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Fred Trenk
Iowa State College

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The I.A.F.C. Convention—A Record of Accomplishments

By Fred Trenk

The eighth annual convention of the Intercollegiate Association of Forestry Clubs was held at Ames, March 6, 7 and 8. While it would be impossible to print the complete minutes in this number of the Ames Forester, we are greatly pleased to be able to record a few of the “high spots” of the convention, and publish in full a few of the addresses and topical reports.

A survey of the work of the convention will show a number of pronounced changes from the former programs of these conventions. As a result, the organization itself has been changed. Early in the convention a committee was appointed to consider a redraft of the constitution with the end in view of authorizing the formation of sectional associations of such clubs as they desired for closer fellowship, more frequent meetings, less expense, and for the discussion of sectional problems and national problems of the clubs. The result of the work of this committee was, that national conventions were authorized every three years, sectionalization of clubs was sanctioned, and the name of the Association was changed. The new constitutions will be published along with this report.

A precedent was set in the number of topics assigned to various clubs before the convention, and actually discussed in worth-while detail during the convention. Every one of the problems selected affected in some way or other organization and functions of every member club. Following is a list of these topics:

1. Compilation of Forestry Club Songs.
2. The Forestry Club as an Employment Agency for Summer Jobs.
3. A Program of Professional Ethics.
4. The Forestry Club Publication.
5. An Ideal Yearly Forestry Club Program.
6. The Forestry Club as a Material Aid to the Forestry College or Department.
7. The Place of Alumni Advisory Boards and Alumni Associations.

Every session of the convention was opened with singing forestry club songs for fifteen minutes. It was agreed by delegates that every member club should get together copies of the forestry songs sung at meetings of all the member clubs, and send these to the Ames Club, the purpose being to compile a song-book of forestry club songs.
The annual banquet, held on the night of March 6, in the Cranford Banquet Hall, was one great success. Everything from the latest news of Paul Bunyon to choice bits of campus scandal came in for its share of publicity. Professor Andrews was toastmaster.

With a view toward linking the I. A. F. C. with an organization larger and more permanent, Yale and Washington are entrusted with the task of forming a junior membership with the Society of American Foresters, if such a move proves desirable.

The staff of the Ames Forester believes that for their permanent value, some of the topical reports should be published in this annual. Here are a few of them:

THE FORESTRY CLUB AS A SUMMER JOB
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
H. J. Andrews (Ames), (Graduate of Michigan U.)

The idea was not that the employment situation was handled entirely by the club. The jobs, of course, came to the faculty, but they figured that they didn't know all the students as thoroughly as the students themselves did, and they wanted student opinion on students who might be capable of filling jobs as they came in, so the Forestry Club handled part of the employment situation by doing this.

The man in charge of the employment agency had a card index file and in this file he listed every possible candidate for a job every spring. They got it up during the winter. He put on the card whether he was a Junior, Senior, etc., whether or not he had any experience. He simply went around to all the boys and put down all the experience they had had. This saved the faculty considerable work. The club took particular pains to see that the man on the employment agency was fairly responsible and did not give prejudiced reports and would be reasonably fair. The jobs were not turned over to this employment agency, however. The men on the faculty simply asked the student for all possible information and he gave them more information than they could have gotten themselves. This man should be a Senior or a post graduate.

PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
D. S. Jeffers, Yale

Little has been written or said up to the present about a definite code of ethics for the profession of forestry, except for a few short articles, two of which are by graduates of the Yale School of Forestry. The reason for the dearth of expression has probably been due to the fact that a more or less
implied code existed and also that the profession is young in this country. The opinions expressed differ considerably as to the code and its need.

The first of the viewpoints is that a definite code is needed which should contain certain concise statements as to the forester's relations with his brothers and to the public in general. This code is modeled more or less on that of the "Code for all engineers" and others, and contains many rules as to fidelity to clients, responsibility to the community and compensation agreements. It was recommended for adoption by the Society of American Foresters, the official organ of foresters in this country. The most convincing argument for this written form is the fact that ideals are crystallized by written documents, thus setting a standard.

