

## IV. FROM A SCHOOL TO A COLLEGE: 1935-1953

In the year and a half following Dean Miller's death, the School of Forestry had, in effect, three deans: E.E. Hubert, Richard McArdle, and Dwight Jeffers. The first, Professor E.E. Hubert, a faculty member since 1925, was appointed acting dean. Well known for his work in forest pathology, Hubert had directed most of the school's research conducted in the forest products and forest pathology laboratories and had been especially active in cooperation with the federal government on the study and control of white pine blister rust. In 1932, he published a textbook, *Forest Pathology*, which was widely used in forestry education for many years. Hubert resigned from the school in 1935 to assume research duties with the Western White Pine Association headquartered in Portland. He would return to the School of Forestry in 1949 to research white pine pole blight.



E.E. Hubert, 1934.

Professor Hubert capably guided the school into the fall of 1934, when Richard E. McArdle, most recently of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, assumed the deanship. Well-liked and respected, both as a leader and teacher,

McArdle had little time to make his own particular imprint on the school, resigning as he did in the summer of 1935. That year he went on to become director of the newly established Rocky Mountain Forest Experiment Station, holding that position until 1938, when he was named director of the Appalachian Experiment Station. He eventually moved to Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C., and served as Chief of the Forest Service from 1952-1962.

McArdle's announcement of his intention to return to the Forest Service came, no doubt, as something of a shock to a faculty and student body that little more than a year before had lost their previous dean. There was nothing for it but to reconvene the search committee. Thus two completely unforeseeable occurrences—the death of Dean Miller and the unexpected resignation of Dean McArdle—brought to the school the man who was to occupy the dean's office longer than any before or since.

### **Dean Jeffers Arrives**

Dwight Smithson Jeffers came to the UI from the University of Washington where he had been full professor in that institution's School of Forestry and a faculty member since 1931. Though Jeffers had received his Ph.D. from Yale not long before he accepted the deanship, he was perhaps the most experienced forester to occupy the position. Following the taking of an M.F. from Yale in 1911, Jeffers joined the Forest Service, rising to forest supervisor on Colorado's Uncompaghre and Arapaho National Forests. In 1922, he left the Forest

### **One Whopper of a Spit!**

In the spring of 1934 at the Foresters' picnic, I won the tobacco spitting contest with a record spit of 23 feet. The following year my record was wiped out with a record spit of 40 feet.

—Robert E. Clements, Jr. (BS - Forestry, '38)

Service to join the faculty of the Iowa State College Department of Forestry, and nine years later moved to the University of Washington.

Joining Jeffers that year as new faculty members were Raymond J. Becraft, Range Management; Eldred R. Martell, Forest Management; and John Ehrlich, who would assume the recently departed E.E. Hubert's forest pathology teaching and research activities. The faculty roll was rounded out by "veterans" E.C. Jahn, Wood Utilization, on board since 1930, and Art Sowder, Forest Engineering, a school alumnus and former extension forester. Jeffers himself was slated to teach courses in forest economics, a field, said the *Moscow Star-Mirror*, in which he was a "national authority."

These six men confronted a student enrollment of 259—a record enrollment to that time—for a student-faculty ratio of about 43:1.

The *Star-Mirror* edition (Sept. 7, 1935) that announced the school's new faculty members also declared that the School of Forestry ". . . is blazing the way with a flexible curriculum which gives the student considerable leeway in selection of courses to obtain a broad foundation in the profession. Introduced this year will be an entirely new curriculum in wood technology . . . . The Idaho school will be one of the few in the country offering comprehensive technical training in range management."

### People and Events in the Mid-thirties

I recall, as a freshman, attending with all the forestry students the funeral of Dean Miller (September 1933) and the memorial service in the Administration Building. I recall the year of Dean McArdle (later Chief of U.S. Forest Service) and how he endeavored to build Idaho's School of Forestry into a top-ranking school. He was my ideal and mentor, influencing my decision to seek a career with the U.S. Forest Service where I spent 35 years in national forest administration, in the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station working on economic studies, and finally in the State and Private Forestry Division working with state agencies in 20 eastern states.

I remember many things from my years at Idaho, but here are some examples: the shaky condition of Morrill Hall; Dean Jeffers—a very likeable, fair-minded and guiding individual; the class work given us by Professors Sowder, Spencer, and others, that was informative and timely; spring picnics sponsored by the Associated Foresters; work we did to expand the arboretum on the hill by the "I" tank—it was hard but enjoyable; and I recall working with George Weyermann [BS - Forest Mgt., '37] in establishing the base line to control the laying out of the road to Forestry Summer Camp.

There are many more memories that I cherish, too numerous to list here. All in all, attending the School of Forestry at the University of Idaho was one of my crowning experiences.

—Frederick E. Hampf (BS - Forestry, '37)



Foresters line up for chow at a campfire on Price Green, 1935.

From The Moscow Star-Art on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1935.

# Outstanding Individuals Come To Idaho School of Forestry

Appointment announced today by President M. G. Neale, assurance for the University of Idaho school of forestry one of the best qualified forestry faculties—on the basis of both training and experience—in the West. The school will open next month with four new staff members—every one with a fine record in teaching and research of recognized value to the profession. Introduced this year will be an instructional setup certain to attract attention. Heading the forestry school will be Dr. Dwight S. Jeffers, whom Dean



Graves of the Yale university school of forestry describes as a "tower of strength in the Washington school of forestry."

"Since he accepted the deanship at Idaho early in August, Dr. Jeffers has been searching forestry fields throughout the country for the best men available to help him at Idaho," said President Neale today. "He has been fortunate in securing for his staff the services of three men who come with the enthusiastic endorsement of leading forestry authorities of the United States. One of the men conducted special research in England which has brought him international recognition. These men will greatly strengthen the forestry staff and their records indicate they are qualified to carry on all types of basic research for the forestry industry of Idaho. The aggressiveness with which Dean Jeffers is taking hold of the situation indicates his sincere desire to build the Idaho school

into one of the foremost in the nation."

#### New Appointees

The new appointees are Dr. E. R. Martell, who becomes professor of forest management; Raymond J. Becraft, who comes as professor of range management; and Dr. John Ehrlich, assistant professor of forest pathology. Completing the forestry personnel will be Dr. Edwin C. Jahn, associate professor since 1930,

campus. He has had six years of teaching experience in the University of Michigan and Pennsylvania State college. Dean S. T. Dana of the Michigan forest school says Dr. Martell has "much native ability; he has more than the usual enthusiasm, energy, and initiative, together with a fine personality." Dr. Martell brings to Idaho one of America's few professional women foresters—Mrs. Martell receiving her degree from the Michigan forest school.

Professor Becraft received his undergraduate degree in forestry at Utah State Agricultural college, his master's degree at Iowa State college, and has spent two years of graduate study in range botany



Upper row, left to right—Dean Jeffers; Dr. E. C. Jahn; Arthur M. Sowder. Lower row, left to right—Raymond J. Becraft; Dr. E. R. Martell; Dr. John Ehrlich.



whose research work in wood utilization has attracted widespread attention; and A. M. Sowder, assistant professor since 1927, who returns to the staff this fall after a year of advanced study toward his doctorate at Yale's forestry school.

Dr. Martell comes from the forestry department of Pennsylvania State college. His teaching ability is highly praised by the head of the forestry department of that institution.

#### At Michigan

Dr. Martell received all of his professional training at the University of Michigan—B.S. in 1925; M.S. in 1926; Ph.D. in 1932. For his doctor's degree he specialized in silvics and silviculture. For three years, 1928-29, he was with the U. S. forest service in various capacities, district ranger, forest measurements, experiment station work, supervising timber sales, etc. For four months in the summer of 1933 he was in charge of erosion work in New Mexico CCC

and range management at the University of Chicago. He was for five years with the U. S. Forest Service as grazing assistant and grazing examiner. He was a member and secretary of the special Utah flood commission for 1930 and 1931. Professor Becraft's former students are among the leaders in the field of range management work in the west.

#### Takes Hubert's Place

As assistant professor of forest pathology, Dr. John Ehrlich will take over the work previously carried on by Dr. Hubert, who resigned to direct the research work for the western pine manufacturers association. Dr. Ehrlich is a graduate of Cornell (B.S. 1928), Duke (A.M. 1929), and Harvard (S.M. 1930 and Ph.D. 1933). He has been the recipient of nine fellowships and special research appointments since 1928. As graduate assistant in plant pathology at Duke university he collaborated with the head of his department in a special study of a disease of

cotton. Then followed four years of intensive study and research at Harvard university in the field of forest pathology.

