

WILLIAM A. DAVIES

**Biographical Sketch and Management of
OSU Research Forests
Benton & Polk Counties, Oregon: 1946-1973**

**Oral History Interviews by
Royal G. Jackson and Jennifer Lee**



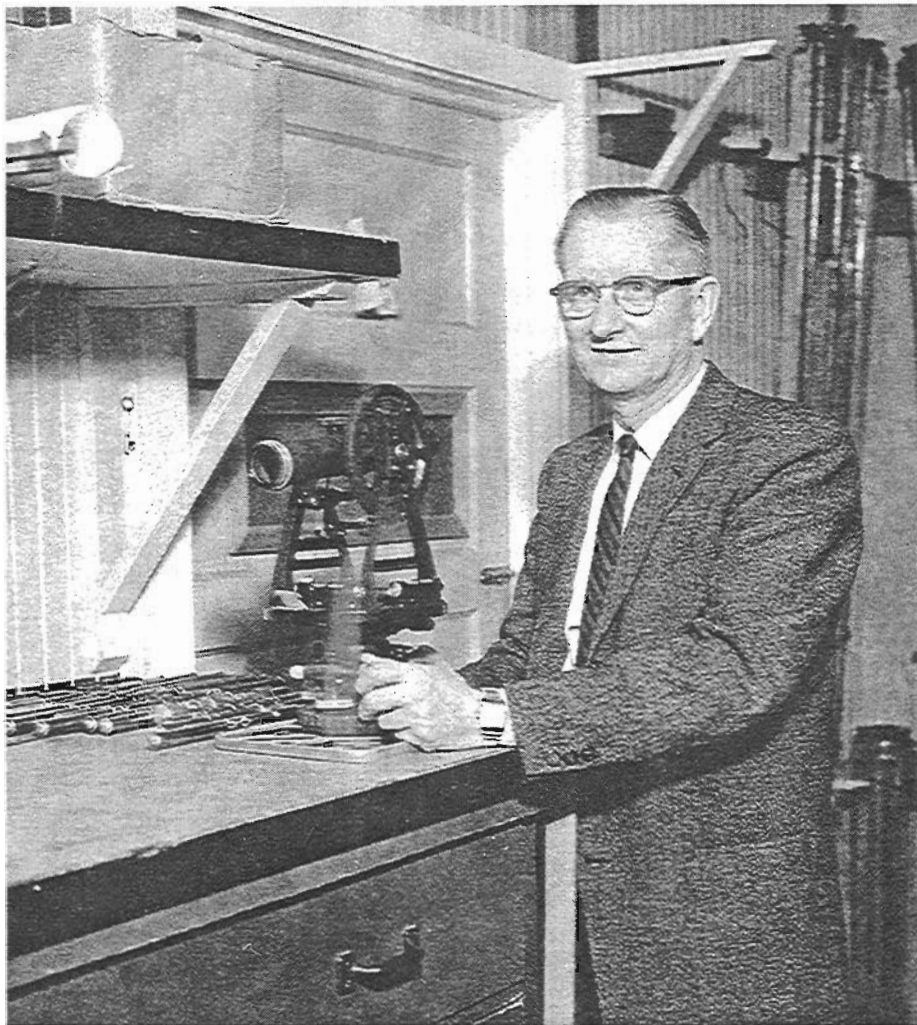
**Soap Creek Valley History Project
OSU Research Forests
Monograph # 13
1997**



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

William Atkinson, former Director of the O.S.U. Research Forests, initially authorized the Soap Creek Valley History Project in 1989. This project has continued to be supported by David Lysne, the current Director of the O.S.U. Research Forests. The purpose of this project is to better understand the history of an area that has been managed by the College of Forestry since 1929 when Mrs. Mary J. L. McDonald began making contributions to obtain land adjacent the Arboretum for what would become the McDonald-Dunn Forest.

The William A. Davies monograph is derived from the oral history interviews conducted in 1979 by Royal G. Jackson and Jennifer Lee. Oral histories differ from written histories in that they are the recorded verbatim first hand accounts or recollections of activities that occurred in the past. O.S.U. Archives provided access to the original tapes with assistance by Larry Landis and Elizabeth Neilson. Craig N. Rowley, Md. Shahidul Islam and Kate Rendrich assisted in numerous aspects of publishing this monograph.

The Forest Products Society granted permission to reproduce Douglas-fir Region: Small Log Harvesting which appeared in the Forest Products Journal. April 1960, pp. 187-189.

Mrs. Joan Davies has graciously aided all aspects of this project. Her patience and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Cover Photo: 1932 photo of O.S.C. Forestry students and Sampson truck, "Six Bits."
Back row: DeWitt Jones, Lee Holmes, Delbert "Pop" Day, Floyd Willert.
Standing (L-R): Bill Owens, Harry "Pat" Patterson, __ Lovegren, Elmer Bladeree,
B.L. "Chung" Nutting.
In cab: Tom Owens.
On fender: "Brad" Peavy From 50 Years of Forestry at Oregon State College, 1956, page13.

Title Page Photo: William A. Davies, 1964 (Photo courtesy: Joan Davies)

MACDONALD-DUNN FOREST LOCATION

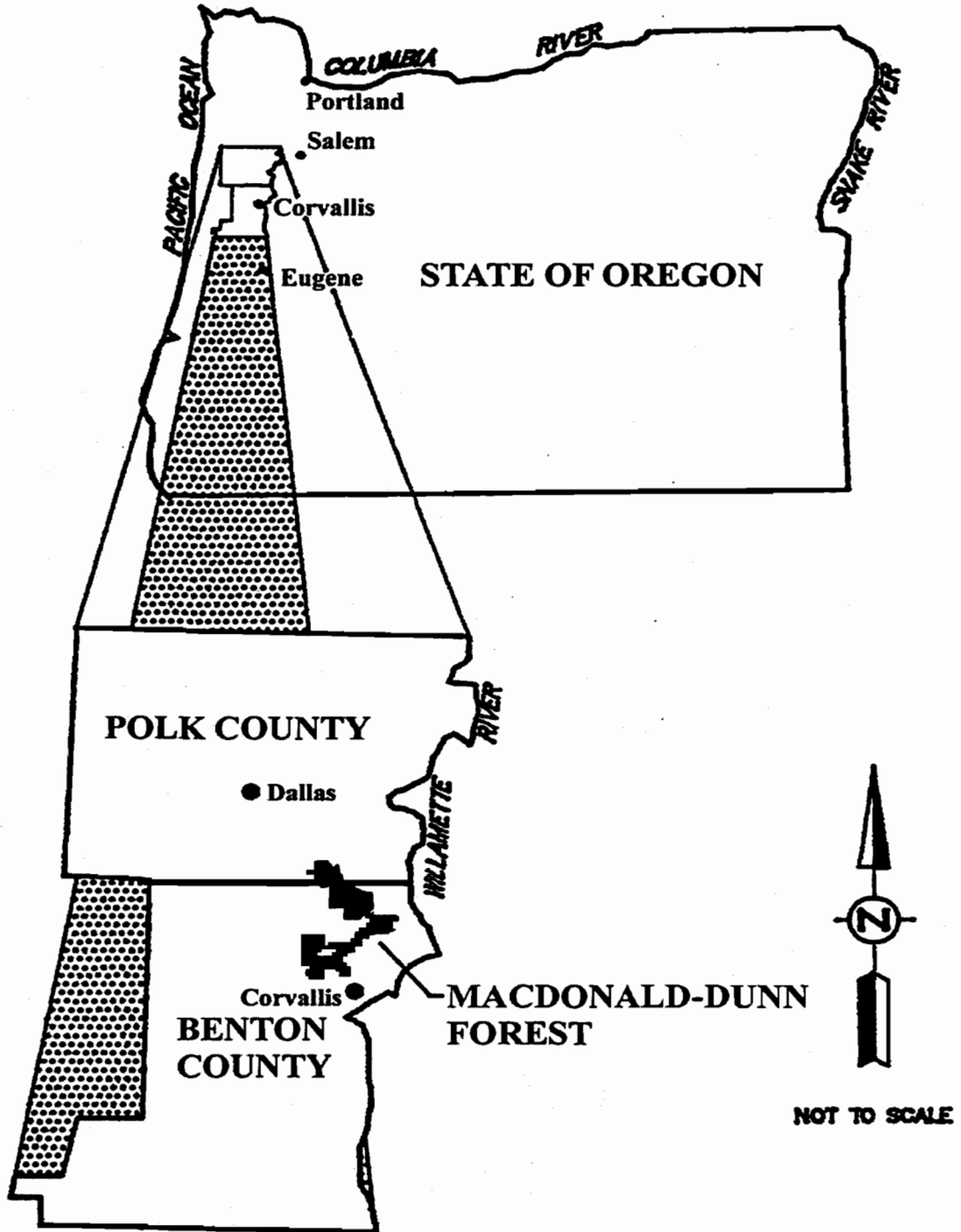


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PART I

FEBRUARY 19, 1979 INTERVIEW

I. COMING TO OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Let's start from when you first came to Oregon State University. Was that as a student or were you a faculty member when you first came here?

No, I came here, from working for Weyerhaeuser, as an Associate Professor of Forest Engineering in 1946. In 1951 I was promoted to full professor and head of the department. In 1959 the chore of forest manager was added, and in 1973 I was retired. That's a quick history of my time here. (laughter)

How did you happen to hear about the job here? Who asked you to come here as a professor?

Well, I had a master's degree in logging engineering from the University of Washington. I think there were only two or three or four in the world at that time. I think there weren't too many. And McCulloch, who later became dean of the school, here, was working for the state forestry department while the enrollment was down during the war, and I had some dealings with him because he was handling one of the conservation acts for the state and I was handling Weyerhaeuser lands in northern Oregon and southern Washington. He decided to come back to the school when the war was over—students started coming back—and he asked me if I would be interested in coming to Oregon State because in five years the department head's job was going to be open and they didn't have anybody in line to fill it. I said, "Well, I don't think I can afford to." But about six months later he saw me and he handed me an application and said, "Put it in. It won't cost you anything." So I did, and then Paul Dunn, who was dean, met with me and told me what they could do. I think at that time he offered me an assistant professorship and \$3,800.00 a year.

How did that compare with your Weyerhaeuser salary?

I think I was getting—well, we had a bonus at Weyerhaeuser that amounted to about \$5,800.00 or \$6,000.00 a year, plus expenses. I said, "Gee, I can't afford to do that." About a couple of months later he came back and said he'd talked to President Strand and they now offered me an associate professorship and I think \$4,800.00 to come here. So I accepted to take a cut in salary, much to the disgust of my wife. But, we had one child and expected more, and I thought a small college town was one heck of a good place to raise children. It was small then, 10,000 or 12,000.

What had been your connection with Corvallis prior to that? Had you lived here?

No, I'd been here once or twice in my life only.

Where did you get your undergraduate degree?

University of Washington. I got both degrees at University of Washington.

So this was in 1946. You and your wife, and son or daughter?

One son at that time, and a couple of years later another son.

What was Corvallis like when you moved here?

Oh, a sleepy, little town; a small college town. As I remember, there were 12,000 people here, not counting the students, that's all.

And President Strand was then President of the University?

Yes.

2. FORESTRY EDUCATION

And Paul Dunn was dean at that time?

[He] was dean. Paul's the one who hired me.

Had you known him before?

Just at meetings. I used to go to the forestry meetings and Paul Dunn was one that attended all of the forestry meetings. He never missed any of them. That's why I'd see him at meetings. And he was the type of fellow that made it his business to become acquainted with everybody. You know Paul?

Yes. Had you ever had any teaching experience before you came here?

No, except as a graduate assistant. I was at the University of Washington for two years; I taught courses.

What did you teach when you got here?

When I got here, I taught surveying courses in forest engineering. Of course, I had spent a lot of my life surveying; I worked two years for a surveyor, and that was part of my job at Weyerhaeuser.

How big was the department when you came into it in 1946?

I think three.

Three professors in forest engineering?

Yes.

And who was department head at that time?

Patterson, Harry Patterson. He'd been department head for 25 or 28 years. He was really about the first one. They had one that started it, but he didn't really quit his job as logging manager while he was head of the department here; he managed a big lumber company and came here and set the thing up. Then they hired Patterson. I was really the second one.

What person or persons stand out in your mind in those first few years here?

I think the three people that I had maybe the most contact with that stand out in my mind are president Strand, Paul Dunn, and McCulloch. McCulloch was head of the forest management department while I was head of forest engineering. We worked pretty closely together on things. Those three, I think.

For what qualities did you admire McCulloch?

Oh, for his straightforwardness and his command of the English language, which had always been a struggle for me. And his straightforwardness -- you knew where you stood with Mac; he didn't beat around the bush. If he didn't like the things you did, he would say so. He'd say, "That's a stupid thing to do." Things like that.

How about some of the previous deans? Had you known, for example, Dean Peavy?

I knew him slightly, yes.

What do you remember about him? What was your impression of him?

Well, the first time, I think, that I met Dean Peavy was a meeting at the University of Washington when I was up there as a student. I think that he spoke at our banquet; and when this little guy came in there and started speaking with that big, booming voice, everybody jumped off his seat about that far (laughter). The thing that I really remember about Peavy is that booming voice for such a little guy. But he was really well liked by the students. You know, he'd get right out in the field with them and hike through the brush with them, even as dean.

When you came, did most of the professors get out in the field on the annual cruises and activities with the students?

Well, they did in our department and some in forest management, yes.

What departments, besides yours, were in the school? forest engineering, forest management, and what else?

And forest products.

Who was the head of that department?

When I came here, Phim Procter was head of the department. Phimister Procter, son of a very famous sculptor; sculptured the horse up in Portland, I think, and the Michigan Lions, and a few others. Then he was followed by Jack Grantham, Jack is with the forest service now; and then by Bill West, whom you may remember.

I've heard of him.

And then, I can't remember the fellow's name; he's in Australia now, in the school over there.

What about Earl Mason? Did you know him at all?

No, only to speak to him. I'd met him at meetings and so forth. He left the year before I came here. That's quite a story in itself, that era of Mason's acting deanship.

What can you tell us?

Well, we heard all about it up at the University of Washington, about the squabble they were having here. They were taken off the accredited list, the school was.

Why was that?

Because they weren't doing any teaching here. They were just fighting about Mason's side and the opposite side. I think the forest management side was anti-Mason and the forest products side was pro-Mason, and the forest engineering side was in the middle.

Why was Mason so controversial? Did he have some extreme views?

He was a very, very poor administrator, as I understand. He was an outstanding scientist and, I guess, a good teacher. But, he just had a way of antagonizing faculty people and so forth.

Why was he selected as dean if he had those qualities?

I don't know why Peavy selected him. I guess because Mason was such a good teacher and had such a good knowledge of the field of forest management. Unfortunately, that's the way a lot of people are selected in universities. But afterward, he didn't want Peavy to come back even in the school here, when Peavy retired as president. Peavy wanted to come back and be on the faculty here at the school, you know, and Mason fought that.

Why was that?

I don't know. Afraid he'd go back and be dean, I guess, and Mason wanted to be dean. He was just acting dean; he never was dean.

And that was only for one year, wasn't it? 1940 and 1941?

I'm not sure whether it was one year. Must have been more because there was so much hullabaloo about it, maybe not. But T. J. Starker was the leader of the opposition to Mason. You can get the whole story from T. J. Starker, if you want that story, because he was right in the middle of the fight; and he went to the State Board of Higher Education and told them they had to get the guy out of here, and that type of thing. And that is when they brought Paul Dunn in here.

Why was T. J. so opposed to Earl Mason?

I'm not sure, except that they just didn't get along; their personalities conflicted. And T. J. would never admit it, but I think he would have liked to have been dean.

T. J. left shortly thereafter then, didn't he?

Yes, he was on the faculty, but he was on leave for quite a few years; and he left a year before I came here too, in 1945.

Why did Mason leave in 1945?

He was fired.



Prof. William A. Davies posed with two of his students, Gene Johnson (Class of 1949) and Everett Givens (also of 1949), in front of a Forest Engineering Big Wheel employed for skidding large timber. Photograph taken by John Beuter in 1948.

Who fired him?

It was a combination of Paul Dunn and President Strand. Mason asked for a hearing, of course, which is a right with the state board. I guess that was quite a meeting. He blasted Paul Dunn for spending so much money on faculty travel, things like that.

Was Earl Mason a tenured professor?

I don't know, probably was. As I understand it, after he was put back down to teaching from acting dean and they brought Paul Dunn here, he just did everything he could to make things bad for Paul. He wouldn't go to faculty meetings; he refused to accept committee assignments; he came over here, went to his classes, and went home, things like that. That couldn't go on, you know.

What did he teach?

I'm not sure. Something in forest management, but Paul Dunn can tell you that whole story, because he was right in the middle of it.

How did you like working under Paul Dunn?

Very well. Very well. Excellent dean.

Good administrator?

A very good administrator, excellent. The whole faculty liked him. I don't know anybody that didn't.

Let's go back a second to when you first came here. You talked about Corvallis, but you didn't talk about the School of Forestry and what it was like right after the war. Can you describe that a little bit?

Well, that first year after the war was a little hectic, because we were short of faculty and a lot of them were new. Several of us were that first year, and then we had a big influx of students right after the war.

Why was that?

Well, the students, of course, couldn't go to school when they were over there fighting in the war and everything; and right after the war they all came back and went to school. They got the G.I. Bill.

So it wasn't just the School of Forestry?

Oh, the whole university. The whole country, you know. We were just flooded with students due to that backlog while they were in the service, and then coming out; and also, some of them went to school at the universities that never would have gone if it weren't for the G.I. Bill.

Do you remember any outstanding students from that period?

Oh yes, Marv Rowley for one.

Was Marv Rowley a good student?

Yes, he was good. He wasn't an outstanding student, but he was a darn good student. Practical, very practical; Marv is practical, you know. He isn't brilliant, but he's practical; and he was a good student. "B" student, I guess; hard worker.

Any other student that you had that became well known? Any names stand out to you?

Oh yes, I was just reading in the paper yesterday where the Associate Chief of the Forest Service retired. A student of mine in that era, Rex Ressler. Makes me feel a little old.

