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Dedication

Ames Forestry Club

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BORN to a long line of sea captains, Julius A. Larsen began his life on December 13, 1877, in the small Norwegian city of Drammen. His father, Gustav Waldemar Larsen was owner and captain of the coaster "Mercurius" which he used for transporting building material from Drammen along the coast to Oslo.

With an older brother, Johannes, a seaman, and a captain it was expected that Julius would also take to the sea, and in 1895, at the age of eighteen, he signed with a Captain Johnson aboard the barque "Alf." The first and second voyages were to Quebec, via Scotland, where the cargoes were coal and white pine logs. It was on the bark "Berna" early in 1896 that the sailing career of Julius Larsen ended with a shipwreck in heavy seas off Trinidad. The badly damaged ship finally reached Barbados where it was condemned.

Instead of taking passage back to Oslo, as offered by the Norwegian Consulate, young Larsen asked to be sent to the United States where his sister was living in New Haven.

Through these circumstances Julius Larsen ultimately became known as "Skipper" and ultimately became one of the pioneers in American forestry. Although the "Depression of 1893" was still being felt in the East and even though he was not yet out of his teens and he spoke English very poorly, he supported himself by working first in a bicycle shop and later, for four years, at Winchester Arms.

In 1901 he had saved enough money to go to Eastern Maine Seminary, an Academy at Duxport, Maine, where he was able, in three years, to complete his high school work and thus pass the entrance examinations for Yale.

From 1904 to 1908 Larsen was an undergraduate at Yale. He did so well that, upon graduation, he was awarded a graduate scholarship in Economic Geography at Sheffield Scientific School. But finding his first courses in graduate school to be Physical Chemistry which "...I found interesting but the instructor not," he changed his program to forestry.

In this new course of study he was under the direction of such men as Henry Solon Graves, H. H. Chap-