new AUBURN REVIEW, which was born this month on our campus.

Well-written, well edited, and well printed, the AUBURN REVIEW would be a credit to any campus. It is with pride that we are reading our copies and realizing that Auburn is growing in culture as well as physical size. The AUBURN REVIEW merits the support of every forester.

DON'T LET IT BE YOU

We had a man in our mill,
 Who round a resaw lingered;
 He got his hand too near the teeth,
 And now he is unfingered!

Yes, the Woodchopper's Ball, May 6

SOMETHING NEW AGAIN

P. I. forestry students of this generation may accept the "new" as commonplace. If so, they may not notice our dress. But the latest "new" is our cover page! Do you like it? We in "Forester" office are proud of it. We hope you care enough for it that you will want it as a regular feature. It is possible, too, to "print" the entire Auburn Forester, complete with photographs--but only if each and every Forestry Club member is willing to do his share. The Auburn Forester will be just what the Club members make it! Let's not stop here.

The Forester staff expresses its appreciation to the newly established Photographic and Duplicating Service of A. P. I. for its cooperation in designing this first cover.

FAREWELL TO OUR EDITOR

With this issue ends the reign of our first editor, Vernon Yow. We, the AUBURN FORESTER staff and the faculty advisors who have seen the little paper through its delicate infancy into robust youth, know that Editor Yow is the real answer to why we have a paper today.

When the going got tough and there was little help; when the line of support became thin; when even funds were lacking--there was always Vernon Yow, and the AUBURN FORESTER continued to live.

The new editor will have a strong staff to help him, and he will turn out a paper that will be a credit to our school, but none can know the full satisfaction that our first editor has known--to have started a new enterprise that turned out to be a success.

The Staff

Remember the Woodchopper Ball, May 6.
Blue Jeans and Calico - perhaps shoes.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Freshmen and sophomores are almost aliens in the forestry club until they have what seems to be an all important prerequisite, namely, "summer camp." I would like to know why all the juniors and seniors feel that they become wheels after spending three months in South Alabama? I can understand that after living together for that length of time they know each other better, but that shouldn't keep them from fraternizing with freshmen and sophomores. I believe the freshmen and sophomores would support the Forestry Club and its activities more if they were permitted to take a more active part in them.

There are probably freshmen who do not know that a forestry club exists. How about organizing a "Welcome Committee" to orient new freshmen and transfers? They could acquaint these new foresters with the building, campus, and club affairs. I'm sure that this would help to make freshmen feel more at home in our Forestry school and in our Forestry Club.

An Underclassman

Editor's Note: This letter is welcome. It implies that the freshmen and sophomores are taking a more active interest in the Forestry Club and its affairs. As for the election of officers, this is done by a majority vote under the stipulation of the Club's Constitution and By-Laws. Only one office, namely, that of president, must come from the senior group.

It is easily seen that increased attendance by the freshmen and sophomores could correct this "ill." It is believed that the idea of a "Welcome Committee" is sound. Bring it before the Club at the next regular business meeting. The Forestry Club welcomes all forestry students, regardless of academic or grade standing.

One pulpwood tree contains enough cellulose for the powder in 7,500 bullets!

VISCOSE RAYON

The wood chemistry class at Auburn is coming to realize the dire need for a good Laboratory Manual suitable for use in connection with our wood chemistry course. No completely suitable lab. manual is yet available.

An experiment was started in which viscose rayon was to be the final product. Bleached wood pulp was steeped in 18% caustic soda for 72 hours after which it was squeezed and crumbled and allowed to age. The resulting alkali cellulose was dissolved in carbon disulphide (a step which is supposed to yield cellulose xanthate, when the proper proportions of reagents are used).

An excess of the carbon disulphide was used and instead of getting cellulose xanthate, a rubber-like precipitate was secured. This substance was resistant to practically all common organic solvents such as Di ethyl ether, methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, dimethyl ketone, (commonly known as acetone), formaldehyde, and acetic acid. The unknown substance had the odor of rubber when burned in an open flame and was quite tough and somewhat elastic. There seems to be one major obstacle, however, to its immediate use in automobile tires; it is water soluble, so could not be driven very long in the rain.

The wood chemistry class has been more successful in other experiments which include cellulose nitrate, Cellophane-like material, cellulose acetate, and the preparation of wood pulp by the soda process.

 FORESTRY FACULTY & STUDENTS
 ASSIST IN FARM RENOVATION

Tuesday, March 8, at 7:01 A. M., Dr. Stevens, Prof. Christen, and 32 silviculture students boarded the "Yellow Peril" and set sail for Tuscaloosa. Dr. Stevens was the helmsman and was ably assisted by his 33 crewmen. Why? To save Alabama, of course.

The "Save Alabama Demonstration" was concentrated on the L. D. Smith farm six miles south of Tuscaloosa. The intent of this demonstration was to convert a typical southern farm into a modern dairy farm in one day; thereby enabling a great number of people to become acquainted with the most up-to-date machinery and methods. Forestry activity was to be confined to 60 acres of farm woodlot where trees were to be planted; poles, firewood, pulpwood, and sawtimber were to be cut; and poles were to be peeled and treated.

