1967 Summer Camp

By DENNY MICHEL

For the past 53 summers (excluding the war years 43, 44, and 45) Iowa State University forestry students have migrated many miles to different parts of our country to attend their respective summer camps.

Last summer, 46 students and three faculty members traveled 1300 miles to take part in the third consecutive forestry camp held at Lubrecht Experimental Forest in Greenough, Montana.

The route west was completed by bus, train, plane and personal cars. With the exception of two enthusiastic individuals, who made the three day trip on motorcycles, everyone was ready to begin camp on the scheduled date.

The new eight week homes proved to be a real homemaker’s challenge. Getting the best bunk or desk spot went to the man who arrived at camp first. However, operating the cabin stove was a group project and required a degree in wood physics to keep the heat circulating.

Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. the first morning was an enlightening experience for those who liked to “sleep in.” Mrs. Caldwell explained the “two-glasses-of-milk” rule and introduced the peanut butter sandwich as a constituent of all future sack lunches. KP duties were also assigned that first morning. Ah yes, that wonderful KP!

Members of the group consisted of veterinarians, electrical and mechanical engineers, and landscape architects. All of whom had seen the guiding light to transfer into forestry! The group was divided into two sections of twenty-three each. Thus, each section could alternate lecture time of the four courses: Forest Biology, Mensuration, Wood Utilization, and Forest Operations.

One of the first things on the agenda was an official welcome and orientation from Dean Bolle of the University of Montana. He spoke on the history and development of the Lubrecht Exp. Forest emphasizing special experimental projects being undertaken.

Forest Mapping and Mensuration with Dr. Hopkins began by running simple open and closed tra-
verses with the compass, chain, abney level, and computations book. Later, we headed for the “tall timber” in crews of six to complete an inventory on a half section of land. The volume on this area was predicted according to our cruising data, and a final map to describe the different timber types, in relation to the contours of topography, was drawn. An exercise concerned with per cent grade for road construction was also performed.

The group took a trip to a local logging yard in Sealy Lake to practice the various types and rules of scaling timber.

Perhaps one of the most important things learned by many of the students was that when you “throw a chain” it’s supposed to stay in your hand; no matter how tangled and twisted it becomes!

Dr. Bensend’s Wood Utilization course consisted of wood conversion lectures preceding the actual tour of plants and mills throughout the state.

The Elkorn Lumber Company, Intermountain Lumber Company, and Van Evan Plywood Company were among the numerous plants visited in the Missoula area. Hoerner-Waldorf Paper Company, also located here, has recently completed a million-dollar expansion in production facilities, including extensive research in air pollution. The newly constructed Kamyr continuous digester, which is nearly 300 feet high, has increased output to 1000 tons of pulp per day. The tour of the mill included lunch in one of the local restaurants, which was a welcome change from those scrumptious peanut butter sandwiches!

A two-day trip of the Anaconda Company consisted of studying alternate logging and sawmill operations. Anaconda, initially a mining company and economic leader, now ranks thirtieth in the nation with an output of one hundred ten million board feet per year.

Potlatch Forests Inc. in Lewiston, Idaho, was our host for an exciting and educational three day excursion. The journey to Lewston made its first stop in Pullman, Washington, where the Wood Products Research of Washington State University was visited. The Potlatch Operations tour was enhanced by two very “able-bodied” female guides, who easily convinced the group that Potlatch has the largest white pine industry in the world. An I.S.U. alumnus directed us throughout the company’s vast forests and land holdings. A true taste of loggers lives and food was gained by the group in the base camp at Headquarters, Idaho.

Forest Biology with “Sgt.” Schultz was an introduction to the various environmental influences on forest growth. Many biological aspects such as keying out unknown vegetation, digging soil pits, visiting eco-units, measuring animal and bird movements, (“and the like”) were all undertaken. The different techniques of forest manipulations for greater timber production were also discussed.

Dr. Hopkins and “Sgt.” Schultz handled the Forest Operations course together. It was made up of visit-