

1951 Forestry Summer Camp

ON A RAINY, foggy, and generally dreary morning in mid-June of 1951 the peaceful village of Hiles, Wisconsin was awakened by the roar (no offense, truck drivers) of three green trucks bearing Iowa license plates. After the citizens had been convinced that this was not really an invasion by the Rebels and had lowered their muskets, the trucks unloaded and the Iowa State Forestry Summer Camp was underway. If these innocent people had had any idea what was in store for them during the following eight weeks, they would undoubtedly have eradicated the entire mob of invaders at that time.

The camp was headquartered in a red brick schoolhouse located in the industrial heart of Hiles. The school was a spacious building with ample space for cots, instructor's rooms, mess hall, kitchen, heads (with showers and indoor plumbing, no less), and classrooms. It is with the latter that we shall deal. Four three-credit courses were given at camp. These were Silviculture, Utilization, Mensuration, and National Forest Operations.

The staff personnel included Dr. Bense, Camp Director and National Forest Operation instructor; Professor Kellogg, Silviculture instructor; Mr. Thompson, Mensuration instructor; Ted Bauer, Utilization instructor; and Shorty and Lhea Johnson, the ever-popular cooks.

There were forty-three eager foresters at the camp. This group was divided into two sections for the purpose of limiting the size of the classes. The division also served as the basis for a competitive sports program.

Since N.F.O. and Utilization were both report courses in which we visited mills, plants, and forest operations in the surrounding area, both sections took these courses together. However, the two sections took the other two courses separately. Thus, while Professor Kellogg was explaining the finer points of Silviculture to Section One, Mr. Thompson was wading through the muskeg with Section Two.

FORESTRY 214: SILVICULTURE

The art of producing and caring for a forest was thoroughly explained during this course. In a brief summary statement, "Let the blueberries grow."

1. Towering pines from little seedlings grow. The Trout Lake Nursery, Wisconsin.
2. Publicity agents Jack Wright and Warner Heyer.
3. Carter McKee, Frank Szymeczek, and Onnie Paakkonen on a menso problem.
4. Snag removal a la I.S.C. Foresters.
5. Destined for the pulp mill.
6. Summer camp glamour boys—Fred Allman and Paul Arrasmith.

First we were acquainted with all the species present in the Great Lakes region. We studied conditions affecting growth of these species. This included determination of site quality, reproduction studies, and stand classification.

Perhaps one of the more interesting phases covered was the silvicultural operations. Thinnings, release cuttings, and prunings were made in red pine, white pine, birch, or aspen stands. Tolerance of species was also covered.

Last, but not least, we studied final cuttings. It became apparent to us that the harvest of the timber crop must be a carefully planned operation, not a means of eradicating the forest.

FORESTRY 234: UTILIZATION

Numerous trips highlighted this course. Our first trip was through a paper company utilizing spruce, hemlock, and balsam fir in the sulphite process to produce glassine paper. The waste liquor from this operation was used to make an animal feed of yeast.

On our next trip we witnessed the production of excelsior. We then went to a container corporation which used both the kraft and semi-chemical processes in the production of a strong cardboard used in the construction of containers.



I.S.C. foresters visit many forest industries at summer camp.

On other trips we saw various types of sawmills such as a single band, a circular sawmill, and a band and resaw mill.

We saw the steps in the manufacture of maple furniture as well as the production of high-grade birch and maple flooring.

Dry kilns were explained and inspected. A under-run, over-run study of a small sawmill was made. We also saw the very interesting manufacture of plywood.

We visited a sugar bush utilizing the sap of the maple tree. The product was tested by the group with a meal of pancakes and maple syrup.

A day was spent at the large sawmill on the Menominee Indian Reservation. This was of great interest to all.

The course was completed with a visit to the Ford Company where we were guests at the company's distillation and charcoal plant and at the factory which produces Ford station wagons. The class was taken through the entire plant and shown all the equipment. That was the day peanut butter was erased from the noon menu and we were guests in the Ford cafeteria!

FORESTRY 244: MENSURATION

A timber cruise was made on 300 acres of Wisconsin muskeg in summer camp's favorite course, "Menso."

Each section was divided into three-man crews so that when one member became lost in the swamp the other two could carry on. For further information, consult Freddie the swamp wader.

A type and detail map was made of the area cruised. We were given plenty of math practice in compiling the data for our summary of the area.

Each of us made a "porky" stick, sometimes referred to as a Biltmore. These proved very useful in the noon-hour diversion of chasing porcupines.