During his years at Harvard he carried on an investigation in forest pathology under the joint auspices of the university, the Canadian national research council and the forestry branch of Nova Scotia. He then went to Europe on a national research fellowship and at its termination his advisors in England thought so well of him they held him for an additional year. Dr. Ehrlich's research work has been highly praised by men such as Dr. Joseph H. Paul, professor of forest pathology at Harvard; Dr. D. S. Welch of Cornell; and Dr. Frederick A. Wolf of Duke. Dr. Wolf says: "I regard him as without superiors among the young men who have recently completed their academic training in forest pathology." His record is that of a man of mature years, yet he is only 34 years old.

#### Flexible Curriculum

The institution is blazing the way with a flexible curriculum which gives the student considerable leeway in selection of courses to obtain a broad foundation in the profession. Introduced this year will be an entirely new curriculum in wood technology, designed for men who want to specialize in the technical side of paper manufacture or to prepare themselves for the general field of wood utilization. The Idaho school will be one of the few in the country offering comprehensive technical training in range management.

Under the program outlined for the year ahead the school of forestry will operate under five basic divisions, wood technology, forest engineering, range management, forest management, and forest pathology. In charge of wood technology work will be Dr. Jahn, who will teach courses in wood technology, wood industries and wood chemistry. Idaho's wood conversion research laboratories, in Dr. Jahn's charge, are among the best equipped of any forestry school in the country. The forest engineering division will be in charge of Professor Sowder, who will also direct the annual field trips.

#### Range Management

Although courses in range management have been given in the school of forestry before this will be the first year for a definite department. This field has been increasing in importance during the past few years and now is one in which the demand appears to be greater and the supply smaller than in any other field in forestry. Professor Becraft will offer a number of courses in this field. Dr. Martell will have charge of the forest management division. In charge of the division of forest pathology will be Dr. Ehrlich. Courses in forest economics will be taught by Dean Jeffers, a national authority in this field. The dean also will give all beginning students their first introduction to the profession as he will have charge of the general freshman course in forestry, which is required of all first year students.

#### Dean Here

Idaho's new forestry dean arrives on the campus this weekend to complete arrangements for the opening of the college year. Facing Dean Jeffers is the task of preparing for an enrollment which may exceed that of last year, in which forestry enrollment was up more than 150 per cent above the previous year. With completion during the summer of an auxiliary forestry laboratory—built to alleviate crowded conditions resulting from the all-time record enrollment—the school will be able to accommodate all who come. This new laboratory will be one of the largest forestry laboratories in the United States—accommodating 120 students at a time. There is a possibility that Dean Jeffers' regime may be welcomed by a forestry enrollment even larger than that of last year. Correspondence during the summer has been of record proportions. More than 800 forestry catalogs have gone to prospective students, a greater number than has been sent in any year in the school's history.

Star Mirror featured the new dean and faculty additions, 1935.

Indeed, as the article suggested, the school's curriculum had, through the previous year, undergone extensive changes. Since 1927, the general curriculum had consisted of three curricula: General Forestry, Logging Engineering, and Range Management (in 1927, the Grazing curriculum became the Range Management curriculum). In 1935, the school continued to offer three curricula, but they had been modified and renamed Forest Production, Wood Utilization, and Range Management.

Perhaps the most radical aspect of these changes was the dropping of the Logging Engineering curriculum, offered since the inception of the school in 1909 (then called Lumberman's Forestry). Logging Engineering as a curriculum was discontinued, explained E.C. Jahn in a *Forester* (1935) article, because "it represents too limited and specialized a field, and because the demand for men who are essentially trained only for logging work is limited." The student could still take logging courses, but as electives within the Forest Production curriculum.

### OUR OWN PAUL BUNYAN

Leon R. Nadeau (BS—Forestry, '37)  
*Idaho Forester*, 1939

In the fall of 1934 we all returned to Morrill after a more or less speculative summer to find a new dean in the School of Forestry office. Dean McArdle was one of those fellows who usually arranged to have a devil of a good time getting a lot of work done. Maybe his being more or less a newcomer made it easier to size us up but, nevertheless, he decided we were a little "slack in the pants" and therefore proceeded to interest us all in being just a wee bit livelier. A foresters' chorus was organized and a special effort was made to interest all of us in extra-curricular activities. We arranged programs, moving pictures, etc., but the turnouts weren't always satisfactory. The predominant excuse usually was "I didn't know it was coming off." Well, to meet the situation, Dr. McArdle delegated himself and Liter Spence, then professor of range management, to constitute an advertising committee. Perhaps some of McArdle's "carnival" posters and works of art may still be among the things salvaged when the last big house cleaning took place. One of the principal objects was the development of a bulletin board that we foresters couldn't pass up unnoticed. If we saw the board and posters occurring thereon—well, there was no excuse. Spence found an advertisement in an issue of the *Timberman* in which a small picture of Paul Bunyan was shown. The Red River Lumber Co. of



Joe Fallini (BS - Range, '39) and Ken Hungerford (BS - Forestry, '38) pose with Paul Bunyan. The legendary logger's likeness was constructed in 1934 by Liter Spence (BS - Forestry, '28), then professor of range management; Leon Nadeau (BS - Forestry, '37); Ralph Jensen (BS - Range, '36); Paul Anderson (BS - Forestry, '38); and Russel Smith (BS - Range, '36). Bunyan thereafter spent many years on the third floor of Morrill Hall and acted as chaperone at many Foresters' Balls.

California had run this particular advertisement, Paul being a sort of "woodbutcher's god." Spence got the bright idea that he needed Paul on the advertising committee. His broad chest was an ideal place to hang our pertinent bulletins and even the most unobserving could not fail to "contact" if Paul were his natural size. That night, Liter Spence, Ralph Jensen, Paul Anderson, then president of the Associated Foresters, Russel Smith, and myself met in the wood technology/dendrology lab—now the forestry library. I believe Bill Anderson was there, too. We spread a sheet of beaver board out on a lab table, blocked it off in six inch squares; then with pencils, ruler, a few bottles of show-card paint, a pocket knife, saw, a few strips of board, we all huddled around the table until about 3 o'clock in the morning. Behold! Frankenstein? No, it was Paul Bunyan, just as you see him on the third floor in Morrill Hall and among the trees at the Foresters' Ball.

The key to the curricular reorganization was flexibility. Wrote Jahn, "Forestry is a dynamic profession. It is in a constant state of change and growth and cannot be strictly delineated by any set of rules which would apply from year to year or even from day to day . . . . It was agreed that the curricula should be flexible to permit a coordination with the probable future needs of the profession, and that a sound professional training should be emphasized."

### Watermelon Feast Adds to Field Trip Memories

The year 1935 brought about a new idea for the 1936 forestry graduation class. A 3500-mile field trip was planned for September 1935 before classes began. Professor Arthur Sowder was to lead the tour. The Class of 1936 consisted of about 14 and all went on the trip. The cost was \$35 per student. The school's 1½-ton Chevy truck was pressed into service. It had a canvas top over the stake body with roll-down curtains. Students sat on wooden benches placed on both sides of the truck bed. Mr. Sowder drove his Plymouth auto.

The first stop was in Coeur d'Alene at the headquarters of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. Charles D. Simpson was the Supervisor. Then we went across Washington to Seattle. Here we donned our best and cleanest clothes to go to the University of Washington to meet our new Dean of Forestry, Dwight S. Jeffers. From Seattle we went south, visiting logging operations, lumber and pulp mills, experiment stations and other places of interest to forestry students. Bonneville Dam was under construction at the time. We traveled as far south as Florence on the Oregon coast. We had our sleeping bags and would sleep in parks and occasionally a lumber mill building. Our meals were more like picnics, except when we were given good big meals at lumber camps.

On our return journey from Springfield to Bend, Oregon, we crossed the McKenzie Pass. I believe it was more narrow and crooked than it is today. We came upon a truck loaded with watermelons. It was traveling at a snail's pace, and we couldn't pass because the highway was too narrow, and had too many blind curves. Two of the students ran ahead and caught the truck. One climbed up on the back and began pitching watermelons to the other. I believe that it was Don Porter [BS - Forestry, '36] pitching them off while Fred Goenne [BS - Forestry, '36] was running behind trying to catch them. We and the watermelon truck stopped at the lava observation tower near the summit, where we bought more of the melons and had a feast before returning to Moscow.

—Kenneth Crawford (BS - Forestry, '36)

And the change did, indeed, widen the student's elective possibilities. Said the *UI Bulletin* for 1935-'36, relative to the Forest Production curriculum, "Liberal choice in electives permits the student, beginning in his junior year, to specialize in some phase of forest production such as Logging, Engineering, Forest Pathology, Forest Economics or Fire Control Engineering."

The newly instituted Wood Utilization curriculum reflected that flexibility—as well as the rigor of the curriculum. The student pursuing a Wood Utilization option was required to take 16 credits of mathematics, 10 credits of physics, and 24 credits of engineering, including thermodynamics, statics, dynamics, electricity, and strength of materials and materials testing. Foundational Forestry courses required included General Forestry, Dendrology, Wood Technology, Mensuration, Pathology, and Forest Economics. Utilization courses included Logging, Chemical Utilization of Wood, Wood Industries, and Seasoning and Preservation.

