

## 1959: The First Fifty Years

The big news at decade's end, of course, was the college's attainment of its fiftieth birthday. In anticipation of the event, a 50th anniversary committee comprising college faculty/alumni worked hard through the months preceding the event to ensure a successful commemoration. Members of the committee were Vernon Burlison, Fred Johnson, Ken Hungerford, Frank Pitkin, and Bob Seale. Art W. Sowder represented off-campus alumni on the committee. Members of the Forestry Club and Xi Sigma Pi provided invaluable help.

The birthday party came off October 22-24, 1959.

After registration and an informal smorgasboard on October 22, the anniversary program began the next morning. Dean Wohletz and UI President Theophilus welcomed alumni and other friends. Charles A. (Chuck) Wellner (BS - Forestry, '33) introduced program participants, and Vernon Burlison sketched out the early history of forestry at UI. The highlight of this gathering was provided by an alumni panel, conducted by Dean Emeritus Jeffers, the members of which reminisced on their experiences in the college. Panel members were Henry Schmitz, former faculty member (1919-1925) and former president of the University of Washington; Arlie D. Decker (BS - Forestry, '13); William R. Schofield (BS - Forestry, '16); Edwin C. Rettig (BS - Forestry, '19); Ralph S. Space (BS - Forestry, '25); Charles A. Connaughton (BS - Forestry, '28); Lawrence R. Pugh (BS - Forestry, '26); Russell K. LeBarron (BS - Forestry, '31); John Chohlis (BS - Range Mgt., '37); Roger L. Guernsey (BS - Forest Mgt., '47); Robert B. Walkley (BS - Forest Mgt., '49); Ben A. Jayne (BS - Wood Util., '52); Stanley M. Jepsen (BS, MF - Forest Mgt., '54, '55); and William G. Guernsey (BS - Range Mgt., '29).

"One would not have to look far in numerous Who's Who to recognize the caliber of these gentlemen," wrote Wohletz later.

The second event that day was a luncheon attended by about 250 alumni and friends. Arthur W. Nelson (BS - Forest Mgt., '38), then general

manager of the Timber Production Division of Champion Paper and Fiber Company, MC'd the function. The guest speaker was Richard E. McArdle, former dean (1934-35) and at the time Chief of the USDA Forest Service.



Richard E. McArdle (Dean, 1934-1935), then Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, speaks at the 50th anniversary alumni luncheon, 1959.

The Golden Anniversary Banquet, the capstone of the birthday celebrations, took place that evening at the Elks' Temple. The 350 in attendance enjoyed the master-of-ceremonies skills of George M. Jemison (BS - Forestry, '31), then Deputy Assistant Chief of USDA Forest Service Research, and the speech of banquet guest speaker Henry Clepper, Executive Secretary of the Society of American Foresters.



Alums Bill Guernsey (BS - Range Mgt., '29) (left) and Charles Connaughton (BS - Forestry, '28) (right) talk over 50th anniversary festivities with UI Alumni Director Jim Lyle.

The 50th anniversary celebration moved outdoors the next day to an "old-fashioned field day" held at Shattuck Arboretum, where students and alums competed for the honors in logger sports events. Those hungry from the effort of double-bucking and hardhit—and those hungry from merely watching—then adjourned to a steak fry. The festivities ended with a trip to Pullman to take in the UI-WSU football game.

In the *Idaho Forester* for 1960, Dean Wohletz eloquently summed up the 50th anniversary celebration and, indeed, the last 50 years themselves:

The longer I am with the University, and it has been 23 years now, the more keen-

ly I am aware of the greatness of this institution. As a result I am extremely proud of being a member of the Staff. However, I was never more keenly aware of this pride than during the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the College of Forestry held on the campus October 22-24, 1959. This celebration was a success in every sense of the word and I know it left those in attendance with the same feeling. The success of the celebration was due both to the program of activities and to the extremely fine attendance. More important, however, was the fact that the unfolding of historical events pointed conclusively to the soundness upon which this institution was built . . . .

Now, having looked back, and having received expressions of confidence from so many, I feel confident that a successful future is assured. The soundness of past actions upon which today's program rests, and the stimulation given not only to the faculty of the College of Forestry but also to the administration, the alumni, students and friends, by the Golden Anniversary Celebration, will be most helpful in making the next 50 years successful.

### **Into the Sixties and Toward a New Home**

Although, as the faculty grows, it becomes less useful to record every change, some changes, because of the length of service of those involved, ought to be noted. Among these are the following, all from 1959-60:

Lawrence L. Inman, assistant professor of forestry and forest geneticist, resigned, to be replaced by a man whom Wohletz describes as "one of the world's outstanding forest geneticists." Chi-Wu Wang (BS, University of Peking; MS, Yale; Ph.D., Harvard), professor emeritus since 1978, remains active in the college's and the university's international programs, particularly those related to the People's Republic of China.