At 1 p. m. the group met other foresters at the District Ranger's office, and the duties of each man were outlined. Each man was designated to act as a supervisor over one phase of the work. Following the meeting everyone drove out to the farm for a familiarization tour. While in the woodlot each phase of the work was explained in detail, and final plans for the following day's work were drawn up.

Upon returning to Tuscaloosa in the evening, quarters were furnished by the University of Alabama, and meals were served with the compliments of the Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce.

Wednesday dawned grey and overcast, and the crew went to the farm with considerable trepidation. Each man checked in with his area leader and immediately began work on his assignment. Everything was progressing smoothly until around 10 A. M. when earlier fears were realized, and all operations were temporarily halted due to rain. For the remainder of the day work was spasmodic, and only a portion of the original plan was fulfilled. All hope for completing the demonstration was abandoned at 2 P. M.

Although the goal of the demonstration was not reached, it is felt that each man who made the trip gained much by meeting and becoming acquainted with prominent leaders in forestry from throughout the state and by observing and using new equipment and ideas which are beyond the scope of the classroom.

(Cont'd on page 5)

FORESTRY FACULTY & STUDENTS ASSIST IN RENOVATION (cont'd from page 4)

The trip back to Auburn was enlivened by a determined cloudburst and a supper in Montgomery; it was climaxed by a little sermon by "Reverend" Archie Ray who lingered lovingly on the controversial topic, "Is Silviculture Necessary for Salvation?"

Spurred on by his invigorating deliverance, we drew up to the Forestry building amid cheers of "Keep Heaven Green" and "Practice Controlled Burning in Hell."

FORESTRY CLUB MEETS

The final Forestry Club meeting for the quarter was held on March 7. The main item of business was the election of Club officers. Officers elected to serve during the Spring quarter are:

President - Walter J. Culberson, senior, from Puscaloosa, Alabama
 Vice-President - John B. Gay, Jr., senior, from Auburn.
 Secretary - Whit N. Stuckey, sophomore, from Bay Minette, Alabama
 Treasurer - R. C. Wakefield, senior, from Double Springs, Alabama
 Reporter - Nathan A. Byrd, junior, from Ozark, Alabama

One other topic of business, namely, the proposed construction of a Forestry Club cabin, was discussed. The Club voted for the construction of this cabin, and a committee was named to prepare the initial building plans.

HARDWOOD LOG GRADING SCHOOL TO BE HELD AT AUBURN

The statement "so-called waste stock is often the measure of profit or loss in a sawmill or factory" is being regarded today as containing more truth than ever. Realizing this, a hardwood log grading school under the auspices of the Forestry Department at AFI in cooperation with the Forest Utilization Service of the Southern

Forest Experiment Station will be conducted at Auburn during the period March 21-24, inclusive.

The objective of this school will be to acquaint the lumber industry with modern concepts of hardwood log grading because the log grade is closely related to the quality and value of lumber cut from a log. The actual work of log grading will be done at the Notasulga Lumber Company, Notasulga, Alabama.

The school will be attended by approximately 25 representatives of the lumber industry and State and Federal agencies. Attendance is by invitation. The instruction for the school will be furnished by the Forest Utilization Service of the Southern Forest Experiment Station.

The last afternoon of the school will consist of a round table discussion on log grading and related problems.

LANDSCAPING COMPLETED

A major step forward in beautifying the grounds surrounding the forestry building was made this quarter when the area was landscaped by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Over 400 shrubs and trees were used, representing 20 different species and horticultural varieties. Anyone thinking the scientific names as encountered in Dendrology were hard should try their tongue on horticultural varieties!

THE AUBURN FORESTER'S NEW FACULTY ADVISOR

Beginning with this issue the AUBURN FORESTER has a new faculty advisor. Professor C. Willard Leach is the torch bearer and will furnish the guiding light to the paper's staff. The new advisor has expressed his desire and willingness to help in any way toward the betterment of the AUBURN FORESTER. With the able assistance of Professor Leach and the full cooperation of all staff members there is no reason why the AUBURN FORESTER will not be the leading organization paper on the campus!

RESEARCH IN FORESTRY AT AUBURN

As we all know, the Forestry Department here at Auburn carries on considerable research in addition to its academic duties. Research is done on any subject of forestry which is of value to the state of Alabama, especially to help the small land owner. The funds to carry on the projects come from both federal and state appropriations; however, the disposition and use of funds is completely handled by the state.

The research staff consists of four foresters who spend all their time on research, plus the faculty members who spend from ten to twenty-five per cent of their time on research. Dr. G. I. Garin and his assistant, K. W. Livingston, are responsible for projects on the forest lands of the experiment stations, with the exception of the Fayette Experimental Forest which is being handled by Frank F. Smith. A project, "Establishment, Growth and Yield of Forest Plantations in Alabama" is being studied by J. F. Coggans, who is making his studies by the physiographic regions of Alabama.

The faculty members are working on projects which are concerned with their own fields of specialization. Additionally, D. L. Westberg, a Forest Service field agent from the Southern Forest Experiment Station at New Orleans, is doing forest research work here at Auburn.

