

### III. GROWTH AND RENAMING: 1917-1934

With Shattuck's departure for Berkeley, the first period of the college's growth had ended. Almost singlehandedly, Shattuck had created the department, established its mission, and directed it carefully toward autonomy. Begun as a department within the College of Agriculture, Forestry had moved with Shattuck to the College of Letters and Science, when he assumed the deanship there in 1914, and now, no doubt with Shattuck's assurances, the department was ready to assume independence. In 1917, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education and the President of the University of Idaho (Melvin A. Brannon), the Department of Forestry was reorganized into an independent division of the university to be known, until 1953, as the School of Forestry.

Now Shattuck had gone; the new School of Forestry needed a dean. And as with the choice of Shattuck as the first department head, the choice of the first dean of the School of Forestry could hardly have been more fortuitous. Dean Francis Garner Miller may well have been the most respected natural resources educator in the Northwest. A native of Illinois, Miller came to the UI by way of Nebraska, where he had been professor of forestry; the University of Washington, where he had been first head of the Department of Forestry; and the

State College of Washington (now Washington State University), where he had been dean of the School of Forestry.

Miller was called to UW in 1903 expressly to construct a College of Forestry. This he did. And when he left UW for private enterprise in 1912, his students planted an elm tree in his honor on the Washington campus. After five years in the Wenatchee Valley fruit business, Miller was persuaded to take the deanship at Washington State University. And two years later, when the Washington State legislature decreed that major forestry work must be confined to UW, Miller resigned for the deanship of the University of Idaho's newly minted School of Forestry. He arrived at the UI in the fall of 1917, and remained dean until his death some seventeen years later.

The School of Forestry remained, of course, in Morrill Hall. But where Shattuck undertook his department-building task in 1909 with one office and one combined classroom/laboratory, Miller's province included several offices and classrooms, as well as—the *Forestry Bulletin* for that year reveals—" . . . an excellent herbarium . . . a splendid collection of lantern and microscopic slides on forestry . . . a byproducts laboratory fully equipped



Sixth Annual Idaho Foresters Banquet, 1922. Far right - Dean Miller; to his right - P.D. Sharma, the college's second Master's graduate; center right - former Idaho Governor McConnell.

for the analysis and standardization of the various byproducts obtained from wood . . . a great variety of logging machinery and apparatus . . . and a "forestry laboratory equipped with a transit, levels, plane tables, calipers, etc. . . ."

This year, 1917, marked the first year for the offering of the 4-year grazing curriculum which would eventually evolve into a department. Besides grazing courses and courses in animal husbandry (through the College of Agriculture), the curriculum included such exotic courses as Commercial Spanish, Telephone Construction, Sanitary Science, and, of course, freshman and sophomore Military Science courses.

Added also in 1917 were a four-credit course in wood technology and a two-credit course in farm forestry.

For those who enjoy comparing such things, an incoming freshman in 1917 confronted the following per semester expenses: deposits and fees - \$5; books - approximately \$5; board and room - approximately \$112; field trips - \$5; a grand total of \$127. The comparable fees and expenses in 1983 amounted to some \$1540 per semester.

If Miller had more courses and more space wherein to teach them, he also had five times as many faculty as Shattuck, and almost four times as many students—apparently. On the faculty role were I.W. Cook, Arlie D. Decker ('13), Homer S. Youngs ('15), and Harry E. Schmelter. The 1916-1917 enrollment ledgers show forty students enrolled in the Department of Forestry.

### ***The School and WWI***

Miller had considerable cause for optimism when he agreed to assume the deanship of this newly renamed school. However, the course of events some 6,000 miles to the east abruptly interrupted the school's heretofore smooth course.

Certainly the effects of the United States' impending involvement in World War I had been felt before the fall of 1917. That spring, six forestry students had received baccalaureate degrees, and not all these new forestry professionals were handed their diplomas on the stage of the UI auditorium. As many of his contemporaries

in those days, Donald Yates ('17) received his diploma by mail. In April 1917, Yates departed the UI for Officers Training School in San Francisco. He recalled that in June "I received my commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and my graduation diploma from the UI in the same mail."



Donald H. Yates, Class of '17.



Donald H. Yates (photo taken in 1953 when Mr. Yates was President of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.)

But at least Don Yates did graduate on time—or almost on time. His was to be the last class until 1922 that remained “on schedule.”

By the fall of 1917, enrollment had plunged from forty to ten, one less than the enrollment of the inaugural year 1909 (although six more students later enrolled in the Ranger Course). And a war-caused labor shortage kept students at their summer jobs on farms and ranches until the season’s agricultural work was completed, delaying the beginning of fall term until October 17.

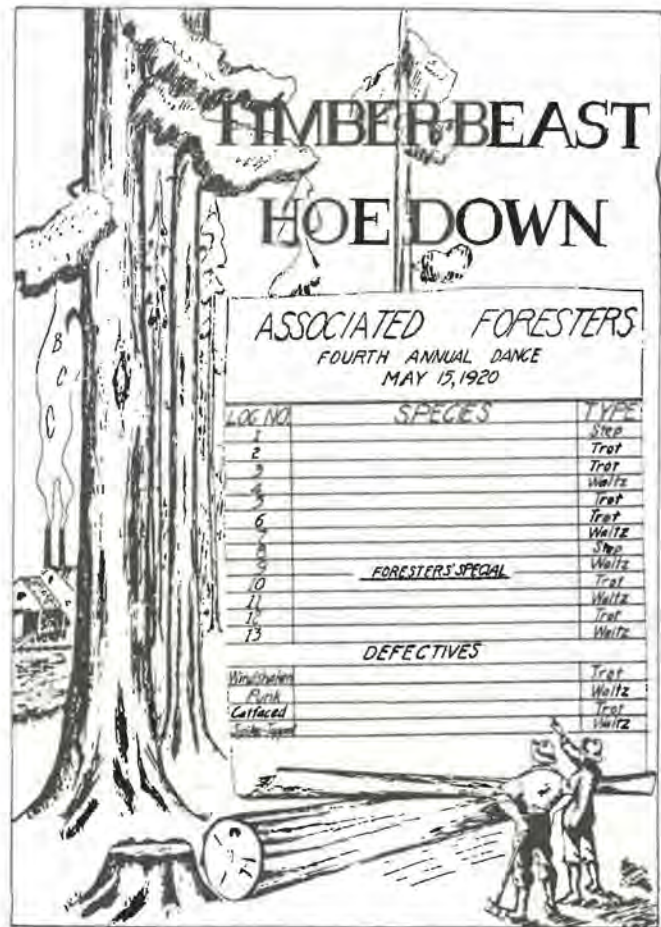
The effect of the war was graphically evident at the UI graduation exercises the next spring. The School of Forestry was unrepresented. Only two foresters graduated each of the following two years, 1919-1920. Graduate numbers did climb to four in 1921. And finally, in 1922, the number of graduating seniors rose to six, the same number as that of the spring of U.S. involvement in the war.

The *Idaho Forester* was also a war casualty. Gotten off to a running start in 1917, the *Forester* dropped into oblivion in 1918 and 1919. Fortunately, the following year, interested students and faculty revived the magazine into what has become a long and healthy life.

No doubt more serious to Miller than the discontinuation of the *Forester*, however, was the loss of his faculty. Of the four faculty members on board in 1917, only one, I.W. Cook, remained at the end of 1918. Arlie D. Decker ('13) resigned in 1917 to become head of the Washington State University Department of Forestry. Homer S. Youngs ('15) enlisted in the Army. Harry E. Schmetler—with less than a year at the UI—went to the military in 1918.

Youngs, eventually posted to France, never returned. He and classmate Oscar F. Carlson gave their lives in “the war to end all wars.”

Two very different events in the life of the college and the university present effective images of the immediate pre-war and post-war campus. On the evening of February 13, 1917—three months before America’s declaration of war—students from all the university’s disciplines crowded into the gymnasium to enjoy a new UI social phenomenon—the First Annual Timber Beast Hoedown.



Program for the 1920 Timberbeast Hoedown. The programs were printed on thin pieces of white pine.

Wrote an enthusiastic but anonymous student correspondent in the 1917 *Forester*, “There, circling and whirling, whistling and howling, is the whole population of the university, happy and free from care. The fantastic garments; the gingham and calico over there and the bandannas and stag shirts here, explain it all. This is the Timber Beast Hoedown.”

