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Presenting Lyle Watts

Ames Forestry Club

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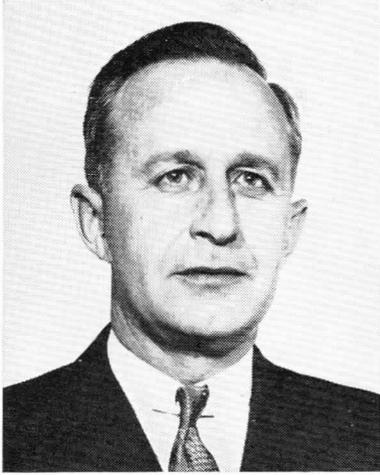
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Presenting

LYLE WATTS

It is indeed a rare occasion when a forestry publication has the privilege of presenting from its ranks of graduates a Chief Forester of the United States.

We, the students who are now studying forestry and those who will follow us, are fortunate in having such an illustrious alumnus to inspire us to greater achievement.

We realize that no matter where he attended school, he possessed those qualities which would have inevitably led to his success. Iowa State was truly favored in drawing such a person into that small class of forestry students in 1909.

Born in Lincoln Township, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, on a farm seven miles north of Clear Lake, Chief Watts attended Clear Lake High School until his junior year when his family moved to Bellingham, Washington in 1907. He returned to Iowa with his family in the fall of 1908, and graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1909.

Watts entered Iowa State College in 1909 and graduated in 1913. While in college he participated in debate, and was active in Forestry Club activities, being one of the early framers of the present constitution.

Immediately after he graduated from Iowa State Watts entered the U. S. Forest Service as a field assistant. In a short time he was advanced to Assistant Forest Supervisor of the Idaho National Forest.

In 1928, after being granted a degree of Master of Forestry at Iowa State, Watts took a position as head of the School of Forestry at Logan, Utah. After three years he accepted a position as Research Silviculturist, and Director of the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. Six years later he was appointed Regional Forester of the North Central Region in charge of work over nine states. In 1939 he was made Regional Forester of the Northern Pacific Region. Shortly before his appointment as chief, he was called to Washington to act as an assistant to Secretary Wickard on matters related to farm labor.

The rapid advance to the highest position any forester can wish to achieve is proof of his outstanding abilities. We feel confident that with his guidance vast improvements in the fields of forestry will be accomplished in the future.