Robert L. Gilbertson, assistant professor of forestry and forest pathologist, also resigned, to be replaced by Arthur D. Partridge (BS, Maine; Ph.D., New Hampshire), who will become well known for his work on tree diseases and insects. Partridge remains an active faculty member.

As already noted, alumnus Arland Hofstrand, now professor of forest products, was hired on as instructor in wood utilization. And another now familiar faculty member, David L. Adams (MF - Forest Res.-Mgt., '61) arrived from Oklahoma to join the college as a teaching assistant. After a stint in the Forest Service and Ph.D. work at Colorado State University, Adams returned to the college in 1971. He is currently professor of forest resources and has been Forest Resources program and department head since 1974.

Although faculty numbers had been growing, that growth had not kept pace with the growth in

student enrollment. Wohletz reported that "the total student body of the past year [1959-60] was higher than it has been for about 13 years. During the first semester, we had more than 300 students registered, including about 25 graduate students. This was an increase of about 7 percent over that of the previous year."

Obviously, despite the exodus of Agriculture from Morrill Hall some nine years earlier, the College of Forestry was again threatening to burst the rafters of its original home. In 1959, that eventuality was at least postponed. To Wohletz' satisfaction, but no doubt to the dismay of many Foresters, Secretarial Sciences, which had occupied half of the first floor, moved out of Morrill, leaving its old space to be absorbed by the college.

### **Good Professors and Many Fond Memories**

Having graduated from a small New England College (Trinity), I entered Duke, then the University of Idaho, to become a forester. I especially enjoyed Dean Wohletz' Forest Policy course because of the opportunity for discussing controversial resources issues. The great give and take between speakers and classmates helped us mature. I returned to Idaho in 1961 to earn range management certification. That year, I met and eventually married Elaine Maki, an assistant social sciences librarian at the University.

Another highlight would have to be the spring range trip with Dr. Ed Tisdale, who was my faculty advisor in 1961-62. His high principles of expecting each person to do his best to advance professional standards in natural resources has never left me. Today, I am the Chairman-elect of the Northcentral New Mexico Chapter of the Society of Range Management, and will soon be one of the Directors of the New Mexico Section. I owe a lot to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences for starting me in the right direction.

Professors Lee Sharp and Merrill Deters helped me in the employment hunting area. Dr. Deters' reading the news from the *Wall Street Journal* each morning impressed a lot of the students. His forest valuation course earned him my everlasting respect. In connection with that course, the Intermountain Logging Conference in far-off Spokane was a treat that J.P. Kenny [BS - Forest Mgt., '62], Jim O'Donnell [BS - Forest Mgt., '60], Lester Kisska [BS - Forest Mgt., '60] and I really enjoyed.

Wherever I meet Idaho FWR alumni, the story is the same—good fellowship and pride in our alma mater.

—Henry W. Kipp (BS - Forest Mgt., '60)

Approximately \$12,000 were given the college for improvements, although, said Wohletz, "We have requested many thousands for further modernization . . . ."

The following year, the state appropriated those "many thousands," about \$120,000 to be a bit more precise. These thousands financed an extensive and much-needed renovation. ". . . By the end of this summer" wrote Wohletz in June 1961, "the University will have put into this building some \$120,000. This includes a complete sprinkler system for fire protection, a complete rewiring and relighting, the addition of a new women's lounge, refinishing of the men's toilet room, blacktopping of the parking lot, renovation of the space formerly allocated to Secretarial Sciences, and other minor expenditures. One of the two major rooms formerly used by Secretarial Sciences will be converted to a student laboratory and will be primarily used for dendrology and wood technology . . . . The other room . . . will be converted to a rather elegant conference room and remaining space will be used to relocate the present reading room. It will be moved from the third floor to the first floor. It is my understanding that the conference room alone will cost some \$20,000."

Wohletz was well aware that these Morrill Hall renovations, as expensive as they might have

been, were yet stopgap measures—at least for the College of Forestry. The college needed a new building—no doubt about it. And Wohletz, no doubt, could have pushed for it. But he was realistic, and, beyond that, obviously saw himself as not only Forestry Dean, but also as a member of the broader University of Idaho community—to which he also owed loyalty and responsibility.

Addressing the question of a new Forestry Building in 1958, he wrote, "Frankly, my position has been one of supporting the University in obtaining necessary buildings and facilities which are needed to a much larger degree than that of Forestry."

And despite the \$120,000 spent in improvements to Morrill in 1961, Wohletz still felt that, "like everyone else, we need a new building. However, because of the pressing nature of university needs, a new building doesn't seem on the horizon unless we can get matching funds from outside sources for a few years. Therefore, we are attempting to adapt the old Morrill Hall . . . to our increasing needs . . . . One of these days it is my hope that we can get a new Forestry Building. It is in the plan, but not of high priority because our space is so much better than many others."

A new building was on the horizon, of course, but it was a far horizon, almost a decade away.