Were students any better in those days than they are now, or were they lazier?

They were a little older, and there was a lot more cheating in class.

Cheating in class?

Right, a lot more than there is now – well, I don't know now – than there was five years ago. I talked to some of the students and asked them why, and they said, "When we were in the service, we got used to cutting corners on everything and coming back here we noticed cheating by other students and we figured if we're going to compete – going to make it – we've got to cheat too."

What form did that cheating take?

Mostly copying in the exams; that was most of it. Also, in the copying of back reports and papers, stuff to hand in. But copying in the exams was the big one.

What did you do about that?

I started a system of my own. I caught 22 of them in one exam that way. My examinations in that particular course were quantitative problem type. I made out the exam and then I went through and transposed a number in each question in a red pencil and told the secretary to type, half of them the way it was and the other half substitute that transposed number. The answer came out different, but it looked exactly the same on paper. Then I piled them this way. When I handed them out, they came automatically alternate. So when someone came in with the right questions for the wrong paper, I was a little suspicious.

Did you catch a lot of people then?

22 the first time I did it.

What did you do about that?

I called them in, each individually, and it was really kind of fun to get their reaction.

Each admitted it?

Oh, they had to. Some of them denied it. You know, vehemently denied it until I laid the paper down and showed them what had happened. And one of them, every time he comes to town, he calls me up now. When I went down to a meeting in California where he works, he's manager of a company down there, he always takes me out to lunch and asks me if I remember the time he cheated in class. (laughter)

He never forgot that, huh?

No, he said, "Anytime I think about cheating on anything now, I remember that and I don't do it." I could have crucified him, you know, but I didn't. I didn't even tell anybody that he cheated.

3. DEAN MCCULLOCH

Did the School of Forestry have an honor code at that time as they do now?

No, McCulloch was kind of personnel man, like Bill Wheeler is now, besides being Head of Forest Management, and boy, he was strict. He had no children, and if a student was caught cheating he was just out. He was kicked out of school. That's all there was to it, as far as Mac was concerned. They found an empty beer bottle in one of the dorm rooms over here and one of the students there was a forestry student, and Mac just kicked him right out of school, right now. No questions asked.

Times have changed quite a bit on that issue, haven't they?

They sure have.

McCulloch was a very high principled and moralistic man?

Yes, very moralistic, and he had a chin that stuck out like this. Direct action, I'll tell you.

Can you tell us how he felt about women being in forestry?

Yes, anytime a girl came into Mac's office and asked to enroll in forestry, he said, "We do not accept girls in forestry, period. Thank you for coming in."

He had the authority to do that?

He did it and he made it stick. He'd have a hard time today, wouldn't he?

Indeed he would.

(laughter)

So there were no women in forestry at the time you were first here?

Oh no, not until after Mac stepped down. I went to a meeting with Mac, a logging meeting in Eugene. He was the main speaker, and there were two women sitting in the audience of about 400 people. Mac got up there and saw those two women, and he said, "I'm not used to seeing women at logging meetings." He said, "My speech is not prepared for women. Will you please leave?" They just kind of giggled, and he said, "I mean it. Get out or I won't go ahead." So they had to get out before he'd go on talking.

Was he a man that swore a lot, or told off-color jokes?

Well, he had a couple off-color jokes in that speech, I guess, but he normally didn't. No, he just didn't think women belonged in the rugged field of forestry, that's all.

Was there any special feeling of being different among students in forestry at that time? I've heard stories of people wearing a red tie on a given day and things like that.

Well, that was a long tradition and it kind of petered out about ten years ago. That was started at the time of Peavy, I understand, because Peavy used to wear a red tie a lot. So the students decided to wear red ties on Wednesdays – I believe it was Wednesdays.

Every Wednesday all the students were supposed to wear red ties.

Did professors also?

A lot of them did. Some of them just didn't go along with it; but a lot of them did. They were just faithful on wearing red ties on Wednesdays, and around the campus you'd see these red ties and you'd know they were foresters. But the students don't go in for that kind of thing much anymore. They've got too many other things to think about, I guess.

4. FORESTRY CLUB

What do you remember about the Forestry Club? Were you involved with it at all?

Well yes, all of the faculty were involved with the Forestry Club in those days because the faculty was small. I think 90 percent of the faculty would be at every Forestry Club meeting in those days, and a lot of the time 90 percent of the students.

Why is that? The professors, were they required to go?

Well, it's the same thing as the red ties and other things. The feeling in those days, you know, kind of belonging and being faithful to the school, and so forth. But now they don't have the feelings so much anymore.

Did they have a greater sense of identity?

That's right. Yes, that's right. Now everything is bigger. There are more students, more faculty, more diversified, and the attitude has changed.

Do you think that we have lost something in the changed attitude, or do you think it's beneficial?

Oh, I think we sort of lost something with the students, because I think the students got better acquainted with each other. I think, now, some of the forestry students that go through here four years would just recognize another student in a different department that was in his class [if he met him] on the street, but wouldn't remember his name. They all knew each other in those days, and some of the friendships lasted. They still last. That's why they have such a big crowd coming to the Fernhoppers Banquet every year – to come back and see friends they had in school, they were on the same Forestry Club committee, and all that type of thing. I'll bet in another 10 or 15 years that membership or the attendance at the Fernhoppers Banquet will drop, too.

What kind of activities did members of the Forestry Club perform together?

Well, they had a lot of money-raising activities, of course. I guess that's what they have now, too. And then they had McDonald Forest Day.

Was that "A" Day, or is that something different?

No, that's different, that was Arboretum Day. That was a work day. It was way back in the days before McDonald Forest was considered a commercial forest; it was just where they had a place for the students to go. And they had to get money. They couldn't get any money to maintain it, so the students would go out and do the work. They'd go out and work all day Saturday morning and fix up the roads, and everything else, and have a bean feed at noon – Patterson always cooked the "bean-hole-beans" – and then they'd play in the afternoon, log roll and chop, and things like that.

Did you take part in those activities when you came?

Oh yes, sure, the whole faculty did. In fact, all of them did.

What other kinds of things did students do for fun in those days?

In connection with the school, you mean?

Yes, or any other way?

I don't know, it's just activities through the Forestry Club, and through Arboretum Day and McDonald Forest Day that I remember.

Were girlfriends or spouses allowed to go to these functions, McDonald Day or the "A" Day?

At first, I think, none ever went; but then they started. Some of the girlfriends and wives would go out and watch the activities, chopping and so forth. Of course, there were no women at the Forestry Club meetings, because there were no women students. Not too many of the students were married in those early days. Later students started getting married younger. Got married and let their wives put them through school

5. MCDONALD FOREST

Were most of the labs in class, or did they go to McDonald Forest, or did they go someplace else?

Mostly McDonald Forest, the field labs. Some of the Silviculture labs, I know, went over to eastern Oregon once a year to look at the pine timber. But most all the field labs were on McDonald Forest.

What about the Spaulding Tract? When you were here, did any of the students go to that area for field exercises?

No, they didn't. It's farther to go, and they have everything on McDonald Forest that they have at the Spaulding Tract.

Tell me about McDonald Forest at the time you came in 1946. What's your recollection of it at that time?

Well, it was a large area. What was it, 6,000 acres or something at the time? 6 or 7,000 acres that had been acquired primarily through money furnished by Mrs. McDonald. Whenever Peavy found some cheap land, he'd call up her attorney and he'd send up the money to buy it. All that land was land that nobody else wanted; it either had been logged over, or it was considered unmerchantable. A lot of people left said paying two dollars an acre for that stuff is stupid, the school's stupid, you know. So that's what it was, just a place to go, and some of the faculty used to try to do a little commercial stuff out there. I think T. J. Starker had a post cutting deal to sell fence posts, sell wood, or something. The forest was not actually operated as a real commercial forest until I became manager, and I couldn't see that forest just sitting there. Those trees, they had a lot of salvage. The trees were dying and falling down, and the young stands were getting so thick, grown together. They needed thinning for improvement of the stand, and we started cutting three or four million board feet a year. Nothing but salvage and thinning for the first five to ten years to try to get the forest into shape. And we started making all the money they needed to run McDonald Forest. In fact, I think I had a fund of three-quarters of a million dollars, besides keeping the roads up and maintaining the forest, and paying for a lot of the research, and everything else when I retired.

What was the management of the forest like when you came in 1946?

Well, there wasn't any.

Who was the manager? Nettleton?

There wasn't any.

Oh, no manager at all?

No, some of the faculty used to go out there and try to do a few things, but there wasn't any management at all. It was just there.

Well, when was Harry Nettleton the forest manager? Was that after you?

See, Harry Nettleton was teaching here when I came, and he came here for the second time about the time I came. Then Paul Dunn was responsible for getting the area that we call the Dunn Forest now.

The Adair Tract?

Adair Tract, and the forestry parts in the Dunn Forest. Well, when we got that, the first thing we did was to sell some old growth timber that was left after a previous logging, because it was defective and so forth. They sold that and got two hundred and some thousand dollars for it, and on the strength of that they hired a forest manager. That must have been in about 1947 or 1948, or something like that. I don't remember exactly; somewhere along there.

Who was hired?

Nettleton.

That's when they hired Harry Nettleton?

Paul Dunn would know those dates much better than I – somewhere along there.

Anyway, they hired Nettleton as the manager; and he was manager until 1959. Did I say I became manager? I worked a couple of summers with him, two years before he retired, to get better acquainted with the forest.

But the management could be described as passive up to the time that Nettleton came? Not much at all was done?

No, the only thinning that was done was just as a standard improvement measure by some of the faculty people. Take the students out there and thin, and show them how to thin, as kind of a demonstration deal; some of that went on. There was nothing really commercial until the first commercial thinning that we did when Nettleton and I set it up in 1957 and hired Marv Rowley, who had a small operation, to come and do it.

What was done to manage McDonald Forest in the years that Harry Nettleton was manager?

It was primarily a custodial type management. That was his sole job as manager, and he spent a lot of time riding around the roads out there to see that people didn't run off with anything, I guess, and just to see that it was there and to worry about it.

What kinds of things would people run off with?

Go in and cut down trees for wood – things like that; vandalism of various types. We're still having it, I guess. But there was very little actual commercial management; you might say, no commercial management. Very little until, as I say, in 1957 when I talked Nettleton into setting up this commercial thinning program.

Why didn't he do that before that time?

I don't know, I just don't know why he didn't do it. He figured, I guess, that it was just a demonstration forest for the students to go out there and play around and do their lab work and surveying. Of course, at that time the timber from that land out there was not too valuable because it had been picked over and everything. It's turning into a good forest, but it wasn't then, and so now we feel that it was commercially feasible, I guess.

What was Harry Nettleton like? What was his background?

Well, he had a couple of degrees in forestry and he worked for the BLM for quite a while. Nettleton was a very sensitive type person. He had diabetes, and that seemed to affect his personality. He was very sensitive. I know one day we were eating lunch out there in the forest – we were looking at some timber or something – and he said, "You know, my life has been wasted."

What did he mean?

Now that's just what I asked him, and he said, "Well, this weekend a college friend of mine visited me in his Cadillac and told me about the ranch he had with 5,000 head of cattle and so forth." And he said "What do I have? My life has been wasted." It wasn't, because he was a highly regarded teacher when he taught here; the students thought a great deal of him; he wrote the book that was used in that course and used in other schools; and his life really wasn't wasted.

But he saw it that way?

He saw it that way. He was very sensitive, I think due to diabetes. I understand it sometimes affects people that way; makes them melancholy.

Is that why he stopped being the forest manager?

No, he reached retirement age and retired.

That was in 1959?

Right.

6. FOREST MANAGER

Then that's when you took over?

Right.

In a dual role, as department head as well as forest manager?

Yes.

That was a pretty big responsibility.

As I look back on it, I was really foolish to undertake the two, since I taught 20 class hours a week through three terms besides.

Boy, that's a lot of teaching and administration.

I know.

How did you do it?

Well, when George Brown came in and took over as department head, he said, "How did you ever keep up in that triple job you had?" And I told him, "I didn't, I didn't keep up. I didn't do the things I wanted to do, because I just didn't have the time."

Did you draw up a management plan of the forest when you became the forest manager?

Not a formal type of management plan, because we had a rough schedule of work out there. There had been so many management plans drawn up by several graduate students who got their master's degree by making a management plan of McDonald Forest and we sort of used those – the better ones of them, the best of them.

Work Program, July 1, 1955 through June 30, 1956
(Four man summer crew plus student labor during school year)

McDONALD FOREST

- Timber Sales:** Lay out, post and cruise for future sale approximately one million feet of timber in N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 17 T. 11 S., R. 5 W. (Part clear-cut and part selection logging of scattered mature timber.)
- Roads Construction:** One-half mile of access road from Powder House Saddle to upper end of fire road in Stewart tract in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26 and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, T. 10 S., R. 5 W. (To complete access road from Soap Creek to Powder House Saddle.)
- Relocate and construct:** Fire road on Jackson Place in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 16-11-5 leading from main access road to powder lime crossing - approximately one-half mile - including installation of larger culvert at Jackson Creek crossing.
- Clear and blade:** Old logging road from Starker's Saddle at head of Alder Creek to base of lookout point in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 7-10-5 (South half of newly acquired Bank Eighty.) (Approximately one mile)
- Clear and blade:** Old ranch road from Oak Creek, south of sawmill to old barn in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 18-11-5 for fire protection purposes - plus survey of possible connection with south end of fire road spur in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 7-11-5.
- Blade:** Eleven miles of dirt fire roads already in use.
- Widen:** Peavy Cabin spur road.
- Pruning & Thinning:** Pine plantations at end S.W. of Peavy Cabin. Pine plantation adjacent to Highway 99W at Arboretum. (Latter by fire crew at Arboretum) Continuation of pruning and thinning south and west of sawmill as time will allow.
- Weed Eradication:** Spray poison oak in proposed demonstration woodlot in Reservoir Tract. Spray tansy ragwort in area west of Sulphur Springs. (Depends on State Board of Forestry appropriation for ragwort control.)
- Improvements:** Repair tables and erect six fireplaces in Sulphur Springs camp-ground and plant post barriers across frontage to prevent cars from cutting up sod in picnic area.
- Tree Planting:** At least 40,000 2-O D.F. at Lewisburg Saddle, and in area west of Sulphur Springs. (One forty)

ADAIR TRACT

- Timber Sales:** Lay out, post, cruise and process a sale of approximately 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 MM board feet of mature timber in Section 16 and 21, T. 10 S., R. 5 W.
- Roads:** Blade 15 miles of existing fire roads.
- Fire Protection:** Lay out and cruise Snag Patch No. 2. Dam, (temporarily) all water sources suitable for water holes for power pumps.
- Weed Eradication:** Spray tansy ragwort as time allows (depends on State Board of Forestry appropriation for ragwort control.)

When you took over, what plans did you have for the forest?

Well, first thing I wanted to do was to get a good inventory of everything that was there, and a good map to work from, and then make the plans from there. We would make plans two or three years ahead for concentrated management – a general idea for way out in the future. It was very simple. We set up a priority of uses on the forest: number one priority was instruction; number two, research and demonstration – that's what the forest was for – number three, commercial operation; and number four, recreation. That was back in 1959 that we set those priorities up, because there was some conflict between certain types of recreation, and our instruction and research. You see, at that time, even though we put gates up and kept people out of there, we still had a lot of vandalism in our research plots – some things that couldn't be duplicated, I guess. So there was a conflict. So we put recreation down at the bottom. We had controlled recreation like the deer hunt every year that the boys killed them – a lot of deer out there on that controlled deer hunt.

7. DEER HUNTING IN McDONALD FOREST

When was the first deer hunt initiated in the forest? Do you know?

It was while Nettleton was still manager, maybe in the late forties or early fifties. It was bow and arrow only to start with; we did that first. For quite a while people said, "Oh, that's got to be a preserve. You can't kill any deer out there," and all that thing, you know. Well, the deer got so thick that we couldn't get any survival in our tree planting, so then we decided to open up for bow and arrow. Well, the first year or two they got quite a few, because the deer were all tame out there by then. They couldn't get enough; the deer herd built up and built up. Then they opened it for rifles and they started to get up to 600 or 700 deer a year. Very high kill.

Did it have a noticeable impact on the survival of seedlings?

Oh yes, after a year or two it did. The game commission was quite interested in it, of course, and the Department of Fish and Game here. One of the professors over there that came a little bit later got really interested in that. He'd take his seniors out there whenever they had the deer hunt and check in all the deer and measure them, and weigh them, and everything else – I guess they had some master's thesis on it, and so forth. And deer count, see how many deer were out there. Best kept records, I guess, on deer hunts of any place in the state, and it proved that you can hunt an area heavily if the food is there for the deer, and you can't get the herd down below a certain level and still have a viable population.

That's interesting.

If you want to get rid of the deer, you just grow timber and let it close over. There can't be any deer then, because a deer has to have protein, and there's no protein on food that's in the shade – has to be out in the sun. As soon as you cut over a clear cut, population of deer just goes right up there, like that. Like the Tillamook Burn; there were very few deer in there when all that timber was there. When they had the Tillamook Burn the deer got so thick over there they killed 10 or 20 times as many as during the season and they still got thicker. Now they are going down again, because the timber is coming back and shading their food. So the perfect deer management is some clearcuts and some timber:

the clearcuts for their food, and the timber for them to hide in. That's what the deer management people tell me. They tell me that one section of old growth timber, solid old-growth timber, has about enough food on that whole section to feed one deer if he could get around and get it; but he couldn't. They find the starved-to-death deer in the late winter or early spring, when they have a late spring, starved to death with their stomachs just full of food – no protein in it. They made a study on one creek that comes from timber out into clearcut. Salmonberry was the favorite food of deer. They checked the protein content in the timber and here out in the sun in the clearcut. There's 40 times as much protein so that a deer in the timber would have to eat 40 times as much of that to get the same food value as the one in the clearcut.

8. OTHER WILDLIFE AND HISTORY

Good heavens. What other wildlife did you personally see in McDonald Forest?