The writer continues, “From an esthetic standpoint, it may have fallen below some of the fine dances that have been held here this year, but from the standpoint of a really good time, it could not be beaten.”

Two years later, that image of music and gaiety will be counterpointed by another image—an image of solemnity and thoughtfulness. Thirty-two former UI students had been killed in the war, a devastating blow considering 1917 enrollment

numbered only about 600 students. Undoubtedly some of those had circled and whirled with the young ladies at the Timber Beast Hoedown. Now, in the spring of 1919, a memorial grove had been established to honor them. In an area just south of the Administration Building, one tree was planted in memory of each young man lost. The 32 trees—provided and planted by the School of Forestry—consisted of ten hardwoods (red oak) and 22 evergreens (Norway spruce, Engelmann spruce, and Colorado blue spruce).

The Timber Beast Hoedown, later evolving into the Foresters' Ball, persevered to the 60s, when it unfortunately died of disinterest. Memorial Grove still stands, though most contemporary students venture into it purely by accident.

### ***Back to Normality***

The School of Forestry emerged from the fifteen war months with two faculty members—Dean Miller, himself, and I.W. Cook. Cook resigned in 1919 to assume a position with the University of Michigan's School of Forestry. He was replaced by Dr. Henry E. Schmitz, who, between 1919 and 1925, rose from instructor to full professor. In 1925, Schmitz left to become chief of the Division

of Forestry of the University of Minnesota. He would later become president of the University of Washington. The same year Schmitz was hired—1919—the school also signed on Professor C.E. Behre, late of the Yale Forest School. Behre resigned in 1923 to undertake research for the Forest Service. The next faculty member hired was John B. Taylor, who left for the University of Michigan the following year. Clarence Watson came on board in 1921 and stayed until 1927, when he left to attend Yale as a doctoral candidate in the Yale Forest School. In 1923, Henry I. Nettleton, formerly of the Oregon Agricultural College, succeeded Behre. Two years later, Dr. Ernest E. Hubert succeeded Schmitz. In 1926, Erwin G. Wiesehuegel hired on as instructor; in 1927, Professor Thornton G. Taylor, late of Yale, succeeded Watson; and in 1928 Associate Professors Gerhard Kempff, from Harvard, and Ferdinand W. Haasis, from Johns Hopkins, joined the faculty.

Although twelve individuals, besides Dean Miller, served on the School of Forestry faculty during the decade following the war, the comings and goings were so frequent that, by the fall of 1928, the faculty numbered only seven, counting Miller—only three more than in 1917.



Associated Foresters, 1922. Clement Price, second row right.

As always, the curriculum continued to evolve in response to student needs and increasing knowledge. A most significant change in 1918 was the development of a common curriculum for all freshmen pursuing degrees in the three 4-year curricula (General Forestry, Grazing, Lumberman's Forestry). Except for the military requirement, and the lack of chemistry and computer programming, those courses of 66 years ago are not far removed from the first-year courses listed in the current bulletin. A freshman enrolling in college found his first-year studies to consist of the following:

First Semester	Credits
English 1 - Comp. and Lit.	3
Math 101 - Engin. Math	5
For. 1 - Gen. Forestry	3
Bot. 1 - Gen. Botany	3
C.E. 1 - Engin. Drafting	1 1/3
Mil. 1 - Fresh. Military	2
	17 1/3

Second Semester	Credits
English 2 - Comp. and Lit.	3
Math 102 - Engin. Math	5
For. 2 - Dendrology	2
For. 10 - Forest Engin.	3
Bot. 2 - Gen. Botany	3
C.E. 2 - Engin. Drafting	1 1/2
	19 1/2

In 1918 also, the Lumberman's Forestry curriculum was renamed the Logging Engineering curriculum. And the first correspondence course—Lumber and Its Uses—was offered to the off-campus public.

The following year marked some significant changes in the forest products offerings—still a part of the General Forestry curriculum, but moving steadily toward becoming the school's fourth 4-year curriculum. Added to the school's offerings were courses in wood preservation and wood byproducts. The ongoing Wood Technology course, in response to increased specialization and the addition of the above course, became the Study of the Characteristics of Wood. Also added to the General Forestry curriculum that year was Advanced Dendrology.

That the school was growing is clearly indicated in the *Bulletin* for 1920, which informed the prospective student that the school boasted among its facilities a mensuration laboratory, a dendrology laboratory, an herbarium, a variety of logging apparatus, a byproducts laboratory, greenhouse space, and, as befits an institution on the cutting edge of technology, "an auto-truck for field trips."

The early 1920s brought some significant changes to the Ranger Course. 1920 saw the 3-year course reduced to a 2-year curriculum. Two years later, that curriculum was halved to a single year, 8-month course of study. In 1923, the Ranger Course was reduced to a mere 3 months (Jan. 5 - March 27). Six years later, the Ranger Course would be gone, a victim of reduced enrollments and increased emphasis on a college degree.

In 1924, the School began to "reach out" to its public, responding to the fact that it was "constantly receiving inquiries from various sources concerning the magnitude and importance of the forest industries of Idaho." That year saw the publication of Volume 1, Nos. 1-6 of *The Forestry Bulletin* (not to be confused with an earlier bulletin series published).

In the Foreword, the writer (probably Dean Miller) tells his audience that "these bulletins will be strictly informational in character, and we use the word 'informational' advisedly since it shall be our constant endeavor to keep these pages as free from 'propaganda' as possible. We have no axe to grind, no pet theories to propose, no panaceas to suggest nor anything to cover or uncover. We hope to keep the articles of this bulletin strictly impartial, uncolored by prejudices and free from personal opinions."

The first number, multigraphed and hand-collated, was mailed to 1600 individuals concerned with forestry and forest industries in Idaho, and addressed "The Forests of Idaho." Subsequent numbers that year addressed Idaho's lumber industry, the forest fire situation in Idaho, the U.S. forestry situation, and the world's forest resources.

As an example of the contents of the *Bulletin*, Volume 1, Number 2 reported that during the eight years 1915-1922, the average annual Idaho lumber cut amounted to some 790 million board feet at an average value of approximately 30 million dollars per year. For the reader's informa-

THE FORESTRY BULLETIN

Issued By  
The School of Forestry, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Devoted To

The Dissemination of Information Concerning the  
Forests and Forest Industries of Idaho.

FOREWORD

The School of Forestry, University of Idaho, is constantly receiving inquiries from various sources concerning the magnitude and importance of the forest industries of Idaho. These inquiries are no doubt a natural result of a fuller appreciation of the intimate relation between the present and future prosperity of our state and the lumber industry. It has often been suggested to us that we could render a distinct service to the people of our state by making such information more available. In order to meet this situation we now propose to issue each month of the university year, a brief bulletin concerning some phase of the lumber industry.

These bulletins will be strictly informational in character, and we use the word "informational" advisedly since it shall be our constant endeavor to keep these pages as free from "propaganda" as possible. We have no axe to grind, no pet theories to propose, no panaceas to suggest nor any-

thing to cover or uncover. We hope to keep the articles of this bulletin strictly impartial, uncolored by prejudices and free from personal opinions.

We are, therefore, taking the liberty of sending you the first number of the "Forestry Bulletin" which we hope may meet with your approval. If you wish to have us discontinue sending this material it will be done so at your request. If also, you have any questions which you would like to ask concerning any of these articles, any suggestions or criticisms to make, we would be glad to hear from you.

In order that you may have some idea of the type of material to be supplied, we submit the titles of the first six issues.

1. The forests of Idaho.
2. The Lumber Industry of Idaho.
3. The Trend of the Lumber Industry in Idaho.
4. The Forest Fire Situation in Idaho.
5. The Forestry Situation in the United States.
6. The Forest Resources of the World.

tion, the 1983 cut amounted to something over 1.6 billion board feet at a wholesale value of 460.2 million dollars.

Volume II, Number 7 (October 1925) reported the school's much-needed acquisition of new working space:

The completion of the Science Hall the past summer made it possible for the School to expand its quarters in Morrill Hall to include all the third floor and most of the fourth. The quarters now comprise five laboratories, four class-rooms, library, instrument room, stenographic room, and three offices—fifteen sizeable rooms in all. Of the five laboratories, one is devoted to wood technology and dendrology, one to silviculture and range management, one to forest mensuration and logging engineering, and two to research in forest products. These laboratories are each well equipped with special fixtures and apparatus for the particular work in hand. Both floors were remodeled, freshly calcimined, varnished and otherwise put in first-class order the past summer.

