1-1-1999

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Ahh...Retirement...

Dr. Prestemon on Dr. Manwiller

After serving more than 20 years, the premier wood anatomist in the Department of Forestry will no longer be available with his hand lens and very sharp knife to identify wood samples and to characterize different species. Floyd came to us in December, 1978, from the bayou country of Louisiana. He was a productive Forest Service research scientist while serving under a rigid, demanding administrator. It was not easy to convince Floyd to come to ISU; it took two tries before George Thomson could sweet-talk him into joining our staff. But we figured we were really just bringing him home. Floyd is an Iowa native, an ISU forestry alum, and received his Ph.D. degree here under the inimitable Dwight Bensend.

Without a doubt, Floyd’s major interest at Iowa State has been on teaching and advising. Ironically, only within the last year or two has his appointment reflected his major interests. He is a very effective student advocate and a respected, well-liked teacher. Floyd also coordinated permanent job placement of forestry graduates for several years. Outside the department, he has served in the Faculty Senate, which has been both interesting and a bit frustrating for him.

Floyd Manwiller is a very dedicated family man. He spends tons of time helping his sons with home projects (even though they sometimes tip out of his truck). He is very devoted to his elderly parents in Cedar Rapids. Floyd is delighted that his two sons married wonderful Iowa women who have blessed him and Mary with five definitely above-average grandchildren which they enjoy spoiling.

Floyd has been very active in the Calvary United Methodist Church in Ames and in Kiwanis. He has enjoyed the intellectual stimulation generated by a modest number of consulting assignments and has found the workings of the lawyers and the judiciary system very interesting (although sometimes mysterious and inexplicable). And, Floyd enjoys playing cards and sometimes even wins, unless Paul Wray is out to get him.

Floyd intends to spend his retirement enjoying his family, restoring his antique car, making doll cradles for his grandchildren, relaxing, maybe sampling some of his son’s home-brewed dark beer, and perhaps doing some consulting.

Floyd will be missed very much in the Department of Forestry, and, as is often the case, his contributions will likely be even more fully appreciated after June 30, 1999. Jimmy Carter concludes in his book, The Virtues of Aging, by observing that, “You are old when regrets take the place of dreams.” Keep on dreaming, and enjoy a long, productive, healthy retirement.

Floyd and Mary Manwiller