

AUBURN FORESTER



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DEDICATION

Thursday, May 12, 1949, marked an important milestone in the advancement of forestry in Alabama. Along with the installation of Dr. Ralph B. Draughon as the eighth president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, our new, modern, well equipped building was dedicated. To us here at the school this may appear mainly as a formality, but

we must not forget that this dedication is of statewide and nationwide significance - people can now realize that we have the proper facilities for preparing men for a profession in forestry. It's up to us to go out and prove our worth.

The dedication was held at 10:00 a.m. on the front steps of the Forestry Building with Dr. Stevens presiding. The invocation was rendered by the Reverend James Stirling, Rector, Church of the Holy Innocents here in Auburn. Dr. Stevens then welcomed all of the guests and invited everyone to remain after the ceremony to inspect the building and to be served refreshments in the front lounge.

Following Dr. Stevens' welcome, the building was formally presented to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute by the Honorable H. H. Hawk, Director, Alabama State Building Commission, and was accepted in good faith by the Honorable Paul S. Haley, Member, Alabama Polytechnic Institute Board of Trustees.



Dr. T. D. Stevens, Head, A. P. I. Forestry Department, welcomes guests at dedication.

The highlight of the ceremony was the dedication speech of Dean M. J. Punchess which dealt with two components of all land grant colleges - teaching and research.

The ceremony ended with a benediction offered by the Reverend Thomas P. Chalker, Minister, First Methodist Church of Auburn.

Other guests on the speaker's platform were: Dr. John Hannah, President, Michigan State College; Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, President, Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Dr. E. V. Smith, Assistant Dean and Director, School of Agriculture; Honorable P. O. Davis, Director of Extension Service; members of the Board of Trustees; and members of the faculty of the Forestry Department.

After the ceremony the guests accepted Dr. Stevens' cordial invitation to inspect the building and equipment. Refreshments were served by the wives of the faculty members; members of the Silvanus Honorary Society acted as official guides.

All those who toured the building were visibly impressed with the classroom facilities, the various pieces of equipment, and the over-all neatness of the building. When asked if the building had been cleaned purposely for the dedication, one of the guides hastened

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DEDICATION (Continued from page 1)

to assure the inquisitive visitor that we were proud of our new building and that it was not just the janitor's, but everyone's desire to keep it as clean and as orderly as possible.

The display counters in the front lounge attracted considerable attention; a fair conception of the various phases and fields of forestry could be gleaned by an observant person. Surveying instruments, logging tools, new uses of wood, and various reproductive cutting systems were some of the displays shown.

Strangely enough, the ladies and children were most pleased with the photogrammetry display in the second floor laboratory. "Oh, what a way to landscape!" one lady was overheard to exclaim when she peeped through the stereoscope at the Kodachrome pair of photographs. Food for thought, perhaps.

All in all it was a very successful day - the weather was perfect, the crowd was large and appreciative, and everyone seemed to realize that although forestry at Auburn was new and unheralded, the facilities were at hand to produce good, well trained foresters.

-Walt Culbertson

FORESTRY CLUB ACTIVITIES

At its final meeting of the spring quarter, the Forestry Club decided to depart from its usual custom and to remain active during the summer term. This action was felt to be desirable because of the relatively large number of forestry students planning to attend summer school and because it was felt that by remaining active the club could accomplish much more in connection with the proposed club house. Further action at the meeting consisted of the election of officers for the summer quarter. Walter Culbertson was re-elected president; John Kite was elected vice president; Ted Hixon was elected Secretary, and R. C. Wakefield was elected as Treasurer.

AUBURN REPRESENTED AT GRAND RAPIDS

The annual meeting of the Forest Products Research Society was held this year at Grand Rapids, Michigan, attracting over 650 members from every state in the Union and from all of Canada.

Auburn was represented by Professor Vogel, who is a trustee of the Georgia-Florida-Alabama section of the society and a member of the publications committee.

A feature of the meeting was the woodworking machinery exhibit, reported to be the largest scale exhibition of woodworking machinery, tools, and appliances ever assembled under one roof. Most of the machinery was shown in actual operation. More than a million dollars worth of the latest woodworking equipment was on view.

Successor to past president George Garratt of the Yale Forestry School is Edward G. Locke of Portland, Oregon, whose home city will be host to the FPRS conclave in 1950.

-Ted Hixon

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RESEARCH AT THE MAIN STATION AUBURN, ALABAMA

This article is to be one of a series briefly outlining the research activities at each of the eight experimental areas of the Alabama Experiment Station. These articles will necessarily cover only the important projects of the past and present; a detailed description of activities and projects is impossible and unnecessary for the purpose of these articles.

