

March 1955

AUBURN FORESTER



AROUND AND ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Once again I have the privilege of extending greetings to each student and alumnus. I also have the pleasure of reviewing for you some departmental happenings which may prove of interest. If it were possible, I would like for each of you to have a copy of our departmental report for 1954. Since this is not feasible, I will share with you some of the highlights which indicate developments and progress.

This is the time of year when our thoughts turn to recruitment of high school graduates. During the month of March, we will be accepting applications for freshman scholarships. Announcements and application forms will be put in the hands of county agents, FFA teachers, and alumni. For the first time, scholarships will be available to a high school graduate from Georgia who may choose to come to Auburn.

I feel sure you will be interested in enrollment. Normally, more students are registered in the fall quarter than at any other time during the year. This year is an exception. Enrollment in the winter quarter increased 10% over that of the fall quarter, and we now have over 100 undergraduates. If this trend can be maintained, it will help us supply graduates to meet the demand of employers.

A Faculty Advisor Program for freshmen and transfer students was begun in the summer quarter, 1954. This program makes possible closer contact between students and faculty. Entering students each quarter are added to the program.

Plans have been worked out to initiate a Co-op Plan in Forestry, possibly beginning with the summer or fall quarter, 1955. Such a plan will permit students to study forestry and work part-time. A survey is now underway to determine the interest

of employers in such a plan.

Tentative plans are now underway for a convocation of all forestry students on April 29. If satisfactory arrangements can be made, Mr. Harry Rossell, Artist, U. S. Forest Service, Atlanta, Georgia, will appear on the program. It should prove highly entertaining as well as informative.

As we completed our annual report for the last year, we made a summary of alumni placement. Briefly summarizing this tabulation, we find that Auburn foresters are now working in 13 states and 1 foreign country. Sixty per cent of the men are employed in Alabama, and sixty-nine per cent are employed in private industry with approximately equal distribution between the paper industry and other wood-using industries. Needless to say, a large number of men (18) are in the service.

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HAROLD COAN WINS FIRST CRANSTON AWARD

Harold Coan, who hails from Phil Campbell, Alabama, was presented the Cranston Award for being last year's outstanding freshman in Forestry. The presentation was made at the annual Forestry Club Banquet, February 11, 1955. The award was a pocket compass with the winner's name and the year presented engraved on it.

Mr. Keith Cranston is a consultant forester in Leland, Mississippi. He will present this award to a freshman in Forestry at API annually. This award was the first one of its kind.

The requirements are: financial need, an interest in Forestry, and a scholastic average of "C" or better.

-Glenn M. Plummer

AUBURN FORESTER STAFF

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WOODCHOPPER'S BALL '55 STYLE

Come May 14th, the Ball Room of our new Student Union Building will receive the most rugged test of its young life. Heretofore, the ballroom has had to cope with nothing stronger than the sedate social engagements of normal campus activity, but with the dawning of May 14th comes the supreme test, the greatest challenge likely ever to be presented. No, it's not a demonstration of atomic weapons, nor is it a six month engagement with Ringling Brothers Circus. This thing that strikes terror to the heart of the Union Building officials is the forthcoming annual Woodchopper's Ball.

In the past, in order to minimize property damage and lessen the shock to those passing by, the local "Woodchoppers" have been content to confine their annual ruckus to the more remote and more secluded "Activities Building". However, this year, under the new regime of hard-hearted Britt, caution has been thrown to the winds, and it's every man for himself as plans get underway for the biggest, loudest, wildest, and best Woodchopper's Ball "smack-dab" in the heart of the campus.

Invitations are being sent to all the ole grads and a rousing reunion is in the making, so load-up your burro, horse, mule, or blue ox, whichever the case may be, and meet us at the Union Building for the annual Woodchopper's Ball on MAY 14th. The

time ----- 8:00 P. M.
The price ----- a nominal \$1.25.