Oh, we had some raccoon out there, and had a bear out there. Saw the bear once; I don't know how he got there. And then there was some elk that wandered through there; the loggers saw them a couple of times. We used to have a lot of coyote and fox out there, and I sort of enjoyed them, but the farmers around the area hate coyotes because, I think, they get some young lambs once in a while. Up in McDonald Forest they didn't. I don't think they went out and got any sheep any place. Too far away for sheep anyway, but they kill a lot of rabbits, and the rabbits eat up the little trees, so I was all in favor of that. They sent a federal hunter in there, the state did, without getting our permission, or with us saying they could do it, or anything else – "To heck with you. We're going to do it anyway." That was just before I became manager. After I became manager, I wouldn't allow the guy in there. But he had set out these poisons. What they do is they have a little brown thing sticking up like that, and they put female scent on it, and then when the coyote nudged that with his nose a cyanide bomb would go off in his face and kill him. One of the pathology teachers in botany caught a girl just reaching for one of those; she thought it was a fungus. They had signs up along the road, but you might come in from the other way. So he just about eliminated them; I saw one fox and one coyote only after that, I guess.

I understand mountain beavers eat seedlings. Was that ever a problem in Mac Forest?

That hasn't been too much of a problem here. Where that's a problem is where they have more of a flatter ground and less clay soil, where they can get around in the soil better. Usually find what they call these fern openings – the kind of openings that haven't had timber on it for a long time, and then you plant seedlings there – then they will chew the roots off. They are a problem in some places, but not on McDonald Forest. We don't have many out there anyhow. There are some regular beaver out there that dam up the creek. There was one of them there that insisted on using the culvert for his dam. That made it easy; all he had to do was plug the culvert, and he had a dam that rose up higher than the creek, and he just plugged the culvert and had his dam. We tore it out three times. Finally we had to get the state game commission to come in and trap him, and take him off, and put him somewhere else. Some places out there they don't do any damage. They dam, they kill off a few trees around the edge if the water floods, but doesn't bother

much.

Let's switch to the human occupation in the forest, for a minute, and talk about sawmills. Do you know of any early sawmills that were located in Paul Dunn - McDonald Forest?

Yes, there were two or three, I think, that were the same mill but moved probably up Oak Creek. You know where Oak Creek is? There are some old remains there, old sawdust piles, usually got blackberries on them now. You see a big patch of blackberries there, it's probably the sawdust pile from the old mill. And then, way up at the head of the west fork of Oak Creek are some old gears and things, and some of the remains of the old flume they had. They cut that lumber up there and flumed it down in the flume to Corvallis.

Did you ever see that flume?

That flume was used back in the 1800's, I think, so I didn't see it.

No remains at all of it?

Well yes, I saw parts. I saw some of the stilts, some of the old boards, and stuff that had fallen down the old flume up there, yes, way up. But the flume, as it was working, I didn't see. I had the students out there one day, and there was this big blackberry patch right along the side of the road; and it was over a sawdust pile, and I told this one student, "There used to be a sawmill here in the early days." He said, "Yes, I know; my grandfather was a sawyer in that mill."

Do you remember who that person was?

No, I remember they have a town named for his family up in northwestern Oregon some place; but I don't remember the name.

The people that operated these sawmills were just private logging operators?

I think so.

Small operations?

I think they logged, put the logs in the mill, with horses. They just took the best trees, of course; picked it over, high graded it. That's why the forest wasn't too good when we got it.

I've heard the first sawmill in Benton County was there. Do you know anything about that?

No, I don't.

What about the Portland-Umpqua Valley Road?

That was the main highway from Portland, south, in those early days.

What have you heard about that route?

Well, I talked to a man named Blake in the 1950's. Early 1950's we bought some land from him up there.

Ed Blake?

I don't know his first name.

The "Blake eighty?"

Yes, (chuckle) the Blake eighty we got from him. He lived there in that big house right along side of 99 West. Big, tall, two story, you know, the old 1880 type house, or 1860, or whatever it was.

That's not there anymore, is it?

No, I had it burned down, much to the disgust of one woman who is interested in the history of Oregon. She got on my neck after it. Blake said that early road used to go right by his house on the other side from 99 West. He said one of the things that he remembered was that when they had a kind of an uprising on the Umpqua Reservation. They took the renegade Umpqua Indians and placed them on the Grand Ronde Reservation, I believe. The soldiers and the Indians went right by his house. They stopped and got water there when he was a little boy.

He'd seen them himself?

Yes, well, he was in his eighties or maybe nineties at the time in 1950, early 1950's when I talked to him, so he was born probably in the 1860's or 1870's.

Have you ever heard of any other Indian activity in the area of the school forest?

No.

Any arrowheads anyone has ever found, or pots, or anything of that nature?

Have you talked to McDaniels?

Vern?

Vern McDaniels. Yes, He knows a lot more about that early history than I do because he was there before I was. But Vern told me one time he talked to a woman that lived out there, very elderly woman. She was elderly when he talked to her; that must have been in the thirties or forties. She told him that her father had a pig ranch there, down below, and that in McDonald Forest up there, that part, there was a solid oak forest – at that time no Douglas-fir, all oak. Their father used to run the pigs up there to fatten them in the spring and feed on the acorns that fell off the oak. Now, it's a Douglas-fir forest; came in naturally under the oak. Oh yes, I saw some of that out on Dunn Forest, clear out on the northwest end of it there. There's a beautiful stand of second growth now that's about, gosh, I don't know, about 70 years old or more, 80. We thinned it. Beautiful stand; good stand. And you can see the old dead oak laying there yet where they felled them – big oak. That was an oak pasture, and they had that big snow, and the cattle were starving, and they went in and fell all those oaks so the cattle could feed on the winter buds to keep them alive. The Douglas-fir came in after that.

9. OAK CREEK GUARD HOUSE, TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM, AND TAMPICO

Did you know very much about the period of the CCC occupation?

No, that was in the thirties. The camp was down there, I understand, where the Arboretum is, but the CCC's built that house at the Oak Creek entrance.

The Oak Creek Guard House?

Yes, which the school gave to the fisheries department here. They have it now under lease, or rent, or something.

I'd like to know about other structures that were in the forest that you perhaps burned?

There were some old homesteads around through the forest. Of course, early homesteaders homesteaded every place, and some of those old structures were still there in bad shape and I burned a couple of them, I guess.

What was your motivation for doing that?

One was to keep them from burning in the summer when they'd burn the whole forest down. Kids hike in there and build fires, you know. One had a fireplace that was kind of falling down and all the wood from the house was still there, but you could just barely see there was a house. The roof was kind of caved in, and boy, if somebody just touched a match to that, it would be some fire in the summer. That's the reason we burned it.

Did you know anything about the history of these structures?

No, It was an old homestead house, is all.

Where were these located in the forest, do you remember?

Yes, one was out pretty much in the north end of the Dunn Forest – the one that I was just talking about. And then in another place there, I guess, somebody had burned a house before. Buildings there looked like they had been burned years before, maybe accidentally or on purpose, I don't know. It was a tuberculosis (TB) sanitarium and it was on the north slope of the forest there. It seemed kind of queer that they'd had a TB sanitarium on the north slope of the hill.

Now where was this located?

Out on the Paul Dunn Forest. It's right on the edge of the land between the forest and the ag land which they call their Berry Creek Farms or something like that. Just up on the hill there.

Is there anything left of that site?

No, we tried to plant trees in there, but the blackberries, I think, and the grass has kind of taken over. It's hard to get anything in there. Just an opening in there is all there is. We have a road going right through there, you know.

How had you heard about this TB sanitarium?

Only that it had been a sanitarium.

How did you know that? Where did you get that information? .

It seemed to be pretty general knowledge of the old timers around here, and probably McDaniels and some of the others told me about it. It hadn't been in operation for many, many years before I came here.

How about Sulphur Springs? Do you know anything about that site?

Not of the history of it, no. When I came here in 1946, it had been set up. I think it had been done by the CCC's as one of their projects when they were here. They built a lot of very fine rustic tables; they split poles that big around and put the flat half up. Made these beautiful rustic tables – there's four or five of them through there – and cleared out so they had a real nice picnic area. And they cut up a lot of wood, piled it up. Then the Sulphur Spring was there and somebody had put some tile around it. That's where you could get water out of it, you know; some people like to drink that. And then they had a nice rustic bridge across the creek there, Soap Creek, and two toilets up on the hill back there and invited the public to use that as a picnic ground, because the county road goes right by. For quite a while you could go out there on weekends and find people picnicking there. Sometimes the fraternities would have big doings out there and that went on for quite a few years. Then along in about the fifties or some place in there, when the young people in this country decided that vandalism was the way to live, they tore that thing all up. They tore up all the tables and burned them. They tore the toilets

down. They threw beer bottles in the creek, so the kids couldn't wade in there anymore.

Was this a series of incidents or just a one-time happening?

A big one, one time, and we tried to fix it up again and it happened again, and finally just had to give up. They wouldn't leave it alone. Then the Boy Scouts started using it. They'd go there without tables, take their own tables and tents, they'd sleep out there in the tents. The teenagers would find out about it – when the teenagers were just old enough to drive cars, you know, sixteen, seventeen – they'd come out there and throw rocks at the tents and curse and swear at them, and pull their tents down on top of them, and everything else, and so the Boy Scouts couldn't use it anymore. They [the teenagers] just kind of went to pot.

What do you know about Tampico? Was there anything left when you came in 1946?

Only the schoolhouse. By the time I came it was being used by the county as a garage for their grader. But that's one of the early towns, as I understand it; and, of course, it was centrally located for the farming around here. They had their fair every year there, and they had a race track where they race horses right there in that little flat just the other side. Do you know where the school house was? Have you been out there? You know, it's a crossroads there, and then right down below there, there's a schoolhouse, and just beyond that to the west – or is it northwestern – in that flat out there, they had the race track where they had horse races. A big deal. People would get on their horses and in their wagons, and come from 20 miles around to that big event every year. That was Tampico; right now population zero.

10. THE DEAN'S CABIN AND "SIX BITS"

Was the dean's cabin still standing when you came in 1946?

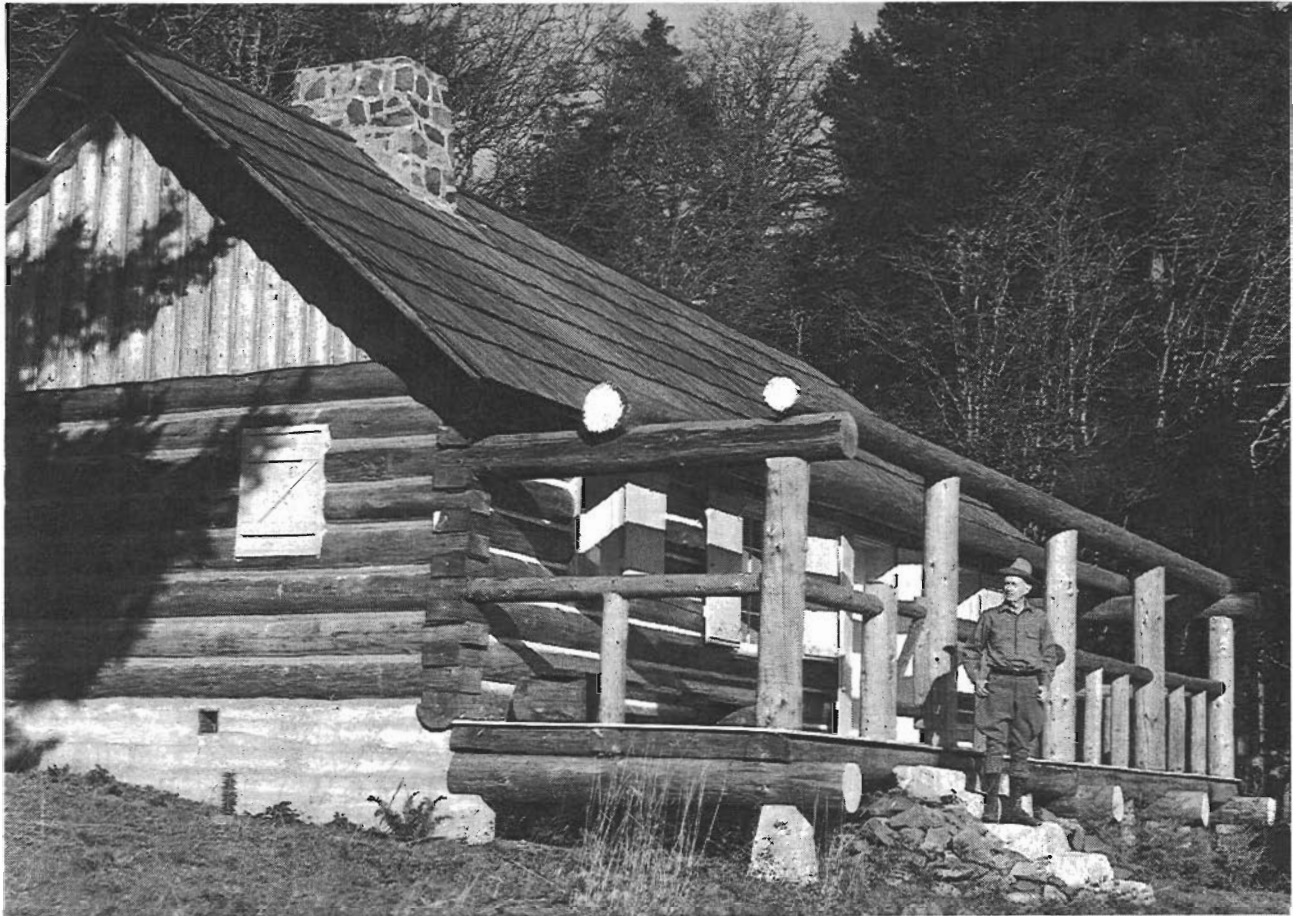
Oh yes.

Did you ever go there?

Yes, I had the thing torn down. We used to have faculty meetings there. Get the whole faculty in there.

How big was the cabin?

Have you seen the concrete slab that's there now? That was the size of it. No, I guess it was bigger than that. It was a two-room cabin. It had a kitchen, and a cook stove, and a sink, the whole works, and then it had a larger room on the other side with a fireplace. That's where we'd have the faculty meetings. Peavy was very, very proud of that cabin. It was built for him by some alums who thought a lot of Peavy. And one of the alums just died here a few years ago that was a real instigator of that; don't remember his name now. But Peavy used to use that a lot, for if he had some big wig from out of town come here to visit the school or something, he'd take him out there and fry him a steak or something. I know the head of the forestry school in Finland came here one time, and he wanted me to take him out and see that because he had been out there many, many years before when Peavy was dean here. Peavy had taken him out there and cooked him a steak dinner at that cabin. He had taken a picture and he wanted to take another picture when he was here. But it was used primarily by Peavy and by the faculty; and in his will, as I understand it, he left the cabin in the hands of the faculty of the School of Forestry,



Dean Peavy's Cabin (Photo Courtesy: O.S.U. Archives #1495,1935)

for them to keep. But vandalism started there. Kids hiked up the hill and we were afraid they were going to set the forest on fire; they tore most of the building down, and they built fires in the fireplace and burned part of the building down, and everything else. I wanted to perpetuate that fireplace, because it had agates in it, so we tore the building down and then poured a concrete slab where the main room of the cabin was. The concrete slab and the fireplace, that's permanent, no wood to rot or anything.

You mean that concrete slab was not there when the cabin was first constructed?

No, no, it was a wood floor.

And you did that solely to commemorate the location of the dean's cabin?

Right.

To commemorate the dean's cabin, to make it permanent?

Of course we had to replace the agates, because the kids went up there afterwards with chisels and everything, chiseled the agates out of the fireplace. But that's what should stand forever unless they can figure some way to tear that fireplace down; probably do that some day.

What other activities besides faculty meetings and the visits of foreign dignitaries occurred in the cabin?

That's about all I know. I think Peavy had meetings out there after he left the school, retired, and I think he still had meetings out there of, maybe, some of his committees or something when he was mayor, because he loved that cabin. You know, the alums had built it for him, and he was proud of that cabin and he used it quite a bit.

How did students and faculty members get out to the forest? Did they have vans like they do now?

Well, the school had transportation in their old beat up trucks and stuff to go out there. I remember, before I came here, they were always talking about Six Bits. They had an old, real old truck. It was one of these steering wheels, straight-up-and-down deals (motion).

I've seen pictures.

The reason they called that Six Bits is they used to take a trip somewhere once a year, a forestry trip, and each of the students had to pay seventy-five cents for that trip. So they called that truck the old Six Bits. (chuckle)

Then later they had one called Two Bits, didn't they?

Yes, I think; Two Bits, yes. It's for shorter runs, I guess. (chuckle)

What kind of truck was old Six Bits?

Gee, I don't know, I've seen pictures of it only. There's a lot of old pictures around here; you've probably got some of them if you're interested. I think – was it Tony Van Vliet, the one that was interested in the old pictures. He kept them for a while, I guess.

Whatever happened to Six Bits?

I don't know, I suppose it was junked. It wasn't here when I came here, I know.

11. THE POWDER HOUSE

I wanted to ask you about Powder House Saddle. Where did that name come from?

We had two powder houses there. Aren't they still there? Maybe one of them is, I guess. The one off to the west was a larger one with big, thick doors and special locks where you need two keys, all that sort of thing, and nobody ever got into it until that era of the fifties when the vandals decided they could get into anything. And they did. They got in, and we had powder in there. That worried us so we took the powder out. Then we used the little powder house for quite a few years, up until I retired, I guess. We're still storing powder in there.

Powder for what?

Dynamite; blow stumps, build roads; got to get stumps out of the way.

For how many years did that Powder House operation go on? When did they first start storing powder there, do you know?

I don't know, long before I came here. When they first started building roads, I guess.

And they quit some time in the fifties when the vandalism got too bad?

No, no, they quit the one powder house, the big one. But as far as I know, that other powder house is still there, still being used for powder. Of course, I haven't seen it for five years.

12. THE COLUMBUS DAY STORM

What do you remember about the Columbus Day Storm?