The other viewpoint is that the profession of forestry does not need a mass of rules and regulations to keep to the narrow path, as its enemies are not so much those who are practicing real forestry but those without, who seek to discredit the profession. A plea is made for freedom of expression among foresters, unhampered by rules; for discussion without personal bitterness, and for curbing extremists, not by set standards, but by the same action of the majority. The basic and underlying question should be, "Is the work for the public good or against it?" The answer shows whether the action is ethical from the forester's professional viewpoint. No doubt a committee of honor composed of American Foresters of mature age would be of great advantage in upholding the high standards of the profession, but they should be more of an advisory board than a rules and regulation committee.

Among students, the appeal for a definite code is not so apparent. The unwritten code which every college possesses and which we hear expressed as college spirit takes its place, and this spirit acts both as a deterrent and an incentive. Forest clubs of the different schools should engender the spirit of the profession constantly by holding forth that trust, camaraderie and co-operation are the ethics of men of the forestry profession.

It seems to me that I may profitably present to you a written code as it appeared in the current number of the Journal of American Forestry, as follows:

1. The forester, in his professional work, acts as an agent or trustee, and will show fidelity to his clients.
2. He will be faithful to the ideal of a reasonable forest practice, as determined by local conditions.
3. He will inform a client of any business connections, interests or affiliations which might influence his judgment or impair the disinterested quality of his service.
4. For a particular service, he will accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from one source only, and refuse commissions or trade discounts.

5. He should avoid controversy with clients regarding compensation, so far as compatible with self-respect and the forester's right to receive reasonable compensation for his professional services.

6. Forestry is a profession and not a trade, and charges should be based on what the forester considers a just and adequate return for the time spent and the value of the service rendered, rather than on the financial ability of his client.

7. The forester will not associate himself with, or allow the use of his name by, an enterprise of questionable character or one that is working against the best interests of the community.

8. He will not resort to undignified or self-laudatory advertising. He may state briefly the lines of work in which he has had experience, and enumerate responsible positions which he has held and give his references.

9. He will not directly, or indirectly, encroach upon the reputation, prospects, or business of another member of the profession. Ordinarily the inefficient work of another consulting forester should not be criticised unless the client especially calls for this information. Corrupt and unethical conduct in the profession, however, will be exposed by the forester without fear or favor.

10. He will co-operate in upbuilding the forestry profession by exchanging general information and experience with his fellow foresters, and by making available, as soon as practicable, any technical discovery of value to the science of forestry.

These items refer particularly to the consulting forester. However, they are applicable to a forester in any line of the forestry profession.

He will fulfill his responsibility to the community by spreading the knowledge of forest conservation and its underlying principles.

Under this item I have a feeling that the members of the I. A. F. C. have placed before them a real responsibility. In the community from which we came, in the community in which we live and in the community to which we expect to go, whether as professional foresters, businessmen or whatever our daily toil may be, we should keep foremost the idea of forest conservation and its underlying principles. The great reformations which have been made in the ideals or standards or ethics of the human race have been brought about not by
a great armed conflict of stupendous magnitude, but by the quiet, insistent effort of individuals who have a passion to make an ideal life, and that is the history of forest conservation in our country up to the present time. If it is to grow and broaden in the future, the responsibility for making it realize that goal lies with us.

It is a surprise to many forest-trained men to learn thru experience the ignorance of the public generally on forest conservation and the principles which underly. To intelligently inform the public, the forester or the conservationist must not be satisfied with his preparation until he has a thorough working basis of what is meant by conservation. The forest school student frequently has made a broad generalization of conservation, has learned a great deal about the technique of forestry and the science as underlying it, but when it comes to presenting a plausible statement to an inquiring person, he finds himself hopelessly at a loss. In that field, then, it seems to me the I. A. F. C. can very well function in raising a high standard and calling upon all the students in forestry to reach it as a goal.

12. The forester when in public service will be courteous, industrious, impartial and scrupulous. He will resist the misuse or waste of public property. He will not permit violations of the law.