During his junior and senior years, the student could opt for specialization in either the technical or business side of Wood Utilization by selecting eighteen hours of appropriate electives in chemistry, physics or related sciences, or in business, economics, or business law.

Obviously, a considerable number of course possibilities had been packed into a four-year curriculum, and Jahn mentioned ". . . the growing tendency on the part of the profession and some forest schools to recognize the need for a five-year curriculum in forestry."

Indeed, a five-year curriculum was begun some five years later, in the fall of 1940. The catalog for that year advised students to "give serious consideration to the election of a five-year curriculum . . . because of the increasingly rigid requirements for the practice of professional work in the several technical fields of forestry, because of the increasing need for fundamental training in the social sciences, and also because of the increasing body of information in the technical and professional field of forestry . . ."

The five-year curriculum, offered for ten years, disappeared from the *Bulletin* after 1950-'51. However, it was apparently very seldom—if ever—selected. After that time, the needs it was meant to fill were no doubt best addressed through the graduate programs.

### **Sowder leaves— Enter Wohletz**

The following two years—1936 and 1937—brought significant personnel changes. In 1936, after 15 years of association with the school as student, faculty member, and extension forester, Art Sowder announced his intention to accept a faculty position at the University of Michigan, leaving a vacancy that could be filled only by an exceptional individual.

In search of that individual, Dean Jeffers wrote his friend Walter Mulford, professor of forestry at the University of California, Berkeley. Mulford recommended a young Californian and Berkeley forestry graduate student Ernest W. Wohletz. Jeffers requested assessments of Wohletz from other Berkeley faculty members; the results were uniformly positive, though one professor did comment that Wohletz “. . . is a hard worker and conscientious, a little too much so at times, which results in getting himself worn down from time to time. I believe he will overcome this in time.”

At Berkeley, Wohletz held the rank of “associate,” which was given, one of his recommendors

explained to Jeffers, to “. . . men of the younger group who have not yet completed their work for the doctorate, who otherwise are holding positions equivalent to instructorships or assistantships.”

To the time of his hiring by the school, Wohletz had completed 50 units in Berkeley's graduate division and, most valuable for the college, had for four years served as a teaching assistant in Berkeley's forestry summer camp where through his personality and abilities he earned the respect of his students, and through his baseball prowess the nickname “Smokey Joe.”

Just before Wohletz officially signed on as assistant professor of forestry, Jeffers wrote him that, among other things, he would be required by the Board of Regents to sign a statement that he “. . . would voluntarily resign at the age of seventy years.” Jeffers added that the 30-year-old Wohletz might find the requirement “laughable . . . considering your age.”

Ernest Wohletz did voluntarily resign, at 65 years of age, not 70, after 35 years of service to the college, 17 of which were spent as dean.



Pie-Eating Contest, Foresters' Picnic, 1938; left, Dean Jeffers shows winning form; right, Jeffers and defeated competitors. Photos courtesy Byron G. Anderson (BS - Forestry, '38).



The March brothers, Clement (BS - Geol. Eng., '35) and Maurice (BS - Range Mgt., '37) built this small shack, dubbed the "Depression Special," hauled it from Caldwell, and lived in it for 2 years. They were among many students who lived on "Poverty Flats" behind the UI heating plant.

Wohletz was hired, of course, on the basis of his abilities and character, both of which were substantial. But undoubtedly a significant consideration for Dean Jeffers was Wohletz' four years of teaching experience at Berkeley's summer camp. Here was just the man to help plan and initiate a summer camp for the UI School of Forestry. Sure enough—less than a year after Wohletz' hiring, the school announced its plans for its summer camp, the inaugural session to begin in June 1939. The first summer camp was indeed held in the summer of 1939, but not without some dissension and drastic modifications. For a more detailed description of summer camp see Chapter V.

#### Fellow Students, Faculty and Idaho Appreciated

I simply have fond memories of a group of wonderful associates called students. Some were more studious than others, but all were great to know.

Deans, professors and instructors have all been lost to us, yet their generous gifts of time, talent and intellect will endure and reflect in the lives and works of those they touched.

Let us look forward in hope for the future of Idaho, especially its College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences.

—Ernest H. Taylor (BS - Forestry, '38)

If only for the initiating of summer camp, 1939 and 1940 would have to be considered seminal years. But two other events of lasting significance also occurred during that period: the creation of the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station and the first Forestry Week.

### **The Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station**

On March 15, 1939, the Idaho State Legislature enacted into law a bill which "... created and established in the State University of Idaho, School of Forestry, an experiment station to be known as the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station of the State of Idaho." The FWR Experiment Station replaced the earlier Idaho Forest Experiment Station, founded in 1928 and defunct by 1934, a victim of lack of funding and the Depression.

The Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station will be addressed in detail in Chapter 6. However, it may be *apropos* here to describe generally the structure and function of the station.

To quote the bill itself, "The dean of the School of Forestry of the University of Idaho shall be the director of the forest, wildlife and range experiment station of the state of Idaho. The said experiment station shall be under the control of the state board of regents of the University of Idaho who shall have the power and whose duty it shall be to appoint or designate such assistants and employees as may be necessary, and to fix their compensation."

In actual practice, the dean, of course, is the experiment station director. The staff of the experiment station comprises the faculty of the college. Primarily, then, the experiment station is not so much a physical facility as it is a function. It is the research arm of the college and is treated as a separate entity basically in matters of funding.

The general duty of the experiment station is "... to institute and conduct investigations and research into the forestry, wildlife and range problems of the forest lands of the state," and to conduct cooperative investigation and research with various federal, state, and private organizations and agencies. The projects conducted under the aegis of the experiment station since 1939 are

### **Jobs Were Hard To Get**

*Idaho Forester* articles about logging on the school forest are interesting. When we were there, "book learning" was the major emphasis at Moscow. What was worse, there was a scarcity of work other than seasonal jobs. After the Junior Forester exam, we met at the Varsity Cafe where the majority opinion was "if you hit 100% on the exam, no job is available anyway."

—Kenneth C. Baldwin (BS - Forestry, '39)

*Editor's Note: Today's students may be surprised to learn that tight job markets are nothing new—nor very lasting! Kenneth Baldwin currently spends a lot of time in national parks and forests pursuing wildlife photography. His success with a camera is evidenced by having several slides of birds accepted in the National Audubon Society collection.*

far too numerous to mention. However, some idea of the extent of research may be communicated by the fact that through fiscal year 1983, experiment station scientists were involved in over 180 research projects and published over 140 journal articles and experiment station publications, ranging from maintaining the whooping crane to developing computer programs for fish farming, from studying tourist behavior to evaluating new timber harvesting techniques, from developing methods to predict forest insect outbreaks to assessing the effects of prescribed burning in forests and rangelands.

Experiment station research is conducted at the college, throughout Idaho, and overseas. Valuable research is also conducted at college-administered off-campus facilities, including the Clark Fork field campus near Lake Pend Oreille, the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and the Lee A. Sharp Experimental area (named in honor of long-time Range faculty member Lee Sharp)—operated in cooperation with the Point Springs Grazing Association and the BLM—in extreme southern Idaho.

Although relatively few Idahoans are familiar with the work of the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, many have been touched by it through the important role it has played in the state's natural resources-related industries and activities since its inception in 1939.



## Forestry Week

One of the experiment station's legislated duties is to disseminate information, "to get the word out." In that same year—1939—the Associated Foresters also decided to get the word out, and began an activity that has since become a proud tradition—Forestry Week.

The prime mover behind the creation of Forestry Week was Raymond C. Gardner ('40), vice president ('39) and president ('40) of the Associated Foresters. It seems Gardner was made responsible for the arrangements for the 1939 annual Associated Foresters Banquet, and he wasn't altogether content with past productions. Wrote Nelson Jeffers ('39) for the '39 *Forester*, "Ray is a man of no small imagination and had he been given a little more time would have had a program deserving of a national holiday. Ray decided, and quite rightly so, that the banquet was an important occasion, an occasion which was deserving of a more elaborate build-up than had been given it in previous years."

Instead of a single evening's banquet, Gardner and his colleagues planned five days of events, including newspaper stories, radio broadcasts, exhibits, a dance, a meeting of the Inland Empire subsection of the SAF—conducted by students—and even a banquet, all crammed into April 24-28, 1939. That five-day sequence of events was called Forestry and Conservation Week.