Well, I remember how upset I was, for one thing. I was at the school in late afternoon. I remember my wife called. We had a big maple tree in our backyard – covered half our backyard. The stump was about that big. It broke right off the bottom like that, much of it catching the house, but it broke all the electric wires off, and they were down. They were bare. She was afraid that somebody would come in the yard, so I went home. It was a Friday, as I remember. The next morning I went out to Lewisburg Saddle; couldn't get all the way out there. As far as I could, I went up there; and the trees were just crossed like this, all of them. I got up there, and here was Marv Rowley coming up there too, because he was doing the logging for us, and I told Marv, "Now we have a big job ahead of us, to clean up this mess before we get a bug epidemic." Because you know downed timber, that's just duck soup for the dendroctonus beetle. They build up a big population that jumps on the green trees and kills a lot of them. So we started in Monday morning and we had some of those logs at the sawmill by 10 o'clock. I hired a second contractor, and both contractors worked there for about a year, cleaning up that blow down stuff. We got it out of there quickly enough before the big beetle epidemic built up.

Did the school realize quite a bit of money out of that?

Oh yes, we cut about twice as much as our plans called for. Our allowable cut was about three and a half million a year, as I remember, at that time. And, I think for that year, we cut seven million, or something like that, to get that picked up.

Is that the most devastating event that has happened in the forest since you have been associated with it?

Oh yes, by far. Gosh, I forget how many million feet blew down, but it was a lot of them. Marv went up in an airplane and sketched in all of the areas on aerial photos. I had aerial photos flown of the forest. He took these and flew the forest and sketched in the areas that had blown down and estimated a percentage blown down. Then we came back and went through our cruise records and figured just how much had blown down. That's just how much we got out of there.

Do you remember any forest fires that occurred during your association?

Yes, some minor ones. We had, I think, six lightning fires going at one time up in the Soap Creek area. That night lightning hit, and gosh, I got up early and called the state foresters' office out there and they had them spotted and got Marv and his crew out there, and got those fires out soon after ten o'clock in the morning. And then another time we had a fire that didn't burn too much of ours, but it sure burned a lot of T. J.'s. The logger out there had clearcut an area that we bought afterwards. We didn't own it then and the state insisted that he burn the slash. It wasn't the time of year to burn it but he burned it. It burned up hundreds of acres of timber around it too, some of T. J.'s; that's the worst fire. That's right up near the top where you can see the old – what they call McCulloch Peak, if you know where that is. It was just in the north, around McCulloch Peak, north and east of there.

13. THE RADAR INSTALLATION

What do you remember about McCulloch Peak? About the radar installation that was there?

Well, the fellow who was on the faculty here... in the what department? The weather department? I'll say the atmospheric science.

Fred Decker?

Fred Decker. Fred, I think, is the one that named that. Fred Decker got the idea of having a weather station up there and he got all this money, equipment, and everything from the Navy; I think it was from the Navy.

Signal Corps, I think he said.

Signal Corps, or something. Yes, somewhere he got it. Well, to get up there was the problem. Now, to get up there he had to go through some of T. J. Starker's land and he had to go on this private land part way up [that was owned by someone else]. Boy, that guy is a stickler; he didn't want anybody going over his road. But, I guess, he [Fred] got permission to go up just to take care of that thing. Well, we had planned to build a road up there for him, through McDonald Forest, so he could take anybody he wanted to up there, but the thing petered out before that time. We had all that equipment up there, and then finally they gave it up for some reason. I don't know why. And then the vandals went up there. They just backed up there with motorcycles and tore everything up.

Did you ever go up there much during its operation?

No, I went up there once with Fred and looked at it, and that's about all. I've been in close to it a lot of times, because it's right on the edge of our forest. But, I think, that's the way it got its name; Fred must have named it, I don't know. But he had that weather station up there. He was very proud of getting all this money from – I thought it was the Navy, but maybe it was the Signal Corps.

14. LEGENDS AND STORIES

Did you ever know anything about this legend of the gold filled miner's boot on Calloway Creek?

No.

Did you ever hear that?

No, that's one I didn't hear. I thought I had heard all of them, but...

How about the two maples at the entrance to the Arboretum?

According to McCulloch, those were two fenceposts, corner fence posts. You know, they put in bigger posts at the end where they're going to have a gate, where there is more pull on it, and those were two maple fence posts planted there; and they sprouted, took off.

What about the story of the people that rode out in the buggy and put their buggy whips in the ground, and that's what these grew from? Have you ever heard that story?

Yes, I heard that directly from Blake who was the one who told me about the Indians going by his house.

Avery girls, weren't they?

I think so, yes. They had these whips for their horses, and they're – what kind of trees are they?

Black locusts or something?

I think Locusts. Yes, Locust trees, and they were hot and dry and thirsty, and they stuck their whips in the ground, according to him. They came in and they – you know the hospitality in those days – they probably had some cookies and a few other things, and they went on and left their whips. Those are the locust trees. That's the story that Blake told me.

Do you remember any other stories Blake told you?

No, he told us a lot. The Indian story and that story are the only ones I can remember, that stuck in my mind.

15. DUNN FOREST AND THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

What about the land administered by the School of Agriculture? Did you ever have any trouble with them when you were the Manager of the Forest?

Well, no real troubles. No, it was a very complicated thing. Maybe not so complicated, but unclear in that they gave that to the university. The Federal Land Bank is the one that handled it and classified it. They surveyed it and they classified it into three classifications: forest land, agricultural land, and the third one which they called marginal land which is forest land, kind of within the ag land. The agreement was, to start with, between Dunn and Price [F.E. Price, then Assistant Dean of the School of Agriculture]. You had this map, and this agreement, and I could never find the agreement after we were done. I don't know if anybody ever did, but they knew that the ag school would administer the ag land, the forestry school would administer the forest land, and the marginal land would be jointly administered and put into a fund for joint research in agriculture and forestry. We kind of left the forest land alone that was out in the ag land, because the ag people had the feeling, "that's inside our land so that's ours". We just left that alone. It came to a head when the fellow that was manager of the Berry Creek Farms called Rudy Kallander one day and said, "Rudy, we want to cut our timber out here that's inside the ag land, so would you recommend a cruiser to cruise it?" They wouldn't come to me, because I was Manager of the Forest; they figured we'd have a little trouble or something. So Rudy told me about it. Well, I went to Stoltenberg and I said, "Say, this has come to a head. Now we've got to do something." So he called for a meeting of the Dean of Agriculture, and a couple of the managers of the ag land out there, and myself. We met over there and decided that the forest land is administered by the forestry school and the ag land is administered by the agricultural school. I guess, just since I retired, they agreed to pay the ag school \$8,000 a year or something like that, toward their fence maintenance and so forth out there; then we take all the money from any cutting we do on those islands of timber out in there. But before I retired we cut some of it. They wanted to clear it for pasture so we cut the timber for their pasture and cleared it all up and burned it for them, and everything else. They got it done free and then we gave them money to build a fence. Of course, we came out on top, because we sold the logs; you

know, got a profit from that. But I think that's the way it stands now. The forestry school administers the forestry land, whether it is inside ag land or surrounded by ag land, or not. If the ag men wanted to expand for more pasture I don't think it would be too much of a problem for the forestry school to go ahead and clearcut it for them, and let them turn it to pasture if they wanted to. But, of course, it would be kind of foolish, because they don't make any money on that pasture land, and on that forest land they make a lot of money, like growing timber.

16. *FOREST MANAGEMENT AND HIRING MARVIN ROWLEY*

How did you happen to pick Marv Rowley as the person that would take the logs out?

Well, he was a student of mine when he first came here, and I got him his first job when he left school as a logging engineer for an outfit down in the Umpqua, and he left that and went into business with his brother-in-law. They bought a cat and a truck, and they were doing thinning, and they were very honest, and sincere, and knowledgeable in this thinning of the young stands. Hardly anybody was in that business then. So I went to Marv and asked him if he'd be interested in doing some of that on the forest. His first job for us was on the Spaulding Tract, where the extension people wanted a demonstration thinning demarcated. Then he came over and started that first cutting in 1957. From then on I just kept him busy full time.

Until 1973?

Yes.

So you worked very closely with Marv during 16 years?

Oh yes, he was responsible to me for everything he did out there. And I was very, very fortunate, because Marv was so honest and so capable. I didn't have to supervise him too closely. Of course, I didn't have time, anyway. I'd go out there once a week, probably, and go around with him; and then he'd come in if he had problems in the office and we'd sit down and talk about it. It was a good relationship. When I retired, I told the dean, "You must appoint Marv as manager of that forest because he is so capable. He's so interested, and Marv thinks that's his forest, you know, and he handles it just like it was his own." But he wouldn't make Marv fully responsible for it and responsible to him; he'd have to have somebody in the middle. So he put Beuter as Director of the Forest. Marv is responsible to Beuter, Beuter is responsible to the dean.

You were really the director of the forest?

Yes, director and manager.

Did things change after Dean Stoltenberg became dean?

Not much, because he didn't have much time to look at it, anyway, and he was not too knowledgeable in the management of Douglas-fir forests. He'd never had any experience or anything; left it pretty much up to me. He just kind of ignored it unless I came to him with some problem that I thought he ought to be in on, and help make the decision.

Are there any activities that occurred in the forest that you haven't talked about?

None that I can think of, but I remember thinking through the years that the forest is a true multiple-use forest. It's used for practically every use you can think of for a forest. Some of them a little conflicting, but most of them not conflicting. All of the things: timber

production, education, research, demonstration, recreation. We used to have quite a few show-me trips. When they would have their annual meeting, the forest service employees would want to come down and look and see what we were doing in a certain area of thinning or something. Demonstration type thing. We had people that would come from Europe to here, and they'd heard of Oregon State demonstration forest in Europe. When they come over here, they'd want to come out and see it. Just about every use of the forest you can think of. More uses probably than any one other forest in the state.

How about your own role in the history of the forest? What are you most proud of that you accomplished in your years of association?

I don't know if I'm proud of any of it, but I think I started, really, the commercial use of the forest.

Before you, they didn't really look at it from the standpoint of commercial harvest?

Very little. Oh they cut a few trees here and there and so forth. They cut that one big clearcut just before I became manager – Dunn Forest – because they needed the money and it had been cut over once before. They went in and cut the trees that the first logger had left because they didn't figure they were merchantable; that's the only real cutting that was done. But when I became manager we set up a regular cutting budget and plan, and for years we cut nothing but thinning and salvage about 3.5 to 5 million, well 7 million the year of the blow down. Which can hardly be subtracted from the inventory. We set up another plan of going around once a year as soon as the dirt roads got dry in the spring and picking up every dead and downed tree on those two forests. Every one! Scout for them. Maybe it would be just one tree over here that had blown down in that winter; we'd pick that up and take it out. And the contractor made money, and we got stumpage out of it.

How did you yard those out when you only had one? Did you go on horses?

No, small cat, small tractors, and they had a portable loading machine, kind of, on a truck with a boom on it. They would just run that down the road, and what they'd do is two men would go out when we decided: "Well, the roads are dry enough now. We're not going to have any more severe weather and so forth. Let's get that salvage out of there." So these two men went out, one with a power-saw and one with a tractor. Through the year, Marv in his travels, and I in my travels, would spot all these dead trees, downed trees. Sometimes in two weeks we would have it all cleaned up. But we picked every tree, every one. And I go out and look at the national forests and some of those places with those trees, salvage trees, dead trees, downed trees, everything else, rotting, you know, and I think they should be doing the same thing. They say; "Oh, we can't do it. It isn't economically feasible. But, by golly, it is! I know it is!"

Well, you've had a long career. Is there anything that stands out in your mind that you're most satisfied about?

No, some of the things that stand out in my mind as being the most interesting, I guess, is 56 or 57 years ago, my first job in the woods. I was 14 years old, just got out of grammar school. Didn't have any child labor laws then. I got a job working and punking whistles in a logging camp. It was a small operation and a truck logging operation. That was 1920; I was 14, I remember; born in 1908. What's eight and fourteen? 1922. On a truck logging outfit. I can remember those old trucks. They were straight up and down, and

Macs. They didn't have any brakes on the front wheels, no brakes on the trailers, and we didn't have any tractors and bulldozers in those days. We built a road across a wet place and planked it. The history of logging says truck logging first began in 1923. Well, I worked on one in 1922, so I know it started before then.

You started with truck logging then?

Well, that was the first year, I think, that they did truck logging. That's one of the interesting parts of my life. And then another thing that I always thought put me in good stead in my teaching is the variety that I had. I worked every summer in logging camps then. I punked whistles, I set chokers, I felled timber and got banged up in camp, and everything else, and then I worked for private surveyors. I worked for the forest service for quite a few years. I worked for Weyerhaeuser for six or seven years, doing a variety of things, and then I came here to the university.

So the last dean you worked with was Dean Stoltenberg?

Right.

And then you retired?

Right, I worked for three deans.

And you didn't know Peavy?

I knew him, but I didn't work with him. He was around for the first couple of years that I was here. He was around the building a lot – in the old building, you know – because he'd come in just to visit. He was looking for more timber land for Paul Dunn. Paul wanted to build that up to 20,000 acres, that timber land; thought we needed that much for a school forest. But Mac got in. He decided that we didn't need any more land; there were too many problems taking care of it.

How do you feel about that now? Do you think we should have gotten more?

Oh yes, I was with Paul all along. I argued with Mac, and Mac said, "We cannot justify to the public, to the State of Oregon, taking more land out of taxes unless we absolutely need it." But see, we're putting more money back in there than they'd ever get in taxes. Oh, yes, that was a crime they didn't get more land. Gosh, we could have gotten it so cheaply then, even if they got it cheaply then and sold it now.

How was Carl Stoltenberg? Did he support the McDonald Forest activities from the dean's office?

Oh yes, quite a bit. Of course, Carl's whole experience had been in spending money and not making money. I know he told me several times when I had this account built up... I ran the thing like a business, sort of; I didn't blow the money just because it came in. But he said, "We're not in the business of making money; we're in the business of spending money."

Did you get along well with him?

Oh yes, we had our differences, but Carl is a politician. He is pretty easy to get along with. He gets his own way at the end. (chuckle)

Finally, how would you compare the forest now with the way it was when you took over in 1959?

I think it looks more like a managed forest now instead of just a neglected forest. I think there's more timber volume on it now than there was then. They have been cutting 3 to 5 million every year and increasing the volume.

You think Marv Rowley has done a good job, then, of managing?

Oh yes, of course I haven't been out there for three or four years. I don't know now. I think there is more timber volume on that forest now than if we hadn't done any cutting.

PART II

SEPTEMBER 18, 1979 INTERVIEW

(Interview conducted by Royal Jackson at Peavy Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon)

I. OAK CREEK

What we've done here, Bill, is Marv Rowley has sat down with me and marked, in red, all the places he knows about in McDonald Forest: trails, cabins, old sawmill sites. We've systematically gone out and visited all of these. What I thought I'd try to find out from you is information on, for example, Oak Creek Guard Station. Do you know anything about that old homestead that's just a little bit up from the guard station?

No.

Was there anything there in the days that you managed the forest?

No, that was all gone by the time that I came here.

And you came here when?

1946.

So you never did see a building of any kind there?

Not that I remember.

What about the Oak Creek Guard Station? If you came in 1946, that was completed by then, wasn't it?

Right.

Who was living there at that time, do you recall?

I don't remember the fellow's name, but somebody that worked at the lab. He was not on the faculty; he was a civil service employee.

Was he a caretaker?

No, he wasn't.

He didn't keep a key to the gate or anything?

He probably did. I think he did some maintenance out there, but he primarily just worked at the lab. Then they moved him out to the Jackson place. Then Ray Yoder lived there quite a while, and then Lloyd Hayes; they were on the faculty.

That was after 1946?

Oh yes.

Up until the time it ceased to be a residence and became a research facility?

Well, I think it was vacant there for a while after that. Nobody wanted to live there on the faculty, I guess. McCulloch was dean, I think, when they rented it to the fisheries department. Chuck Dane was assistant dean. He handled the thing; it was his idea.

Chuck Dane was Assistant Dean of Forestry?

He is on the business staff now. I think he is head of one of the departments over there. He was, last year.

What was the idea of renting it to the Fisheries and Wildlife Department? Just to be cooperative?

Just to be cooperative, I guess. I didn't like the idea at all, but I wasn't consulted much even though I was forest manager. I thought that if we started making enough money on the forest, which we soon did, it would be an excellent place to house a kind of head maintenance man, or something for the forest.

That idea didn't prevail?

No, they went ahead and turned it over to the fisheries department. The fisheries department rented it, in fact.

I think the fisheries department still does rent it for a dollar a year, or something like that.

It was more than that. And we also rented quite a few acres of land to them, at our estimated income from that land, because they didn't want it touched. Some of the purest water they'd found in Oregon came down off the hill there; that goes across the road just north of it. So we stayed out of that watershed except when the wind blew some trees down up there.

You've not logged or meddled in that area at all, maybe since 1951?

No, let's see, it was later than that. It would be in the fifties, I suppose; I don't remember.

What structures do you remember at the Oak Creek Guard Station site? For instance, what they call the Horse Barn, was that there?

Yes, that was there.

And then the main residence?

And the residence, yes.

Was there anything else there that you recall?

No.

What was the Horse Barn used for?

Nothing, I guess. They may have stored something there, but I'm not sure. But I don't remember it being used for anything.

When you were the manager, you didn't use it for anything? You didn't store equipment there, or anything?

No.

Did you have any particular problems associated with that entry to the forest, trespassing, or anything?

No, no more than the other entries. We had problems with all of them.

Illegal entry?

Yes, because they weren't supposed to be in there and they wanted to go in. They'd find some way to get around it. I think maybe less problems there than some of the ones way off where nobody was around, where they could tear the gates down to get in, pull the fences down, and that sort of thing.

You don't remember anything at all, then, about this old homestead site that was just above the Guard Station?

No, I know there were some apple trees there, and that's about all.

Had you heard any stories about what might have happened there?

No.

Aren't there remnants of an orchard around the Oak Creek Guard Station, that look like a previous site?

