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1963
Summer Camp

by
ROBERT SASSE

Last June our rambling summer camp came to rest in the rugged mountains of Colorado's Winter Park area for the third successive year—and with due reason. The area is unique in its multiple use combination of wood, water, wildlife, forage, and recreation. This interaction served well the camp's main purpose—to provide a familiarization with the fundamental fields of forestry as well as their demands on the individual and the satisfactions they provide in return.

"Sure takes a long time to color these confounded logs with lumber crayons."

"Getting the lowdown from local District Ranger Henry Haalck."

"Why did I ever sell my life insurance?"

Through the summer the area's natural resources were interpreted to us often in a somewhat different perspective by many management specialists. In addition several federal land management agencies provided a clear picture of their objectives as well as the problems commonly encountered in managing these resources. We spent one of our most interesting days discussing fish and wildlife management with two state conservation department officials. Another intriguing day was spent with a geologist in the high country learning of the area's geologic formation, structure, and significance.

Unlike many previous summer camps, we were well-equipped with modern facilities allowing much more time for our studies. Idle moments, however, were confined to weekend recreation, which improved in some respects with the onslaught of the tourist season. The cool brisk morning air usually brought a truck ride followed by incessant note-taking.
which kept us alert, well at least awake, well at least ah... ho... hum.

We even acquired some insight into the field of research in our travels. The results of considerable research on watershed and range problems were shown to us at the Fraser and Manitou Experimental Forests. In fact some research was carried on back at camp occasionally on such problems as whose beard needed thinning and who was forever pulling out the air mattress plug.

A considerable amount of time at camp was also spent in applying our learning to practical and valuable field experience. Some of these tasks were surveying, forest site classification, and timber cruising, followed by topographic mapping and report-writing. The last day brought forth a final test on cruising, but our errors were so grotesque as to make any estimate of reliability ridiculous. That evening a memorable steak fry was held at the Devil's Thumb Ranch after which we sang folksongs beside the campfire. Thus ended the days that wrought frameworks on which to direct the future building of our careers.