But apparently even this impressive production failed to satisfy Gardner and his group. Continued

### No Clock-watching in Dean Jeffers' Course

I can recall with nostalgia the first day in Dean Jeffers' course in Forest Policy. He said, "I know that the subject of 'Forest Policy' is not terribly exciting, and you may find yourself clock-watching on occasion. I expect that, but I'll be upset if you hold your watch to your ear to see if it is still ticking!" Despite the Dean's admonition, he made the course interesting, and I, for one never looked at my watch. The fact that he had served earlier in the national forests made his presentations factual and "real." Dean Jeffers, in my opinion, epitomized the term, "gentleman and scholar."

—Carl C. Wilson (BS - Forest Mgt., '39)

Jeffers, "Next year sees Ray at the head of the Associated Foresters, which will insure the completion and embellishment of a worthwhile dream, one which must become a reality to be carried forward in years to come."

Gardner wanted not just a Forestry Week on campus, but a week commemorated statewide to recognize and emphasize the importance of forestry. And he got it, through the help of Dean Jeffers. A few months after Forestry and Conservation Week, in the summer of 1939, Jeffers was involved in a state inspection tour as a member of the Cooperative Board of Forestry. In this capacity, he attended a meeting in McCall which was also attended by then governor C.A. Bottolfsen. Jeffers suggested Gardner's idea of a statewide Forestry Week to the governor, who heartily concurred. Soon thereafter, Governor Bottolfsen officially designated the week of April 28 -May 4 as Forestry Week in the state of Idaho. The dates were chosen to include Arbor Day.

Thus, Forestry Week officially came into existence. Now what? Wrote Robert E. Swanson ('40) in the 1940 *Idaho Forester*, "Through the initiative of Dean Jeffers and Ray Gardner, president of the Associated Foresters, plans were formulated to make this program an all-state affair. Radio, press, and mail were used to promote interest, stressing the importance of forests to the lumber industry, grazing, and wildlife of the state. A series of 7,000 letters, expected to reach 30,000 people, explaining the far-reaching effects of forestry, were sent to service and civic organizations in every city and town in Idaho and copies of Governor Bottolfsen's proclamation were published in newspapers throughout the state."

If that wasn't ambitious enough, the Associated Foresters also appointed a radio program committee, a group of students who wrote, directed, and dramatized two fifteen-minute, transcribed radio programs broadcast over several Idaho stations during the week.

Other students developed a series of exhibits portraying various aspects of forestry and placed on display in the Student Union Building.

Wednesday of that week was designated Latah County Day. In observance, the Moscow Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon at the Moscow Hotel to which were invited the regional game commis-



*DANCE*



*EXHIBIT*



IDAHO  
Foresters

S.U.B.



*BANQUET*



*RAY*



*MORE DANCE*



*S.A.F. MEETING*

Scenes from the first Forestry Week, 1940.

sioner, soil conservation officers, local businessmen, and the students and faculty of the School of Forestry. Announced during the luncheon was the organization of the Latah County Forestry Council, "charged with the responsibility of keeping Forestry Week alive in Latah County." This organization apparently no longer exists.

On Saturday of that week the Inland Empire Section of the SAF met in the school's Forestry Laboratory to hear students present papers on various forestry-related topics. That evening came the "highest highlight" of the week—the 24th annual Associated Foresters' Banquet—"a gala gathering of professional men, faculty, and students . . ." Among other activities of the evening, students presented their versions of classroom lectures as given by faculty members, and Ben O. Spencer ('40) was recognized as outstanding senior of the year.

Forestry Week ended with the "Smokechasers' Ball," an informal dance not to be confused with the Foresters' Ball held the previous Thanksgiving Eve.

#### An All-night Jam Session

It was the Spring of 1942, and about 20 of us, led by Dr. Vernon A. Young, Head of the Department of Range Management, were enroute to Yellowstone National Park for the annual wildlife management field trip.

Our overnight stop was Missoula, Montana, and that evening several of us decided we should seek some diversion. At a local tavern we met some University of Montana forestry students, also enjoying a break from the rigors of study. They had a couple of guitars with them, and Idaho students Roy Kuehner [BS - Range Mgt., '42] and Ed Slusher [BS - Forestry, '42] borrowed the instruments and led everyone in lots of singing and merriment.

The hours passed swiftly, and it was dawn when we closed the doors on our motel rooms. A few minutes later Doc Young knocked, calling, "Rise and shine, fellows, it's time to get going!" He was amazed—and delighted at our eagerness—when we answered, "We're up, Doc."

Needless to say, we were a subdued group of students during that day's travel to Gardiner, Montana.

—Edward L. Noble (BS - Range Mgt., '42)

#### Campus Trees Bore Unmentionable Fruits

I belonged to Chi Alpha Pi fraternity—the one in the log building with the cannon on the front lawn. It was later combined with Tau Kappa Epsilon when their house burned down.

One spring we loaded the cannon with rifle powder and a blasting fuse to set it off, and stuffed the barrel with sorority underwear which we got from their clotheslines (no automatic washers in those days). When the barrel was full we touched it off one night and hung girls' underwear on the trees in a three-block area! We were punished by having a curfew imposed and were not allowed to hold dances or parties for three months. The girls enjoyed this trick as much as we did, and it was considered an honor for a girl to recognize her garments in one of the trees!

—Harlan N. Tulley (BS - Range Mgt., '41)

Forestry week has changed in name, in April 1976 becoming Natural Resources Week—a recognition of the breadth of natural resources interests embodied in the college. But the spirit and concern that animated the observance remain. Ray Gardner, Dean Jeffers, and the Associated Foresters laid a firm foundation for an activity that, with the possible exception of the *Idaho Forester* itself, has become the college's strongest tradition.

Along with Forestry Week and Summer Camp, the early forties also brought some significant curricular changes, chief among them being the division of the three programs into options. Wood Utilization now offered students the choice of a Chemical Technology or Engineering Technology option. Forest Production was renamed Forest Management and split into Forest Management and Forest Science Options. Range Management split into Range-Soil conservation and Range-Game options. Game management wasn't a particularly new offering; in one form or another the subject had been addressed since the school's beginnings. But it was not officially "institutionalized" until 1938, when it was offered as an elective within Forest Production, remaining there until 1942 when it became an option within Range Management.

## "The Big Argument"

The faculty in 1942 numbered eight professors: Dean Jeffers, Merrill Deters, Elwood V. White, Vernon A. Young, Ernest Wohletz, Phimister Proctor, Jr., Royale K. Pierson, and John Erhlich. Student enrollment numbered 28 seniors, 22 juniors, 16 sophomores, and 26 freshmen. Ninety-two students in all. The school had seen far higher enrollments, of course, but enrollment would not attain this level again until 1947.

Over the years, the *Idaho Forester* staff had deliberated upon and selected a distinguished individual for whom to dedicate a given year's edition of the magazine. The 1941 honoree had been Clarence Favre, the college's first master's graduate (1915) and a well-known and accomplished forester. For the next four issues, 1942-45, it would be far easier, yet far more painful, to determine the dedication subjects. Each edition was, of course, dedicated to the men "doing the biggest job of all in the armed forces of their country."

By early 1942, almost 50 School of Forestry graduates had enlisted in the various services. Of the 29 members of the class of '42, eight would step immediately from the commencement line into the services. These were Paul Easterbrook, Ward Smith, Roy Kuehner, Edward Noble, Lyle Price, Edward Slusher, Robert Kliewer, and David Wilson. They would soon be joined by most of the remainder of their class.

Some statistics from 1944 may serve to indicate the impact of the war on these young men and on the school. Of the 62 members of the class of '39, 31 were listed as being in the services. Forty-one members of the 75-student class of '40 joined up. The class of '41 numbered 40 graduates; 20 of them were serving by 1944. Twenty-three members of the 31-member class of '42 became servicemen. Of the 14 members of the class of '43, 11 enlisted. And for 1944, it was 100 percent: all 3 graduating seniors joined up—Henry G. Sauselen, Jr., to the U.S. Army, J. Robert Stillinger to the U.S. Navy, and Edward C. Zielinski to the Army Air Corps.



### Dedication

*To the eternal memory and incandescent loyalty of those men of the School of Forestry, who, in the service of their country are contributing their utmost toward the day of final victory, we, the Idaho Foresters, sincerely dedicate this twenty-fifth edition of The Idaho Forester. In their ultimate success for a bright future we have placed our confidence; we know they will prove worthy to the task at hand.*



*Idaho Forester* dedication, 1943. By spring 1944, 154 graduates of the Classes of '39-'44 were listed as serving in the Armed Forces. For the same period, about 325 former students, most of whom left their studies to serve, were also Service members. By 1944, 4 of the 8 faculty members of 1942 had left for the Service or for war-related activities.

Thirteen Idaho Foresters did not return.

Because these three men finished at mid-year and received their degrees *in absentia*, for the first time since 1918—and for the same unfortunate reason—not a single forester appeared in the UI commencement line.

