Alumni News

Ames Forestry Club

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We received much response to a desire of having an Alumni activities page this year. What we have compiled is not intended to be a complete collection of all Alumni activities; instead it is an overall look at some graduates, old and new.

"... with the American Plywood Association as a Senior Field Representative in Columbus, Ohio."

Bob Appenzeller '61

"I am now completing my second year of teaching in the Glenville State College Forest Technology Program (two-year course). Teaching responsibilities include Forest Measurements, Photogrammetry, Forest Ecology ..."

Michael Bondi '73

"I have been in Virginia two years after 28 years in Northern Wisconsin, and am finding the Appalachian Hardwoods very challenging."

Marlowe Burgy '43

"Looking forward to retirement in June. Maybe a visit to Ames will be in order. Would like to talk Peru with Fred."

Ken Compton '36

"Am presently Forest Supervisor on the Carson National Forest, with headquarters here in Taos."

Jack Crellin '53

"Southern 'rep' of engineering firm on suspension burning of wood wastes."

Nels Glesne '40

"Retired June 1963 (after) 38 years in the U.S.F.S. plus two years five months in WW II. Play golf, do yard work, belong to too many organizations."

Jack Hogan '26

"I have been employed by the U.S.F.S. on the Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming. During winter months I am working for Medicine Bow Recreation Inc., a private business venture of a ski area with little or no snow. I plan on working for the Forest Service again this spring."

James Jaminet '76

"Chairing the 48 member Association of Retired Conservationists utilized some of my free moments during the past two years. My book, Wisconsin's Amazing Woods, Then and Now is getting more attention than this old 1926 graduate ever thought possible. I am now working on a regional manuscript titled Indians of the Past."

Theodore Kouba '26
"I am with BLM in Eugene (21 years)—don’t get out in the woods much as I have jobs of Public Affairs Coordinator, Fire Management Officer and Safety Officer."

Sam Doran ’49


Steve Lenius ’73


Arlyn Perky ’68

"Retired and enjoying it! Visited with Walter Smith in Williamsburg, Va. last spring. Giving our strong moral support to getting the Carter agricultural team off on the right track."

Jules Renaud ’36

"A cold drizzle fell in Snoqualmie Falls, Washington, on the foggy Monday morning of August 24, 1936. I remember it well.

I had in my pocket a letter of introduction from the Weyerhaeuser Sales Company home office in St. Paul, Minnesota, addressed to the manager or “whomever it may concern” at the office of the Snoqualime Falls Lumber Company.

Little could I—or anyone else—have imagined that this rainy day in 1936 would be the start of an association between Weyerhaeuser and myself which lasted for forty years . . . until my retirement from the . . . Wood Products Office at Edison, N.J., on September 1, 1976.

‘Go on out west a while and see how you like it,’ said Mr. Howard Kenney of the St. Paul office staff in handing the letter to me a week or so earlier . . . .

. . . I had boarded the northbound Chicago Great Western passenger train in the middle of the night in Sumner (Iowa). And, yes, father had footed the bill for the train ticket to the west coast.

So a few days later I landed in Snoqualmie Falls, a certified ‘Lumber Student.’ The St. Paul letter said so.

‘Get your stuff up to the hotel and report to Art Benson down at the dry shed,’ said D. M. Fisher, sales manager at the Snoqualmie Falls mill. ‘Art will find something for you to do, and I’ll tell him you’re on the way.’

‘And,’ Mr. Fisher added, ‘you’ll be paid our regular hourly wage for each hour you work. The rate is presently fifty-five cents an hour.’

. . . Art found things for me to do. Pasting paper 4-Square labels on bundles of fir uppers . . . lugging the odd bundles (of lumber) to their proper bins . . . Or, a member of the sawmill crew might be absent for a day. Art often sent the nearest ‘lumber student’ to the sawmill to fill in. There has never been such a haystack of lumber anywhere as the one which accumulated one day as I substituted ahead of the pony edger in the mill for an absentee member of the crew.

. . . Within a few weeks after the coming of spring 1937, . . . I (was) transferred to the Klamath Falls, Oregon operations of Weyerhaeuser Timber Company for a stay in ponderosa pine country. The train fare for the trip . . . came from (my) own nickels and dimes scraped together at Snoqualmie Falls.

Later, it was on to Idaho white pine operations at Lewiston, Idaho. After a while a transfer came through to Weyerhaeuser Sales Company location at Port Newark, New Jersey, but—big difference this time—the company paid the expense of the trip.

. . . And, here we are, after one east coast assignment following another and forty years later. Change has followed change in the manufacture and sale of forest products. Plywood, particle board and paneling products have been added to the basic product, lumber. Today, total content of wood fiber in a log is the sought after number, not necessarily board feet of lumber, for pulp, paper and wood chips have become vital elements to profits for all companies. Training programs have very sophisticated operations; the classification “lumber student” has long since been discarded from the table of organization of every wood products company.

I still remember fondly those days at Snoqualmie Falls.”

Winn Heyer ’36

Skipper Larsen

“We are saddened about Prof Larsen’s passing. He surely had a full talented life and career. When he tried to teach me wood tech in 1938 I thought that he was ancient then. Now so am I.”

Vern H. Cutler ’40

“Skipper Larsen was a good teacher, one of several, but two things stayed with me:

At sixty he could out walk his students.

His final question on the exam, ‘What do you do if faced with a crown fire?’

That he lived one hundred years surprises me not at all.”

George I. Porter ’43