



All the other deans (including first department head C.H. Shattuck) came to the UI to head up the forestry program. Not Ernest Wohletz. He was hired on as an assistant professor in 1937, and after 16 years of service to the School of Forestry became its dean.

Ernie Wohletz came to UI from the University of California, Berkeley, where he served on the faculty and pursued graduate studies on a part-time basis. Particularly relevant to his later duties at UI were his experiences as an instructor at Cal's summer camp (where, during off-hours baseball games, he picked up the nickname "Smokey Joe").

Soon after his arrival at UI, he was placed in charge of the school's fledgling summer camp program, and discharged that responsibility ably for over a dozen years. He not only instructed, but arranged for and was part of the labor force for constructing tents, and kitchen and dining facilities. He supervised construction of the camp's first permanent structure, the Lodge, from selecting the logs to applying linseed oil.

Ernest W. Wohletz

1953-1971

Through the school year, he taught biometry and mensuration, and, after the war, when the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station got actively underway, he was made the station's first associate director.

In 1953, with the retirement of Dwight S. Jeffers, Ernie Wohletz was named dean of the School of Forestry, almost simultaneously redesignated the College of Forestry. His assumption of the deanship marked the beginning of some very busy years for the new college. The faculty grew from ten to twenty; enrollment rose from less than 200 to over 500; Ph.D. programs were inaugurated; and budgeted support for research increased from \$5000 to \$500,000. The Idaho Cooperative Fishery Unit was established, and the site for the current Wilderness Field Station (Taylor Ranch) in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness was acquired.

Toward the end of Wohletz' tenure, he was deeply involved in another undertaking significant to the college's future. Although Morrill Hall had earlier been refurbished, and although Ag had moved to new quarters in 1950, Morrill Hall—the college's home since 1909—could no longer meet the demands of burgeoning enrollment and increased research activities. A new building was designed and approved, and the details surrounding its funding and construction occupied the latter years of his administration.

Finally it was finished, and, as the memorial to Ernest Wohletz in the 1977 *Idaho Forester* records, "It was fittingly climactic that the dedication ceremonies for the new facility and Ernie's retirement banquet were held in the same 24-hour period in April, 1972."

Ernest W. Wohletz was born July 10, 1907, in Nekoma, North Dakota. He died October 14, 1976, at his home in Moscow.