That the School of Forestry needed that new room is attested to elsewhere in the *Bulletin*:

The Idaho School is growing rapidly both in numbers and reputation. The new

year opens with a student body of one hundred and sixteen in the four and five year courses, every part of the United States and three foreign countries being represented in the enrollment.

### **Eugenio de la Cruz, Class of '26**

It would be only appropriate to pause here to recognize the many students from foreign lands who have studied at the college over the past three-quarters of a century, and returned home not only with an education, but with a bit of Idaho inside them. One such early graduate from overseas was Eugenio de la Cruz (BS - Forestry, '26). A native of Lingayen, the Philippines, de la Cruz came to the UI in 1924, after attending the University of the Philippines. He graduated in 1926, and went on to take an M.F. at Yale (1927). After returning to his homeland, he set quite a record of accomplishment. Among the many responsible positions filled by Eugenio de la Cruz are professor of forest policy and history, University of the Philippines; chief of the Forest Management Division and later chief of the Forest Products Laboratory, Philippine Bureau of Forestry; director, Philippine Forest Products Research Institute; president of the Gamma Sigma Delta international honor society in agriculture; president of the Society of Filipino Foresters; chairman of the editorial board of *Philippine Forests*, the society's official magazine; delegate to a number of international conferences.



School of Forestry students on trip to the forest with Dean Miller, 1920s.



Eugenio de la Cruz, the Philippines.

An active member of the Washington-Idaho-Montana Alumni Association, de la Cruz was in 1957 cited as that association's distinguished alumnus.

In Mr. de la Cruz' file—heavy with correspondence between de la Cruz and Deans Miller and Jeffers—is a particularly telling series of letters from the postwar years. In one letter, de la Cruz asks Dean Jeffers, "Will it be possible to secure a duplicate of my diploma which was burned by the Japanese during the liberation?"

In the spring of 1953, Jeffers responds: "At long last I am very happy indeed to send you under Registered Mail and separate cover your diploma . . . I know that you will prize this diploma highly, although it can never, perhaps, come up to the original one which was destroyed."

Eugenio de la Cruz died in January 1980. He was 86 years old. Only months before his death and infirm and blind, he had—through his granddaughter—forwarded an updated vitae to the UI Alumni Association. Wrote his granddaughter,

"We read your letters before him and our family takes this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for recognizing him amidst all the circumstances obtaining presently."

From graduation in 1926 and on through a long and active career, Eugenio de la Cruz was a staunch alumnus, ever proud of this school and university. And obviously the college and university have ample warrant to be proud of him—and of the hundreds of students from abroad who have built and are building distinguished careers in their homelands.

### **Swinging at the Smoker**

As the *Bulletin* series, another School of Forestry activity was born in 1924. But this activity was social rather than informational.

Photos taken during this period of the college's existence suggest that forestry students were a rather staid lot, often suited and tied and formally posed. But a reading of the social notes of the 1925 *Forester* quickly dispels that impression.

On the evening of November 21, 1924, the anonymous *Forester* writer recounts, four young men—one from each of the school's classes—stripped down to their "B.V.D.s" in the UI gymnasium. Then, as they huddled at one end of the gym, their clothes were strewn about the other end. At the shouted command—"GO!"—the four galloped bare-foot toward the scattered articles of clothing.

The object: to see who could find—and don first—his socks, shirt, trousers, coat, and shoes (in that order).

The event: the First Annual Smoker of the Associated Foresters.

Besides the "clothes race" (won by William V. "Bill" Cranston—who would drop out, but return to graduate in 1933), activities included three inter-class boxing matches (all draws), two wrestling matches (one combatant suffered a broken foot), and a female impersonator, one Charles A. "Spike" Gregory (BS - Forestry, '28), who, the *Forester* records, swept across the gymnasium floor, ". . . gracefully pirouetting, pivoting, and swinging to the wild, weird notes of the Boston pianist, Ted Seeley."



**CLASS OF '26 - From left: Valentin Sajor (Philippines), Collis Huntington, Eugenio de la Cruz, Harold White, Lawrence Pugh, Walter Field, Clarence Olson, Warren Bolles, Ivan Doyle, Fairly Walrath.**



Later, E.W. Renshaw (BS - Forestry, '25) entertained with an exhibition of his banjo-strumming skills, and a gentleman referred to only as "Erickson" (no record; he may have been in the College of Agriculture) provided a cultural interlude, imitating an immigrant "presumably fresh from Sweden's distant shores" recounting his travails in the New World.

The affair concluded with exuberant—though one suspects, inexpert—exhibitions of tumbling and clog dancing; whereupon participants and spectators fell upon cider, pretzels, cake and cookies, then made their various ways back to apartments, homes, and dorms.

The Foresters' Smoker persisted as an annual event through 1936, and was perhaps supplanted that year by the Foresters' Bonfire, which itself has long since disappeared. Though all the Smokers provided their participants with a rousing good time, none seems to have embodied quite the level of hilarity and enthusiasm as that first one in 1924.

### **Highlights - 20s and 30s**

In the meantime, through the twenties and into the thirties, the school continued to grow, not only in student enrollment, but in facilities and responsibilities. Some highlights follow:

1924 - A State Land Board Grant provides the school with an experimental forest—or at least the nucleus of one. The 640 acres composing the forest lay about seven miles due north of Moscow at Section 9, Township 40, North Range 5 East, Boise Meridian. And though doubtless Dean Miller and his staff accounted it a luxury to possess a forest, in truth, it was not precisely a choice bit of real estate. Records describe the area as cut-over land with "... little mature timber and some scattered seed trees."

Nonetheless, it was a beginning. And, at any rate, the Forest Service would soon open the Priest River Forest Experiment Station to the school, and, as always, Potlatch continued to allow school personnel free access to its forests and facilities.

1926 - The Clarke-McNary Act leads to the expansion in purpose and facilities of the Forest Nursery. Passed in 1924, the Clarke-McNary Act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to extend federal aid to the states in assisting "... owners of farms in establishing, improving, and renewing woodlots, shelterbelts, windbreaks and other valuable forest growth, and in growing and renewing useful timber crops . . . ." Under the provisions of Clarke-McNary and through an agreement with the USDA Forest Service, the School of Forestry could now supply forest planting stock to establish windbreaks, shelterbelts and woodlots at about half the cost of growing and packing it.

In anticipation of increased requests for trees, the university leased a 27-acre addition to the nursery, increasing nursery and arboretum area to some forty acres. The area involved adjoins the university campus on the east and lies just south of Sweet Avenue. The Forest Nursery has long since moved out of town to a site north of the Troy Highway (Highway 8), and a considerable portion of the former nursery has given way to married student housing, but some of the original nursery buildings still stand and are used by the college for equipment storage.

1927 - Extension Forestry is established. Under the terms of the Clarke-McNary Act—mentioned above in connection with the Forest Nursery—and through the cooperation of the Forest Service and UI's Extension Division—Arthur M. "Art" Sowder (B.S., '25; M.S., '27) was named Idaho's first extension forester.

Sowder served as extension forester through 1930, and, indeed, through those three years "wore three hats." Besides being extension forester, he assumed the duties of secretary of the School of Forestry and functioned as a research assistant in farm forestry. Among other duties in the latter capacity, he handled the school's tree sales. Following his stint as extension forester, he was appointed assistant professor on the school faculty and served in that position until 1936, when he left to join the faculty of Michigan State University. Art Sowder eventually moved east to USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C., eventually becoming the nation's chief extension forester, a position from which he retired in 1965. Arthur M. "Art" Sowder died in 1977, after a long and valuable forestry career, and, as his correspondence with Dean Jeffers attests, he remained throughout his career a dedicated alumnus and supporter of the college.



Nursery addition, east of the campus, south of Sweet Avenue. Photo taken May 1928.



Arthur M. (Art) Sowder, first UI Extension Forester. Photo taken in 1952, when Sowder was USDA Extension Forester, Washington, D.C.

1927 - The Grazing Curriculum becomes the Range Management Curriculum.

