

National Society of American Foresters Convention Visit

Hot Springs, Arkansas Oct. 2-5, 1972



Left to Right: Van Cline, Mike Bondi, April McDonald, Bob Spetman, Carl Ramm.

In the fall of 1972 the George B. Hartman Travel Award was presented to five Iowa State forestry and outdoor recreation students. These students—April McDonald, Mike Bondi, Carl Ramm, Bob Spetman, and Van Cline—received lodging and transportation from Ames to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to attend the Society of American Foresters National Convention. Dr. Webster and Dr. Thomson accompanied the group. The trip lasted a total of four days, two at the convention and two on the road.

After a long drive through scenic sections of Arkansas, we arrived late Monday evening and rushed off to attend the student rap session which included forestry students from all over the country. Students argued that the SAF should have a job placement referral service, but professionals disagreed. We felt the meeting was unorganized, to say the least, and the long heated discussion accomplished very little.

Tuesday morning we groggily climbed aboard buses for a tour which encompassed forestry practices throughout the Mid-South. At our first stop,



in the Ouachita National Forest, we saw a Busche Combine at work. These machines can move pulpwood from fields into the mills without ever being touched by man. They can fell trees, delim, buck, and load about 12 cords of pulpwood a day.

Our next stop was the Ouachita seed orchard where we toured an area used for production of superior seed and seedlings. The area, about 700 acres, is the largest shortleaf pine tree improvement project in the world. While touring the area, those of us from the 1971 Summer Camp were happy to see our old friend—the Canadian Water Bomber. The CL-215 again demonstrated its efficiency and accuracy in water bombing fires.

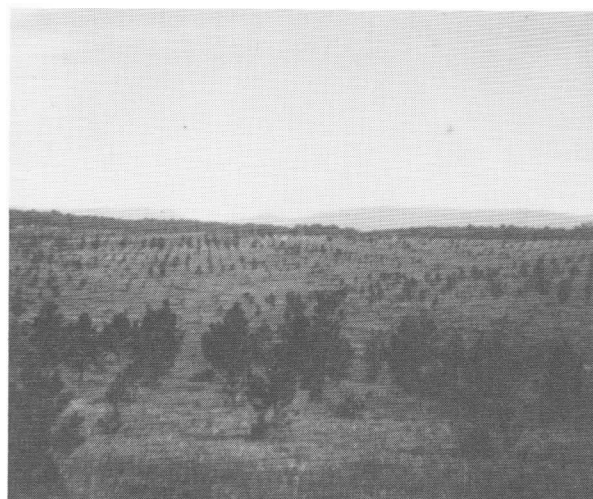
The general census was that this tour was the most interesting and informative part of the trip. Carl Ramm summed it up by stating, "The Forest Resources Study Tour of the Mid-South provided our group with a diversified look at forestry practices in this part of the country!"



award winning films concerning forestry and the natural environment. Some of these were particularly timely and controversial.

One of the major benefits of the trip was the opportunity to meet so many of the professionals in the natural resources field. Several of our old friends also attending the convention included "Big" Ed Grafton (former Club Adviser and now head of the Forest Technology Dept. at Glenville State College, West Virginia), DeWitt Nelson, and a number of recent ISU grads.

Hot Springs also provided the opportunity for interesting side trips. Downtown was lined with mineral water bath houses and antique stores, and we found that Molly's had the best Kosher food found in Arkansas. For all of us, our experience in Hot Springs was well worth the time away from classes. We are indebted to the George B. Hartman Travel Fund and all of the alumni who made the trip possible.



After returning from the field we had dinner at the catfish fry and were entertained by the biggest honkeytonk band this side of Bluegrass.

Wednesday we were recognized at the ISU Alumni Breakfast, attended by about 40 alumni and organized by Harold McAlpine, '70. Steve Hopkins spoke on his summer experience as an SAF intern in Washington, D.C. The remainder of the day we attended various general sessions including "Silviculture and Management in the Mid-South," and "Managing For a Quility Environment." Dr. Carl Stoltenberg, former head of the ISU Forestry Dept., was the ISU Forestry Dept., was the moderator for the "Forum on Clearcutting." That evening we viewed