Under this item I wish to say a great deal of what I have to say and then conclude. We have before us in our nation today an outstanding example of the individual who has not been scrupulous and impartial. I need not go into details or call your attention to any specific activity, but simply make references to the oil splattering which is now going on in Washington. Every student has an opportunity sometime during his college career, with rare exceptions, to put into actual practice the principle of courteous and scrupulous dealing upon an impartial basis with his fellows. The matter of student honor is an ideal which develops very closely with the ideal of public honor, business honor and professional honor.

The misuse and waste of public property comes very closely to the student life. The buildings, the campus, the equipment of our colleges where we attend school is public property. In moments of excitement, and when we do not take time to think, there is a tendency to misuse or waste this property which is in reality given into our keeping by the tax-payers of the State. The attitude towards this standard of ethics may well be considered by the I. A. F. C.

The last sentence of the 12th principle in this written code strikes me very forcibly. There is hardly a student in the forestry schools who expects to earn a livelihood but that
will be called upon to uphold the law, either in an executive position or the representative of a company or a citizen engaged in private business. The American public must learn that law is law, and the sooner the student learns that law is law the more nearly will the public learn it because we are becoming an educated nation, or I better say the nation is following the lead of the educated men. When I discuss law, I do not refer to blind adoration of an individual whose dictum becomes our mode of action. We want nothing bureaucratic and, by the way, bureaucracy can exist and does exist as much in a private company as in a government. Some of you undoubtedly will be called upon to interpret and administer the regulations of the government or the state by which you are employed. If perchance an irate state senator comes into your office and commences to berate law in general, and particularly the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture or the State Forester as being partial, and your administration of them as being favorable to the men with money, it will be impossible for you to suddenly rise to a position of a high standard and meet his argument. It is then that the individual is called upon to look back over his life and his student days and review very quickly how he has stood the test of loyalty to law. To put it another way, if I look back over my life and realize that here and there I violated the law, that I winked at violations of the law, that I did not present all the facts in my possession to the prosecuting authority, I cannot then forcefully and conclusively defend the regulation of the Secretary of Agriculture or of any administration of it. Only gradually throughout the years by consistently following a principle of absolute obedience to law and regards for vested authority can any student, or any individual in fact, hope to successfully and impartially administer the regulations of an organization. You may be called upon as the representative of a lumber company scouting over the territory for timber subject to purchase, to face the temptation,—I mean real temptation, and I use the word advisably—of accepting a bribe from the individual desiring to sell a piece of timber to your company. Standards of ethics cannot be made quickly under such conditions.

Again you may be called upon as the representative of a company to face the tax commission and give an honest statement of exact conditions and present your argument to win approval. There is such a thing as the adroit use of words and the withholding of the facts, which while not a violation of the letter of the law are nevertheless a violation of the spirit of the law, and find expression in the term law standard of ethics.
What I mean is that in the student days an individual must commence to build on a firm foundation that standard of ethics in practice by which he intends to be guided in his later years. If his standard is not placed high, he must expect to be guided by a low standard which will unfortunately handicap him from dealing with some of the severe problems he is called upon to solve in later life.

It is so easy in our day to criticize. It is so easy to tear down. It is so easy to work with a small group for special favors. That is common in college life and in life out of college. As was expressed in the article referred to, a high standard of ethics demands that everyone work constructively and not destructively, or work for the common good and not against it. The ideal of the Forest Service is "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." Sometimes it is necessary to tear down, but we must never tear down unless we build deeper and broader and higher than before. Nothing is finer in an institution or in life than an individual or group of individuals motivated by a high standard of ethics and continually working for the common good of the community, the state and the nation.

Our profession is judged by each of us just as our school is judged by each of us. Every delegate here today is representing his school. The students of Iowa State College are representing their school. These delegates will go back to their various institutions and rate Iowa State as a fine bunch of fellows or a bunch of roughnecks, or very courteous or not very thoughtful, and a variety of other expressions which I might use; the faculty, the student life and the aims of each of the schools is on parade, not literally, and yet in reality each school hour by hour, as we meet here is being paraded before all of us. It seems reasonable to me then for each of us to ask the question, How am I representing my school? and if that does not strike close to the standard of ethics by which I am guided in my thought, my speech and my actions, then I have missed the ideal of this subject.