1928 - The Idaho Forest Experiment Station, a precursor to the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, is established. Almost since the beginnings in 1909, the school had conducted research in response to requests from industry, state agencies, and the Forest Service. Early projects included research into the recovery of by-products from stumps (it was suggested that the tar thus obtained be used to coat fence posts), various projects addressing forest protection, and work in white pine blister rust control. By 1928, it was clear that the financial demands placed upon the school by such research had begun to tell on the instructional budget. Explained a bulletin for

that year: "Forest research has been a major activity of the School of Forestry for a term of years, but a large part of the cost of the work has been made a charge against instruction rather than against research, and the creation of this special research division will make it possible to segregate these expenditures."

As with the current Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station (established in 1939), the staff of that first experiment station comprised the School of Forestry faculty, with one exception—Frederick J. Kelley, President of the UI (1928-1930), who served as the station's president. Besides Kelley, station staff in 1928 consisted of Dean Miller, director; Ernest E. Hubert, in charge of the Forest Research Laboratory; Thornton G. Taylor, silviculture; Harry I. Nettleton, mensuration; Erwin G. Wiesehuegel, wood technology; and C.L. Price, nurseryman.

1931 - "A large laboratory for research in wood chemistry" is constructed. Early that year, a special legislative appropriation of \$4000 enabled the construction of the Wood Chemistry Laboratory, a frame structure "within easy reach of Morrill Hall." The new lab's work—begun that August—was overseen by Professor Edwin C. Jahn, a Ph.D. graduate of Canada's McGill University who had joined the School of Forestry faculty the preceding year. The lab actually functioned as two laboratories, as a wood conversion lab and a wood preservation lab. According to the UI catalog for 1931-32, the wood conversion lab was ". . . equipped with semi-commercial apparatus for the conversion of wood to pulp and plastic products and the testing of such products." The

#### Chain Saws and Foils

In 1928 Percy Rowe and I won a crosscut saw in the then annual contest held by the Forestry College. That was before the era of chain saws. We flipped a coin to see who would retain possession. I lost.

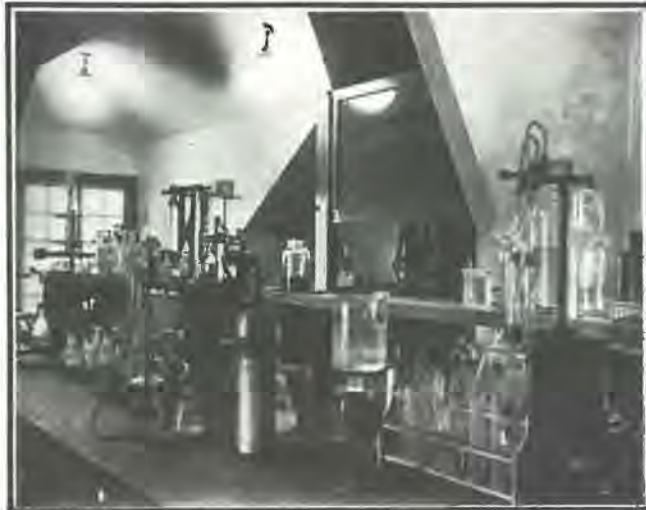
Dr. E. E. Hubert started the first fencing practice in the attic of Morrill Hall in 1928. I believe he was the "Father of Fencing" at the University of Idaho. I was no match for him.

I received my M.S.F. on the first scholarship donated to the Forestry College by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.

**Bernard A. Anderson (MS - Forestry, '29)**

wood preservation lab, said the catalog, had been “. . . newly equipped with all the chemicals and apparatus necessary to classroom and research work in wood preservation.”

The wood preservation laboratory was originally located on the site of the present Engineering Building. It migrated from there to a north campus field that has since become the main UI parking lot, where, after 1951 it became the radio isotopes lab. From that point, the lab building disappears into history, and may well still be filling some function somewhere on campus.



Interior of the Wood Chemistry Laboratory, 1931.

1931 - a 2-year forestry curriculum, administered by the School of Forestry, is instituted at the UI Southern Branch (later Idaho State University) in Pocatello. The Southern Branch curriculum was created “. . . in response to an insistent demand for forestry instruction” in southern Idaho. That the demand was well founded is attested to by the fact that thirty-one students enrolled for fall

#### Well-placed Knots Not Forgotten

At the Foresters Field Day in my sophomore year (1928-29), I beat my good friend, Charley Langer (1930, deceased), in the one-man log bucking contest. It happened as a result of a lot of summer practice and considerable luck. Charley was bigger, stronger and more experienced, but he had the misfortune to saw through a perfect star of overgrown knots in a larch log. At the time, this meant more to me than winning a place on the Xi Sigma Pi scholastic plaque, an event which happened during the same academic year.

—Russell K. LeBarron (BS - Forestry, '31)

semester 1931. Placed in charge of the Southern Branch Department of Forestry was Charles M. Genaux (M.S. - '29), who reported in the 1932 *Forester* that he and his students had developed plans for an arboretum and that a herbarium and forestry library were both well underway. His students, Genaux further reported, had not only organized their own club, the Southern Idaho Foresters, but, indeed, had held their first Annual Banquet.



Charles Genaux, alumnus and first head of the Southern Branch Department of Forestry.

#### A Forest for the School

1932 - The School of Forestry now has a “real” experimental forest. Potlatch Corporation presented 3630 acres of forest land northeast of Moscow to the university. In 1932, 1934, and 1935, Potlatch would follow up this original gift with 6515 additional acres, or 94 percent of the present forest. Smaller purchases and donations would, by 1948, bring the forest to its current 7158 acres.

Two interesting “sidebars” to the experimental forest bear mentioning. The first involves a potential limitation; the second a possible vast expansion.

For the first, during a late 1934 faculty meeting, Dean Richard E. McArdle, Miller's successor and later Chief of the Forest Service, informed

the faculty that he would reject gifts of land east of the township line running through Troy. Fortunately for the future of the Experimental Forest, the Board of Regents later overrode his policy and accepted the 320 acres and 1265 acres lying east of the line offered by Potlatch in 1934 and 1935.

For the second "sidebar"—through the early 30s and with the support of UI President Neale, Dean Miller had painstakingly blocked out an experimental forest of impressive proportions—some 64,000 unbroken acres extending from Moscow to Helmer. The land, owned privately and by the Forest Service, would be included in the National Forest System as a preliminary step toward state ownership. A bill to this effect was introduced by Congressman Compton I. White, and was passed by Congress in 1934. Confidence in the acquisition of these lands ran high in the School of Forestry. Indeed, in the 1935 *Forester*, Ernest E. Hubert, acting dean following Miller's death, declared that the 3600 acres earlier donated by Potlatch "... formed an excellent nucleus for an Experimental Forest of 64,000 acres . . . ."