The main station was the first experimental area for forestry set up under the auspices of the Alabama Experiment Station, Alabama Polytechnic Institute. The limitations of funds and physical facilities made it necessary to concentrate on selected problems usually relating to problems of farmers owning wood lands. Experimental work at the main station began in 1926 on a shoestring of \$80.00 and twenty-five acres of poor land. For several months work on the station consisted almost entirely of erosion control and the planting of the four important southern pines. This planting was continued for several years in carefully laid out plots that we now know as the "forestry plots".

At the present time the forestry area of the main station includes about one hundred acres of which about thirty acres is natural woodlot. About fifty acres is devoted to various experiments dealing with reforestation of old fields. The woodlot is being managed in an attempt to provide a sustained yield of high quality saw logs; management practices are similar to those applicable to many farm woodlots throughout Alabama.

At another area experiments are being carried out in an attempt to secure natural pine reproduction and to determine the extent to which a hardwood overstory limits establishment of such reproduction.

Another portion of the station is
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SILVANUS ACTIVITIES

During the spring quarter, the Silvanus Forestry Honorary Society held its semi-annual initiation. R. W. Dunn was selected for membership on a basis of his high scholastic achievements and outstanding qualities of leadership and character. Following the formal initiation, the Society retired to Pope's place for a fried chicken banquet. Those present were thoroughly entertained by two movies and some shots of last year's summer camp made by Professors DeVall and Vogel.

At an earlier meeting last quarter, the Society undertook a project which seeks to promote scholastic achievement and incentive among Auburn forestry students. Although still in the planning stage, this project is to culminate in the placing of a plaque on a wall in the reading room. On this plaque will be placed the men's names who maintained the highest scholastic averages in their respective classes for the previous school year.

At the final meeting of the Society last quarter, officers were elected for the following year. Those elected were Donald C. Parker, Forester; Francis T. Hixon, Secretary-Fiscal Agent; and R. W. Dunn, Ranger. The retiring officers are deserving of real praise for the work that they have done in organizing the Society and shaping it into a useful and influential organization.

By the way, did you hear about the nervous bride who didn't know whether to say, "I do," "I have" or "I will"?

The South has one-half of the total United States' pulp-mill capacity.

WOOD PRESERVATION PLANT IN OPERATION

During the past quarter Professor Vogel wore an almost constant smile, and for a good reason, too; the wood preservation plant was at last in complete readiness for use in teaching and research. The first class was being introduced to the complexities of that mass of pipes, valves, and tanks. Professor Vogel and the Forestry Department are justly proud of our preservation unit for we have it from competent authority that better plants are few and far between in the forestry schools across the nation.



Prof. Vogel and a portion of the Wood Preservation class treat a post in the large treating cylinder of the new wood preservation unit.

The photograph will give the reader an idea of the arrangement. The \$10,000.00 plant was especially designed and constructed so as to make possible a great flexibility of control. The 75 or more valves make empty and full cell preservative treatments possible under a great variety of conditions.

The plant includes two testing cylinders, a 12" - 4' cylinder and a 24" - 9' cylinder. An overhead storage tank of over 500 gallon capacity is included in the arrangement. Other equipment consists of a condenser, an air storage tank, and a motor compressor. This real source of departmental and student pride will doubtlessly prove its value time after time in the years ahead.

ALPHA ZETA INITIATES

Among those initiated last quarter into Alpha Zeta, Agricultural Honorary Fraternity, were John Merriman, John McDaniel, and R. W. Dunn. The AUBURN FORESTER would like to congratulate these men and urge them to continue their earnest efforts to attain the goals that they have set for themselves.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLANNED

Acting on an idea conceived by Lester Brown and "Willie" Williams, a group of seniors with graduation near at hand held a meeting on Monday night, May 23, to discuss the feasibility of forming a Forestry Alumni Association. It was brought out at this meeting that such an association would keep the graduates in contact with each other and provide an organization capable of acting to promote forestry at Auburn.

Ira Blankenship was elected temporary chairman; he appointed a committee to draw up plans for a constitution and by-laws. A meeting was set for early in the summer quarter.

Such an organization, if formed, would grow in members and in influence through the years to come; it is felt that to encourage this movement is to encourage progress in forestry at Auburn and in Alabama.

RESEARCH AT THE MAIN STATION (Continued from page 3)

devoted to experiments being carried out in an attempt to determine the affect of site on the growth and development of the four major southern pines.