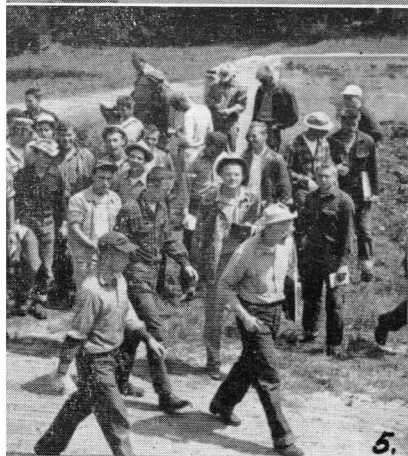
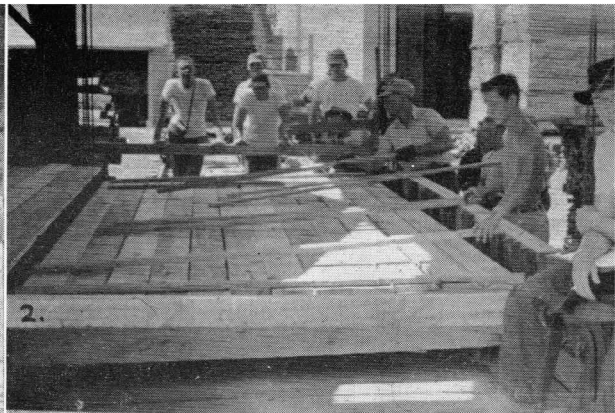
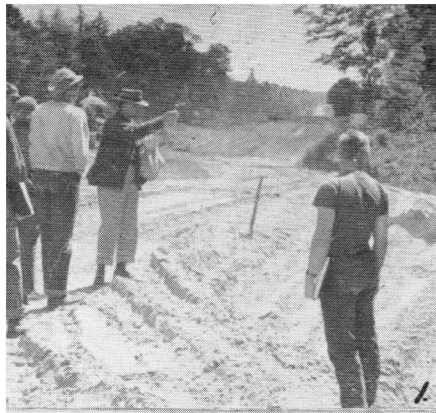
It was in Menso that our peanut butter was most appreciated. The mosquitoes seemed to prefer the cheese and to ignore the peanuts. At times the Menso boys, wearing mosquito netting and gloves, more resembled jungle warriors than timber cruisers.

One day was spent in search for section, quarter, and meander corners. Finally a random survey was made and then a check plot taken to see just how much cruising ability we had acquired during our swamp estimations.

Yes freshmen, as Mr. Thompson says, "You will enjoy mensuration."

FORESTRY 250: NATIONAL FOREST OPERATIONS

In N.F.O. we studied national forest supervision and control and many related topics. The class took part in a fire fighting



demonstration conducted by Ranger Dick Smith, but because of the rather wet summer we were not called upon to fight a fire during the entire camp period.

We were very fortunate in this course to have one of the best foresters in the business as a frequent guide in the person of Joe Steckler. Joe Steckler is in charge of the experimental forest near Hiles. Joe took us on tours of the forest and showed us some of the experiments he has set up.

We participated in a porcupine count in connection with one of these experiments. The class was shown how Wisconsin is attempting utilization of swamp areas and saw various cutting experiments made to determine the most suitable type for this area.

Since we were on the Argonne District of the Nicolet National Forest, and only eight miles from the ranger station, we made numerous tours of the district forest. One of the camp highlights was our trip to the Menominee Indian Reservation. We were shown how the government, and the Indians themselves, are accomplishing full utilization on the reservation.

A day was spent at the Wisconsin State Conservation Headquarters and at the state nursery. We toured the Fire Prevention headquarters and were given a demonstration of the equipment used.

The Nicolet National Forest supervisor and two of his assistants explained the organization of a national forest and told us of possibilities in the Forest Service.

We finally saw a "Muskie" at the state fish hatchery.

All in all, the 1951 summer camp consisted of long hours of report writing, peanut butter sandwiches, rough truck rides, and the acquisition of unmeasurable knowledge in forestry. It was a camp that will not soon be forgotten, either by the good citizens of Hiles, or by those of us who were there.

Summer camp can't be summarized in a few words, for there are countless incidents which will live in the memories of all who have attended. Deep inside, all of us envy you freshmen who will be going to Hiles next summer. Tell all our friends "hello" and have yourselves the best summer of your college life!

1. He went that-a-way; Prof. Kellogg directing.
2. Learning the finer points of placing stickers in a lumber pile.
3. It looks easy—try it!
4. A ride in a green convertible.
5. Off on a field trip.
6. Loading pulp—National Container Corporation, Tomahawk, Wisconsin.
7. Horse and dray (National Container)
8. Ce-dar splitters?—Splitting shakes.