In 1944, for the first time, and for obvious reasons, the *Forester* included an "Ex-Students Directory." A count of these ex-students reveals that over 300 potential graduates of the classes of '38 - '46 exchanged campus life for stints in the Army, Air Corps, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. Many of them, of course, would return to the campus, pick up their studies, and earn their degrees so necessarily delayed.

Some of them would go on to different universities and different careers. Some of them would never return.

Of course, the war also had its effect on the faculty. Of the eight full-time faculty on board in 1942, only 4 remained by 1944. Vernon Young took leave to work with the Soil Conservation Service in California. John Ehrlich left for the University of Minnesota as deputy director of a penicillin research project, resigning from the UI in 1944 to accept an appointment with Parke-Davis Company as director of an antibiotics research program. Phimister B. Proctor left to join the Wood Aircraft Division of the Air Corps. Extension Forester Royale K. Pierson left to become assistant director of the Emergency Farm Labor Office in Boise. Of those who left, only Vernon Young would return after the war to spend 1945-46 as director of the Range/Game program, before permanently departing UI to join the faculty of Texas A&M.

That left, of course, Dean Jeffers, Merrill Deters, Elwood White, and Ernest Wohletz to oversee a rapidly decreasing School of Forestry student body. Dean Jeffers did "everything from running the mimeograph to carrying boxes . . ." including teaching freshman forestry courses. Merrill Deters administered the School Forest and taught most of the upperclass courses to the few upperclassmen remaining in the school. Because of the dearth of forestry students, Elwood White transferred temporarily to the Chemical Engineering Department to teach classes in organic and quantitative organic chemistry. Ernest Wohletz added to his responsibilities the Wood Technology class previously taught by Proctor,

### Train Ride to Moscow Began Long Forestry Career

My love and admiration for the University of Idaho and the School of Forestry started on a warm sunny day in late September when I arrived in Moscow from Pasadena, California, on the Union Pacific train.

Alighting from the train, I wended my way from the depot on Sixth Street to 701 Deakin where I fortunately located a rooming house. Mandy Alexander, Pi Phi sorority cook, charged \$7.50 per month, for which I was grateful from a financial point of view.

Each summer I look back with joy and enthusiasm on the opportunity I had to take ten credit hours at the Forestry Summer Camp on beautiful Payette Lake at McCall. Professor Wohletz and his assistant, Carl Wilson, made the camp life and educational experiences a wonderful part of my years at the university. The Saturday night baths in the lake will always be remembered.

The summer of 1940 was a wet one, affording no opportunities to be hired by the U.S. Forest Service as firefighters. Perhaps, in all honesty, we missed the chance to make a little money. However, we made up for this by using our spare time away from education, eating, sleeping, etc., to fashion a softball field. We were true pioneers in grubbing the playing field out of the sagebrush. We were grateful to have a few firefighting tools to save our hands, except for blisters.

Due to an illness, I left the University on December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor, returning to Pasadena to recuperate. The following fall I returned to Moscow to gather my belongings from the Delt House and await the draft. The first person I met on my return was Dr. Jeffers. He encouraged me to consider enlisting in the Enlisted Reserve Corps program. This I did and again left the University to report to Ft. Lewis with many other university students in March of 1943.

After 33 months I again returned to the university, this time with my wife, Margaret Van Engelen of Twin Falls, and our young daughter, Gjerde.

—Ralph G. Didriksen (BS - Forest Mgt., '47)

*Editor's Note: After graduation Ralph Didriksen began a 28-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. He served in four national forests in Oregon and Washington, the Portland Regional Office and the Chief's Office in Washington, D.C. His final assignment before retiring in March, 1975 was as Liaison Officer to Lincoln University of Missouri, Jefferson City.*

and—in the most interesting wartime accommodation of all—became Vandal baseball coach. As Dean Jeffers wrote, “Smokey Joe’ has now become university property and is no longer exclusively a Forestry man.”

Later, graduate student Albert W. (“Whiz”) Slipp was named research associate and continued on with Ehrlich’s research. Vernon Ravenscroft (’43) took over the extension forestry duties left behind by Pierson.

To Dean Jeffers, the war was a personal affair; it involved his “boys,” who rightly should have still been on field trips, at their desks, or enjoying girls and football games.

In a letter to alumni written in the spring of 1944, Jeffers mentions Glenn Boy (’40) who “. . . wears four stars, one each for Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, and Cassino,” and who is also holder of the Silver Star.

Wrote Jeffers:

Everyone of us in the School of Forestry has a right to be proud to call Glenn one of our boys and he is only one among the hundreds of fellows who have sat in the chairs in Morrill Hall 335, have been in the laboratories and in chemistry, have registered in the Administration Building, played baseball and football, participated in practical jokes, have studied and gone to parties, and have gone out to settle this big argument . . .

Corregidor, Bataan, Cassino, Sicily, Anzio, Casablanca, and other names will mean gold stars that will be placed on Idaho’s flag. This list will grow larger. We would pause



Byron Anderson (left) and Glenn Boy; field trip, 1938. Photo courtesy of Byron Anderson (BS - Forestry, ’38).

with bowed heads in memory of the men for whom those stars stand.

Dean Jeffers wrote his last wartime alumni letter in April 1945, less than a month before VE Day. He mentions Howard Johnson (’39), a cargo pilot and holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Marshall Spencer (’43), wounded in France and later in Germany, holder of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and “proud possessor of a battlefield commission to first lieutenant.”



Dean Jeffers dictates letters to “his boys”.

There was James D. Prater, waiting to be released from Baxter Hospital in Spokane; Joe Miles (’41) who wanted to hear from Idaho Foresters in Europe; John Molberg (’38), who ran into a WSC (now WSU) man at a forward observation point; Frank Dillon (’43) who made an airborne drop over the Rhine, and Warren Randall (’43) also in Germany. Gene Payne (’41) wrote Jeffers of an ideal furlough in Scotland, and Dale Robertson (’39), “happy to be back in the States,” wrote that he was training fliers in Arizona.

There were still others, from all over the globe.

And there were also Elwood C. McCall, who was killed the month before in the Philippines, and Dwight Cable (’38) and Bill Read (’41), who were missing in action. Cable would return; Read would not. Jeffers reported that Dick Campana (’43), who had been reported missing in action, had been found to have been a POW and had been released.

## In Memoriam

### *School of Forestry*

#### *Gold Stars*

- ★ Lt. (jg) Loren Baker, Class of 1940
- ★ Sgt. Eugene Elias Breon, Class of 1941
- ★ Captain Elwood C. Call, Class of 1940
- ★ Lt. William Kenneth Fitzgerald, Class of 1938
- ★ Lt. William F. Mitchell, Ex-1944
- ★ Lt. Cody G. Robertson, Class of 1942
- ★ Private Ray Chester Rohlman, Ex-1944
- ★ Lt. Albert C. Skog, Ex-1941
- ★ Major Paul E. Spence, Ex-1939
- ★ T/Sgt. Ben Orville Spencer, Class of 1940
- ★ Colonel Herbert A. Wadsworth, Class of 1911
- ★ Corporal Richard Garrigus White, Ex-1942

#### *Missing in Action*

- Lt. William Woodgate Read, Class of 1941
- Private First Class John W. Reeves, Jr., Ex-1945

*Idaho Forester* for 1945 records the toll. It would be later discovered that William W. (Bill) Read had been killed in action in 1942 on Bataan. The editor could find no record of John W. Reeves.



## Dedication

*You who have gone before,  
Have blazed a way to victory.  
May we who follow in your  
Footsteps, be given the strength  
And wisdom to show ourselves  
Worthy of your sacrifices.*

*To you, the alumni of  
This School of Forestry, we  
Gratefully dedicate the 1945  
Idaho Forester.*





## The Post-War Years

In all, Jeffers' 1945 letter definitely looks toward war's end. He mentions that he and other faculty members are devising a "Refresher Course for those graduates who wished to take a little time after the close of the war to rub off the rust of the months and years and get back into the field of forestry thought and activity."

He mentions that the Forestry Laboratory "converted for use by the Naval Radio Training School, is now back in the hands of Forestry and ready for the influx of students after the close of the war."

And, he wrote, "Along with all the other schools in the United States, the University of Idaho is definitely looking ahead to the time when men will return from the battlefields of the world to join the student ranks on the campus. It will be a new and somewhat strange situation for all of us—so full of challenge and of potential of great results. Everyone of you, alumni, more or less firmly fixed in your various fields of work, can do them and us a real service in helping to advise the returning soldier as well as the prospective Forestry School boy, just out of high school, regarding the field of Forestry which, after the war, must, of necessity, be an entirely different program from what we had prior to 1940."

1945-46; the world was returning to normal. The faculty is up to six now—still two less than 1941—but Vernon Young was back directing range and game, and Ernest ("Smokey Joe") Wohletz had been released from his wartime duty as UI baseball coach, though, said the '46 *Forester*, "He is still having a difficult time isolating himself in his office while the baseball team is in operation."