In the illustration of summer employment, each of you, I think, will catch the significance of my statement. Every student who is employed for the summer takes back to the group his impressions of each of the schools as he got them from the men with whom he came in contact. That is the reason why men change schools frequently because they feel that some other school is better. That conclusion is reached very largely by the impression made in the summer on the part of the student from the other school. I urge upon you then, men, to maintain a high standard of ethics in every field into which you go, and always keep that standard before you.
Lastly, let me say briefly that we are college men. People expect something different from us. That does not mean that we are above anyone else or below anyone else who is sane, sincere, reasonable and charitable. But we are expected to do things differently. Let us do them then and be guided always by a high standard of professional ethics.

AN IDEAL YEARLY PROGRAM FOR A FORESTRY CLUB

Gilbert M. Orr, Washington

Fellow foresters, esteemed faculty members, and friends.

The University of Washington extends to you its heartiest greetings, and wishes you the best kind of success in carrying on the greatest forestry convention of forest clubs that has ever been held. We come to co-operate and assist you in every way. In my ideal plan I have copied from certain other institutions as well as our own. In speaking of an Ideal Yearly Program for a Forestry Club, I will have to begin with the very first day which is commonly known as registration day. Two men previously chosen should arrive a day or two early, I say two men, because we want to be certain that one is there.

These men preferably should be upper-classmen and should extend greetings to all the incoming foresters and assist them in every way. They should endeavor to make the newcomers feel at home, and by all means get the new men acquainted with older men of the College. The new-comers should be told of the Forestry Club and its advantages to them. If they desire to become a member collect the dues, and tell them when the meetings are to be held. It might be a little early to collect the dues, but we have found it the best time as all the boys have money at the first of the year. To start things off properly there should be a snappy meeting and smoker the first week, with all the faculty members present, who are best fitted to tell of the activities of the club.

The old members should be prepared to tell of their experiences during the past vacation and bring with them a general atmosphere of friendliness, for the purpose of getting acquainted with the new men. It would be nice to have a peppy orchestra to cheer the boys, followed by some real lively boxing and wrestling matches.

One good stunt if possible, an original one, should be worked up. At this meeting feed the boys some cider and doughnuts and if it is permissible provide smokes and the boys will want to come out to the meetings. This does not
mean that smokes and eats should be provided at every meeting.

Two weeks from the first meeting there should be a camp fire meeting or barbecue where some good fresh roasted weiners, baked beans, buns, hot coffee and plenty of juicy red apples can be had and also some good yarns told by the experienced men of the club. The frosh should be initiated at this meeting, and if you have a forest club pin put it on them and let them know that they have become one of the bunch, in name, if not in experience. Washington has a little pin which is the cross section of a log and it is a very unique emblem, our foresters are proud to wear it. The meetings for an ideal yearly program should be held every two weeks or twice a month. Our meetings are held every other Wednesday from 7:30 to 10 o'clock. Occasionally the orchestra opens the program, followed by the business meeting which includes committee reports and appointing men on the various committees. The following committees may be filled: the Program Committee, Social Committee, Pin Committee, and the Frosh Vigilance Committee, Yell leader for the all-university assemblies etc. The executives of the club should aim to get the co-operation of every member in the club by getting them to participate in some activity in the club. The principle speaker of the evening delivers his address. The speakers should be obtained from the many fields of forestry such as Forest Service officials—national park officials—logging engineers—logging superintendents—milling and marketing experts—shingle manufacturers—wood pulp experts—wood preservation experts and occasionally speakers on allied subjects such as Geology, Botany, Forestry Pathology. Many of these lectures should be illustrated with movies or slides when available. The meetings of an ideal yearly program should adjourn with songs or yells. It often adds to the pep of the meetings to give a yell for the principle speakers, and it certainly makes them feel good. In thanking a speaker it is well for the club's members to rise, this also has its effect upon the speaker, and he will invariably carry away a good impression of the club. In order to get a large turnout of the club members, all meetings should be properly announced in the college paper, publications, or on the bulletin board.