### Trees and Bees in Experimental Forest

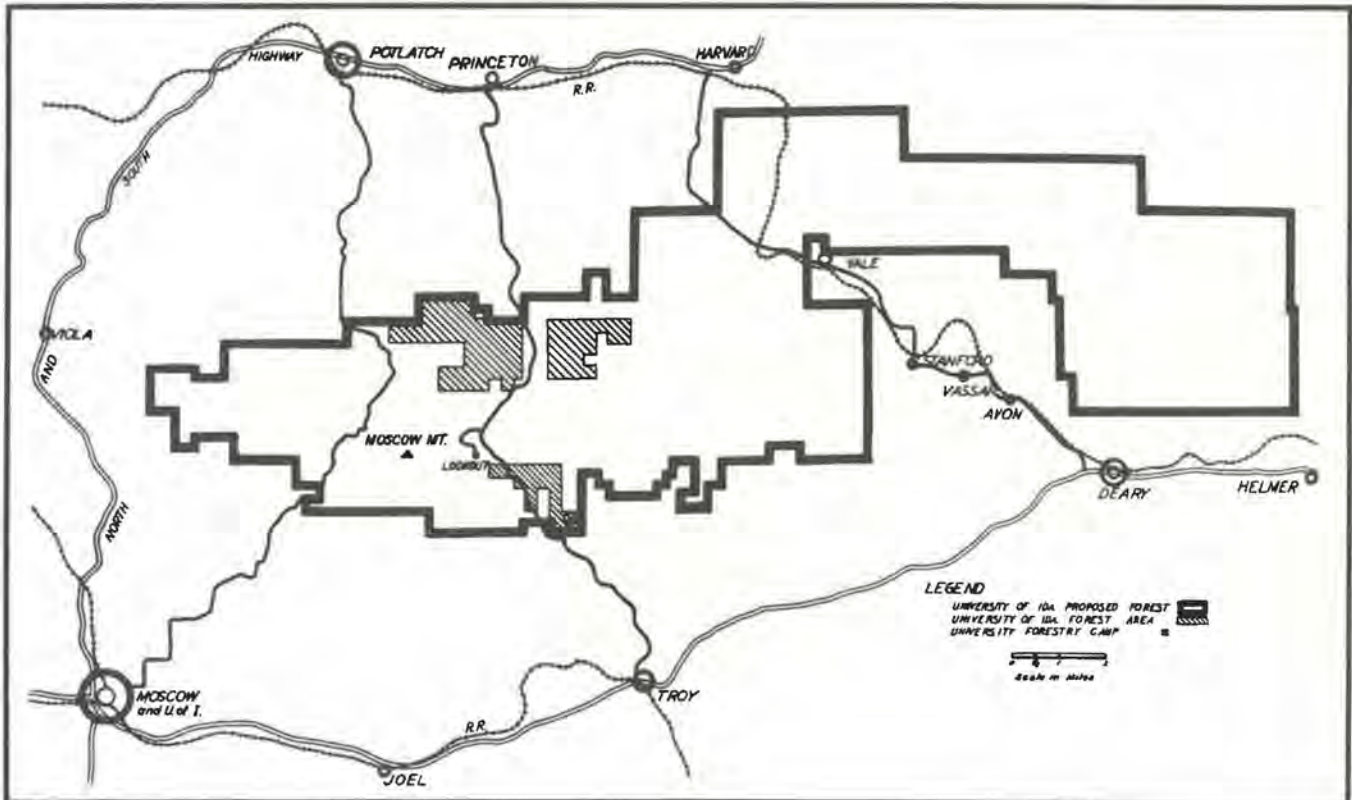
Of all the work accomplished on the Experimental Forest through the years, some of the first was in the summer of '32. Dean Miller had called for a timber and topographic survey of the acreage. The crew was mensuration professor Art Sowder, George Fisher (1932), and me. Headquarters was a log cabin on the Palouse Division of the St. Joe National Forest with camp fare at its best thanks to wives Rose Sowder and Vera Fisher.

It seemed no two days were alike on the strip line. If it wasn't beautiful, mature white pine and cedar, then it was dense reproduction, or just old Moscow Mountain brush. Bees were unfriendly—they gave us fits. George was the most delectable and came away the winner in our bee sting tallies!

—Hume C. Frayer (BS - Forestry, '33)

Unfortunately, a hitch occurred. Although the enabling legislation had been passed, funding to acquire the private lands never materialized. The agreement remains in effect, however, and the college may be able to claim some Forest Service acreage as a portion of federal land to be deeded to the state of Idaho.

The bold outline shows the forest that might have been had House Bill 7425 (1934) been funded. Diagonally lined areas show the sections of the forest as per 1934. In 1935, the forest was augmented by an additional 2764 acres.



MOSCOW, IDAHO, TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1934

Number 4

# Congress Grants Timberlands To The U. of I.

1934 HEADLINE EVOKED EXCITEMENT, BUT THE BILL WAS NEVER FUNDED.

## INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL CHANGES NEW DATE CARDS

Official Word Causes Group to Provide for Fraternity House Guests

## SANGER IS PRESIDENT

Importantly Shows Action in Debate Last Minute

After an official word from the Interfraternity Council, the date cards will be issued to last year's members. The Interfraternity Council will be held in the old building of the Interfraternity Council, which was held in the building of the Interfraternity Council. The date cards will be issued to last year's members. The Interfraternity Council will be held in the old building of the Interfraternity Council, which was held in the building of the Interfraternity Council.

An interview with President Sanger last night indicated that the

## MUSICIANS PLAY FOR LAST TIME

Eleven Graduating Pop Band Members Make Last Appearance at Promenade Banquet

Eleven members of the Idaho Pop Band played for the last time last night at an anniversary banquet of the Elks club held at the Elks club. The band was accompanied by their wives, representatives of Elks clubs. Throughout the entire evening, the band was present at the Elks club.

## AL GREATLY PLEASED

Final Judgment of Qualities will be Given While Band Plays

For the second time in the history of the organization, Al Pierce and his gang, included some bands in their program. The visit was composed of Bill Ames, Wendell Olsen, and Dick Edwards were the featured guest artists on the program, which was broadcast from Spokane through KIQ and the National Broadcasting company. The appearance was in the nature of an audition for Ames and his trip. The idea was that Al Pierce is looking for new talent. Al Pierce and his gang give one of the most popular programs broadcast in the western part of the United States. Their program is given every afternoon from 3 until 5 o'clock through facilities of the National Broadcasting company. Last month they have

## IDAHO STUDENTS

## VIOLIN TRIO GOES OVER HIS ON THE PEARCE PROGRAM

Ames, Olsen, and Edwards May Join Pearce's Gang

Final Judgment of Qualities will be Given While Band Plays

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## IDAHO STUDENTS

## President Signs Bill Increasing the Idaho School of Forestry's Demonstration Laboratory to 63,655 Acres

When President Roosevelt signed and affixed the stamp and the United States to H. R. 7622 it constituted a fitting and historic anniversary present to the University of Idaho School of Forestry. To those who follow congressional legislation, H. R. 7622 is the just one of the bills which passed by every session of Congress since the establishment of the Idaho School of Forestry in 1909. It is one of the most important pieces of legislation ever passed by that body. The bill authorizes the first and most important step in the creation of 63,655 acre university experimental and demonstration forest.

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## DEAN MESSENGER SPEAKS TO CLUB

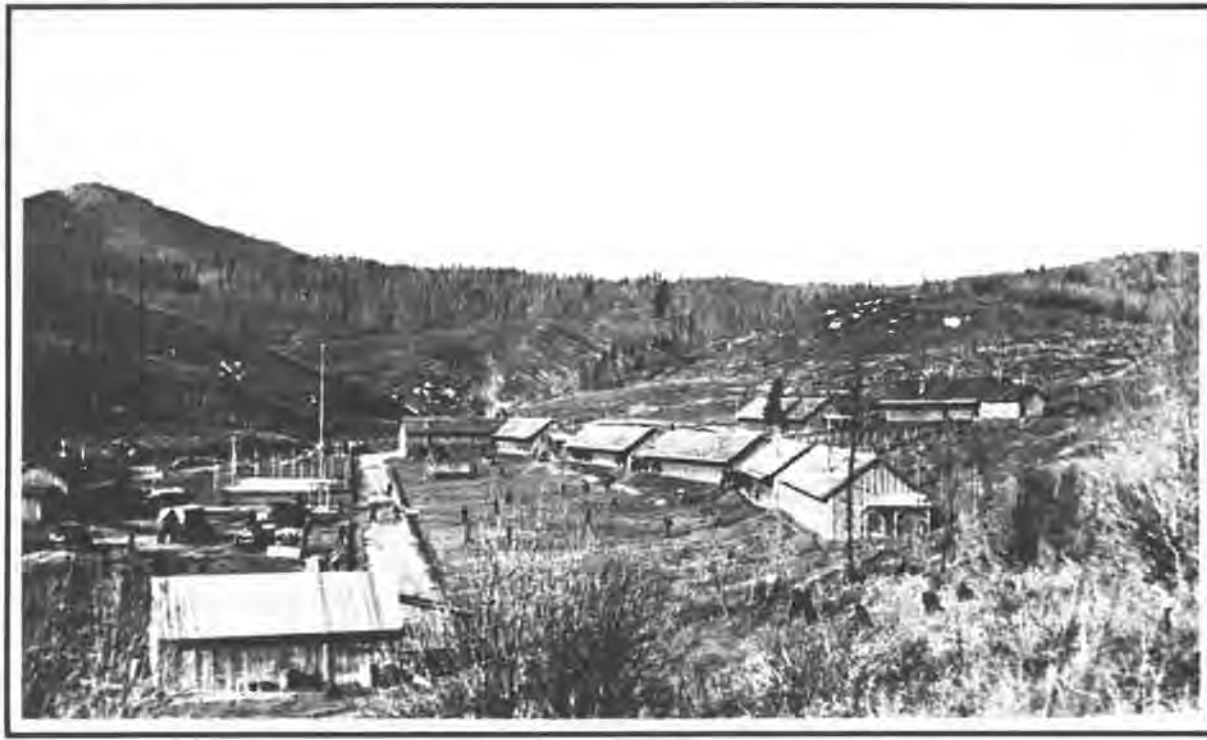
Discusses Spirit of Fellowship in Talk to Cosmopolitan Group

Dean Messenger, president of the National Broadcasting company, spoke to the Cosmopolitan Club last night. He discussed the spirit of fellowship and the importance of the radio in our lives. He also mentioned the work of the National Broadcasting company and the role of the radio in our lives.