In 1932 an experiment was begun to determine the effect of spacing on stand growth, development, and ultimate yields. Seedlings were planted at various spacings on various sites and observations have been and are being made to determine the effect of the spacings used. Conclusions based on observations up to this point indicate that the best all-round stocking is obtained by using a 6' x 6' spacing. Early profitable thinnings, early and good natural pruning, and resulting high quality stems are factors leading to this conclusion.

Two plots have been established in a typical bottomland site; this site had previously been high graded and allowed to deteriorate into a mass of vines and low grade hardwoods. Clear-cutting and planting were undertaken and final results of this experiment may well point the way to a better utilization of Alabama's neglected bottomlands for the production of high grade hardwoods.

Several plots have been set aside for observations of the results of periodic burning. Some of these plots were planted and others were on the area reproduced through natural reseeding. Results seem to indicate that species composition is greatly affected by burning and that total growth is greatly diminished by killing young trees.

A study has been completed to determine the rate of healing of pruning scars and to ascertain some of the

factors causing this rate to vary from tree to tree and from limb to limb. It was found that size and tree vigor are closely related to the healing rate of these scars. A final study has pointed out the possibility of underplanting dense hardwood stands with pines and, with the help of release cuttings, of changing or converting hardwood stands to pine stands.

Work at the main station is continuing in conjunction with experimental work at the other experimental areas throughout the state. This experimental work results in publications of various kinds which help Alabama and the South to use and manage wisely its timberlands.

PROF. GASKINS' 1919 DODGE SITS IDLE

While its owner basks in the sunny breezes of Little River Summer Camp where he presides as chief-of-staff for the current session, the venerable Gaskins' horseless buggy sits behind the Forestry Building champing at the bit for another go at the highways. When discovered by a faculty member, the car's motor was running gently and Grapette-scented smoke was pouring from the exhaust. A check of the gas tank showed it to be half filled with grape juice, clearing the mystery of what Prof. Gaskins does with so much of that purple beverage. A slight fee of 10¢ per person is being charged visitors who wish to see the ancient vehicle, and the funds will be used to restore it to some of the glory that featured the quaint automobiles produced at the end of the first World War. One rumor has it that Gaskins intends to drive the aged machine non-stop to California at the end of the summer session, but campus betting puts the odds at 18 to 5 that he will get no farther than Birmingham before the steering wheel twists off in his hands and the last ball bearing blows out the exhaust in a cloud of Grapette. —F. H. Vogel

NEW STAFF MEMBERS ADDED

Last quarter brought additions to our top brass. The AUBURN FORESTER would like to extend a welcoming hand to Mr. Jack T. May and to Mr. Bingham ("Bing") M. Cool, our newest professors.

Both of these men come to us from neighboring states, and both of them did their undergraduate work in forestry at L. S. U. Mr. May went on to get his Master's degree at Georgia. He then began his tour of duty with the Forest Service. During his 18 or 20 years with the Forest Service Mr. May has accumulated considerable experience in nursery work; he was in charge of the Ash Nursery in Mississippi and the Stuart Nursery in Louisiana - both of these nurseries have annual productions in excess of 20 million seedlings. Mr. May comes to us directly from Lake City, Florida, where he was district ranger on the Osceola District of the Florida National Forests.

Here at Auburn, Mr. May will be presented with the task of serving as technical supervisor for the new cooperative nursery being established by the Department of Conservation and the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. This nursery's initial production of about 6 million seedlings annually will supplement the production of the state's nursery at Autaugaville. Mr. May will also do research in nursery work and assist in teaching silvicultural courses.

Mr. Cool comes to us from a position with the Extension Service at Mississippi State College. After finishing at L. S. U., Mr. Cool obtained his Master's degree at Iowa State College. With the advent of the summer quarter he assumed full-time teaching in the field of forest management. During the coming terms he will teach or assist in the teaching of Forest Management, Mensuration, and Farm Forestry.

This summer finds Mr. May hard at work on the new nursery. Mr. Cool is engaged in teaching Advanced Forest Management and Farm Forestry.

DEPARTMENT SAWMILL READY FOR USE

The new Corley sawmill, edger, trimmer, and cut-off saw will be in running order and ready for use by the middle of this week. The housing and concrete foundations for the carriage track, saw frame, and power unit have been completed; and the machinery will be installed. The 110 HP Allis Chalmers power unit has been placed on the concrete foundation and bolted down.