Our College of Forestry School year is divided into three quarters, the autumn, winter, and spring; and each quarter of the ideal yearly program should have a big social event. During the winter quarter the short course men assemble from the woods and are greeted at a big Forester's Banquet which is well attended by the alumni.
In the spring quarter it might be a good idea to hold a big annual hcedown, dance and picnic. Forest Club trips should be encouraged to points of interest where the students may study the whole field of forestry from the pebbles along the road to the sustained yield system of Forest Management.

Every other year the foresters of Washington in cooperation with the engineers put on a big open house in the Spring quarter, showing the various lines of work carried on by each college, demonstrated with miniature exhibits and laboratory specimens previously collected in the field, for Dendrology, Technology, and Pathology. There were from ten to fifteen thousand visitors at the last open house. The foresters are to be commended for their success, as they have always won first place with the exception of one year, and that was at the beginning of the world war when the chemists tied us for the first honor. The competition this year will be very keen.

One of the main activities of an ideal yearly program should be the publication of a Forest Club annual or quarterly. The publication would provide a valuable business and editorial experience for the club members. It would have a great deal to do with bringing the leaders and practical man of the industry into closer touch with the younger men of the profession. The articles should be of a technical nature, and of a variety such as in the Gopher Pevy, an annual put out by the University of Minnesota.

The articles should be written by men high up in the profession, and by faculty members, who specialize along particular lines and last but not least, original research articles by the students themselves. Photographs of the club should be taken each year for the annual publications of the colleges or University.

In an ideal yearly program it might be well to have a picture album located in Forestry College library, showing pictures of the boys at work during the summer. It would be a good idea to keep a scrap-book in the library which would tell of the success of the foresters in the various activities in the college and field.

The club should encourage athletics and if it is possible organize teams, for there is nothing so thrilling as competition.

In the all university assemblies a special reserved section should be set aside for the foresters, where they may sit together in a body and give their yells. In an ideal yearly program the foresters should always aim for co-operation with a desire to hang together like a happy family.
ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD—OPEN DISCUSSION
Lead By D. S. Jeffers, Yale

Yale has an alumni advisor elected according to regular constitution manner. The Alumni Advisory Board is very active. They are elected to serve for a term of years meeting at regular intervals, and representing the alumni in the activities of the academic year. It seems to me it might also well be the Senior Advisory Board. It would make their college mean more and the campus mean more to the state and more to the forestry profession.

As a theoretical illustration: One man gets in touch with another man during summer employment. He thinks in some other school they are offering something which he doesn’t have. Is there any reason why those comparisons should not be capitalized to the value of the school?

Clark: (Minn.): I would like to say a word regarding the Faculty or alumni members of the Forestry Club. There may be a time when for the assistance of your club you will need money from your alumni members. We are appreciating that this year. And as a fellow says, the way to get money out of a man is to feed him first. Feed them stuff that you are going in the right channels. We put it up to our alumni this year to help us out. They wanted to know why we were in the hole.

The fellows who come in this year or year after may be a good bunch and have a lot of pep and next year they might be a dead bunch and let things go to pieces and there would be a lot of debts contracted.

The alumni members or a committee can take care of such things as that. They could watch the club closely and tell when they are going behind.

Orr (Washington): What authority does the Alumni Advisory Board have in the club other than looking after the finances? This is a very touching and vital subject which you have brought up and I have appreciated it. I want to know what authority you are going to give that Alumni Board.

Jeffers (Yale): It seems to me that any Forestry Club might suggest to the department the Alumni Advisory Board and provide for its continuance through election every year. The Alumni Advisory Board should be so selected that the members can get together. By correspondence with the club or Head of Department they may suggest concerning policies, changes in the courses of study, better schemes of putting the school before possible Forestry students. The Alumni would work in the school in different ways than the students in the school and also differently from the faculty. Their viewpoint ought to be made effective in some way.
The Senior Advisory Board might give the sum total of the experience of the students. An example may suffice. "During the 3 years I have been in this school (I. S. C.), I have been out during the summer time and met other Forestry students. Some feel they are poorly equipped for telephone engineering. Others feel very well equipped in mensuration. Other men knew what silvicultural terms meant. Other men knew the names of the trees and characteristics of them and I had to learn them. Let the teaching staff get the advantage of it. Because as alumni, fellows, the school made a contribution to our life, gave us something."