-Clyde N. Webb

JUNIOR CLASS NEWS

The Junior Class is fifteen strong this quarter (Winter '55), and the same number is expected next quarter, but after looking over their schedule, who can say how many will be here next fall. Billy J. Arther and Jerry D. Ferris will be going to Fort Knox for R. O. T. C. Summer Camp. Bob Britt thinks that he will be in the Northwest around Oregon. John O. Baxter will be working with the St. Regis Paper Company. H. K. Green will be working with S. M. Adams near Mobile. Jack Haley, Richard Nash, Cecil D. Smith, and W. H. Savage hope to work with the Coosa River Newsprint Company. Forrest E. Gendrick will remain loyal and be in school here this summer. Walter E. Waldy will be working with International Paper Company. W. M. Kidd, John B. Logan, and George G. Woodyard, Jr. will make that wonderful "7" trip to Summer Camp at Little River State Park. The writer's summer address will likely be, the U.S.F.S., Montana.

We are all looking forward to the summer and our diversified paths, with the hope that we will all meet again next fall. See you at the Woodchopper's Ball next quarter.

-George Chastain

JOKE??

Nature's Helper

A speaker was giving a lecture on forest preservation; "I don't suppose", he said, "that there is a person in the hall who has done one single thing to

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help conserve our timber resources".

Silence reigned for several seconds then a meek voice from the rear of the hall answered; "I once shot a woodpecker!"

-Quaker Capers

WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE!

In an era when science is forever monkeying with time honored cliches, it will come as no great shock to discover that where there is fire there is no smoke, and that home is not necessarily where the hearth is.

This is not the introduction of a social revolution, friend. This is charcoal; so settle back and let us bore you with a few salient bits of information.

Like heroes and successful businessmen, charcoal was not born--it was made. Nobody knows when. (Nobody seems to care.) The Chinese and other Orientals used charcoal for centuries. Roger Bacon used it in his first gunpowder. (It was a bang up success!) Countless budding young scientists have wrought chaos with charcoal ever since.

Science and charcoal have, together, reached such a state of development that, one can chew charcoal, drink charcoal, or feed it to the chickens. It has been rumored that charcoal has been used to strain the impurities out of moonshine, just to mention one of its most useful aspects. It is obvious that such a gift to mankind could not long remain hidden from the eagle eye of the Forestry Department, and so it is with great pleasure, pride, and suitable humility that we propose to introduce charcoal to A. P. I.

To allay the fears of the coal and fuel merchants we hasten to state the presence of charcoal at Auburn will be in purely experimental quantities. By

summer there may be enough to broil a steak or two. The chief concern of the Forestry Department is with the amount of charcoal native Alabama trees will yield. Apparently any idiot can make charcoal, witness that Mason proposes to run the kilning end of it. The important issue is--how much can the idiot make?

For the information of those still witless enough to be interested, the kiln will be located in the creek bottom which divides General L. A. Pick's holdings from those of Dr. A. M. Pearson. This is about two miles northeast of Auburn. Land and wood have been made available through the generosity of General L. A. Pick.

The operation is due to start next quarter at which time anyone handy with an axe or saw will be most heartily welcome.

-Robert D. Mason

AROUND AND ABOUT (Continued from Page 1)

It has been pleasant to talk with many alumni at forestry meetings. Seven Auburn men were seen at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section, Society of American Foresters, Jacksonville, Florida. Professor Posey and I were conducted on a tour of the Jacksonville Naval Air Station and enjoyed the company of Ken Luke ('51) and his wife. Several alumni were in attendance at the annual meeting of the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association held in Atlanta, Georgia. These contacts help us keep our records on alumni up to date. We still depend on the old "grapevine" to keep up with many of you.

A few things have happened within the department which may or may not have come to your attention. I feel you will be interested. Since this is a legislative year, we have made an

FORESTRY CLUB BANQUET

If you were going to Opelika between 6:30 and 7:00 Friday night the eleventh of February, and several greased streaks passed you, it was only the Forestry students and their dates (if they were lucky) going to the annual Forestry Club Banquet.

We really had a shin-dig over there at the Chicken House. The menu consisted of Fried Chicken and Shrimp. They got us started with a salad and some saltine crackers, and then brought on the main dishes. The chicken was great, and everybody with shrimp seemed to be digging in pretty well with it. Biscuits, gravy, coffee, french fries, and apple pie with ice cream made up the rest of the menu. Man, was it good!

