



## Richard E. McArdle

**1934-1935**

Richard E. McArdle was the shortest tenured of the college's six deans, occupying the position for only one year, 1934-1935. It was in the USDA Forest Service, rather than in education, that McArdle distinguished himself.

He received a B.S. (1923) and an M.S.F. (1924) from the University of Michigan, and in 1924 began his career with the Forest Service at the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station. He soon advanced to the position of silviculturist, and in 1930 was the author of the first yield tables for Douglas-fir. That same year, he received his Ph.D., also from the University of Michigan.

Only in his mid-thirties when he assumed the position of dean of the School of Forestry, McArdle was known to his students as a "rough, tough forester" and a good, demanding teacher. He also distinguished himself with his students by winning the tobacco spitting contest at the Forestry Barbecue of 1935.

In 1935, McArdle returned to the Forest Service as director of the Rocky Mountain Forest Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado, re-

maining in that position until 1938, when he became director of the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station (now the Southeastern Forest and Range Experiment Station) in Asheville, North Carolina.

In 1944, he moved to Washington, D.C., as assistant chief of the Forest Service, and in 1952 he was named chief of the Forest Service, a position he held until his retirement in 1962.

Among the many recognitions given McArdle were honorary degrees from the University of Michigan, Syracuse University, and the University of Maine. He was also awarded the USDA's Distinguished Service Award, the Rockefeller Public Service Award, and the President's Gold Medal.

He was a fellow and three-time member of the Council of the Society of American Foresters, director of the American Forestry Association, and president of the World Forestry Congress held in Seattle in 1960.

Richard E. McArdle died in Washington, D.C., on October 4, 1983.