Yes, just by the gate. You see, the gate is inside of our property line now, past that house where there is so much traffic to the fisheries. We put the gate beyond it, and right there's an apple tree. When we stopped to unlock the gate the students would jump off the truck and go and grab apples.

Grab an apple off the tree, on the run?

Yes, but as I told you before, a strange thing happened. One day we were up here; I had the seniors out on a survey crew, or something. There's a great big old sawmill site, just a big blackberry patch...

At the junction of Road 6020 and 600?

It's just above there. Great big blackberry patch that came in on the old sawdust pile, I guess, where the sawmill was. I was telling this one student, "There used to be a sawmill there," and he said, "Yes, I know, my grandfather was a sawyer in that mill."

Do you remember his name?

No, but there's a town northwest of here named after his family. I can't remember his name. I thought it was kind of funny; I thought I was telling him something he didn't know.

That's the mill that was located right at the junction of Road 6020 and 600, right in there?

It's right above it; It's above the junction about 100 or 200 feet.

Right on the creek?

On the left side of the road; It's between the road and the creek.

As you are going north, it's on the left side?

Right.

How about the old O.S.U. school sawmill? What do you remember about it?

Well, quite a bit, I guess. We got that surplus property from the federal government.

You mean the sawmill and equipment?

All the equipment, yes. And the products department wanted it, forest products, to demonstrate cutting lumber and what not. But we had a fellow on the forest engineering faculty who was a captain in the Army during the war, and he was in charge of a forestry company in France that was cutting lumber for the war effort. They had a mill just like that, and he was in charge of it, so he knew a lot about it. His name was Ralph DeMoisy. He put the mill together, with the help of students, and then the products department took it over.

And did they operate every day?

No, sporadically, when they could get it to run.

It was kind of hard to keep running?

Yes, they finally got another engine for it, but somebody on the forest products faculty was in charge, who had never had much experience with a sawmill – most of their experience was in schools. It didn't work out very well. The forest engineering department undertook to log for them, get logs down there. Finally, they got so many logs down there, they about covered the mill up. They ran it for quite a while and were losing money right along. So Dean McCulloch finally decided that it was a losing proposition, and wasn't worth it. He was worried about students getting hurt with the saws and what not, safety factor. So he just sold it to Alaska Junk, and they hauled it away

How about the building that housed it, was it torn down?

No, I think part of it is still there, isn't it?

No, there's nothing left at all.

Somebody probably hauled all the lumber off. The foundation was there, and the platform was all there, and the planks. I imagine people have hauled it off. The lumber was worth a lot of money.

What was the usual routine there? How would the day open up if it was running? Would the sawyer come and get it started, then the students?

Well, I think they'd just go out in a truck. They'd all go out there and start it running. The students ran it under the supervision of the faculty. I think Jim Snodgrass did most of the on-the-job supervision there.

Was he a faculty member?

Yes, in products, and Jack Grantham, who was head of the department at that time, was in charge of it. But they could only cut 2 or 3,000 board feet a day, I think. They'd have five, or six, or seven people around there.

A lot of breakdowns?

Yes, a lot of breakdowns.

The idea was to give the students practical experience?

Practical experience, yes.

Was the mill typical of those being used in the industry at that time?

No, it was built for the Army. Now, you know the things that the Army does take a lot of manpower, and a lot of money to run. Anything they do, I guess. So they had to have quite a few men. It was pretty much hand labor: pulling lumber around, and pushing it through, and pulling it off.

Is it accurate to say it was antiquated when the school got it?

Well, as far as being efficient for a commercial operation, it wasn't.

The industry had already advanced beyond this type of a sawmill, so the students weren't really learning much that they could apply?

Well, only fundamentals, you know, sawing lumber, and some of the problems, and so forth. But nothing was automated, it was all hand labor.

I heard there were some contests, at times, where the F. E.'s would bring the timber, and the F. P.'s would saw it up?

There wasn't any contest. One time Snodgrass was talking to a group of faculty or someone, said one of the reasons we haven't been able to cut more out there is that we have been short of logs. We had some older forest engineering students working out there, veterans from the war. They had an old beat-up truck and they used a grader to roll the logs on. That kind of teed them off so they covered that dang mill up with logs.

They took that as a challenge?

Yes.

What year was that?

I don't know, time goes by so fast. At least 15 years ago, between 15 and 20 years. But when they decided to shut the mill down, we had a lot of logs there. Finally – I don't know whether Marv did that after he started logging for us or not – but they were hauled out and sold to some mill here in town.

How about this flume that is shown coming down to the sawmill at the junction of Road 6020? Did you ever see that flume?

I saw parts of it up there all decayed, of course, way up the creek here.

That's up the west fork of the Oak Creek?

Up in here, around the old sawmill. There's still some iron gears and stuff still up there.

Marv and I found that. It's still there: a lot of fire brick, stacks of broken fire brick.

There was the dangdest mess of brick down here – way down in the bottom – and was going to go down and get that.

Let's see, you're talking about down in the bottom of the canyon of the west fork of Oak Creek?

See this loop it makes around, right in there? I was running a survey line through there one day and ran across the brick. I thought I would carry the brick out of that canyon sometime. The old-timers told me that years ago they used to flume that lumber to Corvallis.

How did it go? From Oak Creek, and then where?

I don't know where it ended up; I don't know if it went clear into town or not. It gets pretty flat down there. They don't need much drop, there's plenty of drop from there on down.

Is there enough water in Oak Creek to flume that timber down?

Oh yes. What they used to do in the fluming business – I don't know if they did here or not – if there wasn't enough water they'd put in a dam up there, let the dam get full, and then they'd open it up, then plug it up again, and build up some more water. But there's quite a bit of water in Oak Creek.

When you saw these rotting pieces of the flume, were they long lengths of just little tiny support beams, or what?

Oh, there were some support beams and some rotted timbers that they used, so that you could see it was a flume.

What year would that have been, roughly? Or even, what decade?

That I saw it? Probably 25 years ago.

It's completely gone now.

You don't see it any more?

No, Marv and I walked all over this area, and he found what he thought might have been a piece here and there, but it was indistinguishable.

Up above here, I saw it.

You saw it much closer to the sawmill? We walked that whole area there. Did you ever know anyone that worked on the sawmill?

No, I don't know if the fellow that was a sawyer here was from the same outfit, I suppose, around the same time. Maybe he worked there, too.

Marv thinks that this sawmill operated around 1910 or 1920, but he's not sure. Does that sound reasonable to you?

Yes, probably. You see, that was all horse-logged in there. That's why they didn't get back in very far, didn't get in the steeper ground, and didn't cut too much for the horses to get out. There's probably more sawmill sites that we don't know about there, because they didn't want to go very far with the horses and bring it to the sawmill.

How about the old homestead on Homestead Road? Did you ever know anything about that?

No, except that there was one there.

Did you ever see the building?

I don't think so.

The orchard? Or did you ever know anybody that lived there?

No.

How did you know there was a homestead there?

Evidences, and the old road in there. There was a very steep road – and they had to straighten it out afterwards – and there was a building up there, at the top. Has Marv got this road open now?

Yes, you can drive right up into here; it ends somewhere in here.

There was a tremendously steep road.

Homestead Road?

Going in there, yes. And there are some old buildings in there.

So that must be the homestead on Homestead Road.

Yes, I remember that now. I remember that very, very steep road.

Right in here?

Yes, because I remember Marv and I went up there one day and we looked around here, tried to get a road back in here to get some of this timber out here, dead stuff.

That's up above Homestead Road?

Yes, we went up here where the little road turns off and there's a little flat right there where the buildings were. They may have burned the buildings.

Let's go back over here to the sawmill site, right off the Road 600. Do you know anything about this sawmill site?

No, except that there's one there, I guess.

Did you ever see it?

No.

So you never did see anything there at all, just knew there was some sawdust there?

I don't remember – I've seen so many of those old homesteads, with sawdust piles, and what not around the forest – I don't remember what that one looked like at all. I just recall this one here because of the steep road and the flat.

Up on Homestead Road?

I remember some kind of an orchard there. Seems to me there was even a walnut tree there.

How about this O.S.U. weather radar site that atmospheric sciences put up? What do you remember about that?

Well, Fred Decker... do you know Fred?

Yes.

He knows all about it. He set it up, and he got some money from the Navy, and the thing kind of fell through, and it was vandalized pretty heavily. They stole anything that was any good up there; went in on motorcycles.

Whose responsibility was it to clean up the remains of that site?

I suppose it was the atmospheric science department. They were the ones that were fussing with it. It was sure a mess the last time I saw it.

McCulloch simply gave them permission to do that? Was that in writing?

Gosh, I don't know.

You never did see any kind of an agreement?

No, well you know, this was university property and so there didn't need to be too much of a contract, not between departments. And then I think it was Fred Decker, I'm not sure, that named that McCulloch Peak.

He said he did. That peak didn't really have a name.

No, it didn't. And I think he named it McCulloch Peak. He got into a lot of trouble with the right-of-way up there. Did he tell you about that?

No.

Well, this road that goes up there... Where the heck does it take off? Down here some place? Here it goes.

Oh, up Alder Creek? That road?

Yes, now there's a guy that lives there, owns this property. He did work for the university. He is the most cantankerous guy, and I can't remember his name right now. He didn't want anybody on his property or on that road. Starker had a right-of-way across it, I guess, but that's all. He just wouldn't let anybody up there. He took a shot at a Boy Scout once that was walking through there. Up here now, there was a fence; this was all fenced at one time.

You're talking about the southwestern-most boundary of the forest?

We went out here some place, this road. We were thinning out in there, and one tree fell over and hit the fence; it kind of broke it down. Well, this guy wrote me the nastiest letter about knocking down his fence – it wasn't his fence at all, the school built it – and cutting those trees. He says, "I assume now since you did that I can go in and cut all the wood I want for myself on the school property, and I assume you are going to fix that fence immediately," and so forth. So I talked to Marv – Marv was doing the logging. He said, "I'm not going to fix his fence." I wrote the fellow a nice letter and told him that fence belonged to the school. The school had built it, and our tree had knocked it down, and we would certainly repair it. We let it go at that and never heard any more from him. Old Fred Decker had a hell-of-a-time getting a right-of-way through there, so Fred talked to me one time and we were just about to build a road around to it. We got one around there now.

700 Road?

Yes, and so we wouldn't have to go through there. But, the thing is, Marv's cat driver got too ambitious and he built the damn thing on through. After this was gone, I wanted to stop here so people couldn't come – you can get in there easy from other roads, you can get in here and get into the forest – so Marv had him go up there and put in a big pile of dirt there. So you go up to find that four-wheel drivers had cleared the dirt off so they could get in; they sure find out how to get into the forest.

Marv said he thought there was an old trail off Road 600 going toward Road 680. A foot trail goes out across the hill here to Woods Creek, and a trail to Price Creek. Did you ever see this trail? The red dotted line taking off of Road 600 going toward 680?

The only trail that I know of, that was usable – we used to keep it open – comes around here.

By Sulphur Springs?

No, not Sulphur Springs, Lewisburg Saddle. It came around here. I said to the students, "Go out and clear the danged thing." People like to walk through there.

Where did it terminate?

It terminated here.

Clear over to Road 600?

Yes, it crossed a little foot bridge here. It's probably still there, and then it cut across and it cut just into Starker's.

Across the corner of Starker's?

Yes, around here, down here. It went some place right in here.

Marv thought that was a CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] trail. Does that make sense to you?

Probably built by the CCC's.

For what purpose?

Oh, for hiking, I suppose. See, they had the CCC camp down at Peavy Arboretum.

Yes, Camp Arboretum.

And they built this house here.

Oak Creek Guard Station?

Yes, and they did a lot of work on roads, and so forth, and trails – mostly trails – and worked around the nursery down there. So they probably built that trail. You could probably still see it along here. Of course, up in here, Starker logged that; obliterated that part of it.

2. MCDONALD FOREST ACQUISITION

What's the history of Starker owning this piece here?

Well, you hear all kinds of stories about it. When Mrs. McDonald told Dean Peavy that she'd like to do something for the school, because her husband had made a lot of money in lumbering in Oregon, and Peavy told her the best thing she could do, what the school most needed, was a forest lab near the school so they could get to it easily. And she said, "Fine. Whenever you find property that's reasonable, that you want, contact my attorney, and he will make the money available for you." So Peavy was picking up a piece at a time, a piece at a time all through here; anything that was cheap, you know, a couple of dollars an acre. And he was dickering for this.

For the piece that Starker now owns?

Yes, because it was right in the middle. Starker knew about it, of course, and he jumped in and beat them to it and bought it for himself. And he was on the faculty here at the time.

Did that make some people mad?

I don't know, I wasn't here at that time Starker bought that piece while he was on the faculty, but that's the story I heard; I don't know.

Did the school ever try to buy it from him?

Yes, he didn't want to sell. One time Starker approached Dean Dunn – that was before I was manager of the forest, when Harry Nettleton was manager. The school had 160 acres, still had, on Mary's Peak – the Spaulding Tract – about 60 percent of it covered with beautiful second-growth timber. So when Starker had that logged he came to Paul Dunn and said, "Now Paul, I'll trade you this 360 acres even up for your 160; I'm willing to do that for the school." Whenever Starker says something like that, you watch out. (laughter) So Paul Dunn asked Harry Nettleton to evaluate the two pieces, and he just about had Paul convinced that he should trade. So Nettleton told Paul, "Why don't you get Bill Davies to evaluate that because that was his field. He's done a lot of that for Weyerhaeuser, and so forth." So I agreed to do it. George Barnes had made a cruise of the 160 acres up there and had all the data on it. The timber on the Spaulding Tract on Mary's Peak was worth two or three times as much, I think. But Starker came back in to see Paul about the deal; he was mad. T. J. owned some stuff right next to that on Mary's Peak so it would have been an excellent piece of property for him. But with my estimate, Paul backed off.

What year was that roughly, do you know?

I don't know, it's probably in the Spaulding Tract files.

Maybe in the fifties?

Probably in the fifties. It was before I became manager of the forest, and I think I became manager in 1959. So it was probably around 1950.

Bill, looking at the western half of McDonald Forest, are there sites you know about that haven't been marked on here which we should indicate?

But then to finish that story, Paul offered to buy it on Bill Davies' estimate of the value and Starker said, "Well, no, I'd rather have the property than the money." I always assumed that it's in T. J.'s will, I don't know, or maybe he has turned it over to the boys. One of the boys was in several years ago about things out here. They were going to do something with it.

So the school gave up trying to secure that particular inholding?

Yes, they hope they'll get it somehow. It's right in the middle of the forest. We ought to have it, Jimminy Christmas. Not too much value to anybody else now; cut all the timber off it. It'll be maybe 20 to 30 years before they can harvest any more off.

Are there any other sites in this general area that we haven't marked that you know about: sawmill sites, homesteads, trails, anything?

This little piece in here. It's got the original old-growth timber in it because the timber wasn't much good anyway, it was just big. They used that for the students' use; they looked at it to study defective timber. A lot of defective timber in there; very typical spot for a place that's going bad, that's deteriorating. The fir is the old growth that's rotting, and the other stuff is coming in.

We're talking about just below and south of Starker's holding?

Right where that trail takes off. The trail takes off of Road 600, and it's right in the trail, goes right through it, that little piece right in there. Mostly before you get to the creek and back up the hill; not over the line because that's all cut. But that's right on the road there, and a lot of people never get out to see timber and they enjoy seeing those big trees in there. I got hell from some of the people in the botany department. Inside the loop here

there were three or four great big trees, and they were dying – one of them died, it was a snag, and afraid it would fall down, and two or three others in there – so we just cut them and took them out and got some new timber started. I got hell for that. We left this alone; it's a heck of a waste of money, but maybe it's worth it.

There's a lot of old growth still there?

Yes, quite a bit of money could be salvaged out of it right now. In a 100 years it'll probably be gone, and you can't get anything out of it.

East of Road 600?

That sharp switchback there, right off to the left as you go around that switchback, if you're going up the switchback. If you ever go out there again, look in there. Somebody on your faculty, about five years ago, went on a trip up there – had a show-me trip for the faculty – and he made a little talk about the cathedral-type trees up there. Beautiful, (laughter) rotten trees with conks all over them.

Called them cathedral trees?

Yes, who was that?

Mike Freed is who it sounds like.

It was, I think, yes.

3. JACKSON PLACE

What about this area here, Bill (talking about Road 620 near the Jackson Place)? We have shelters built by CCC's. Marv indicated Road 612.4, does that ring a bell to you?

Yes, that's where the Red Hats used to have some activities. You know about the Red Hats? They had some activities in there, and I think the Boy Scouts used to go up there.

What shelters were there, do you know? What did they look like?

Oh, I think they were just open-faced. If you've been back in there you have probably seen them. On a trail way back in there, shelters, open shelters, closed on three sides, open on the other.

Are there any out there now? I haven't seen any shelters out there.

We may have burned them. They were getting decrepit, and kids were going out there, hiking out in there, and fussing with them. We were afraid they were going to burn down. But right up there on the south side of the creek, you go across the bridge there, there's kind of a meadow, you go back on it.

How about the Jackson Place. Did you ever know anybody named Jackson?

No, they got that, I think, when Peavy was buying up the land with Mrs. McDonald's money. The school spent some money fixing up this old house that was on there when they moved this guy out of Oak Creek Station; I don't see why they were obligated to furnish him a house. This was a fellow that worked at the lab. I would remember his name if I heard it. But he wasn't on the faculty; he was civil service, a mechanic, or something down there.

Anyway, they moved him into the Jackson house?

Yes, and they spent some money fixing it up. And moved Yoder or Lloyd Hayes, whichever came first, in there [Oak Creek]. This fellow at Jackson Place – I don't know if he still lives there – he teaches; I think he is or was a track coach at Crescent Valley High School. He bought a piece of property right here he's going to build on and he rented this house. He just loves that place out there; he's got some horses he runs around out there, you know.

Still lives on the Jackson Place?

Did when I retired six years ago. He used to call me up and say, "Something is wrong. The roof is leaking on one side," he says, "you know, I'll re-roof that thing if you'll buy the roofing." So we bought the roofing and he re-roofed it. He didn't pay much rent, but he paid some. And he'd paint the place if we'd buy the paint, and that sort of thing. He was a heck-of-a good tenant. And he kept people from vandalizing stuff around there; he'd see that the gate was kept locked. He may still be there.