It seems that Ben Davis was having trouble getting a spoon with which to stir his coffee. He was raising the roof about it, possibly because he had just recently discovered what spoons were for, and wasn't going to be cheated out of practicing with this new contraption. Clyde Webb presented him with a spoon that looked like a shovel. This ended, finally, in Professor Christen's hands. Christen is now analyzing this small sized shovel for use in fire control work.

Following the meal, everyone was introduced individually.

Professor DeVall then gave the Forestry Club members present some well chosen words of wisdom. He presented us with the low down on all the professors on the campus, namely, that "those that know how, do", and "those that don't know how, teach." I think I can speak for all the Forestry students in saying that our professors seem to know what they are doing. Professor DeVall also made it clear why there is so much sense floating around loose on our campus. I had never thought about it, but with the freshmen coming in with so much and the seniors leaving with

so little, there must be a lot of sense in a stockroom somewhere in the Forestry Building. The trouble is, not many of us seem to know where the stockroom is, and the faculty "ain't saying".

After Professor DeVall's talk, he eased the minds of all sophomores by presenting the first Cranston Award to Harold Coan. The award was an engraved, forester's compass, and was presented to Harold for being the outstanding freshman in Forestry of last year. Mr. Cranston, the originator of the award, was to present the award, but much to our regret, was unable to attend the banquet. This is a recognition for all present and future freshmen to shoot for. The award is to be a permanent annual affair.

To wind up the evening, Mr. E. O. Harwell performed some magic for the enjoyment and wonderment of the Forestry Club members. He pulled some sly tricks that had us all gassing. We are grateful to Mr. Harwell for providing this fine entertainment.

While we were still baffled, Professor DeVall dismissed this most enjoyable meeting. We all left happy to have attended a very successful banquet.

-Ted E. Lynn

XI SIGMA PI NEWS

At a recent meeting of the Sigma Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi, Clyde N. Webb and John D. Baxter were elected to fill office vacancies. The present officers now are: Donald E. Smith, Forester; Clyde N. Webb, Associate Forester; Ben A. Davis, Jr., Secretary-Fiscal Agent; and John D. Baxter, Ranger.

The Chapter did not have a social event in the winter quarter, but plans are being made for an outing in the spring quarter. All members are urged to attend.

-Don Smith

ANOTHER STEP IN NURSERY RESEARCH

In January of 1953, an article by Professor DeVall appeared in the Alabama Lumberman which has since been a source of mutual interest to pine seedling nurserymen and to Auburn freshmen taking "Introduction to Forestry".

"The Story of 100 Seed" as the article was entitled, pointed out the fact that for the period of 1947 to 1951, out of every one-hundred loblolly seed planted only twenty survived to become plantable seedlings. In Auburn during the period of 1950 to 1951, the rate of survival was higher (by one seedling).

Meanwhile, the pulp and lumber trades seemed to be madly pursued down the road to extermination by the fact that they were cutting more trees than they could grow.

Somebody stopped and looked around. Why weren't more trees growing? They had stopped "skinning" the land. Some companies were even replanting as fast as they cut. A survey of the situation indicated that there were not enough plantable seedlings to go around, and that field survival was too low.

Thus, the project to determine the "Influence of Soil Management Practices in the Nursery on Germination, Development, and Early Survival of Pine Seedlings" was born.

The project had three objectives:

- (1) To develop practices that will increase the plantable percentage of trees from seed.
- (2) To explore the possibility of continuous annual production of seedlings in the same seedbeds.
- (3) To determine the influence of soil management practice on early survival of plant seedlings.

Studies at the Auburn Nursery have shown that partial solution of the objectives

have been attained. Professor May has successfully produced plantable seedlings on the same area for five consecutive years. Survival of the planted seedlings indicate that high levels of soil-fertility tend to increase field survival. A total of 4320 seedlings were planted on an unirrigated field site in February 1954. Within these 4320 seedlings, some 54 nursery practices were represented. The overall survival in May of 1954 was 97.9%. By November, this had fallen to an overall average of 77.7%. However, when it is considered that during the same unusually dry summer some comparable contemporary plantings of seedlings produced under standard nursery practices fell to a 25 to 30% total survival, there seems to be reason to hope that some of the special nursery practices in the Auburn plantation may have increased seedling ability to resist adverse conditions in the field.