**Grad students—1960. Front from left: Bob Ferguson, Dave Adams (now head of the Department of Forest Resources), Rolfe Leary; middle from left: Gene Farmer, Nick Tipple, John Hunt; back from left: LeRoy Williamson, Leaford Windle.**



A few years later, Wohletz was a bit more optimistic, though guardedly so. In his March 1965 newsletter, he writes, "In spite of the need for a new building, it doesn't appear likely that we will get one in the next three or four years." And he was right, but at least then he was obviously anticipating a new building as a reality, rather than as wishful thinking.

In the summer of the following year, he reported that the college now had 23 "young, vigorous, dynamic" staff members, an undergraduate enrollment of 366, and a graduate enrollment of 43. Despite the fact that Forestry now occupied the whole of a renovated Morrill Hall, "... space has become a real limiting factor . . . . We are coming to the point now . . . where not much more can be done to this old building," wrote Wohletz.

But now, with UI administration support, a new building seems, if not assured, at least possible. Wrote Wohletz:

In 1959 the Administration prepared a time schedule of buildings for the campus. On the preliminary draft, a new Forestry Building was not included. Based upon a strong protest by myself, President Theophilus included a new Forestry Building for the decade 1960-70. It was last on the list. In 1963 the Administration was again appraised of the need for a new Forestry Building. At that time, they felt that other needs on the campus were greater than Forestry. We then requested \$78,000 to improve the old building which the contractor is now working on. At the present time, we have a faculty committee working on plans for a new Forestry Building. In order to have this accepted by the end of the decade, the 1969 legislature will have to act. This is our target.

They hit the target—almost three years before the projected date. In 1966, Wohletz announced that "a major development is the State Legislature's approval of monies for the erection of a new forestry building . . . . The money appropriated was \$1.8 million. However, this is to be augmented with \$7-900 thousand of federal funds, giving us a building of approx. 80,000 sq. ft. total space . . . . We are planning a building to house a staff about double that which we have at present."

### Pences a Batch

1959 - Ned N. Pence (BS, MF - Forest Mgt., '59, '67) graduates and begins a tradition. Brother Dan T. (Forest Mgt.-Res., '62) follows two years later, followed three years later by brother Lewis L. (BS - Forest Mgt., '64), followed the next year by brother Fred C. (BS - Range Res., '65), followed seven years later by brother Guy W. (BS - Forest Mgt., '72). The five Pences, constituting within themselves a small sub-group of FWR alumni, are the college's largest single-family representation. And now the Pence tradition continues into the next generation. Currently students in the college are Don N. Pence, the son of Ned, and Jan Marie Pence, daughter of Dan. All the Pence brothers remain in their chosen natural resources fields representing themselves, their family, and the college with distinction.



The Pence family: Front from left: Ned, Dan, Lew; back from left: Father Tom, Mother Eva, Carl, Guy.

As a point of interest, Wohletz and his committee envisioned a somewhat different building in a somewhat different location than that now occupied by the FWR Building. He and his committee recommended a location west of the library,

### Alums Concurrently Hold National Offices

1960 - a "double-header": Charles A. (Charlie) Connaughton (BS - Forestry, '28) is elected president of the Society of American Foresters, and Fred H. Kennedy (BS -Range Mgt., '29) was elected president of the Society of Range Management. It is the first—and perhaps the only—time alumni of the same college would hold these offices concurrently.



Left: Fred Kennedy, President, Society for Range Management, 1960-1961. Top: Charles A. Connaughton, President, Society of American Foresters, 1960-1961. 1960 photos.

what they considered to be "the eventual center of the campus." And the original plan also called for housing the university's computer center in the new building.

"With the library just a few hundred feet away, the computer center in the building, and Physical Sciences next to the library, we would have an ideal spot," wrote Wohletz.

Of course the building site would be northeast of the library on the corner of Sixth and Line Streets. Perhaps the original site considered was that where the Law Building now stands. Fortunately, the Computer Center plan never became reality—or the "new" building would have been overtaxed almost from the beginning, despite the fact that the final building has some 10,000 more

square feet than originally planned. And, of course, as in all building projects, the costs tended to climb beyond original estimates. Before the building was completed, the estimated 2.7 million dollars had become something over 3.4 million.

Rather than housing a staff "about double" that in 1966, the FWR Building now houses a faculty more than treble the 22 of that year, not to mention research associates, secretaries, and other support personnel.

Professor Emeritus of Forest Products John Howe sketches out an "insider's" view of the building's history:

It may be of interest to note that the idea of a new forestry building had been

around for a long, long time. I've seen a sketch of a proposed building that looked something like the present Science (biological) Building. [Editor's Note: a new building was proposed as early as 1911. The sketch Dr. Howe mentions is no doubt that produced in 1912 and reproduced on this page.] However, for years there was always room for expansion in old Morrill Hall, as Agriculture moved out. It was only after I arrived in 1956 that Secretarial Studies in Business moved out and Forestry had the whole building to ourselves. Then a remodelling of the old building seemed to satisfy some.