What about this orchard that's marked there, right down below 612.2? Did you ever know anything about that, right below the Jackson house?

No, I don't remember anything about it. That's over on the south side of the creek. There's an opening, kind of a meadow over there. This fellow's horses, I've seen them in there.

How about this "Orchard, possible homesite" that Marv has marked along Road 612? Have you ever seen anything there?

Yes, I've seen an orchard; there's lots of trees. You know, there are trees right along the north side of Jackson Creek; they're right by the road where this road turns off here. A pear tree right in there – I used to pick pears off it – and then there's apples, pears all along in here. I don't remember over here. And I remember that opening over there; never saw any fruit trees of any kind in it.

Let's move up a little higher on the map now, right off Sulphur Springs Road. He's got an old sawmill site mentioned, on "An old pioneer road." Do you know anything about that?

No, except there was an old road in there. Hard to find it now, I think.

Did you ever see any sawdust at this site?

No, not that I remember.

4. PEAVY'S CABIN

He's got the CCC trail running from Peavy's cabin over here connecting up with this trail that you mentioned. That starts at this bend in Road 600. Do you remember any of this trail that runs from Lewisburg Saddle up to Peavy's cabin? Is that part of the same system?

Probably is, but see, they built this road up here.

Which one, the Nettleton Road?

Yes, but they probably followed the trail. I don't remember the trail.

How about Peavy's cabin, now that was falling down when you were manager, wasn't it?

Right.

And you had it completely burned down or taken down?

Taken down. We did burn afterward. I think they cut a lot up for wood or something; took it down to the Forestry Club Cabin. We were afraid of fire there, also. Nobody was using it much, and the logs were getting all rotten and bugs in them, and kids would climb up the hill and build fires in the fireplaces. We were afraid they would burn it down so I talked to Dean McCulloch about it. Some of the people who had built the cabin for Peavy were still alive and he contacted some of them and told them what we thought we ought to do, and they said they thought that would be a good thing.

Just dismantle it?

Make a memorial to Peavy out of it because Peavy loved that cabin. I had a concrete slab poured there.

There was no floor there before that?

Wood floor, just like a house.

But you had the concrete slab poured in the exact location of the foundation?

Yes, I believe they had a concrete foundation, so I had this slab poured, which would be permanent, and we kept the fireplace. We had to do some work on it. Had a plaque there and somebody stole the plaque; and there were a lot of nice agates and things in the original fireplace, and the kids would come up there and chip them out, stole them. We were going to plug the thing – I don't know if we ever got around to it or not – because kids still went up there and built fires, and we were afraid of fires again; we were going to close the fireplace off and put a sheet of metal and concrete in it, or something.

It still looks like it's a functional fireplace. How about that radio antenna? Was it there when the cabin was torn down?

I don't think so. It occurred about the same time though, I remember.

That's on school land, isn't it?

Yes.

Who gave permission for that to be placed there?

Well, we did, through the dean. The dean and I decided that we shouldn't fight it, it's university property. We leased the property, and the State Board of Higher Education, the chancellor approached us about it. If we'd said no, they'd probably done it anyway.

That was the educational channel?

Yes, they wanted it, and we thought it was a good idea, and the people that were in charge of that here at the university were very cooperative, always cooperative.

What's their access point, Lewisburg Saddle?

Lewisburg Saddle.

Has that ever been a problem in management in the years that you worked there?

Not with the people over there; they were very, very cooperative. No problem. In fact, we liked to have them out there.

To help you watch it?

Yes, watch it. They had a key – we finally gave them a key – I think to Lewisburg Saddle and on down at the other end at Peavy Arboretum in case we got snow in there sometime and couldn't get up there. So we'd take the cat, Marv's cat, and go up there and clean the snow out so they could go up there, and they appreciated that. They see anything going on up there they'd always call me. Some hippies from California wanted to move into the

Forestry Club Cabin one time and they alerted us on that. If they'd have gotten in there, you know, you can't get them out very easy. So we liked to have them up there.

Did that actually happen, that the hippies moved into the cabin?

No, they didn't. But they hiked up there – they'd heard about it – they hiked up from Lewisburg Saddle.

This was Peavy's Cabin or the Forestry Club Cabin?

I don't know which one they were going to move into, but they came up there and wanted to know where this cabin was; they asked the fellow that was up there. It may have been just after we burned the other one down. He told them this was a closed area, private, and the gates were locked, and they couldn't do that. Never heard anymore about it, but they'd heard about that Forestry Club Cabin and were about to move their commune right into it. They get in there and established, you know, you're an old meany if you run them out.

So that was the KOAC people that helped you on that?

Oh yes, they were a big help, they were up there. I talked to them a lot, and they said they'd keep watch for fires. They had a telephone there at that place – that was the only telephone they had on the forest – and they wanted to give me a key to the place to get in so that I could use the phone. But I refused to accept it because I might have been suspect if somebody had broken in there and stole things, and so forth; and so I didn't want a key to a lot of valuable equipment.

Well, they keep it manned, don't they? Or just during the day?

Well, it's manned whenever they're broadcasting. I guess that's most of the time now.

Daily, I think.

Yes, they didn't broadcast all the time when they first put it in.

No one stays overnight, do they? There isn't a permanent resident there? Did they put the road in that goes up to that tower? Road 5010?

No, there was a road right up there to Peavy's Cabin, right along side of Peavy's Cabin.

That road was already there?

Yes, we may have improved it for them a little bit, I don't remember.

5. FIELD TRIPS TO MCDONALD FOREST

Marv's got this "Harwood Spring: old hunting cabin" marked. What do you know about that?

That was a favorite place of Harry Patterson, whom I replaced as Head of the Forest Engineering Department. He'd always take his senior crew out there on field trips and show them that spring, which is wonderful water. They all had to go down and have a drink out of that spring.

It's called Harwood Spring?

Yes, I always wanted to change the name. There's another spring down there we always called Patterson Springs. That was another place he'd take the students to get a drink of water. I don't remember just where it was. I imagine Marv would know. You see, Marv was a student of Pat's, and you can ask Marv about that. Patterson Springs, I used to call it that. It's just off the road there, we could walk down to it right in there, just below the road, the main road.

Tell me about Harwood Springs. How did it get its name?

I haven't any idea.

Was there a cabin there? What's that old hunting cabin Marv's got listed?

There was an old cabin there at one time, I think, but it's gone now.

Right on the springs, right by it?

Near there.

You don't know who built it?

No.

But Patterson liked to take his people down there to get water? Why do you think he thought that was so good?

I don't know, he used to have a place out there where he'd take the students to practice running curves on the roads. He'd always go down there and get water out of the springs.

The one you call Patterson Springs?

At noon, yes, and they'd boil up coffee. Pat always made coffee in a great big old black coffee pot. They used to kid Pat about his strong coffee, and said the way he made coffee was to put some boiling water on and put a rock in it and keep putting coffee in until the rock came to the top, then the coffee was ready. (laughter)

You mean on a field trip he'd make coffee?

Yes, they had eight-hour labs in those days.

The students brought their own lunches?

They brought their own lunch. And about 11:30 a.m. Pat would assign one of the students – that was a big ritual with him there – to go over and get the pot, and build a fire, and get ready to put the coffee on. Pat would usually make the coffee, and they'd sit around the lunch fire and talk about their work. Actually, I think more instruction went on around that danged lunch fire than in the classroom.

The students felt like they were really learning?

Yes, they were relaxed, you know. I used to do the same thing a lot of times, when we had six-hour labs. In fact, somebody from the *Oregonian* got wise to it and came down and did a big two-page spread for the *Sunday Oregonian* on it one time.

I'd like to go look that article up. Do you have any idea where I'd start looking, what year?

Gosh no, I don't remember; I think it was the *Oregonian*. It was kind of a glamorized deal. They even took a girl out there and took a picture of her on the road. They took some pictures of us sitting around the campfire, and me talking to the students, and students running lines with the transit, and things like that. It was a long time ago.

Fifties?

Fifties or sixties, or something like that.

You wouldn't have a clipping of that article at home, would you?

Probably not, my wife throws all that stuff away.

That's a shame, should have kept it.

Yes, but I don't remember who it was that did it. I think it was a graduate student or a senior in journalism here, and he did that for one of his projects or something. If it got published in the paper, then you got a double "A", or something, but he got that published.

It was done through the journalism department probably?

Yes, well Pat used to go down to that spring and get water, and I always called that Patterson Springs.

Evidently the name didn't stick; there's nothing marked on here called Patterson Springs.

No, I'm the only one who ever called it that.

What about this right here, "Oak felled along these foothills to feed livestock during the winter of 1883"? Did you ever see the stumps or logs, or anything that was left from that period?

Yes, out in the Dunn Forest there's another place where they did that. I could see the old logs and stumps down there. Funny thing, they had a sign on one of them saying just that. There was a trail out here from the Forestry Club Cabin.

Well, here's the Pine Race Trail, is that...

Where's the Forestry Club Cabin?

Here's Memorial Grove; here's Cronemiller Lake; there's the Forestry Cabin, right here.

Yes, this trail. Now there was a stump right in here some place.

The trail leading from the Forestry Cabin...

Went right by that stump and there was a sign on it; somebody put a sign there, "Felled in 18--", whatever it was.

Who would put that up, do you know?

I don't know, somebody on the faculty here, I suppose. When we thinned in there, one of the loggers, on one of the stumps that we cut, took some cardboard and he made a sign there, "Felled in 1950 or 1960", whatever it was, "to feed loggers". (laughter)

A little logger humor, huh? How about this early fire lookout? Did you ever see that?

What's this?

Looks like a radio antenna, Marv wrote that. Did you ever see that fire lookout? Marv said it was up in a tree.

I don't remember that. I remember the antenna because that's when they had the state forestry department's division here. And they moved it later to Philomath, but they had their offices here.

By here, you mean at the Nursery?

Yes, by the Nursery, where the Peavy Lodge is now, that was state forestry, and they had that up there for radio communication.

But that lookout, who put that up there? Did you ever see it?

I don't know, no.

Did you ever hear about it?

I think I did, something about it. But it wasn't there when I came.

Marv claims he's seen something in a tree up there: a lookout, a little platform or something.

Could be, maybe I just thought it was a little platform to get at the antenna. They had just a straight, tall antenna going out of the tree there.

He's got an archeological site listed here. Did you ever see anything like that? Like Indian arrowheads or anything like that?

No, this trail is still in use. You know that trail there, I had that cleaned out several times. *Let's see, that's a trail that runs from Road 500 northeasterly up to intake lake pipeline. Was that a CCC trail originally?*

Probably, it goes down to the lake.

Who put this plaque up there? I think it's a plaque to Schreiner, isn't it?

Yes, Fred Schreiner Road. I don't know, that was put up before I came here. I put the ones up on Nettleton Road. I don't know if they're still there or not.

There is a sign on Nettleton Road, and one for Patterson Road.

Patterson... Let's see, which one is Patterson?

Farther down, over here on the western part of the forest.

Yes, that's right, Patterson. Patterson goes to here; and Nettleton goes from here down to the Powder House.

Are there any other sites in the eastern part of McDonald Forest that we don't have marked that you know about?

I don't think so. I think they'd been moved out. The foundations and what-not were there, but I think they were moved out.

That came in with the Adair Tract, didn't it?

Yes, it was a little different contract, but it came about the same time.

How about T. J.'s post farm there, what do you remember about that?

Oh, I remember it was carried on for a long time. It was put in long before I came here. T. J. put that in to study about the posts – how long they would last in the ground, things like that – so people could tell the farmers, "If you make a fence out of such-and-such posts it'll rot off in seventeen years," or whatever. And it was kept going after T. J. left here for quite a while, and I think it was disbanded a long time ago.

Not operating now?

No.

How about this building site off the 541 Road that Marv has marked, do you know anything about that?

Let's see, where are we now?

Cronemiller Lake, just north and east of Cronemiller Lake.

Nope.

You do remember this sawmill site that's at the end?

Yes, because that was the only sawdust pile from the old sawmills out there that I know of that didn't cover up with brush or blackberries. This sawdust was still there and it was black, and you could take your hand and squeeze it into a ball like clay.

Why was that?

I don't know why. It was full of mushrooms. I used to take Dean McCulloch out there – once a year was all I could get him on the forest – take a lunch and go all day. We'd show him what we had done during the year and what we planned to do, and all that sort of thing. And when we got this road opened here and we got this property, I said, "Mac, I want to show you the best sawdust pile in the state of Oregon." I said, "You could sell that and make a lot of money, for mulch." I had a pickup that we had bought with school

money, so we were in the pickup; we always carried a shovel along, too, in case of fire. He said, "Well, I'd like to have some of that for around my flowers at home." And I said, "Well, let's get some." So we drove over there and filled the pickup with that sawdust and hauled it home and shoveled it out in his yard. Last time I was up there it was all gone. Other people had found out about it, you know, and boy they flocked in; faculty, they thought that was wonderful sawdust.

Well, I heard that Vern McDaniels hauled sawdust for the nursery from there. Did you ever hear that?

Maybe he did later, after he found out about it. But nobody had taken much out of it at that time.

Right up from there is this place called "Old Pigpen Road." Marv Rowley called it that. Did you ever see any pigpens in there? I think that's the name the loggers gave it when they were operating there.

There's old roads all grown up in there.

6. **THE BLAKE HOUSE**

And then the Blake House is right here?

Yes, I got in trouble; I didn't get in trouble, but I got a lot of dirty looks for that. I had that burned down.

Why did you do that?

Well, we rented it for quite a while – we got the property, and the Blakes moved out and everything – and we never could get any satisfactory renters. They'd live in it for a while and then they'd move out and leave it all a mess. When they got started moving people in the old Adair, all the kids would come over and they had a hey-day in it. They broke all the windows out of it, and I could see where they'd had a fire in it. Luckily it went out before it got too far. So I told the dean, I'm going to burn the danged house down before we get in trouble. Somebody found out about it. Some woman in town said, "That's an old historical landmark. You can't burn it down." I said, "Well, it's going to get burned sooner or later, those kids playing with matches in it. It's deteriorating; it is an eyesore now, all the windows broken out; they've broken the doors down, and they are hanging loose; and they've stolen stuff, they've taken everything of any value; and they've stole all the door knobs, stole everything out of it."

Was it a two story house?

Yes, nice, old mansion-looking house.

How many rooms in it, do you know?

Gee, I don't know. There were quite a few of them, eight or ten. Big two story, raised a family in there.

Did you ever know Blake?

Yes, when I first came here. He was 80 then, I guess. So I called up the fire department out there, the Adair Army fire crew. The weather had been rainy. I said, "How would you like to get some fire practice?" They said, "That's fine, we'll burn that doggone thing down". "Be sure you burn everything up." So they went out there and burned it all up for me.

When was that, do you know?

Oh, that must have been 20 years ago.

Was there much of an uproar over you doing it?

I didn't hear much. They realized that the danged thing was an eyesore. This woman proposed that it be made a park there around the building, and the house be restored and kept restored. Now, who's going to keep it restored? And she said, "Can't you do that?" And I said, "No, we can't do that. You'd have to have somebody there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year because one day you go away and the kids would have it down again." And she said, "Maybe the county could do it." I think I called the county, or she did, or something, and they didn't want to do it. We figured the best thing to do was burn it down because it was looking worse and worse all the time.

There's some legend about those two black locust trees. What had you heard about them?

Yes, Blake told me personally about those.

What did he tell you?

Well, we were up there when we were dickering about buying the 40 back in there from him. He was talking about the old days, and he said the old Portland-Umpqua Valley Highway went this side of his house, right through there.

Cut across there?

And he was telling me stories about that, in the early years when he was just a little guy. He said one day two girls came riding through there on horses. They had these locust whips for their horses and they stuck them in the ground. Then I guess his folks or his wife, whoever was there with him, invited them in for tea or something, like they always did in those days. And when they left they forgot their whips – they didn't take them with them – and they sprouted and grew. That's his story.

Is it reasonable to assume that it could happen?

Oh yes, most of the hardwoods will sprout – willows, maples. You know, McCulloch swears that these gate posts down here at the entry way to Peavy Arboretum – the two maples there on either side of the road that goes in – he claims that those were gate posts that sprouted.

Did he see them when they were planted?

I don't think so. That would be a long time ago.

But a lot of these stories get passed on from one person to the next, and there's not much basis of fact.

Yes, one time my high school teacher, to prove that, whispered a story to the first guy in the class and had him whisper it all the way around, and then the last guy told the story and it was entirely different, absolutely different. But Blake also told me that one day they had the Umpqua Indians down there where some of them got on the war path, so they were going to transfer them up to the Grand Ronde Reservation. And the Army officers and these renegade Indians came up the road there and they stopped and asked the Blakes if they could have some water for the horses and men. He said he remembered that vividly – taking the Indians past his house.

What was Blake like? When you met him, he was an eighty-year-old man?

Yes, he must have been eighty.

How large a family did he have?

I don't know, but he realized he was going to have to get out of the house there; he was getting too old.

Was he living by himself there?

I don't remember, I didn't see anybody else around there. I didn't ever go in the house when he was there.

7. *DUNN FOREST*

Okay, let's take a look at the Paul Dunn Forest map now.

You know the history of this forest?

Yes, this is really the Adair Tract. It was acquired in one block, wasn't it?

Yes, this is the forest part of the Adair Tract; Paul Dunn was very instrumental in getting this. President Strand really didn't want to spend the money on it; it cost \$3,500. We took the money out of the McDonald Forest fund and paid for it.

Looks like a bargain today, doesn't it?

(laughter) With about 40 million board feet of timber on it or something, worth \$200 a thousand, how many million dollars is that? But Paul Dunn was really proud of that. He said, "That's the best thing I ever did for the university." It is too, you know. In his will, he and his wife wanted their ashes spread on Paul Dunn Forest. He's got this, "fell to feed cattle" up here. There's some of the old oak stumps still up in here. Where's that road go through? What the heck is this, is that a fence? Oh yes, that's the Ag land, yes. Which road would that be on now, up in here?