The school boasted only three graduating seniors for 1946: Burton O. Clark, Dave Seaberg, and Ray Gardner. Clark and Gardner were both veterans—Clark of the Pacific, Gardner of the North African and European theatres. Gardner, 1940 president of the Associated Foresters and the moving spirit behind the first official state of Idaho Forestry Week, was in the fall of 1945, once again elected Associated Foresters president, although it would not be until 1947 that Forestry Week would be revived.

Enrollment for 1945-46 rose to 75, from 22 for 1944-45. The next year, as the "boys" were mustered out ever more rapidly, enrollment almost doubled to 134, with most of the upperclassmen being veterans.



Cartoon from the '47 *Forester* emphasized a basic difference between student vets and their traditional counterparts.

### Vets' Ingenuity Proves Too Much For Prof

Following World War II there was an influx of veterans returning or starting to school. Many vets were tough, battle hardened individuals wise in the ways of the world. They were a different type of student than the average student enrolling for the first time. The vets provided a real challenge to the faculty. Protocol and past practices for students and freshman hazing were changed, modified or even forgotten. Summer camp was referred to as a place where "the men were separated from the boys," but to the returning vets this process had already taken place and summer camp to them was a piece of cake, an extended outdoor picnic.

One episode at summer camp with the vets showed their ingenuity. Professor Wohletz had planned an extra field trip on a Saturday. The vets had ideas of a day off for fishing or going to town (McCall). Upon loading the students in the old Dodge truck for the field trip, Prof. Wohletz started the truck, but the engine died. Several tries were made with the same result. What Prof. Wohletz didn't know was that one student had merely placed a gloved hand over the exhaust to kill the engine at the appropriate moment. The field trip was cancelled and the vets had their day.

—Rex S. Zobell (BS - Range Mgt., '49)

With normality returning, traditional school activities—dormant during the war years—were revived. Forestry Summer Camp, the first since 1942, got underway June 6, 1945, albeit with only 14 students. Because of the small enrollment and because of the need for fire control labor on the Payette National Forest, this first post-war camp was shortened to six weeks.

Revived also were the school's social activities: the bonfire at Price Green, the Steak Fry, the Woodchoppers' Ball, and the Annual Associated Foresters' Banquet and the spring barbecue—the first of these latter two to be held since 1941.

The increased post-war enrollment required an increased faculty. Accordingly, in 1946-47, Dean Jeffers and faculty members Deters, White, Wohletz, Slipp, and, since 1942, Extension Forester Vernon Ravenscroft welcomed new colleagues Everett Ellis, Robert Collins, Kenneth Hungerford, and Vernon Burlison, bringing the faculty roll to one more than in 1941.

Ellis, a graduate of the University of Washington and Michigan State College, took over the wood technology and wood industries courses left instructor-less by the departure of Proctor. Collins taught range management, silvics, and forage plants. Vernon Burlison ('43, '49) alternated between range and forestry classes and duties as assistant extension forester. Kenneth Hungerford

('38), an M.S. graduate in wildlife management from the University of Connecticut ('40) and later Ph.D. (Michigan, '52), arrived to instruct game management courses.

Both Hungerford and Burlison remained with the college throughout their long careers, both retiring in 1978, Hungerford as Professor Emeritus of Wildlife and Burlison as Extension Professor and Extension Forester Emeritus.

Burlison hired on as instructor in forestry and assistant extension forester. Over the years, he distinguished himself and the college through his extension activities. And at the time of this writing, he remains extremely active—in church, retirees' associations, and traveling.

But back there in 1946—as assistant extension forester—Burlison, with his colleague Ravenscroft, gave Idaho something no other School of Forestry could boast of: two extension foresters named Vern.

### **Wildlife and Fisheries** **—Grad before Undergrad**

Ken Hungerford's arrival portended an addition to the school's curricular array. In one form or another, game or wildlife had always been addressed within one or the other of the school's curricula. Made an elective within Forest Produc-



Added to the faculty rolls in 1946 were alumni Vernon Burlison (left) and Kenneth Hungerford.

tion in '38 and moved to Range management in '42, it was now only a few years from becoming itself a discrete curriculum.

No doubt a Wildlife curriculum would eventually have been established, but, just as doubtless, it would not have happened nearly so soon had not the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit been established within the university as part of the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station. Formally organized September 19-20, 1947, the unit owed its creation to a decade of work on the part of Dean Jeffers and others to seek the inclusion of the state of Idaho in a bill before Congress authorizing the establishment of four new wildlife research units nationally.

The cooperative agencies constituting the units were the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Wildlife Management Institute, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the University of Idaho. The unit's first staff



**Dr. Paul Dalke, first leader of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.**

consisted of leader Paul D. Dalke (Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Management since 1967), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist; Kenneth Hungerford, assistant leader and instructor of wildlife management; and Thomas D. Burleigh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ornithologist.

Since 1947, the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit has engaged in myriad research projects designed to understand and preserve Idaho's valuable wildlife resource—both game and nongame—and has helped train hundreds of wildlife professionals working worldwide across the spectrum of wildlife education, research, and management. Most currently, the unit's personnel consisted of Maurice G. Hornocker and Elwood G. Bizeau. Hornocker, leader of the unit, is internationally known for his research in the ecology of the big cats—both in the Northwest and in Africa. For years, Bizeau, assistant leader, has been involved in projects to preserve one of the nation's most endangered species—the whooping crane. The continued existence of these true “rare birds” is due in large measure to the efforts of Bizeau and a handful of students and scientists with whom he has worked.

At any rate, the inception of the unit spurred the move to a separate Wildlife curriculum, though it took five years before that curriculum appeared in the *UI Bulletin*. In 1946-47, the *Bulletin* listed the Range-Game option, as it had since 1942. In 1947-48, with the coming of the Wildlife Unit, the option was renamed the Range-Wildlife Management option. In 1948-49, the option as such had disappeared from the *Bulletin*. However, Wildlife Management electives remained available within the Range Management curriculum. And, for the first time, “supported by the Staff of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, training in Wildlife Management is offered leading to the Master's Degree.”

The first Wildlife Master's recipient, in 1950, was Allen D. Morton, a Colorado State forestry graduate and veteran of the Soil Conservation Service and the armed services. Morton went on to a long career with the USDA Forest Service.

The next year saw a spate of Master's in Wildlife Management recipients, including Dwight Smith (BS-Range, '49), Professor Emeritus of Wildlife, Colorado State University; Elwood Bizeau,

Professor of Wildlife, the University of Idaho; Stewart Brandborg, who would become Executive Director of the Wilderness Society; Roger Williams, later named Chief of the Game Division of the Idaho Fish and Game Department; and Herbert Salinger, a Berkeley graduate, who returned to California, took a teaching certificate, and is recently retired Superintendent of Napa, California, schools.

**1951 Wildlife Master's graduates:  
Dwight Smith (below) and Stewart  
Brandborg (right).**



1981 photo.

The 1952-53 *UI Bulletin* informed students and prospective students of one of the most important curricular changes since, perhaps, the officialization of the Grazing option in 1917. Besides the Forest Management, Wood Utilization, and Range Management options, the school now offered undergraduate curricula in Wildlife Management and Fishery Management. The former, of course, is attributable to the Wildlife Unit; the latter to the arrival from Maine in 1950 of Virgil S. Pratt, assistant professor of fisheries biology. At that time, the undergraduate curricula responsibilities for both options devolved upon two men—Hungerford for Wildlife, Pratt for Fishery Management.

Hungerford taught five, and sometimes six, courses annually; Pratt taught five. Of course, students within the options were required to take specific courses in Zoology and Veterinary Science.

Honors for taking the first undergraduate degree in Wildlife Management go to Kenneth E. Herman, class of '52. Ernest P. Snyder ('53) was Herman's Fishery Management counterpart.

Concurrent with the offering of the undergraduate Fishery Management option came the graduate program. Here, too, Pratt shouldered the lion's share of course work, and in 1954 produced his first master's degree student, Charles R. Whitt (BS-Forest Res., '51), who would eventually become Regional Fishery Biologist for the USDA Forest Service Region One.



1957 photo.

With the addition of the Wildlife and Fishery Management undergraduate options, the school's general curriculum structure was set for the next twenty-odd years. The next major addition would occur in 1974, when the Wildland Recreation Management Program was added to the college's offerings.

### **Faculty Changes**

With the Wildlife and Fishery options securely in place, it may be convenient at this point to regress to 1946-47 and pick up some facts of interest from the post-war years. Two significant faculty changes—besides the additions brought by the Wildlife Unit—occurred that year. Vernon

Young, a ten-year member of the Range faculty, accepted a position at Texas A&M. To replace Young, the school looked for the best—and got it—Dr. Edwin W. Tisdale, then Director of the Range Experiment Station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Ed Tisdale remained on the full-time faculty until 1975, when he retired as Professor Emeritus of Range Resources. His research on vegetation types and habitat classification is internationally known. At this writing, he occupies an office in the Forestry Building, where he is currently producing yet another publication.

