1-1-1924

Ten Summers of Camp with The Ames Foresters

C. W. Martin
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester

Part of the Forest Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol12/iss1/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ames Forester by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Ten Summers of Camp With The Ames Foresters

C. W. Martin, '24

One of the most interesting and valuable quarters in the Forestry course is the three months summers camp held in some distant forest where the embryc forester may learn what he is really striving towards and determine whether he is suited for the vocation which he expects to follow. It is interesting to trace the growth and development of the Ames summer camps which started in 1914.

The first camp was held on Star Island in Cass Lake, which is within the boundaries of the Minnesota National Forest. It was attended by 35 foresters drafted from the entire department. The camp was a splendid success and demonstrated the need of corn-fed foresters from a prairie state, for life in the tall uncut, to try them and see if they be fit to follow the arduous life of a forester. The 114 men proved themselves fit. In fact they proved they were as hard boiled as even the most uncurried devotee of saw and axe could
desire. Deeply smothered fires of forgotten scandal of the '14 camp still burn forth occasionally to delight the ear of ever-interested foresters. Fortunately, perhaps, the flames are subdued quickly and only a wisp of smoke is left to taunt the scandal hounds.

The next camp was held in 1916. This was the famous seven thousand mile camp which carried the foresters through nearly every state in the West including a 115 mile hike through Glacier National Park. This trip has been the envy of every forester since 1916. It seems that at heart the average forester is a rainbow chaser. He is interested in the new and the strange, and has an innate desire to visit the unvisited parts of the world.

The 1917 camp began in Northeastern, Iowa, where occur the most extensive timber tracts of the prairie state. A few weeks later the camp was moved to the old stamping ground on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota, where, to the satisfaction of the natives, Ames Foresters never permitted so much as a brush fire to occur.

The 1918 camp was truly a cosmopolitan one. It was held on the battle-fields of France, on the high seas, in the forests of France, Scotland, United States and Canada; aye, even in the "murphy" fields of old Ireland, for it will be recalled that a regiment of Foresters were on the Tuscania when that boat was torpedoed, and a number of the men
were invalided on the Emerald Isle for some months. The real forester could not stand tethered to his college while the maelstrom of the great war was urging him to do his bit for his country.

The summer of 1919 found the boys on the Arapahoe National Forest in Colorado. The fact that one Ames Forester chased a mountain goat, caught it, and had his photograph taken holding said goat, is a monumental piece of evidence of agility of the prairie type of forester when put to the test in the rockiest wilds.

In 1920 the Foresters went to Rocky Mountain regions in Montana and Wyoming, visiting the Yellowstone National Park enroute. Many wild tales have been told of bear raids and round-ups of these memorable days.

The summer of 1921 found the Foresters fighting mosquitoes in northern Minnesota. This camp was famous for Agony Quartette, esprit de corps, and fish stories.

The lure of the Southland attracted the 1922 men and they trekked down to North Carolina to learn Democratic politics at first hand. They managed to stay sober and out of
"LITTLE GREY HOMES IN THE WEST"—1919

TIMBER LINE TYPES IN COLORADO—1919
jail. However, the most hard boiled members of the camp turned yellow before camp was over. What do I mean, yellow? I mean they contracted the yellow jaundice. Yas suh!

THE "COVERED WAGON" IN YELLOWSTONE—1920

The latest summer camp broke out in Colorado where the gang amused themselves counting sheep and running around mountain ranges.

MOSQUITO FLEET IN MINNESOTA—1921
We have seen where the Ames Foresters have been and in a brief way what they did. Let us consider the average camp in more detail. The camp work covers timber cruising, log scaling, mensuration and siliculture. The student learns how to care for himself in the woods. He gets on speaking terms with 40's, sections and townships. He learns what a traverse is and how to make a contour map. These things are all of value to him in later days. He is fitted to go out in the field and do a creditable job of cruising or scaling in the summer. He has gained the experience so necessary when applying for work. He has found whether he is or is not a Forester.

His summer camp is also an asset to him when he returns to school in the fall. He is better acquainted with his professors and his classmates. He is more interested in his forestry subjects and is able to correlate his classwork with his field experience.

In conclusion, the summer camp has proved its value in the classroom and field. It is an institution for the promotion of good fellowship and friendly relation between faculty and student. It is the criterion by which the ability of the future forester is judged.