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Through its over 50-year history, the School Forest, as it is still familiarly referred to, has served students and faculty as an outdoor classroom and as a convenient site for a myriad of research projects involving virtually all the college's departments. In 1971, however, these traditional uses were joined by another far less traditional use, one

perhaps unique to the UI Experimental Forest. Current Forest Manager and alumnus Harold Osborne described that use in the 1984 *Idaho Forester*.



Part of the School Forest's Big Meadow Creek Unit was occupied by a Civilian Conservation Corps headquarters from 1934-1938.

## THEY'RE STILL A'LOGGIN' THE SCHOOL FOREST

Harold Osborne, (BS, MF, Forest Mgt., '71, '75)  
Assistant Professor of Forest Resources  
Manager, UI Experimental Forest

*Idaho Forester*, 1984

Two young loggers were overheard one night in a local tavern. One said to the other, "My daddy left me a million dollars when he passed on and I'm going to log till it's all gone." Certainly, logging is expensive, but the students of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences (FWR) are gaining valuable "hands on" experience as loggers on the School Forest. Under the guidance of experienced personnel, students have been cutting timber on the forest since 1972. During this period, U of I crews (sometimes known as IOU Logging Co.) have harvested some 20 million board feet of "smart logs," a term coined by the gyppo truckers who haul the University timber to local sawmills.

Most folks outside the university do not know the College of FWR has a 7158-acre School Forest, let alone the fact that they allow inexperienced students to cut down trees and drive skidders. The forested land, acquired during the early 30's mainly through gifts from forest industry, lies on the north and east slopes of the Moscow Mountain Range, 12 miles northeast of Moscow. Cut over in the early 20's for the high value western white pine, western larch and yellow-bellied ponderosa pine, volumes have been accumulating on the stump over the years. Current annual growth is estimated to be 2.4 million board feet with a standing inventory of 70 million board feet.

In 1971 Frank Pitkin, longtime professor and forest nursery manager, took on the additional responsibility of forest manager. He then began a program that is unique among "professional" forestry schools.

Frank got together some used logging equipment, bought a few chain saws, and the student logging operation was underway. Taking advantage of the highs and riding through the lows of timber market fluctuation, he was able to purchase new equipment, begin the development of the long needed road system, and teach some foresters how to "walk in the woods." Pit, as he was affectionately called, provided many a greenhorn the opportunity to become a logger. The on-the-ground operation was directed by logging superintendent Bob Reggear and assisted by George Pitkin (no relation to Frank). Bob taught the falling and machine operation while George hammered out the bent saw bars, looked after the details of fuel and parts, and gave fatherly advice gained from his many years in the woods.

Thirteen years after its inception by Pit, timber harvest still goes on. Each year, six to eight upper division and graduate students, many with a forestry degree in hand, are hired to work for a period of three to seven months. Competition for the jobs has been keen with up to 30 applicants in some years. Students today, under the direction of logging superintendent Greg Bassler, assistant forest manager Al Strong, and forest manager, Harold Osborne, lay out timber sales, mark the trees, and plan roads and skid trails. Sales are on an annual basis with the local mills engaging in competitive bidding for the sawlogs. The logs are sold in roadside decks and landings with hauling the responsibility of the purchaser. The student loggers work an eight-hour day with travel on their own time. This means leaving Moscow at 6:00 A.M. and returning at 4:30 P.M. Starting pay is \$5.00/hour. That is not much for a logger you say; well, they are not much of a logger yet.

The fact is, we are not training loggers, we are training resource managers—foresters. After several months of falling and bucking timber, skidder and cat operations, and setting chokers under the Idaho jammer, foresters from the College of FWR have a better idea of what it takes to

### Career Launched by Disappearing Friend

My memories of Idaho forestry are more vivid on how I happened to go to Idaho rather than about anything that happened while there.

I graduated from a western Washington high school in 1924 and continued working in logging camps and sawmills full time as I had been for the prior two summers. I had no thoughts about college. Why go to college when I already had a good job in a planing mill making \$6.00 per day?

Then an old high school buddy ('26) went to Idaho to study forestry and kept writing to me about the wonders of the place. He convinced me that I could live in the same rooming house as he and eat next door—both the best in town, on Deakin Avenue. So—in mid-year (February 1927) I finally took the train to Tacoma, on to Spokane, and thence to Moscow. When I got there, I learned my friend had taken ill and had been sent home, never to go back to college. And I've never seen nor heard of him since!

—Thomas S. Buchanan (BS - Forestry, '35)

*Editor's Note: Thomas Buchanan stayed in Moscow. He later added to his forestry degree an M.S. from Berkeley and a Ph.D. from Yale. He became an internationally prominent forest pathologist, and was the first full-time pathologist employed by a forest industry (Weyerhaeuser). He retired in 1972 as assistant director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, North Carolina.*



Harold Osborne, alumnus and UI Experimental Forest Manager, and Gerald L. (Gerry) Lohse (BS, MS - Forest Res., '79, '82) take a break from planting seedlings.

remove the shelterwood overstory or to commercially thin a stand without damaging the residual crop trees. But logging is not all these students do. There is prescribed burning each fall and tree planting each spring. If the weather is too wet to log, culvert basins get shoveled out, fences get repaired, and the silvicultural prescriptions, burn plans and other necessary paperwork is attended to.

In spite of the high cost of equipment and the low production in the first months of each season, the operation has continued for 13 years. Injuries have occurred, the most serious a broken leg, the least, well, let's say a lot of band-aids have been used. Safety is the foremost concern. A buddy system is used where one person always knows where the other is working. The equipment usually suffers more than the student. There are bent saw bars, an occasional crushed chainsaw and then there was the time in 1983 when the crew got to inspect the underside of the new crawler dozer without even bending over.

Through the years a lot of future resource managers (1971 to date) got their first taste of logging out on Moscow Mountain. The following is a list, hopefully complete, of those students and others who have made the College of FWR logging crew a success. Some worked for a short time, others a summer or a summer and a fall and still others may be eligible for university retirement. Those listed for several seasons were brought back to help train the new crew and lend continuity to the program.

Since 1971 many changes have taken place on the School Forest. The forest will continue to be developed as a working forest where the education, research, and demonstration functions of the College of FWR can be carried out. Receipts from timber harvests help pay the way to meet these objectives. "State of the art" practices will continue and forestry students in the College of FWR will get an education that goes beyond books.



Frank Pitkin - student, staff, faculty - 1935-1979.



## MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Deters, Merrill (Doc)	Forest Manager	1940-1971
Aulerich, Ed	Forest Manager	1971
Pitkin, Frank (Pit)	Forest Manager	1971-1979
Osborne, Harold L.	Forest Manager	1979-pres.
	Asst. For. Man.	1978
Pitkin, George	Asst. Log. Sup.	1971-1979
Reggear, Robert (Bob)	Logging Sup.	1972-1980
Reggear, Bud	Logging Contr.	1971-1973
Strong, Allan E.	Asst. For. Man.	1981-pres.
	Asst. Log. Sup.	1980
Bassler, Greg (Jr.)	Logging Sup/For.	1980-pres.
Badgett, Virgil (Jake)	Logging Contr.	1974-1982

FWR STUDENTS WHO WORKED  
ON THE U OF I LOGGING CREW

NAME	YEAR(S) WORKED	DEG/MAJOR/YEAR
Alexson, Andy	1981	BS FOR RES 1982
Angell, Mike	1976	BS FOR RES 1978
Appelgren, Ross	1973	BS FOR RES 1975
Armbruster, Mark	1975	BS WILD FS 1979
Balka, Chris	1976	BS FOR RES 1979
Barbour, Scott	1978-79	BS FOR RES 1980
Bartlett, Terry	1978-79	BS FOR RES 1980
Bassler, Greg	1980	BS FOR RES 1980
		MS FORPRO IN PRO
Bender, Gary	1980	BS FOR RES 1980
		BS FORPROD 1980
Bennett, Jim R.	1976	BS FOR RES 1977
Bibby, Alan	1974	BS FOR RES 1975
Bills, Chuck	1980	BS FOR RES 1982
Boling, Dave	1978	BS FOR RES
Boucher, Joe	1980-83	BS FOR RES 1980
		MS FOR RES 1983
Boyce, Robbin	1983	MS FOR RES/PROG
Broekemeir, Dave	1978	BS FOR RES 1980
Capps, Dave	1972	FOR RES
Carias, Fausto	1980	FORPROD
Castaneda, Froylan	1983	PHD FORPRO/PROG
Clampitt, Alan	1977	BS FOR RES 1977
Clausen, Leon	1981	BS FOR RES 1982
Dell, Malcolm	1978	BS FOR RES 1979
		MBS BUS 1983
Dewald, Dan	1978	BS WILDREC 1981
Dewoody, Sorrells	1977	BS FOR RES 1978
Fabricius, Jon	1982-84	BS FOR RES 1982
		MS FORPRO/PROG
Fallon, Rob	1980	BS FORPROD 1980
Fields, Matt	1975	BS FOR RES 1975
Fitzgerald, Steve	1983	MS FOR RES 1983
Fries, Don	1977	BS FOR RES 1977
Furman, Richard	1974	BS FOR RES 1974
Getchius, Ray	1972-73	BS FOR RES 1974
Gregory, Mark	1972-74	BS WILDREC 1977
Grill, Charlie	1979-80	MS FOR RES 1980
Guernsey, Steve	1978	BS FOR RES 1978
Hall, Tom T.	1976	BS WOOD UT 1977
Hanson, Dave	1975	PHD WILDSC 1977
Heath, Mike	1983	BS FOR RES 1983
Hill, Wm. N. (Bill)	1979-83	BS FOR RES 1981
Hoffman, John B.	1974	BS WOOD UT 1974

## Hard Times and A Little Help

My outstanding memories of my days at the University of Idaho are of the hardships of making both ends meet as I worked my way through the four years. At that time, jobs were not easy to find, but thanks to a lot of good people I made it through. For example, R.B. Ward of Ward's Paint and Hardware Store, offered me a home for the year in return for household work. Bob Woods, owner of the Blue Bucket Inn, gave me work as a dishwasher and the Washburn-Wilson Seed Company provided part-time work on their farm and in their warehouse.

And there was the University, too, for not only did they provide me with the means of getting an education, they also let me use a plot of land directly behind the steam plant to build a one-room shack that was home for two years with free lights, water and coal. I'm not too sure they were aware of those last three!

Despite the hardships, my memories are good memories.

—Edward C. Lownik (BS - Forestry, '36)

Howard, Dan	1982	BS FORPRO IN PRO
Huntley, Travis	1972	BS FOR RES 1974
Jeske, Jerry	1979-80	BS FOR RES 1980
Johnsen, John O.	1979	MS FOR RES 1982
Johnson, Thom	1980	BS FOR RES 1980
Johnston, Rod	1977	BS FOR RES 1978
Lackey, Glenn	1981	BS FOR RES 1981
Legoll, Doug	1975-77	BS FOR RES 1978
Little, Scott	1974-75	BS FOR RES 1980
Lohse, Gerald L.	1979-80	BS FOR RES 1979
		MS FOR RES 1981
McCarthy, Ron	1975	BS WILD FS 1975
		MS WILD FS/PROG
McDonnel, Mike	1979	BS FORPROD 1980
Moore, Terry	1974	BS FOR RES 1975
Mullen, Chris	1978	BS FOR RES 1978
Munkittrick, Mark	1976	BS FOR RES 1977
Rahrer, Carson	1972-73	BS WILD FS 1976
Reynolds, Chris	1979-80	BS FOR RES 1980
Reynolds, R. David	1982	BS FOR RES/PROG
Richards, Tom	1980-83	BS FOR RES 1980
Russell, John	1976	BS FOR RES 1977
Ryan, Mike	1978	BS FOR RES 1978
Sanders, Mike	1983	BS FOR RES/PROG
Simpson, Bart	1977-80	MS FOR RES 1981
Slowikowski, Jim	1977	BS WILDREC 1980
Smith, Steve	1977	BS FOR RES 1978
Spicer, Jim	1979-80	BS FOR RES 1980
		MS FOR RES 1982
Spidahl, Rod	1974	FOR RES
Stage, Morgan	1981	BS FOR RES 1982
		MS FORPRO IN PRO
Stinson, Ken	1982-83	BS FOR RES 1983
		MS FOR RES/PROG
Strong, Al	1978-79	BS FOR RES 1979
		MS FORPRO IN PRO
Sturdy, Carl	1979	MS FOR RES 1979
Teasdale, Gregg	1976-79	BS FOR RES 1979
Wagner, Guy	1978-79	BS FOR RES 1978
		MS FOR RES/PROG
Wetmore, Ron	1974-75	BS FOR RES 1975

On the UI Experimental Forest:  
Right—Glenn Lackey (BS - Forest  
Res., '81), member of the student  
logging crew, gauges the direction  
of fall.



Below: Bob Rummer (left) (BS - Forest Res.-Mgt., '80; MS - Forest Prod., '82) and Richard (Rick) Dean  
(MS - Forest Prod., '84) assist in conducting a biomass recovery study on the Experimental Forest.



### Origin of the Line Street Spruce Grove

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the grove of spruce trees at the entrance to the campus north of the heating plant?

As a student in 1932, I led a group of fellow students in planting trees on many of the then wind-swept field corners around campus. The trees were about three feet tall. We worked under a federally-funded student work program for 25¢ an hour. The trees came from the university arboretum that was also being improved by the federally-funded student work program. There was a surplus of black spruce trees in the arboretum, and the agriculture fields north and west of the campus had unused corners left by the curving path of farm machinery. Thus, beautifying the fields with the surplus trees seemed to be a natural.

Most of the fields and their once tree-covered corners have been taken over by campus expansion. However, one grove remains at the railroad spur that turns into the heating plant. This grove is now over 50 years old.

—Harvey Nelson (BS - Forestry, '36)

### Curves and Fumes Remembered

As I remember my years at the University of Idaho, I often recall the trips we took from Moscow to Lewiston where we made various studies at the Clearwater Lumber Company mill. My feelings about these trips are mixed.

On the positive side, I loved these trips. It was so interesting to follow logs through the mill and learn what products resulted. We often numbered logs in the yard and each of us decided what volume of useable material would be obtained in the end. Then we followed that log through the mill. We learned what grades of lumber were produced. We were often fooled by hidden defects that threw our calculations to the wind.

On the negative side was the trip down and back! In those days the school had no bus, so we rode down in the back of a truck. If rain was likely, a tarp was tied over the back of the truck. Going down that long hill into Lewiston were, so it seemed, hundreds of curves. As we went along, gas fumes from the exhaust pipe were sucked into the truck. By the time we got to the mill, we were in all stages of car sickness. At times we could hardly eat our lunch. However, as we got interested in our studies we soon felt better. But the trip back to Moscow was the same thing in reverse as the slow-moving truck ground up the hill, again producing gas fumes. We took turns leaning out the back in order to get a fresh breath of air.

We really did enjoy the opportunity to visit such a fine mill and to learn about its operation. We accepted the truck ride as part of the package deal.

—Jack I. Groom (BS - Forestry, '35)



UI juniors, members of the 1933-34 mensuration class, pose before the school's new truck before jolting off to the Clearwater Lumber Co. mill in Lewiston.

## Dean Miller Dies



### DEAN MILLER

True, his office chair is empty  
 And his gentle voice is still,  
 But a footstep's in the forest  
 And a murmur's on the hill—  
 Men may bow their heads in sorrow  
 At his passing, and the trees  
 Dip their softly sighing branches,  
 Whisper sadly in the breeze—  
 But "his boys" will lift their faces,  
 Be the woodland green or razed,  
 And march bravely with his spirit  
 Up along the trail he blazed.