But Forestry at the UI had some influential and aggressive supporters on the state's Permanent Building Committee, all of whom had Governor Samuelson's ear. Ted Hoff, Hoff Lumber Company in Horshoe Bend, Steele Barnett, Boise Cascade, and especially Bill Guernsey, a forester with political connections. Steele and Bill were UI Forestry graduates [Barnett, BS - Forest Mgt., '48; Guernsey, BS - Forestry, '29].

This committee and most of the Forestry faculty saw the need for an immediate move for a new building while there was so much interest in Boise (Governor Samuelson was now demanding action) and while there was still an opportunity for financial support from the federal government.

Dean Wohletz appointed me chairman of the New Building Committee and we got to work talking with faculty members to determine their space and equipment requirements. We visited other universities to get new ideas. We talked with administration to get its support for changes we felt were coming in the college as time went on. For example, we really had to push to get two offices for the associate deans since we didn't have an associate dean for research. By then, the governor had called the president and told him to put the forestry building up at the top of the priority list for new construction. We worked closely with the architect.

Architect's sketch of proposed Forestry Building, 1912.

-PROPOSED - FORESTRY - BUILDING - FOR -  
-THE - UNIVERSITY - OF - IDAHO -



FRONT - ELEVATION -  
SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"

We expected we'd get our request to place the building on the edge of campus so we'd have room for future expansion and wouldn't have had to have a three-story building with basement, but one day we were told that the building would have to go where it is now, so we gave up on the location.

Once the idea of a new building got rolling, we had a lot of support. Alumni support really was strong, and helpful. And unlike most new building situations, we got just about what we asked for in space. In fact, early on, the Computer Center had space in the basement. Then one day we got that space, too.

I saw the building into the construction stage, then the pressure to get back to doing research led me to ask Dean Wohletz for a replacement. Frank Pitkin took over and did a great job as new building chairman in the final stages.

The new College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences Building was dedicated April 22, 1972. Dedication participants included Robert H. (Bob) Seale, who presented a history of the college; Dean Emeritus Ernest Wohletz, who spoke on planning the new building; Dean John H. Ehrenreich, who made the acceptance speech; and Charles Connaughton, then president of the American Forestry Association, who gave the dedication address.

Also attending was Dean Emeritus Dwight S. Jeffers.

Besides Steele Barnett and Bill Guernsey, whom Howe has mentioned, other alumni serving on the Planning and Development Council were Richard T. Bingham (BS - Forestry, '40, MS - Forest Path., '42), Stewart Brandborg (MS - Wildlife, '51), Bruce E. Colwell (BS - Forest Mgt.-Res., '50), Robert W. Harris, (BS - Range Mgt., '41), Ralph D. Kizer (BS - Forest Mgt.-Res., '56), and Vernon Ravenscroft (BS - Range Mgt., '43).



FWR Building under construction, 1971.



Right—Ernest Wohletz speaks on the planning of the building, at FWR Building Dedication, April 22, 1972.





FWR Building Dedication, April 22, 1972. Robert H. (Bob) Seale (left) alumnus and faculty member, presents a history of the college. Former Idaho Governor Donald Samuelson (below left) speaks on "Idaho Builds a Forestry Building." Alumnus Charles A. Connaughton (below right), then President of the American Forestry Association, addresses "The Future of Wildland Resources Management."





FWR Building Dedication. Top left: Dean John H. Ehrenreich "cuts the ribbon" and officially opens the new building. Top right, a rare photo of three deans together: Dean Emeritus Dwight Jeffers, Dean John Ehrenreich, and Dean Emeritus Wohletz plant a Dedication Day tree. Below: the college's new home.



**THE SNAG**—Located in the FWR Building's west foyer and extending from basement to top floor, the Snag has become something of a symbol of the college. Many students and visitors have wondered why and how the Snag found a home in the college building. For all who've paused to consider this stately piece of natural history and for all who've not yet seen it, we present the . . .

### STORY OF THE SNAG

By James R. Fazio (Professor of Wildland Recreation Management, 1974- and Associate Dean for Academics, 1983-)



James R. (Jim) Fazio.

It took two days of searching, but on September 16, 1984, I looked across the open meadows of Freezeout Ridge and found in my field glasses what had to be the original site of our old snag. The foreground matched a photo I had seen, and the dips and rises of the distant hills looked right. It was more than a mile from the nearest place anyone had pointed to on a map, but searches of other sites had led only to disappointment. This time, the remnant of an old spur road to nowhere raised my hopes. My companions and I set off once again to see if we could match the spot with sketches made from the photo, hoping we might even find conclusive proof that this indeed was the original home of the college's stately symbol—the old whitebark pine snag.

The snag is a familiar scene to the 500 students in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences. Many pass it several times a day in the Forestry Building's west foyer, and most forget it is even there, like a favorite painting on the wall. Visitors see it differently. Some are startled; some joke that foresters should be able to grow better trees; but none pass by without noticing. In truth, virtually all who see it admire the old snag and it has to rank as the most unusual building decoration in all the Northwest.

