10-6-1963

Montana State University School of Forestry Golden Anniversary

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
A battery of big guns will salute the Montana State University School of Forestry at a Homecoming conference Thursday and Friday launching the school’s golden anniversary celebration. Conference speakers include Sen. Lee Metcalf and leading foresters from throughout the country.

In 50 years of Bunyanesque progress the school has played a prominent part in the American forestry movement dating from the establishment of the U. S. Forest Service in 1905. As early as 1908 forestry lectures were being given at the University. By 1910 a three-month course for forest rangers was a going concern. The latter evolved into the Ranger School, which was not abandoned until 1927, long after a more comprehensive forestry curriculum was being offered. In 1911 Arthur Fowler Bishop was granted a bachelor of science (forestry) and in 1912 Ernest E. Hubert was graduated with the same degree.

The School of Forestry was officially founded in 1913 by Act of the Legislature and enrolled 25 students that year. The next year the enrollment jumped to 73 and the school was on its way in earnest.

Dorr Skeels, a logging engineer with the USFS, was named dean of the new school. Classes were held in Main Hall until students and faculty pitched in to build a home of their own in 1914. This wooden structure, "the shack," served until 1922, when Pinchot Hall, the present forestry building, was erected.

In 1928 ground was broken at the forest nursery. In 1937 the Anaconda Co. and the Northern Pacific Railway Co. donated 22,000 acres of forest land near Missoula, adding the Lubrecht Experimental Forest to the school’s facilities.

(more)
School traditions were growing along with the physical plant, enrollment and teaching staff. The Forestry Club started in 1914 and elected as its officers Harry Ade, Harold (Peg) Lansing, Fred Haines and Kenneth Wolfe. The club has published the Forestry Kaimin every year since, except during two world wars.

Foresters Ball began in 1916 and soon took on a legendary stamp from the exploits of early patrons who, it is said, used live ammunition for their ballroom exhibitions of fast-draw artistry.

And so the school developed in size and stature under a succession of energetic and dedicated deans, who left indelible imprints on its character. Dean Skorr served until 1923. He was succeeded by Thomas C. Spaulding, who held the post until 1946. Spaulding was followed by Kenneth P. Davis, who left in 1949 to become chairman of the Department of Forestry at the University of Michigan. Ross Williams was dean from 1949 until his retirement last year. Dr. Arnold W. Bolle, a member of the faculty since 1955, took the reins in 1962.

Dr. C. A. Schenck and Dr. Joseph E. Kirkwood made lasting contributions, too. Dr. Schenck, German forester and economist who started the first forestry school in the United States (the Biltmore School) was a frequent lecturer. Dr. Kirkwood, who became chairman of the new Botany Department in 1910, taught forestry subjects before the school officially came into being.


Instead of 90-day prodigies the school now turns out four-year graduates ready for careers in such specializations as industrial forestry, wildlife management, fire control, wood utilization, recreation, forest management, and research. Enrollment (more)
has grown from 25 to more than 350, served by a highly qualified faculty of 18. To date, the school has granted more than 1,200 baccalaureate degrees and nearly 90 masters degrees, and its graduates are in demand all over the world.

The conference this week is in the school's tradition of providing continuing education to practicing foresters. Another example of this practice is the annual School for Administrative Leadership, a 30-day course for administrators of conservation agencies, which is almost unique among services offered by the nation's schools of forestry.

###

Publications and News Service

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, Missoula