*Stanley Foss Bartlett.*



*Idaho Forester, 1934.*

To 1984, only six deans had headed up the college; one of those, Richard McArdle, resigned after one year. Discounting McArdle, tenure thus averages something over 14 years. Francis Garner Miller served 17 years, and died in office, of a heart attack March 8, 1934. He was 67 years old.

Photos of Dean Miller typically show an unsmiling, almost dour looking man, just a bit daunting. Records from the time, however, indicated a thoughtful and generous individual with a sly sense of humor. For example, in 1932, Dean Miller announced his intention to take a sabbatical in Europe, at the School of Forestry in Dresden. The Associated Foresters planned a surprise banquet in Miller's honor, and through some subterfuge or other, got him to the scene, whereupon it was revealed that the gathering was in his honor.

Records the 1932 *Forester*, "Dean Miller, when called upon to say a few words, arose slowly and reached for his watch. He explained this was for two reasons: First, to see what time it was,

and second to see if anyone of the foresters had taken it, since he had been deceived so completely in regard to the clever way he had been brought to the surprise party."

If Miller was regarded by his students with affectionate respect, that sentiment was shared by his peers. E.A. Bryan, former state commissioner of education and president emeritus of Washington State University, declared that "Miller's services have been of incalculable value to the institution, to the State of Idaho, and to the Nation. Not only did a thorough reorganization of the forestry work of the institution follow, which has attracted attention from many states and foreign countries, but he became an advisor and guide to the forest interests of Idaho . . . . I regard Dean Miller as one of the most typically successful deans that I have known in the faculty of any institution."

But perhaps the most moving accolade came from his students at his memorial service held in the UI auditorium March 9, 1934, where Miller



Dean and Mrs. Miller begin the long journey to Europe from the Moscow Depot, 1932.

was characterized as "the most patient teacher, the wisest counselor, the truest friend that any body of young men ever had . . . . We, his students, were his life's work."

At the eighteenth annual Foresters' Banquet held that same year—1934—the students decided to purchase a plaque commemorative of Dean Miller "to be placed somewhere on the Moscow Mountain area." A committee was appointed to draw up plans and obtain prices.

The project "hung fire" for almost two years, and, the 1936 *Forester* reported, "At present the cost seems a little high and out of reach, but the alumni are now coming through better and it is believed there will soon be enough money subscribed to carry out the project."

" . . . The Lookout on top of Bald Peak seems to be the most suitable place."

It was not, however, until 1938 that a plaque was acquired, and by now the erection site has moved closer to the campus. That year Harold F. Heady (BS - Range Mgt., '38) reported that "A plaque has been purchased and is now ready for erection on a tentative site near the Shattuck Arboretum . . . . It will be affixed to a granite or concrete monument."

Apparently, however, concerns about possible vandalism forestalled the installation of the plaque at any permanent outdoor site. And as late as 1949, Art Sowder, then in Washington, D.C., suggested to then dean Dwight Jeffers that "perhaps if the new Forestry Building has a large assembly room that might be the proper place for the plaque or any other conspicuous spot."

Despite the hopes of those days, the "new Forestry Building" was not to become reality for more than 20 years. However, with the move to the College of Agriculture from Morrill Hall to its new building, the plaque was mounted on the first floor of Morrill Hall, and remained there until 1971, when it—and the college—moved to the current building. The Miller plaque now resides on the wall of the FWR Building's main entrance, in company with plaques honoring Professor Shattuck and Deans Jeffers and Wohletz.

In the 1935 *Idaho Forester*, Acting Dean Ernest E. Hubert summed up the many changes and activities of the "Miller" years:

The period between 1917 and 1934 was replete with far-reaching changes and developments all guided by the devoted and painstaking energy of the man who served the School of Forestry so well for over seventeen years. During this period the staff of the School increased from four to a present total of seven instructors, and the space occupied by the School had increased until it now occupies twenty rooms in the third and fourth floors of Morrill Hall, a greenhouse, and now has in addition a separate wood conversion building housing the wood chemistry and wood preservation and seasoning laboratories . . . .

### The Way It Was

In September 1932, the University of Idaho School of Forestry was one of very few in the nation; most forestry was taught as a "major" in Schools of Agriculture.

We freshmen numbered somewhere between twenty and twenty-five, and I think Dan Townsend was the only one from Idaho. That should say something about the nationwide reputation of our school. A few dropped out at the end of the first semester and several transferred to other schools on campus.

I was the only one of my classmates who had ever worked in one of our National Forests; I had fought fire and packed mules in the old Lochsa Ranger District of the old Selway National forest.

Academically and administratively all forestry was conducted on the third floor of Morrill Hall, the rest of the building belonging to the School of Agriculture. Halfway down the hill, toward the heating plants was the Wood Chemistry Building, of which I was janitor at twenty-five cents per hour; Dr. Edwin C. Jahn sponsored a couple of post-graduate students there, pioneering in wood chemistry. On the hill behind the Engineering Building was the Nursery, where I peeled cedar posts with a spud, planted seedlings, or balled living trees, also for twenty-five cents per hour. Our arboretum extended west from there, past the athletic field. Out on Moscow Mountain we owned some land on which we practiced silviculture. Oh, the twenty-five cents would buy a pound of hamburger and a nickel would buy a loaf of bread.

Our Dean, Francis G. Miller and the University Bursar, Frank Stanton, I especially remember, because they were so good to me, a young man struggling to keep his head above water.

—Col. Ancil D. Baker (BS - Forestry, '36)

During this period Dean Miller continued to develop the favorable recognition of the great lumber industry of the region and the years between 1919 and 1934 showed a steady expansion of the work in forest products in both instruction and research activities . . . . The service rendered the State through the research program of the School, though difficult to measure, is far reaching and of great value . . . . The years between 1917 and 1934 might well be termed the constructive period during which constructive forestry practices were promulgated and active progress was made in the development of various branches of instruction.

And finally, reaching back beyond the "Miller" years to the beginnings of the school, Hubert eloquently summarizes the history of the school to 1934:

These twenty-five years of endeavor exemplified in the splendid devotion to forestry given by Dr. Shattuck and Dean Miller and their loyal colleagues is summed up not so much in the material progress shown by enlarged quarters and improved curricula, increased equipment and larger staff, but in the living products of the School, its one hundred and eight graduates who, better than any words I can pen, reflect through their sterling service to forestry and their adherence to the high ideals of the profession, the excellence of their apprenticeship in the Idaho School of Forestry.



### An Egg Throwing Contest and Other Fond Memories

Recollections become rather hazy after 50 years, but I still remember clearly the "Ad" building and the university campus when I arrived on a warm September afternoon in 1933. The campus has changed considerably, but the "Ad" building is still the same.

Luckily for me, as a result of an interview with a forester from New Jersey State Forestry Department during a high school vocational guidance program, I had applied to the University of Idaho and been accepted. The forester must have been an Idaho graduate as he recommended Idaho highly as an outstanding academic forestry school and an advantageous place to gain experience through summer employment.

I remember Dean Miller, especially helping me find work on the arboretum crew during Christmas vacation in 1933 under the student program of the new Works Progress Administration. I sincerely missed Dean Miller after his death in 1934. Dr. Hubert was appointed Acting Dean until Dr. McArdle took over in September 1934. Dr. McArdle was with us only one year when he resigned to become Director of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. He was succeeded by Dr. Jeffers. All were of great assistance in helping us find summer work, which we appreciated since this was during the great depression.

Memories of my four years at Idaho are among my most pleasant. It was a new world to me, coming from a small town near Princeton, New Jersey. I enjoyed the field trips to the Experimental Forest on Moscow Mountain under Professor Floyd Otter [BS - Forestry, '29], the logging trips with Professor Sowder, the range management field trips with Professor Becraft, the annual Foresters' Ball, spring barbecues, banquets and the Associated Foresters' smoker and campfires in the Arboretum. I can remember my one claim to fame in winning the egg throwing contest at our spring barbecue three years in a row. The contest consisted of throwing the egg highest in the air and catching it without breaking the shell. Pretty tame after the log sawing, chopping, tree climbing and log rolling contests, but it always provided the laughs.

The University of Idaho and the School of Forestry, as it was then called, will always have a warm spot in my heart.

—Thomas I. Wilson (BS - Range Mgt., '37)