The story behind how the snag got there is sketchy at best and was almost forgotten before I began prodding the memories of the few people who remember the remarkable feat.

It all began with solicitation of ideas for the new Forestry Building back in the late sixties. Everyone wanted the building to be special, and architect Chet Shawver envisioned some kind of a multi-story "centerpiece" inside the main entrance. But what should it be? The idea of a live tree or small forest was popular, although it didn't take the savvy of a forester to know this was asking for some real nasty problems. Someone then suggested a giant statue of Paul Bunyan, but that didn't get far either. Chet's vision was for something massive and related to forestry—like the trunk of an old tree, a dead tree. "Dead tree' didn't sit well on the ears of foresters," joked Professor Fred Johnson in remembering that stage of the project, but it did spark the idea that finally came forth—what about a snag? Certainly it would be long-lasting, maintenance-free, and appropriate. But it would also need to be tall and graceful, solid, and endowed with all the character that comes from standing through the ages on a high ridge in Idaho.

Frank Pitkin is attributed with first having the idea. Frank, or "Pit" as he was fondly known by students and other friends, was the faculty's representative during the building project. "The building was his pride and joy," someone recalled as I pieced together this story.

Pit and others searched the hills of north Idaho for *the* snag, but month after month passed with no luck. Ponderosa pines on Skyline Drive were inspected but proved too wide or too tall. A buckskin tamarack on Goat Mountain became a candidate, and so did some ancient red cedars on the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River. None looked quite right, some did not fit the space and others were too inaccessible.

Finally, Pit and Dick Bingham, former project leader of the Forestry Sciences Lab in Moscow, looked at the scattered old snags atop Freezeout Ridge east of Clarkia. There were several that might do, but one close to the road on the southwest flank of Marks Butte was a weathered old giant that had all the right features. Here was *the* snag.

Bud Reggear, a consultant who assisted Pit in managing the school forest, was there the day that the snag was removed. It was 8:30 on a bright summer morning in 1970 when a crew gathered for the delicate operation. Time has obscured the details and lost some of the names, but we do know a few of the people who helped. We hope this article brings information about the others so that all of the men can be remembered and thanked for their contribution. There were, of course, Pit and Bud, and Bud's son, Bob Reggear. Alex Irby of the Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association was also there, and the late Harold West operated the association's bulldozer. Beyond that, the record

is unclear and conflicting. Attention was obviously focused on the job at hand, not who else was there!



“Here was *the Snag*”—in its natural habitat atop Freeze-out Ridge, 1970.

The first obstacle they encountered was access. An attempt to reach the snag without building a road proved impossible. So, a Cat loaned by the Timber Protective Association cut a spur into the hillside, subsequently bringing on the public wrath of a citizen in Lewiston who objected to the scar it would leave.

The short spur road allowed the Reggears to back up their big White Star logging rig to a spot just uphill from the snag. The dozer moved up to the base of the tree to stabilize it, then chains padded with canvas and suspended from the self-loader were secured around the base and a third of the way up the trunk.

Pit, with an eye for perfection, insisted on keeping the whole tree intact including a large burl at its very base. “He insisted on taking that burl,” Bud told me, “so we had to dig down about 18 inches all around the tree.”

From an increment boring, the crew knew the old snag had a rotten core, at least in the butt log. “I was very, very skeptical about keeping that thing in one piece,” Bud related, to this day a little amazed by it all. But when the saw cut the old snag free, it did hold together. It hung there, like something suspended in a puppet theater, and was ever

so gently lifted and laid on the truck in a bed of small logs, foam rubber protected the smooth trunk from the tie-down chains, and by midafternoon that strange load began its slow journey to town.

Young Bob Reggear piloted the truck down the mountain roads, but the strain was so great that he asked his dad to take over when they reached the highway at Clarkia. Pit, following behind, once told me that his heart jumped into his throat at each bump. It was indeed just short of a miracle that the old brittle top withstood the bouncing and swaying without snapping off. Along the road, startled motorists slowed down to stare. One even drove into the ditch. Other loggers, amazed at the sight, had a heyday kidding the Reggears about their knowledge of logging.

The snag arrived just after the building foundations and some of the framing were completed. Workers crawled into the 27-inch base and scraped out its rotted insides, then a construction crane again raised the snag skyward and eased it down through what would soon be the roof. Cement was forced into the hollowed trunk to a height of 6 feet and steel rods inserted then imbedded into a 10-foot deep concrete foundation. The snag was home.