The sawmill is a No. 395 Corley right hand mill with Timken roller bearings. The fifteen foot carriage has three head-blocks with dogs and two offset knees. The setworks is controlled by a spring receder. The edger is a Corley Junior with two 27" inserted tooth saws, one stationary and one movable. The trimmer is an eighteen foot walking crank type with two 18" saws. A swing cut-off saw will be installed for cutting slabs and fuel wood. Five sections of ten foot ball bearing lumber rolls will be installed to carry the lumber to the edger and the slabs and edgings to the cut-off saw. The edger will be equipped with a sawdust conveyor chain which will conduct sawdust to the sawdust pit.

The mill is equipped with a 54" inserted tooth saw hammered for 500 r.p.m. A concrete observation platform 10' x 15' had been provided and is equipped with a guard rail to insure the safety of students and onlookers.

At present the sawmill is covered by a 30' x 85' shed. The housing is covered with corrugated aluminum roofing. All wooden members will be treated with pentachlorophenol.

The equipment and housing is the best that can be had, and excellent facilities have been provided for instruction in sawmilling and lumber manufacture. The actual experience gained in working with this mill will be invaluable to students.

-H. Dorr

GRADUATION - AT LAST!

Among the 666 graduates assembled in Hare Stadium the afternoon of June 3, were nine ambitious young foresters. These men are the latest additions to the growing group of Auburn alumni who are making their future in forestry and who, incidentally, are building a reputation for Auburn's forestry school. The AUBURN FORESTER congratulates these new graduates and wishes for each of them a successful and prosperous future. Those graduating were W. L. Brown, Burt Carlson, M. W. Holcomb, H. K. Meigs, W. T. Ogletree, W. F. Lane, Y. W. Rainer, R. B. Williams, and Vernon Yow. The AUBURN FORESTER (and possibly one or two of the graduates themselves) is not certain as to just where these men will locate, but we will attempt to bring you some word from them in the next issue.

PROF ATTENDS WOOD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The U. S. Navy and the National Research Council are conducting a symposium on the Use of Wood in Warfare and the Value of Wood to the National Military Establishment.

Professor Vogel is representing Auburn at this meeting in Washington, D. C., on June 16 and 17. Leaders in the field of wood utilization research from the entire United States have been invited to attend, and the discussions should acquaint delegates with the latest trends in wood utilization, whether for the Military Establishment or for industry.

A roaring twister last week carried off Jim Benson's house and furniture; and all of Jim's children are missing. Neighbors donated a bed to give Jim and his wife a new start.

When the phone rings at Esther Hall (Des Moines) the nearest girl picks up the receiver and says, "This is Esther. Who in the hall do you want?"

NOTE TO ALUMNI

We are very much interested in keeping up with the progress of our alumni. Most of us plan to emerge into the "outer world" one of these days; we would like to know what fortunes befell those who went before us. We suspect, also, that many of you who receive the AUBURN FORESTER would like to be able to hear something now and then from old Joe Blow or Bill Bang whom you knew so well here at Auburn.

We have, from time to time, run a little column entitled "Alumni News"; but information has usually been scanty and based on hearsay rather than direct contact with the alumnae concerned. Why not drop us a card now and then? Let us know your present circumstances and how forestry is serving you. How about helping us to make the next AUBURN FORESTER more interesting and informative for everyone!

-Ed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: Should our proposed alumni association become a reality, I would like to see an informal seminar included in one of the quarter's schedules. Men who are out on the job could write Dr. Stevens about difficulties which they have encountered in their work and which perhaps concern something not covered in any of the formal forestry courses. Also, graduates could offer suggestions and ideas that would greatly help future graduates. Dr. Stevens could evaluate this material and assign competent men to convey the dope to interested students at a specified free time.

It would seem to me that a plan similar to this one would do much for Auburn as a forestry school and for the graduates as foresters.

Sincerely,
Walt Culbertson

MEMORIES OF THE WOODCHOPPER'S BALL

True, the Woodchopper's Ball is gone for this year, but we don't think it has been forgotten. Most of us still get a chuckle now and then when we remember some of the out-of-characters that turned up that night. Who could forget Cluny Brown's (was that really Cluny?) rousing rendition of "Wild, Wild Women"? - or that fugitive from an undertaker who claimed to be our own dear Prof. Vogel? Then there was the sharpie just off a Mississippi river boat who somehow appeared out of the mists of that by-gone era (you know, some drunk tried to convince me that that was Prof. Gaskins!). Since these things give us all an occasional laugh, we thought a few choice pictures would be welcomed by all who were present on that big night.