That would be in the eastern part of Paul Dunn?

Yes, the north, right in here some place. Marv will remember right on this road where it was. That's where they felled trees. You can still see the oak line, stumps there; they felled them that same year to feed the cattle.

Around Road 160, somewhere in there?

Yes, you know that shows the reproductive power of Douglas-fir. That was all meadow; that was a cattle ranch or something, I guess, with oaks growing in it. You know the type, just an open meadow. Well, when they took the cattle off there, there must have been some trees around there some place; it got filled in with the most beautiful stand of Douglas-fir you ever saw. It was about a 100 years old then, I guess, but now it is older. Until that Columbus Day Storm came along, blew half it down, boy that was a beautiful stand. That was high site land.

There's a couple of homesteads in there?

Yes, all over the northeastern side of this meadow. That seemed to be a popular place for homesteads.

Did you know anything about any of these?

No, that Tuberculosis (T.B.) Sanitarium, I think Marv's got trees planted in there now. We tried planting one year and they all died; there was so much grass in there.

What's the earliest recollection you have of that, did you ever see any buildings?

No, nothing but kind of a grassy meadow and blackberries.

Who told you it was a T.B. Sanitarium? Do you remember?

I don't remember now. I just understood that it was; somebody must have told me.

Did you run across trees that had bullet shrapnel in them?

Boy, we sure did.

Broke up some saw blades?

Oh yes, in fact, after that Columbus Day Storm I had – Marv was one logging contractor and I had another logging contractor back in there, he was logging back in here. They had these danged bullets in there. First thing we knew about it was we took some logs in and the sawmill started screaming, "They're ruining the saws, we don't want any more of those." So we had to quit it. Well, this other contractor found a mill at Falls City that was starving to death for logs. They had circular saws with replaceable teeth so they said they would take those logs, pay us the full price, and then deduct whatever it cost them in down-time due to bullets. We got rid of a lot of them that way; took them up there and I think they took off five or six dollars a 1,000 board feet for down-time for hitting bullets. We've gone out there and cut logs and cut right through bullets. I borrowed a metal detector from the physics department to try to detect those bullets in the logs; it just didn't work right. Marv's got a better one now.

Metal detector?

Yes, if you knew it was there you could fuss around and finally get it to buzz, but it didn't work out very well. I think Marv's got one that works now. Then, after I retired, Marv came over in here and started cutting – we never cut over there before because it was on the Ag land – and he said he found shrapnel in there. We found one of these rocket deals – tails, wings on it.

You mean like a mortar?

Yes, like a big mortar.

Unexploded? What did you do with it?

Well, I didn't find it; one of the other fellows found it, and I don't know what he did with it. He brought it in and showed it to me. I think he took it home or something. I don't remember who found it.

Did you ever find any other unexploded munitions out there?

No, I didn't. But one of the farmers out in here told me that the bullets were so thick out there where he was plowing, they were just like part gravel in the soil.

This is the firing range here?

Yes, in there, and they were shooting this way.

That must have been Maneuvers then, up here?

That was Maneuvers, machine-gun bullets, tanks, and things; these were .30-06 rifles here. I think they got them [bullets] all out of there now.

How about these homesites up in the northeastern part of the map. Do you remember much about those?

They still there, aren't they?

Did you ever see any houses or anything there? Like this one close to Berry Creek Farm Road, did you ever see that house?

Yes, there's a house in there, and a barn, too. But up here, this is private land in here. Where's the boundary line?

Here's the boundary line, in here.

Yes, runs back here some place. Yes, there are homes in here now. People live here.

Here on the forest, Marv has marked a few homesites.

There were some old buildings all around through there. I don't remember just where they were.

But you don't have any recollection of those?

I have a recollection of one up here. We came up the Berry Creek Road; I can't remember where that danged old road went. That old house was up in here... Oh, yes, here. There it is, right there.

Is that off of Road 130? "Spring for homestead," was right below it?

Yes, now that house was there. We burned that too, but it was all dilapidated.

That Road 130?

Yes, and that was a pretty good homestead house in its day. We didn't want the kids to burn that down, either. And that's wonderful soil in there, you know, real good soil. I even took some brick home from there, filled the pickup one day. There were bricks all over the ground there, fallen off the chimney, fallen down. I remember that house.

What about this "Old Horse skid trail" down here off of 420 extension; do you know, one of the trails that's got boards horizontally placed?

Oh, yes.

Did you ever see that?

I've seen a couple of those; saw one on McDonald Forest. You can still see the cross pieces there where the logs had come down and the plank in between for the horses to walk on.

How about Coote's Sawmill, did you ever know anything about that?

No, but this is where we came into the forest, Soap Creek farmhouse. They built this. I haven't seen this road yet, it's a new road.

WILLIAM A. DAVIES

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND MANAGEMENT OF
O.S.U. RESEARCH FORESTS
BENTON & POLK COUNTIES, OREGON: 1946-1973

APPENDICES

SOAP CREEK VALLEY HISTORY PROJECT
O.S.U. RESEARCH FORESTS
Monograph #13
1997

APPENDIX A
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS

The Annual Cruise

Published by the Forestry Club

OREGON STATE COLLEGE
CORVALLIS, OREGON

June, 1958

To Bill Davies:

The Class of 1958 dedicates
this Annual Cruise.

Sincerely

Leonard D. Woike
Eric F. Ingrassie
Richard A. Payne

Charles H. Harden

Edgar S. Barton
Jack D. Sarringer

Alan A. Thornton
Maklor R. Hale

Charles Kelley Sigler
Ronald A. Anders
Gleg E. Peters

Leslie R. Martin
Wayne Bousfield

Charles L. Dougherty
Mark R. Schultz

Edward F. Zentler
Clement H. Berlin

John R. Langrall Jr.

Samuel R. Ready

Kenneth M. Andrews

Raymond C. Scheaf
Harry M. Demaroy
Paul E. Bullfinch
Byron W. Conroy

Pete K. Marten

Robert H. Anderson

Gerald K. Fineman

Max B. Carpenter

John E. Malone

Harold L. Simms

Rudolph K. Robles

William H. Hoebel

Myron S. Van Atta

Joseph B. Holder

Otto F. Krueger

Robert J. Krahmer

Earl H. Brown

Jim A. Smejkal

Bruce L. Brandt

Wallace M. Coyle

William F. Loper

Craig MacCluskey

Frederick Peo

John H. Poppens

John O. Tallon

Gene Rider

Donald White

Richard Z. Zentmayer

Terry Rudd

Robert C. Harvey

Robert W. Cramer

George J. Cook

Lawrence M. Skaffner

Carl D. Carlson

William Klein

Lawrence H. Meyer, Jr.

Eric C. Fensley

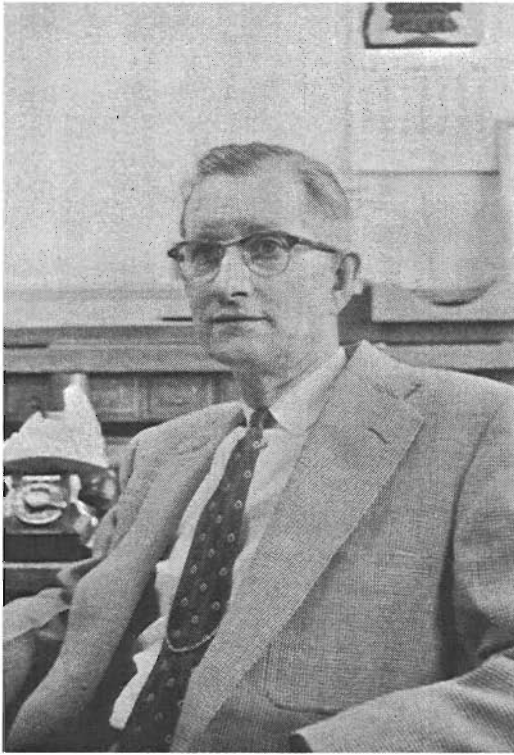
Terence S. Swalt

Michael Bosdan

Paul Wichter

[The 1958 issue of the Annual Cruise was dedicated to Professor William A. Davies. The previous page contains autographs of the Forestry Club members with the dedication.]

DEDICATION OF 1958 ANNUAL CRUISE



Professor William A. Davies

This year's Annual Cruise is dedicated to Professor William A. Davies, Head of the Forest Engineering Department. Professor Davies is widely known and respected in professional circles, and greatly admired by his students. Let us take this time to review the life and achievements of our senior forest engineering (F.E.) advisor.

Life began for Bill in Seattle, Washington, where he received his primary and high school training. After graduation he worked in the woods on the rigging until he was involved in a speeder accident. This incident changed the course of his life. Instead of returning to the woods to set chokers, he decided to further his knowledge in forestry and improve his technical abilities. He enrolled in logging engineering at the University of Washington where he graduated magna cum laude in 1938. While at Washington, he was ranger of the Xi Sigma Pi, and a member of Sigma Xi and Phi Sigma honoraries.

Following graduation, Bill worked for the U.S. Forest Service in timber sales and fire control. But soon private industry beckoned and he went to work for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company supervising cutting practices on logging contracts. Still not satisfied with his education, Bill returned to the University of Washington to acquire his master's degree. In 1946, after writing a thesis on "Graphic and Tabular Methods of Determining Tension in Logging Skylines,"

he received his degree.

Soon after, Bill moved, but this time to join the staff at Oregon State College (O.S.C.). In 1951 he was appointed Head of the F.E. Department with the rank of full professor.

Since joining O.S.C. he has spent three summers working for the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory on a survey of Lane County sawmills and a study of decay in Douglas-fir. When not dangling salmon eggs in a nearby trout stream, Bill does considerable consulting for the School of Forestry including work on McDonald Forest and the Adair Tract.

In professional circles, Bill has been active in the Society of American Foresters as a student membership representative for the Columbia River Section, and is a member of the Bureau of Land Management, Salem District Advisory Board. He has also served on several important committees in the Pacific Logging Congress. Along with all these activities, he is responsible for the school's instruments and tools.

Bill is exceptionally conscious of his students' educational needs and has given his senior class considerable practical knowledge that he has acquired from his own experiences. Although he provides difficult courses of study, he is very understanding toward students' problems. Just recently, he passed the professional engineering exam and modestly related his few difficulties to his students. Coupled with this understanding and modesty are his friendliness and willingness to help, and those of us who have had the opportunity to be inspired by him have been fortunate indeed.

It is in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the profession, and in appreciation for his services to the school and its students that this ANNUAL CRUISE is dedicated to Professor William A. Davies.

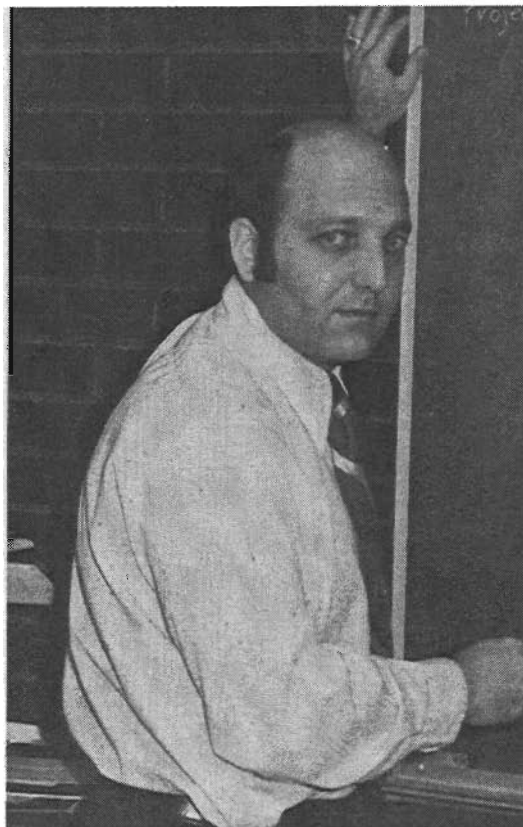
Bob Cramer

DEDICATION OF 1973 ANNUAL CRUISE

This year the staff of the Annual Cruise takes great pleasure in dedicating the 1973 Annual Cruise to two very fine men, Bill Davies and Tony Van Vliet. Bill is retiring this year after a distinguished career as an instructor and Department Head of Forest Engineering. Tony a fine instructor and counselor for Wood Products majors was the students' choice for the 1972 Aufderheide Award.



Bill Davies



Tony Van Vliet

WILLIAM A. DAVIES

[This page was published in the 1973 Annual Cruise, the year of Bill's retirement.]

Professor William A. Davies, Head of the Forest Engineering Department, Supervisor of the School Forest, "Keeper of the Spotted Owl."

Bill retires at the end of this year, drawing to a close another segment in his long and distinguished career. Down through the years, Bill has followed a course of great dedication to the forestry profession.

Bill was born in Seattle on January 22, 1908. He went to a number of grammar schools in Washington; Port Angeles, Seattle, Shelton, Olympia, even a one-room country school in Lake Crescent. When he graduated from Olympia High School in 1926, his logging career had already begun. At age 14, he began working on one of the first truck logging operations in western Washington as a "whistle punk". After high school and until 1929, he worked in a variety of jobs in logging, road, and bridge construction. Between 1929 and 1932 he surveyed out of Union, Washington. In 1932 he started work with the forest service out of Olympia in timber sales and fire control. Meanwhile, he went back to school in 1934 at the University of Washington to major in logging engineering. He graduated magna cum laude in 1938 and returned full time to the forest service. In 1940 it was back to school for course work on a master's, also in logging engineering with a minor in forest management, at U.W. (University of Washington). He completed his thesis, Graphic and Tabular Methods of Determining Tension in Logging Skylines and received his degree in 1946. Between 1940 and 1946 he supervised logging contracts for Weyerhaeuser Company. Bill finally settled down in 1946 when he came to O.S.U.. He has been on the forest engineering department staff since then and head of the department since 1951.

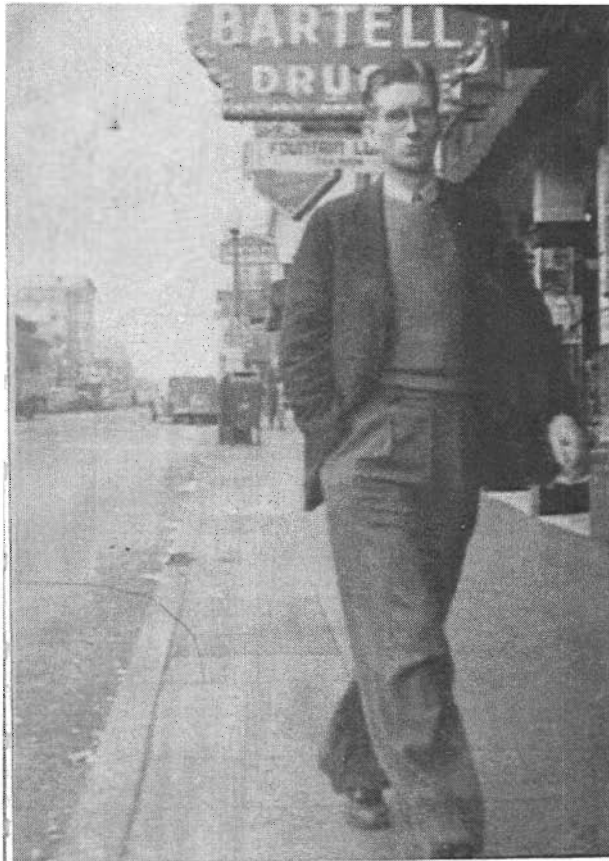
Bill is a member of several distinguished organizations and committees; three honorary fraternities: Xi Sigma Pi, Phi Sigma, Sigma Xi (associate); Society of American Foresters (S.A.F.); and the Salem District Bureau of Land Management Advisory Board. He has served in various capacities in the S.A.F.; as chairman of the membership committee for the Columbia River Section; as representative for student membership at O.S.U.; and as associate editor of the Journal of Forestry. He became a registered professional engineer in Oregon in 1958.

On the home side, Bill and his wife Joan have two children, William and Robert, both graduates of O.S.U. His recreational interests include fishing and sports.

Bill's immediate plans include a trip to Europe to visit his wife's native England.

The forest engineering department and the School of Forestry have come a long way in the past 27 years, and Bill has certainly had a unique and important role in this development.