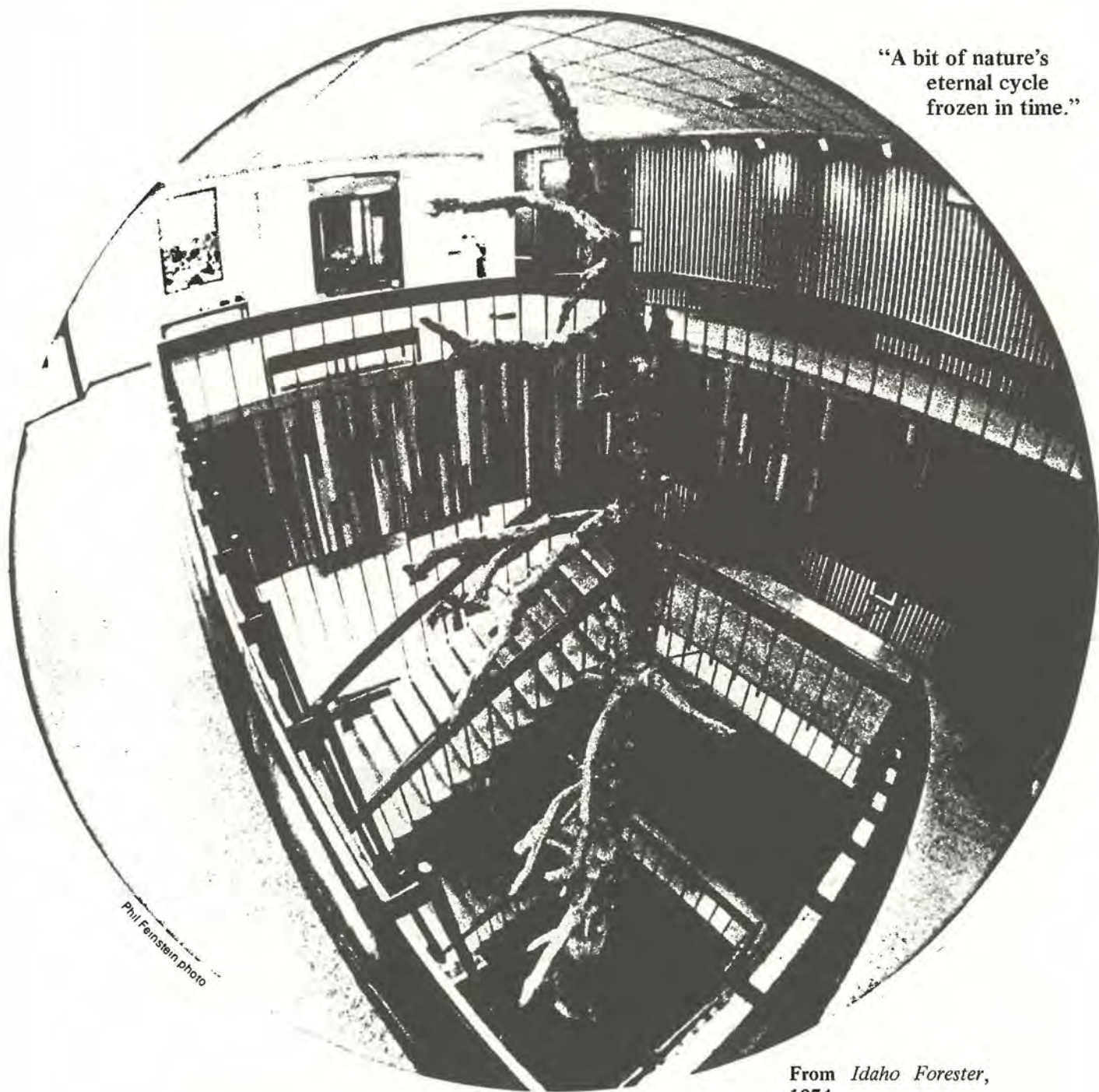


“Chains padded with canvas and suspended from the self-loader were secured around the base and a third of the way up the trunk.”

On Freezeout Ridge, no trace can be found of the hole dug that summer day 14 short years ago. The road scar is there, but a crop of waist-high Doug-firs and white pines found it to be a good nursery. A piece of old tire used as chain padding was the only other evidence we found of the drama, and logs visible in photos of that day are a little more rotted and hold back the residues of a more recent event—the blanketing of ash from Mount St. Helens.

As I sat there last fall, I felt grateful for the foresight and determination of Frank Pitkin and the many others who gave us the snag. They gave us far more than a decoration, for their gift was a bit of nature's eternal cycle frozen in time and made part of our lives.

“A bit of nature's  
eternal cycle  
frozen in time.”



Phil Feinstein photo

From *Idaho Forester*,  
1974.

## Another New Name and Miscellany

The dedication of the new FWR Building brings the college's history up to 1972, but it would be well here to drop back a few years to pick up some college highlights.

For the third time, the institution is renamed. Beginning as a Department of Forestry (1909), then a School of Forestry (1917), then a College of Forestry (1953), the college in 1963 became the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences—although a new name, in reality a reflection and officializing of what the institution's responsibilities had been for many years.