Available for research work are some 2730 acres of land here in Alabama. The land is well distributed over the state in seven counties as follows: Autauga, three hundred acres; Baldwin, two hundred acres; Barbour, one hundred-eighty acres; Lee, four hundred-ten acres; and Talladega, eighty acres.

Outstanding of these acreages is the Fayette tract which boasts of a fine residence for Mr. Smith, a caretaker's house, and other buildings and equipment. The development of the Fayette unit has just recently been completed and it is now prepared to function as a fine field station.

Research in forestry began here at Auburn in 1924 under the direction of the Horticulture Department. The extent of research grew each year until by 1939 the Horticulture Department was being recognized as carrying on statewide forestry research. In 1946, the Forestry Department was created and assumed the research programs already begun and immediately set itself to studying additional phases of forestry.

Much of the Department of Horticulture's work consisted of planting old fields with pine seedlings. Consequently, there are many acres of fine plantations available for study today, some of which are over twenty years of age. Lately, a problem of deep concern to the state of Alabama has been given more and more attention--that of the management of depleted forest stands.

Let's all cooperate to our utmost ability to keep fire out of our experimental plots and report all signs of vandalism and misuse to the Forestry Department staff.--Ed.

FIRE CONTROL CLASSES VISIT TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST

Our Forest Fire Control classes paid two visits to the District Ranger Station on the Talladega National Forest at Talladega, Alabama, on Wednesday, Feb. 23, and again on Friday, the 25th. The "Yellow Peril," piloted by Professor Leach, pulled away from the Forestry Building at 7:10 each morning. A brief "rest stop" was made about 9 o'clock for those early risers whose frayed nerves were in need of the soothing warmth of coffee. By 10 o'clock the classes had arrived intact at their destination, and were well into the work of the day.

Until noon each day, half the class occupied itself by viewing and inspecting the fire control and other equipment found at the Station. Meanwhile, the remainder of the class was given a brief two-hour outline of the fire dispatcher's duties

(Cont'd on page 7)

CONTROL CLASSES VISIT TALLADEGA CIVIL FOREST (cont'd from page 6)

outline by Mr. Seizert, the Ranger, Crowell, the Dispatcher. After the groups exchanged their respective activities.

The complete organization and operation of the fire control program was clearly explained. Many well-expressed questions lead to better insight into the workings of the Forest Service fire control organization. Ranger Seizert injected an interesting note on Wednesday when he elaborated upon his experiences in the public relations and law enforcement phase of fire control. This portion of the "tour" was replaced on Friday by the activity of the dispatcher when two fires were reported and crews were dispatched by radio and telephone communication.

We left the Ranger Station about 3 o'clock and, after a short side trip up the Horn Mountain Motorway to observe a grounded circuit tree-line telephone system and truck trail construction, headed back toward Auburn. The remainder of the trip was uneventful to the point of boredom. We arrived in Auburn at 6 o'clock, and it is rumored that a good time was had by all.

Many thanks are due the Ranger and his staff for making the trips enjoyable and profitable for the entire class each day.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBTAINS FIRE TRUCK

In December 1948 the Forestry Department of A. P. I. became the proud possessor of a fire truck, complete with a powerful water pump and large reserve water tank--but no siren. This powerful 1933 model, six-cylinder vehicle was obtained from the Veterans Administration at Biloxi, Mississippi, for the purpose of supplying the Fayette Forest Experiment Station, a branch of the Forestry Department of A. P. I., with modern fire fighting apparatus.

At 8:30 a. m., December 17, taking on 27 gallons of gasoline, Professor Gaskins cleared the field at Biloxi and set his course for Auburn. His childhood desire to drive a fire truck had become a reality at last. After cruising along at a brisk 40 m.p.h. for two hours, a loud clattering suddenly developed underneath the hood and the gallant speed wagon shuddered throughout and came to a screeching halt. After due deliberation as to why the truck would no longer run, Prof. G. detailed a kindly highway patrolman to send out a truck technician from nearby Stapleton, Ala. Close examination revealed that Connecting Rod, living in Cylinder Number One, had left its quarters and come out for some fresh air. Since the truck had been driven only 2160 miles in the last 16 years, a clogged oil line was blamed for the incident.

The professor completed the return trip to Auburn by Grayhound Bus.

Several weeks later, Prof. G. enticed our Ed. to accompany him and tow the fire truck to its new home. Now we know why one V. Yow will not look in the direction of the parked fire buggy. When an engine is obtained for the truck, however, the Forestry Department will be justly proud of one of the best pieces of forest fire suppression equipment in the South.

WOOD PULPED IN CHEM LAB

The week-long hunt for a dead horse believed trapped between walls of the Forestry Building is at last over, and the truth is out. Prof. Vogel's class in wood chemistry had been making pulp by the sulphate process, which uses no perfume.

An excellent grade of pulp was produced on the first cook in spite of lack of a suitable autoclave, and the four brave students who weathered the noxious gases will have their names engraved on a sheet of paper of their own manufacture. Who knows in what archive will rest the first sheet of paper made in our school, inscribed: "CARLSON, MERRINMAN, BROWN & WILLIAMS!"