Summer Camp 1980

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Summer Camp 1980

by Linda Gray, Gail Hall, Deb Steig

For the fourth consecutive summer, the Lubrecht Forestry Camp near Missoula, Montana was the "escape" (?) of 43 Iowa State forestry students. This camp is owned and operated by the University of Montana and is set on experimental forest land.

The western Montana scenery was an enjoyable change from Iowa's farmland. The extreme differences in wildlife was especially noted as the elusive 'Jack-a-lope' was spotted several times.

Along with the different scenery and wildlife was the unpredictable climatic conditions. Very opposite of Iowa's scorching summers, the weather put a limit on our activities by continuous cold and rain. During the first week of camp, it rained everyday at exactly 4:30 p.m.—about the time class was usually dismissed!

On June 12th, everyone had an opportunity to see just how wet and cold the weather really was when we traversed and performed biology fieldwork during a three-hour downpour. The cabins that night echoed with complaints as we wrung out clothes and squeezed boots dry. However, that evening while enjoying one of many delicious meals, we were congratulated on the attitude of professionalism that we had shown throughout the day. When we finally accepted the fact that we were actually being praised, it somehow didn't seem so cold and wet as we walked back from the mess hall to our cabins.

This summer, our camp director was Dr. Steve Jungst. Besides directing the camp, Dr. Jungst also taught the Forest Measurements class.

Another of our illustrious instructors was Dr. Joe Colletti. Dr. Colletti led us on many infamous mill tours as part of the Wood Utilization course. With his uncanny accuracy at horse shoes, "Joe Cool" was envied by all!

Teaching Forest Biology was Dr. Fiichard Schultz. Although "Schultzie" kept us very busy, he still managed to play a fantastic third base!

The Multiple Use Operations class was taught by all three instructors who were collectively known as the "Three Stooges". When not teaching together, these three kept their friendship strong by engaging in leisurely games of frisbee golf in the evenings.

With three very competent professors to share their knowledge with us, time officially spent in class was
filled with many interesting experiences. One of our most exciting experiences in the field was plucking pine needles for a biomass experiment in Forest Biology. Although many grumblings were heard during and after the plucking, we did actually learn something. We'd like to take this opportunity now to show our appreciation, Dr. Schultz: from the bottoms of our hearts to the tips of our permanently mangled fingers—THANK YOU!!

Another studying experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated, was the night of June 27th. With the stars shining brightly on that crisp, cold evening, most of the student body stayed up the entire night completing the traversing project for Dr. Jungst. With a few “adjustments” in angles and lengths, everyone finally had theirs finished by breakfast. Of course, due to our exhausted conditions, some accidentally dozed off in class. Unfortunately, we happened to be in the field at the time. The ground sure was hard when we hit it!

At the same time our instructors were exhausting us, it seems we were doing the same thing to them. This became evident during our tour of the fire research lab in Missoula. During an extremely interesting and stimulating slide presentation, one very (sigh!) weary instructor dozed off. However, due to the privacy act #235-A of the Ames Forester code, we cannot reveal the name of this individual. You lucked out again, Dr. Collett!!

While the time spent in class helped us gain valuable information, our free time was crucial to maintaining our mental stability. Although more than half of this freetime was probably spent completing homework, we did manage to grab a few hours on weekends to “get away from it all”. One of the most anticipated weekends that we had was over the July 4th holiday. Camp was almost deserted as we set out to explore the countryside. One group ventured all the way to Idaho in their exploration while most ended up in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. The weather was surprisingly beautiful and clear the entire holiday weekend. With our nerves calmed and our minds cleared, we all piled into camp Monday evening, ready to face the few remaining weeks of camp.

On the last night in camp with only finals left to complete, several organized a little entertainment for the benefit of all. “The Last Will and
Testament of Lubrecht" was read and left a small token of appreciation to each and every one of us. After the reading of the will, a small gift was presented to each instructor and to Laura Schilling, our excellent cook.

The struggle for knowledge and experience that, at first, seemed overwhelming, was finally accomplished! As we all gathered outside the mess hall to say our farewells, we suddenly realized that we would now be going our separate ways. Although we knew it would only be a fairly short time before we saw each other again, just the fact that we had completed an exhausting but extremely fulfilling part of our lives saddened us. However, because of both these fulfillments and struggles we have experienced, we can look confidently toward our futures, particularly our futures in forestry. ■

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