Also coming aboard that year was alumnus Thomas S. ("T.S.") Buchanan, BS-'35, M.S. Berkeley, and Ph.D. Yale. A pre-war forest pathologist with the Department of Agriculture, Buchanan spent the war years as a Marine intelligence officer. Returning to Idaho after the war, he was employed by Weyerhaeuser as a forest pathologist, the first such ever hired full-time by private industry. Buchanan would leave Idaho in 1951 for five years as Director of Research of an Agricultural Experiment Station in Liberia. He joined the Forest Service in 1956, and in 1972 retired as Assistant Director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, North Carolina.



Faculty members Tom Buchanan (left) and E.E. Hubert, 1951.

The spring of 1949 brought another interesting addition to the school's faculty. Ernest E. Hubert, professor of forestry and head of the forest pathology and forest products programs from 1925 to 1935, rejoined the faculty as research forest pathologist on the white pine pole blight project, remained with the school through 1950. Dr. Hubert died in April of 1954.

Thus, in 1949, the complete staff of the University of Idaho School of Forestry was as follows:

DEAN	FOREST PATHOLOGY
D.S. Jeffers	Thomas E. Buchanan Ernest E. Hubert
FOREST MANAGEMENT	Albert W. Slipp William K. Ferrell George M. Harvey
Merrill E. Deters Ernest Wohletz Dale Arnold	RANGE MANAGEMENT
GAME MANAGEMENT	E.W. Tisdale Charles Poulton
Kenneth Hungerford Paul Dalke Thomas Burleigh Leslie Pengelly	WOOD UTILIZATION
EXTENSION	Everett L. Ellis E.V. White
Vernon Ravenscroft Vernon Burlison	FOREST NURSERY
	Frank Pitkin

Twenty faculty members! However, the numbers aren't quite that impressive in reality. Dale Arnold (BS, '48) came to the school on a one-year leave-of-absence from the Forest Service to take over Merrill Deters' Silvics and Silviculture courses. Deters, in turn, had assumed the duties of acting dean while Jeffers enjoyed a sabbatical studying wildland management in the Southwest.

Similarly, Leslie Pengelly assumed a one-year replacement position for Ken Hungerford, on a leave of absence fulfilling his Doctorate in Wildlife Management requirements at the University of Michigan.

The "top-heaviness" of the forest pathology faculty is explained by the fact that in 1947 the School of Forestry, working closely with the

Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, had revived research activities on white pine pole blight, a disease that weakens and kills trees forty to one-hundred years old. To implement its part in the cooperative program, the School of Forestry assigned Tom Buchanan to supervise the project and to employ two fulltime assistants—Ferrell and Harvey, whose responsibilities, with those of Hubert, lay primarily with project field work. Albert (“Whiz”) Slipp’s efforts were mainly directed toward the 12-year-old white pine blister rust project.

Consequently, of the twenty faculty members listed for 1948-49, only thirteen names represented regular teaching faculty.

#### Battle For The Broad-based Master’s

My major professor while I worked toward a master’s degree was Ernie Wohletz, who later became dean. He was not happy with my determination for a rather unorthodox major, especially because it would involve so much course work over in the College of Agriculture and in Business Administration. This crystallized when drafting my schedule. I wanted two weeks of free time at the end of my tenure to prepare for my orals.

All proceeded well and on schedule, and I finally submitted my thesis, neatly typed and in what I thought was in final form. Boy, was that a mistake! Ernie corrected it in red pencil. Not being able to hire a typist, I had to use one of those two free weeks typing. But, my turn was to come. For the oral panel, I selected Dr. Graue of Business Administration as my choice. I had taken much of my course work from this gentleman, and I knew that his personality clashed with those of many other professors. At the oral, I was asked questions from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. Then Dr. Graue took over, asking questions not of me, but of the other three professors on the panel. I didn’t get asked another question!

When walking out of the oral, Ernie whispered to me, “You got me, you S.O.B.” I liked it—such sweet final satisfaction—especially since we Dutch historically have always clashed with the Germans. But that aside, I had the highest respect for Professor Wohletz, and I think he would have been pleased to learn that my master’s sufficed splendidly as I developed my career. Those were good days, and I certainly appreciate and love my university. However, more than ever, I still firmly believe in a broad spectrum approach to college education.

—Col. R. Thomas Van Kleeck (BS - Range Mgt., '52;  
MF - Forest Econ., '53)

That number would hold into 1949-50, even though that year would bring the addition of two long-time and well-known faculty members—Robert H. (“Bob”) Seale and Lee A. Sharp. Seale, a Berkeley (B.S., '40) and Idaho (M.S., '40) graduate hired on to teach wood technology, dendrology, and biometry. He would eventually receive a Ph.D. (1965) from the State University of New York and would serve as the college’s associate dean from 1965-1972. At this writing, Bob Seale has been a Professor Emeritus of Forestry since 1975; he continues to live in Moscow, and played a very active role in the compilation of this history. Though Seale filled a new position, the Forest Management roll remained stable, as Dale Arnold, Merrill Deters’ temporary stand-in, had returned to the Forest Service.



Range professors Edwin Tisdale and Lee Sharp; 1954 photo.

Lee A. Sharp, now professor of range resources, is currently the college’s senior faculty member, having served longer and more continuously than any of his colleagues. Sharp came to the college from Utah State University (B.S., '48; M.S., '49) to replace Charles (“Chuck”) Poulton who went on to Oregon State College to become head of that institution’s Range Department. He received his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in 1966, and later served as chairman of the Department of Range Resources (1974-82).

Sharp is well known throughout the Northwest for his work with agencies and ranchers,

and particularly for his efforts, beginning in 1954, to combat halogeton—a poisonous weed—with crested wheatgrass. This project, a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Land Management, the university, and south Idaho ranchers, eventually became known as the Point Springs Experimental Area. In 1984, in honor of Sharp's work, the area was renamed the Lee A. Sharp Experimental Area, and Sharp was commended by the director of the BLM, Robert Burford, and the Secretary of the Interior, William Clark.

It should be mentioned that Sharp's talents in a rather different area gained him some recognition over thirty years ago.

October 10, 1953; the Annual Steak Fry of the Associated Foresters. Events included the three-legged race, sawing and log-chopping, pole-climbing and birling, and; but let Charlie Ohs (BS-Forest Mgt., '54) the *Forester* reporter, tell it:

While these events were going on, quite a few people were warming up those big brown wads of Beechnut in anticipation of the tobacco-spitting contest . . . This year's spit was for accuracy and not for distance. Howard Stolaas finished in first place only because Professor Sharp wasn't eligible; Sharp, standing at 20 paces, hit the target on the



Recent photo of Lee Sharp and Harold Heady (BS - Range Mgt., '38). Heady is Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley.

nose. You can tell what Lee does during the summer down on those sheep ranges.

The year following the arrival of Seale and Sharp, 1950-51, brought, as already mentioned, Virgil S. Pratt to UI and set the stage for the undergraduate curriculum in Fishery Management. That year's graduate rolls include a Wood Utilization student named Arland Hofstrand (BS, '50; MS, '52), now professor of forest products and a faculty member since 1959. The following year's graduate student crop included one Frederic D. Johnson (MS-Forest Pathology, '52). As a grad student, Fred Johnson assisted in E.E. Hubert's white pine pole blight research, and went from grad student directly to faculty member, serving for several years as radio-isotope technician. Twenty-seven years' worth of McCall vets will remember Johnson for his long service at summer camp.

That same year, Vern Ravenscroft departed to manufacture posts and poles at Gooding, Idaho, and Vern Burlison stepped up to assume a 27-year stint as Extension Forester.



Two alums, two extension foresters, and two Verns. Vernon Ravenscroft (left) and Vernon Burlison. 1949 photo.

Changes were occurring in other areas, too. Agriculture departed Morrill Hall for its new quarters in 1950. Finally, the School of Forestry could stretch its arms and straighten its knees a bit. Through the early fifties, remodeling had been going apace, and by 1952, the school occupied all four floors. Graduate students and Range and Wildlife labs held the fourth floor; Forest Pathology the third; Range offices, classrooms, and the Forest Soils Lab the second. Dean Jeffers and Professors Deters and Wohletz and the Experi-

ment Station Office and Wood Tech. Lab occupied the first floor.

However, Morrill was not yet entirely Forestry country. The school shared the ground floor with Secretarial Studies, a not unpleasant partnership that continued until 1959.

### **Dean Jeffers Retires**

Finally—1953.