Fall 1963 - Dean Wohletz signed the Memorandum of Understanding which will enable the establishment of the Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, and gave credit for obtaining the unit to UI President D.R. Theophilus and Senators Church and Jordan. Cooperating agencies, then as now, were the University of Idaho, the Idaho Fish and Game Department, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The original unit staff members were Donald Chapman and Robert Thompson, both previously employed with the Oregon Fish Commission. The unit was officially established in 1964.

Developments along more personal lines included the following:

Spring 1963 - Edwin C. Rettig (BS - Forestry, '19) received the Honorary Doctor of Science Degree at the June commencement. At the time executive vice president and general manager of Potlatch Forest Industries, Inc., Rettig was apparently the first Forestry graduate to be so honored by UI.

That spring also saw the establishment of the UI Hall of Fame. Among charter inductees was the ubiquitous Charlie Connaughton, who would receive an honorary doctorate in 1965.

December 1964 - David S. (Dave) Olson, research silviculturist since 1949, died. Dave Olson came to the college following a nearly 35-year career with the USDA Forest Service. At the UI, he researched slash disposal, taught fire control, and directed graduate students. In dedi-

## Success Attributed to General Education

June 1984 marks the 20th year of my graduation from the College of Forestry. In reminiscing, I most clearly recall my classmates as a diverse lot, including one woman, Barbara Vars [now Rupers], who, I believe, was the first woman to graduate from the college.

I can also clearly remember the frustration of our graduating year when we were all trying to decide what direction in life to take. Many of us complained of our technical inadequacy because of our training being "too general" in nature. Many comparisons were drawn to engineering and similar sciences as doing a better job. Some critical papers were presented in our forest policy class (mine was one of them) that addressed these grievances. Ernest Wohletz was then dean of our college, and I can clearly remember his response to our criticism. He said that we were well trained, not just to be good natural resource managers, but to be well-rounded citizens who would contribute to many different disciplines in life. Furthermore, he suggested that most of us would never become land managers, but we would be successful in other endeavors.

We were skeptical of Dean Wohletz' prediction then, but he turned out to be right. Of my two closest classmates one, David Lindsay [BS - Wildlife Mgt., '64], is a career military officer; the other, Paul Woods [BS - Forest Res.Sci., '64], is an executive corporate manager. I went on to a Ph.D. in biochemistry and am presently a corporate officer and head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in a growing biotechnology corporation.

Life is full of surprises, and one of them was that my education, because of its "general nature," endowed me with the courage and ability to face the unknown of the future. I am absolutely confident that the Class of 1984 is as well prepared and will be as successful as the class of 1964.

—Jeffrey J. Hubert (BS - Forest Mgt.,-Res., '64)

cating the 1965 *Idaho Forester* to Olson, the staff wrote: "Dave was a man of the very highest caliber and intense dedication to this profession—a man with rare good humor and sage advice."

April 1966 - Another war touched the college. Brent John Baumert (BS - Wildlife Mgt., '62), a young man who impressed all those he worked with and for, was reported killed in action in Viet Nam.

June 1968 - Paul D. Dalke, professor of wildlife management and leader of the Idaho Cooper-

ative Wildlife Research Unit, retired. Dr. Dalke began his retirement by that summer visiting and lecturing at 17 research units throughout the U.S., including Alaska. As of this writing, Dr. Dalke maintains a home in Moscow and keeps an eye on college activities.

Meanwhile, as always, college alumni were distinguishing themselves in a variety of arenas. A few follow:

1966 - George Jemison (BS - Forestry, '31) was appointed USDA Forest Service Deputy Chief in charge of research.

1968 - Leonard Marchand (MS - Range Mgt., '65) became the first North American Indian elected to the Canadian Federal Parliament.

1968 - John R. (Bob) Stillinger (BS - Wood Util., '44) was elected national president of the Forest Products Research Society.

The single most significant general development of the late 1960s was, of course, the new building. But developments outside the college and university had their effects, too. This was the Viet Nam era, and though the UI to this time had experienced no significant student demonstrations, nonetheless a sense of changed priorities and redirection was in the air. As on most U.S. campuses, students had become less interested in "official" extracurricular activities. In the college, interest and participation in the Associated Foresters had begun to decline, until in 1971, Wohletz

reported that "the Associated Foresters no longer exists as such. Students have tended to join student chapters of their various professional group." However, he added, "Leaders of the professional groups have formed a committee to act as a unifying body . . ." This "unifying body," the Student Affairs Council, continues to function, and in recent years the Associated Foresters has been revived (1983-'84 membership about 22). But, for better or for worse, the days when the Foresters could muster 100 or 150 students to tackle a chore or festivity are apparently past.

Relatedly, students at UI as well as elsewhere had begun seeking a more significant role in the educational process. In response to their search, FWR added student members to all college standing committees. Wrote Wohletz, "I was particularly happy with the students who were placed on the Curriculum Design Committee. Their ideas were, to say the least, refreshing." Many of those ideas, Wohletz added, were indeed incorporated in the FWR program.