(Continued on Page 7)

FORESTRY CLUB SPORTS

The Forestry Club entered into the Intramural Sports program this quarter, by sponsoring a basketball team. This is the first time we have had a team in the last few years. Playing in the Independent League, we finished up the season with a five-five record. Three of the losses were by less than five points. One loss to Navy necessitated an overtime period.

The team had Glenn Plummer for their coach. He was also the team mascot. Some believe he made a better mascot than coach. (The alumni are reported to be seeking a new coach. If true, this would be in keeping with the apparent policies of certain other state school's alumni. If a team doesn't win the championship, fire the coach.) The team was composed of Ted (Goose) Lynn, Harold (Sack 'em Up) Coan, John (Unheralded

Harold Logan, Bob (O.K. Coach) Haynie, Harold (Crazy Shot) Howell, and Joe (Cold and Hot) Williams. Two boys not in Forestry, who were a great aid to the team are Bill Bludsworth and Ronnie Newsome.

The boys on the team enjoyed the games each week, as it gave them something to do besides studying Dendro or going to the local movies. The team hopes to be able to make a better showing next year.

-Joe H. Williams

ANOTHER STEP (Continued from Page 6)

Various mulching media were tried with unwavering patience. As with the other studies, controls were carefully set up, and several types of mulches from huxlap to chopped pine straw were tested. Sawdust mulch apparently resulted in 10% improvement in germination over other mulching practices tried. Seedling survival in the nursery at the end of the growing season was also materially higher under sawdust than under other mulching treatments tested. Alabama Agriculture Experiment Station Leaflet No. 42 contains the above and other information compiled by Professors Posey and May. This leaflet entitled "Some Effects of Sawdust Mulching of Pine Seedlings" was published in January, 1954.

Nut grass consistently kills seedlings by taking up needed ground moisture, overshadowing, and competing for soil nutrients; it is extremely hard to eradicate. A new battle against nut grass was begun at the Auburn Nursery. Varying amounts of plant killer were tried. Fifty-four pounds to the acre seaxed everything into lifelessness; five pounds seemed almost ineffective, and the seedlings died from internal drought. Patiently the amounts were varied until 13½ pounds per acre seemed to successfully suppress the nut grass while allowing the seedlings to prosper. This phase is still being studied, the margin

still being narrowed while the ever-sought optimum comes a little closer. Another leaflet concerned with the above is in the offing.

When the final returns on these phases of nursery research are in, the forest industries in Alabama may find a reaffirmation that the research dollar pays a never-ending, non-taxable dividend.

-Robert D. Mason

LETTER FROM A FORMER STUDENT

The Forester received a letter of appreciation from Lt. William J. Watson for the copy sent him last quarter. Bill is now stationed in Germany with the Air Force. He is in South Germany, just north of the Black Forest, and says that he has observed the forest practices there. According to Bill, most of the species are similar to our shortleaf. The spacing is closer, and the form class appears higher than here. Secondary planting is a Blue Spruce, and the undergrowth is kept down.

Bill was married in October and would like for his friends to know that he is still kicking around. He says he would appreciate hearing from any of his old pals.

We certainly did welcome this letter and hope to hear more from Bill in the future. Letters from former students, alumni, and friends of the Forestry Department are always appreciated by the Forester staff.

In case you would like to drop Bill a line, his address is:

Lt. William J. Watson
AO 3008304
1946th ARCS Sqd.
APO 742
New York, New York

-The Editor

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

In the Heart of the Reserve Region

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Winter term at Colorado College, Colorado Springs. Summer Term at Manitou Park, the School Reserve, 13,000 acres of pine and spruce timberland on the borders of the Pike National Forest.

Tuition Sixty Dollars a Year

For further particulars apply to Professor Walter J. Merrill, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The preceding quarter page add appeared in the February 1910 issue of "American Forestry", then the official vehicle of the "American Forestry Association.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to extend our appreciation to all the people who helped to make this issue of the Auburn Forester possible. We would like to thank all of our writers and our typists: Mrs. Ruth, Paul Bournea, and Harold Davis.

Special appreciation goes to Bob Britt, whom we think has done an exceptionally fine job as President of the Forestry Club this quarter. Congratulations, Bob!

-The Editors