Dwight Smithson Jeffers retired, after seventeen years "of unselfish devotion to his many students and to the Idaho School of Forestry," after over forty years of service to forestry. It can be argued that Jeffers guided the school through its most uncertain times and through its greatest changes: The Depression, the adjustments of the war years, the demands of the immediate post-war years, continuing curricular changes that essentially structured the current college, the addition of the Wildlife Unit, of the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station.

An unidentified staffer cogently summarized Jeffers' achievements in the 1953 *Forester*:

His administrative accomplishments have been many. He obtained a building for forestry independent of other departments and strengthened the curricula to include Forest Management, Range Management, Utilization (Chemical), Utilization (Engineering), Wildlife Management, and Fisheries Management. He has also obtained a very effective Forest, Wildlife, and Range Experiment Station, which is now conducting 40 active research projects. He is responsible for the establishment of the Cooperative Wildlife Unit at Idaho and for the establishment and building up of a permanent location for a summer camp at McCall, Idaho, which is attended by all forestry students. He has acquired and placed under management, for the school, a 7000-acre experimental forest on Moscow Mountain. The Forest Nursery has more than quadrupled its equipment, space, and production under his administration. Class and research laboratory space and equipment are now more than five times greater than when he started and the staff of



Off on a field trip, 1951.

the School of Forestry and the Experimental Station has more than doubled in number.

Besides all these accomplishments, Dean Jeffers has worked with and encouraged students to become acquainted with the liberal arts in addition to their technical studies. No doubt many students have been impatient with his attempts to expose them to the social sciences, but years later the same students have realized how much they were helped by these non-technical studies.

There can be no question that the School of Forestry at Idaho owes much to Dean Jeffers. In recognition of his long service and unselfish contributions to the school, the Board of Regents of the University, at a recent meeting, voted the rank of dean of Forestry, emeritus, for him upon his retirement June 30, 1953.



To all who knew him, Dean Jeffers was not just a successful dean, but also a successful man—and the two sides were inextricably linked. On the event of his death in 1980, two men who knew him well recorded their memories.

Emeritus Professor of Range Management Ed Tisdale described Dwight Jeffers as “. . . a man who stood out clearly as a leader, who tended to bring out the best in those around him. You wanted to do a good job for Jeff, so you wouldn't let him down. He was the kind of person you could always take your problems to, business or personal. As an educator, he worked for a broader curriculum for FWR students, encouraging more liberal arts, trying to avoid a narrow view of life.”

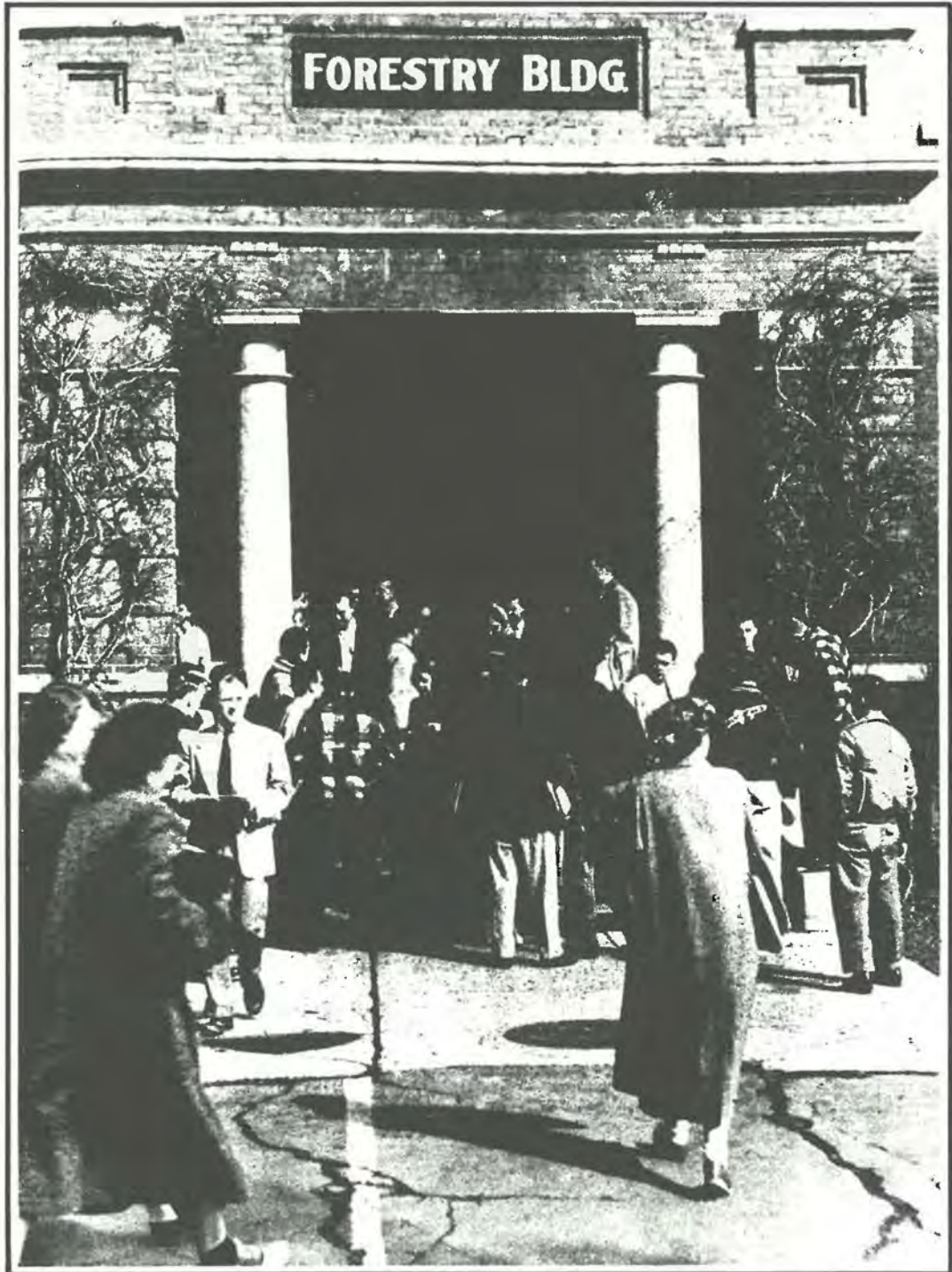
Emeritus Professor of Forestry and alumnus Bob Seale wrote: “Both as an adviser and as an

administrator, he was uncommonly kind and considerate—he could chide or admonish, but never display anger; he could stir a person's conscience, but not hurt one's feelings.

“Superficially, it might seem that these attributes are not consistent with strength of leadership, and many persons in positions of leadership certainly do not possess them to the degree that Dean Jeffers did. Furthermore, as dean, he staunchly advocated democratic participation of the full staff in essential decision making. Nevertheless, there can be no question that, by the very force of his character and personality, coupled with innate wisdom, he strongly influenced those decisions and guided the development of the school through nearly two important decades of its life.”



Dean Jeffers in the field—examining a scarifier with logger A.B. Curtis.



Until 1959, the young women in Secretarial Science had to push through a crowd of Foresters to get to class. 1953 photo.

## A Forester

The Forester is an amateur woodsman with a college education. There are two classes of foresters. One class believes in keeping abreast of those broad dynamic movements of the present day that challenge the best efforts of the nation's thinkers. The other class fights fire, builds truck trails, plants trees, and wears old clothes.

Some foresters have offices, some live in cities, and some work in the woods. Lots of the foresters spend practically their entire lives in God's great out-of-doors. They love to hunt and fish. They would too if they only had time.

It used to be said that a forester's best friends were his horse and his axe. Today a forester has no need for a horse and he might cut himself with an axe. Years ago most every forester wore a big Stetson hat and carried a gun on his hip and a flask in his pocket. Nowadays big Stetson hats are worn only in movies, and you hardly ever see a forester carrying a gun.

An interesting thing about a forester's life is that he meets all kinds of people from hobos to multimillionaires. It is not uncommon for a forester to have the privilege of personally doing a millionaire tourist favors. However, there is no record of a millionaire ever doing a favor for a forester. But even if they don't make much money, it's nice, steady work, and they have lots of fun.

Another satisfactory thing about a forester's career is that he is his own master, absolutely independent and answerable to no one for his professional conduct. That is, except to his wife, ladies' garden clubs, sportsmen's associations, nature lovers, newspaper editors, and local politicians.

Forestry is a very pleasant profession because it is so easy to get ahead. Many foresters graduate from college with only a few debts and immediately get a job and a wife. In about ten years time, in addition to the same job and the same wife, they have more debts and five kids. That's why foresters are so happy.

Park Service Bulletin

U.S. Department of Interior

A view familiar to thousands of graduates: Payette Lake as seen from the Summer Camp site.