Another change, certainly related to the contemporary social climate, occurred in 1968 when something didn't happen. For the first time since 1919, a year went uncommemorated by the *Idaho Forester*. There was no 1968 issue. When the *Forester* reappeared the following year, it was as a vastly different magazine than readers had grown accustomed to over the past 52 years.

Explained Dwayne K. Parsons (ex-Wildlife Mgt., '69), *Forester* editor for 1968 and 1969: "I was editor in . . . 1968 when our publication failed to meet its deadlines. The responsibility was mine, and I lost control. The *Idaho Forester* had found itself short on assistance, funds, and readers. In an effort to revive the publication—which was almost given up as a lost cause—we made some revisions."

In physical format, the '69 *Forester* had grown from a 7 x 10-inch publication to 8½ x 11 inches. But the physical dimensions were secondary. What wasn't there was much more significant. Gone were the class and faculty photos and the honors and awards listings, gone was "Across the Dean's Desk," Wohletz' forum of many years' standing, and gone, too, were the standard articles on Forestry Week, Summer Camp, the Steak Fry, the Foresters' Ball, and Foresterettes activities—all club news was reduced to a single half-page.

### Special People In a Special Place Called Idaho

I have many fond memories, especially of Dr. John Howe and Arland Hofstrand as head and instructor of the wood technology program. I also recall that the annual wood technology picnic was a delight—especially since I had small children.

The opportunity to listen to the young Senator Frank Church during a Borah Lecture was a truly inspirational experience. His recent and untimely passing is a sad event for Idaho and the world. I also remember another Frank whose last name I cannot recall, who was president of the Bank of Troy. This gentleman helped manage my poor financial existence while I was a student with a family. And, finally, it is with special fondness to recall having experienced the pristine and awesome beauty of Idaho!

—Russell H. Vansant (BS - Forest Products, '65)

Why?

Parsons continued:

For the most part . . . the *Idaho Forester* has been representing itself as an annual . . . Emphasis was placed primarily on school activities and functions . . .

I am not saying that this was wrong; rather, I am saying that our school had advanced past the 'old annual' era and left it dying . . . We would like to stimulate the effort of our readers to broaden their educated minds.

Here is the picture of what we have done. We have expanded our audience to

include alumni and students in all the curricula represented in our school. We have opened the road for student opinion . . . And, we have brought in articles by gentlemen outside our professions. Though these may not represent our points of view, they do give us an idea of how other people are thinking.

Parsons went on to say that the new *Forester* also included articles by faculty and that he hoped for contributions for future issues from alumni.

In general, the direction Parsons and his staff plotted for the *Forester* has held for the past 15 years. Although recent *Foresters* have expanded the student activities section, the mix of articles he sought still remains the magazine's editorial goal.

### **Ernest Wohletz Retires**

After 35 years of service to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Science, after 18 years as the college's dean, after seeing the institution through two name changes and into a new building, Ernest Wohletz retired. In his last newsletter, written July 22, 1971, Wohletz is characteristically self-effacing. He discusses the new building, giving high praise to Frank Pitkin, the Building Committee chairman at that time; he notes student body and faculty changes; mentions (as always) UI athletics, and requests (as always) support for the *Forester*.

Then, tucked away in the middle of the letter and at no great length is "the next faculty item I have to report." This "item" notes the selection of his successor, John H. Ehrenreich, expresses his willingness to be of assistance to Ehrenreich, and summarizes his feelings about his long association with the college:

In the few months I have left I hope to be of assistance to Dr. Ehrenreich in any way he wishes. I do not have any preconceived ideas, but I know he will have things for me to do which will be of value to the institution. Since I came here 34 years ago, a lot of changes have occurred (all for the better, I

hope). At least we are no longer confined to Morrill Hall! Thus it appears the horizons are bright; and certainly there is a tremendous job to be done because greater and greater numbers of people are turning to the forest for what it has to offer . . .

Naturally I feel a loss when I consider phasing out a career which has extended over a period of almost 4 decades. I do have the satisfaction, however, of feeling that I have been of some help to a great number of young people. Many of these, primarily because of their own efforts, have gone on to make a record for themselves which is truly outstanding. If I have been of any help in their success, I am extremely thankful. What my future plans are have not as yet taken form, frankly because I have been too busy to do more than keep pace with current activities. One thing is certain: that my mind and heart will still be in forestry and the College, and whatever I can do for them, whether large or small, will give me great satisfaction. Who can tell, I might be working with some of you in one capacity or another. In any case, I will not forget you and I hope that you in turn will not quickly forget me.



And finally, Wohletz' last words to alumni in this last of 18 years of newsletters:

*"P.S. At 11:30 A.M. July 21 the building was approved for occupancy, and the big move is underway!"*

Ernest W. Wohletz' retirement banquet was held April 21, 1972, the day before the dedication of the new College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences Building.



Ernest W. Wohletz—faculty member, 1937-1972;  
Dean, 1953-1971.