

George B. Hartman

1894–1960

By L. F. Kellogg

GEORGE B. HARTMAN was a Hawkeye, born at Valley Junction, Iowa, Nov. 28, 1894. However he grew up at Eddyville, Mahaska County, Iowa. His father was a locomotive engineer and George had a continuing enthusiasm for steam railroading all his life. After early schooling he came to Iowa State College graduating in forestry with a B.S. degree in 1917, a classmate of "Bugs" Firkins, Wm. A. Stacey, and others here in Ames. In 1941 he received the M.S. degree from Iowa State.



Like so many others, he was caught in the whirl of World War I, where he served in France in the famous Twentieth Engineers Battalion under Col. Wm. B. Greeley. This was the group assigned to cutting and milling timber from French forests for trenches and dugouts at the front. After the Armistice for a short time he taught dendrology at the A.E.F. University at Beaune in eastern France.

Returning in 1919 he was employed by the Long-Bell Lumber Company, Wood Preserving Division, at DeRidder, La. He served in several capacities and in 1921 he became Supt. of that plant. He continued there until 1935 at which time he joined the Iowa State College as an assistant professor, later Associate Professor and Professor in the Department of Forestry. In 1947 he returned to the Long-Bell Co. at DeRidder as Asst. General Manager; but not for long. His teaching ability had been noted and valued so that, with Prof. G. B. MacDonald stepping aside as head of the Department of Forestry,

George returned to the campus in 1948 to take that post. He continued as head of the Department until he stepped aside last July 1, 1960, under the age limitations.

An unusually strong interest in athletics was present in this man. During college he played baseball. Later in Louisiana he played more baseball as a semi-professional. At Iowa State he was a strong supporter of the teams and represented the Agricultural Division on the Athletic Council for five years, from about 1951-1956. This responsibility was no slight burden.

George Hartman became a member of the Society of American Foresters in 1939. He has served almost exclusively in its educational work. He was secretary of the Division of Education in 1950, vice chairman in 1951, and chairman in 1952. Since 1948 he has been a member of the Society's Committee for Advancement of Forestry Education in 1956 and served here until his death. In 1959, he was elected to the status of Fellow in the Society.

In recognition of his success with students he received election to hold a traveling walnut plaque in 1959. He was the fourth recipient of this honor which reads "Wilson Chapter, Alpha Zeta, Tall Corn Award to the Outstanding Division Faculty Member in The Division of Agriculture 1959-60."

In 1953 he was appointed by the Governor of Iowa as a member of the Iowa Natural Resources Council. Because of reappointments he, continued this work for these last seven years and was to have served until 1965.

For many years he has been active in the American Wood Preservers' Association. In this he was widely known through membership in its commodities committee and its testing and records of treated posts.

Other affiliations have been Sigma Pi social fraternity; Gamma Sigma Delta — honorary in Agriculture; Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Zeta honorary fraternities. He was a member of the Iowa Hoo-Hoo Club No. 102 of Des Moines, a lumbermen's group; and through this affiliation and friendship we have a sophomore scholarship in forestry supported by No. 102 of Des Moines.

In a very special way, George was an outstanding churchman and Baptist. Over the years he has poured out vast effort and time to serve his church. For years he taught a Sunday school class; he served as chairman of the building committee when the new edifice was erected since the War; when they needed a pipe organ he helped truck one home and place it in the balcony to save the church extra expense; he served both the American and the Iowa Baptist Conventions on committees and commissions; he served as trustee, finance officer and advisor. Only those working there know the full extent of his service.

He became a Kiwanian March 8, 1946. Over the years he had excellent attendance which is difficult with a teaching and a field-going schedule. He was chairman of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee in 1951. He served on many if not all of the club committees over the years, and was finishing up a year as Member of the Board.

George left us November 25, 1960, three days before his 66th birthday with a record of long and kindly service. In his years at Iowa State he became well known and his life and philosophy touched the lives of about 80 percent of the graduates in forestry to date. After services here he was removed to DeRidder, Louisiana, for burial.