I think there may be room for something of that sort in every school and would like to have the viewpoint of the delegates.

The Constitution of the International Association of Forestry Clubs

(As amended at Ames, Iowa, March 8, 1924).

ARTICLE I Name.
The name of this organization shall be, "The International Association of Forestry Clubs."

ARTICLE II Object.
The object of this association shall be to create interest in scientific forestry, and to encourage good fellowship among the students of the different forestry schools.

ARTICLE III Membership.
Section 1. Any forestry club of a professional forestry school shall be eligible for membership in this association upon approval of every member club of the association.

Section 2. Any forestry club desiring membership in this association will submit their application in written form to the president of the president club three months prior to the convention.

Section 3. Approved forestry club to have full membership upon payment of the initiation fee to the Treasurer of the Association.

ARTICLE IV Officers.
Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be:
   a. President, elected from the President Club.
   b. Vice-presidents, one elected from each club.
   c. Secretary and Treasurer, elected from the President Club.
ARTICLE V  Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The duties of the president shall be:

a. To preside at all meetings of the Association.

b. To appoint committees.

c. To notify the secretary of all meetings so that he may send out notices of the same.

d. To receive and forward all material of the association that is intended for publication.

e. To circulate applicants' petitions for membership in this association, among the member clubs for approval.

f. To perform all other duties executive or otherwise that necessity calls for.

Section 2. The duties of the Vice-president shall be:

a. To act as representative of the local club.

b. To notify the president of the association of his election.

c. To compile a report of the activities of the club and send the same before May 1st each year to the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.

d. The Vice-president of the president club shall preside at meetings in the absence of the president of the association.

e. In event of the absence of both the president of the association and vice-president of the president club, the presiding officer shall be the vice-president of the association representing the club of the school of which the meeting is held.

Section 3. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be:

a. To keep the minutes of all meetings of the association and to conduct all correspondence relative to the business of the association.

b. To receive and have custody of all money paid to the Association.

c. To keep a careful record of all receipts and expenditures and to notify each club of its financial standing in the Association.

d. To make a report at each meeting and to send, before November 1st of each year, newsletters consisting of a record of the activities of each club.

The President Club shall be elected at each meeting by a majority of votes cast by delegates and by proxy at the meeting. (At the 1924 meeting the election was delayed
until 1926 when the club which is now president will initiate action among the member clubs leading to the election of the president club for 1927).

**ARTICLE VII  Election of Officers.**

Section 1. The President of the Association shall be elected by the President Club at the first meeting of that club held after the meeting of the Association.

Section 2. The Vice-presidents of the Association shall be elected by their respective clubs at the first meeting of the clubs after the last meeting of the Association.

Section 3. The Secretary-treasurer of the Association shall be elected by the President Club at the first meeting of that club after the last meeting of the Association.

**ARTICLE VIII  Tenure of Office.**

Elected officers to hold office until the next meeting of the Association has been held.

**ARTICLE IX  Privileges of Membership.**

Each club upon payment of all money due the Association shall be entitled to one vote either by delegate or proxy, on any subject which may properly come before the meeting. A majority vote rules.

**ARTICLE X  Meetings.**

Section 1. National Meetings.

a. To be held every third year. The policy of the Association shall be to alternate meetings between East and West.

b. The time and place of meetings is to be left to the discretion of the President of the Association.

Section 2. Sectional Meetings.

a. Consisting of three or more clubs may be held annually if they so desire. Proceedings of the minutes to be forwarded to each member club of the I. A. F. C.

**ARTICLE XI  Dues.**

Section 1. An initiation fee of $5.00 shall be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. Each club shall pay $4.00 annual dues.

**ARTICLE XII  Amendments.**

This constitution may be amended by a three-quarters vote of the clubs represented at the meeting.