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Xi Sigma Pi

Ames Forestry Club

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Some of our better weekends were spent at Mesa Verde National Park and Emerald Lake. Besides this beautiful country, the people made the work enjoyable. People in the West move at a slower pace and still get much done. My supervisor, Roger Corner, and other people Kevin and I worked with: Dave Crawford, Rudy Candalaria, Bill Tomlison, Bill Galegos, Don Bolinger, Dan Carr and Kurt Van Hazel, were all great to be with.

Forest fires always seem exciting, so I will tell of one which began with a report from Charlie Patrol (airplane reconnaissance) at 4:00 p.m. This fire was located in the primitive area in tall timber and quite a distance from the nearest road. Five people and I were dispatched and we began walking at 5:00 p.m.

Xi Sigma Pi

Xi Sigma Pi is the natural resources honorary at Iowa State University. It exists to honor the students of Forestry and Outdoor Recreation who excel scholastically and have personalities that tend to make them successful in natural resource fields. Among the goals of the chapter are the development of a professional spirit among its membership and the encouragement of active communication between students and professionals in natural resource fields.

In an effort to make Xi Sigma Pi more active at Iowa State University, the chapter sponsored a three part seminar series on Natural Resource Management. Dr. Peter Dress of the University of Georgia and Dr. Gerald Stairs of the University of Arizona spoke to the topic of “Forest Resource Management in a Contemporary Setting,” and Dr. Richard Hilliker spoke on “The Value of a Natural Resource Education in the Wider Business World.”

The current membership of the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi stands at 36, with 11 undergraduates, 13 graduate students, and 12 faculty members.

Roger was with us and we walked until 2:00 a.m. One of the guys got lost with all of the headlights in his backpack except the one I had in my back pocket. So, five people were trying to see with one light. We finally found this joker who had gotten lost, and we quit for the night. All of this walking around was due to the simple fact that there were so many ridges and shifting winds, and, well, our supervisor was with us. Thus I need not explain further. We finally found the spot soon after daybreak. It was about one acre in size and cost the Forest Service $1,000-$1,500 to fight. Helicopters and horses were used to bring in replacements that evening.

Working in Colorado was rewarding. I know that neither Kevin or I would trade it for anything.