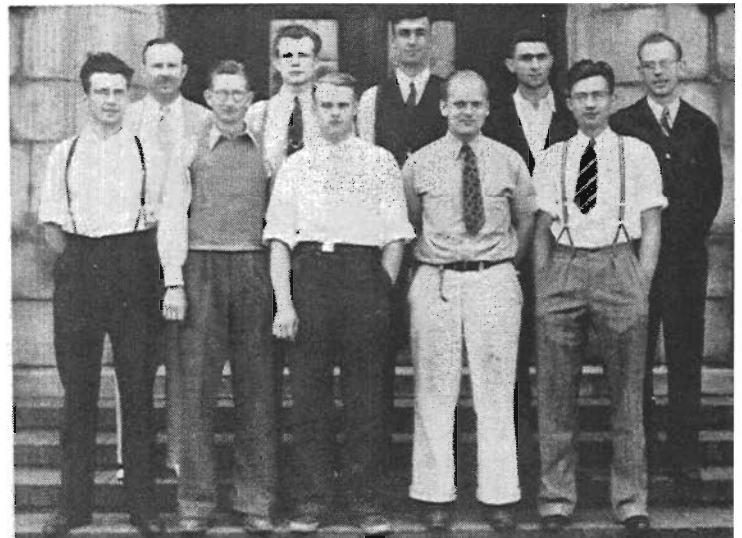
William Davies photographs
from 1973 Annual Cruise



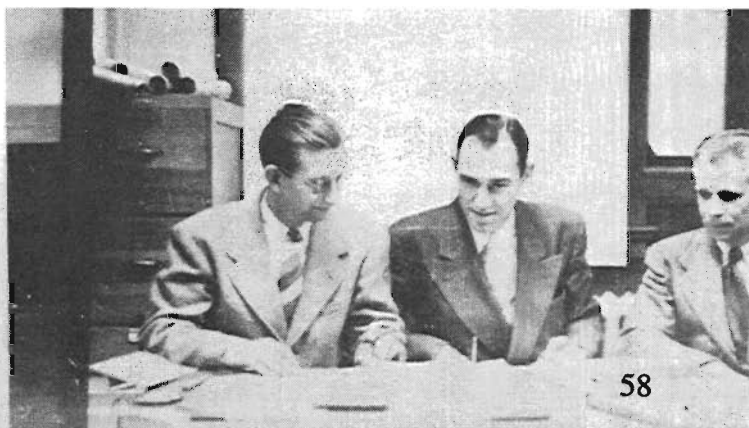
1939



1938



1938



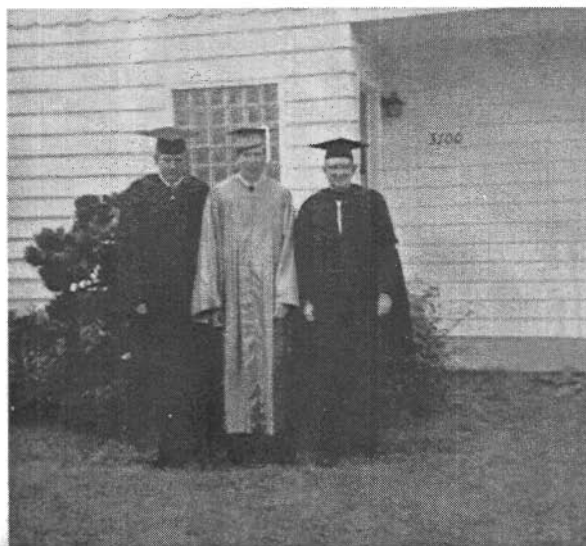
1947

58



1938

Like father, like sons.
Graduation 1968



FACULTY FLASHBACK - 1961



First Row: Helge Irgens-Moller, William Ferrell, Ray Yoder, Antone Van Vliet, Chuck Dane.

Second Row: John Bell, William West, Walter McCulloch, Les Lloyd, Dwight Jeffers.

Third Row: Warren Randall, Dale Bever, Robert Keniston, Jim Krygier, Dan Robinson, Bob Wilson, M. Riley.

Fourth Row: John O'Leary, William Wheeler, William Davies, Rudy Kallander, Milford McKimmy, Charles Sutherland.

(Photograph courtesy: Mrs. Joan Davies)

FOREST ENGINEERING

[from *Oregon State Forester*, Vol XXVII, no.1 January 1974]

The past year has been an extremely productive one for the forest engineering department. We have been able to take advantage of some real opportunities in undergraduate education, research, and extension.

We have incorporated more operations research techniques into our undergraduate courses by taking advantage of Ed Aulerich's skills in this subject area. We are currently involved in a curriculum review led by John O'Leary. John and his committee are considering, among other things, the best ways to take advantage of new engineering skills in our department as well as the possibility of cooperative programs with civil engineering. We have also taken advantage of Bill Davies' good nature by getting him to teach winter term in our senior sequence.

We recently developed some exciting research opportunities in logging engineering. Dennis Dykstra is leading a study to compare the operational and economic efficiency of balloon, helicopter, and skyline systems. Ed Aulerich, Norm Johnson and Hank Froehlich have just completed a comparative study of thinning techniques using tractors and cable systems. Hank has begun a study to evaluate the impact of tractor thinning on soil compaction and tree growth. We have also strengthened our logging engineering research by involving people with special skills from cross-campus. We have obtained the help of a mechanical engineer to evaluate yarders for harvesting small wood, and a systems analyst to evaluate simulation techniques to compare alternative harvesting systems. Also for the first time, we are involving undergraduate forest engineers in our research by providing funds for their travel, data collection, and analysis in studies that relate to our regular research projects. We hope to stimulate their interest in logging engineering research, and at the same time show them how research techniques can be used to solve logging engineering problems.

We have expanded our extension program in forest engineering with the addition of John Garland to our faculty. John is an Oregon State University (O.S.U.) Forest Engineer; he also has a master's degree in forestry from the University of Minnesota. John comes to us from Coos Bay where he was a District Engineer for Weyerhaeuser. He will develop a logging engineering extension program that will help us get our research results out to our clients in the field, and help transmit field problems back to the university.

Last year we held the first Forest Engineering Institute for the U.S. Forest Service as part of our extension effort. The program was such a success that John O'Leary will now conduct two sessions, one winter and one spring term.

George Jemison joined our faculty in 1969 after 38 years with the U.S. Forest Service, serving as their Chief of Research for the last four years. George's assignment at O.S.U. was to direct the organization of a research and extension program in forest engineering. The outstanding program we now have is the result of his hard work. On June 30, 1974, George Jemison will retire a second time. We'll miss his leadership, but after two successful careers, no man deserves a rest more than George.

George Brown, Department Head

LOOKING BACK

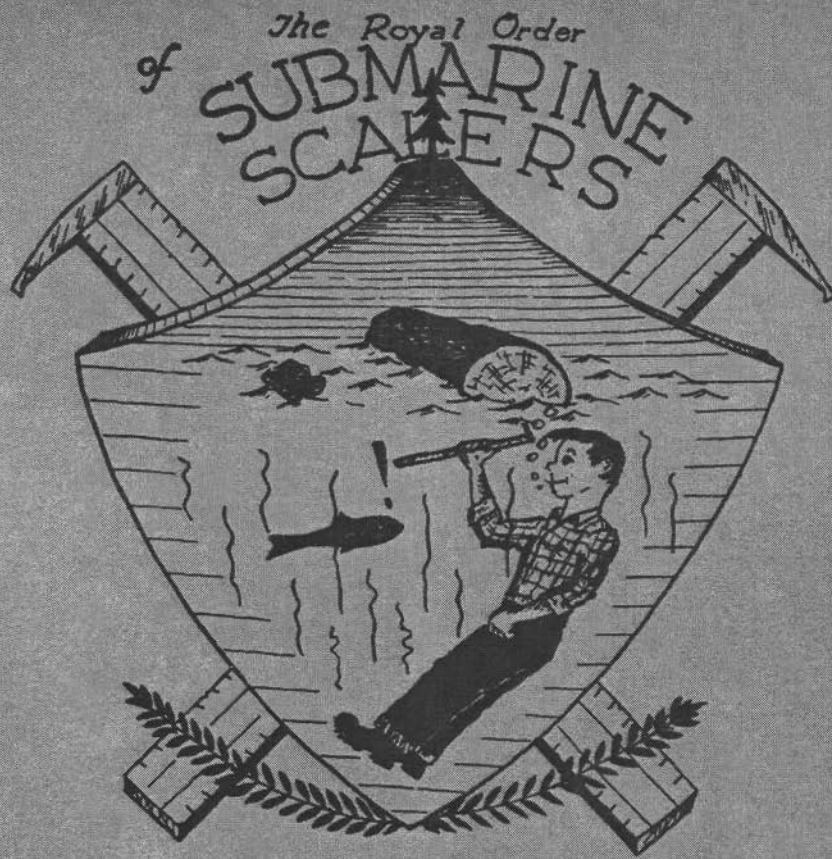


Seated: H.R. Patterson; G.H. Barnes; W.F. McCulloch; W.A. Davies;
H.I. Nettleton; W.I. West

Standing: W.P. Wheeler; J.D. Snodgrass; R.L. Wilson; R.D. Hostetter;
J.E. O'Leary; E.W. Pierson; D.D. Robinson; J.L. Overholser;
R.W. Mounteen; R.A. Yoder; W.R. Randall; R.F. Keniston.

[Photograph courtesy: OSU Archive, p61; 185 ca1953]

STAFF OF 1953



By these criteria ye
shall know and
recognize them:

- Purple noses
- Chronic coughs
- Creaking boots
- Barked-stained clothing
- Water-soaked eyeballs



ALPHA CHAPTER
ESTABLISHED AT
OREGON STATE SCHOOL
of FORESTRY ~ FALL 1946

This Certifies

Bill Davies

Is a Subscaler First Class

Dickie B. B. B.
MASTER SUBSCALER

THE LOGGING ENGINEER

He plays with rigging and tackle,
And works with "donkey and "gun;"
He thinks of trees in log lengths,
And imagines he's having fun.

He stalks out in the morning,
As Paul Bunyan did of old,
And bosses the business proper
With bellowed commands, so bold.

He fires his fragrant corn cob,
And belches smoke and steam.
For all his many drawbacks,
He's a ten-horse, rampin' team!

We forget his trousers are dirty,
We're blind to his funny gear
When we see him roll the timber
We praise the Logging Engineer!



- N.R.H., '29

The award on the previous page (Awarded to losers of log-rolling competitions) and the poem on this page attest to the lighter side of Bill Davies' career at O.S.U.. Mrs. Joan Davies provided these materials and suggested their inclusion in this monograph. The poem is from the 1958 Annual Cruise and the award is copied from Bill Davies' framed original. Another example of the award, cherished by many faculty and student members, is on page 58 of the 1973 Annual Cruise.

APPENDIX B
NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS

LOCAL SCALER HAS GREAT RECORD

[The following article was published in the daily newspaper, The Shelton Daily Spokesman, Saturday, April 17, 1937, when William A. Davies first arrived at Shelton, Washington.]

William Albert Davies, a recent comer to Shelton, was recently given signal honors when admitted to Phi Beta Pi, National Honorary of the forestry college at the University of Washington. Davies, a junior in forestry, was the highest from a class of 300, and was the only one of that total to get straight "A" grades, having a total of six when only four are needed for placement on the honorary list.

Davies has worked his entire way through college, working during vacation periods as fire guard, assistant log scaler, and also as a reader at the university.

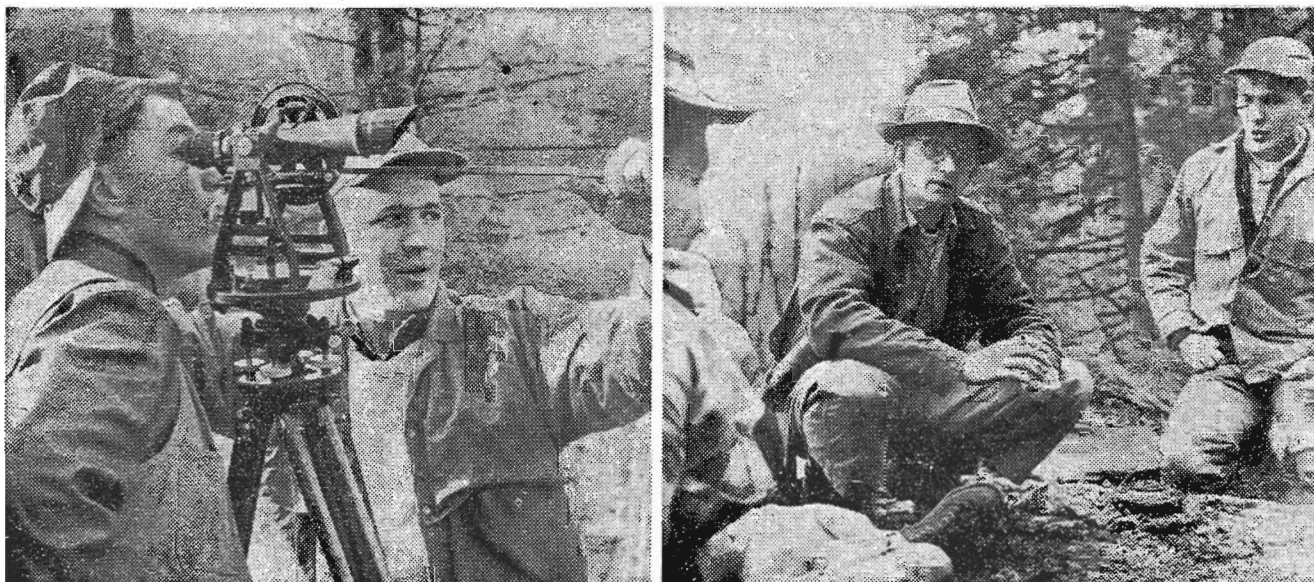
At the present time he is working as a scaler on the Simpson Logging Company booms under direction of Donald Ahl, thus getting practical experience with his already excellent theory. The young man is a brother of and makes his home with Mrs. J.C. Michael of Union.



Charlie Ross (right), retired Extension Forester, instructs Bill Davies in retirement techniques.
(Oregon State Forester, January 1974, Volume XXVII, Number 1, p7)

O.S.C. FORESTRY STUDENTS LEARN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

[The following account was published in *The Oregonian* Sunday, March 20, 1955. Reported by Wes Grilley, Special Writer for *The Oregonian*.]



O.S.C. forestry senior's Don Pitts (left) and Marv Rosette, Portland, are members of a class in forest road building. Professor W. A. Davies (center), head of Forest Engineering Department, talks to a group of students in lunch-time gabfest.

Ever wonder how a forest road is built? Seniors in forestry at Oregon State College get practical, first-hand experience in actual road building in one of the many courses which the forestry school offers.

This logging transportation course is open only to senior forest engineering majors or graduate students minoring in forest engineering. The students enrolled must have had courses in mathematics, surveying, soils, and physics.

During fall term, the students plan how they would log timber from a certain spot located in McDonald Forest, the college forestry laboratory located five miles from Corvallis. They measure the area and figure how many board feet of lumber will come from the standing timber.

The problem for winter term is figuring how to get the timber out of the forest and just where the road should be. After deciding its location, the students draw up complete plans for the road.

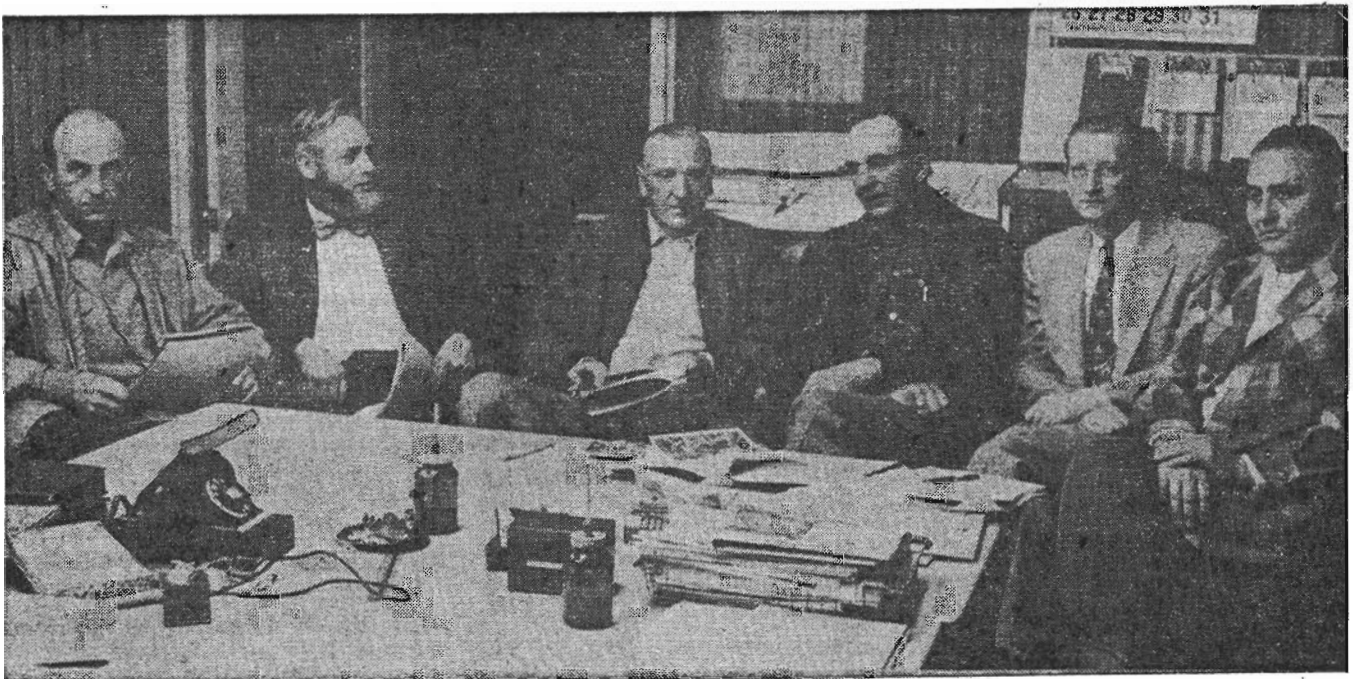
Economics of logging off a selected tract is studied during spring term. The class figures out how much the project will cost and what the profits will be.

Oregon State's outdoor forestry laboratory of 6,000 acres is the closest to the campus of any forestry school in the United States. Each year, the forestry department sells some timber to pay operating costs. This is figured on a sustained-yield harvest. In other words, it is figured that it will take 100 years for a tree to grow to full maturity.

BENTON COUNTY LUMBER OPERATORS COMMITTEE

[The following photograph was published on the 12th page of The Corvallis Gazette Times on Wednesday, May 22, 1957.]

Gazette-Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Wednesday, May 22, 1957



Benton County Lumber operators headed by the above-pictured committee are preparing plans for that industry's entries in the Corvallis Centennial parade and promise an outstanding group of floats. Working on the plans are Stan Wilt, Ralph Hull, Carl Bennett, Johnny Thompson, W. A. Davies and Gale McQuery. McQuery is in charge of the lumber subcommittee of the parade.

GYPPO LOGGERS HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT PART IN FORESTRY

By W.A. Davies

Head, Forest Engineering, O.S.C.

[This was published in The Corvallis Gazette Times, Corvallis, Oregon Wednesday, June 26, 1957.]

The gyppo logger, since his beginning in the 1920's, has become an important part of the state's leading industry. The term gyppo was originally assigned to loggers who did part of the logging job under contract, but was later applied to any small logging operation. As small independent loggers increased in number, the term persisted and has become a standard word in every logger's vocabulary.

While few gyppo loggers existed during the railroad logging days, they came into their own with the advent of logging trucks, after World War I. It was difficult for a small independent logger to own and operate a railroad, but when logging trucks were made available he could make use of the public roads. When the old Corvallis Logging Company railroad and other logging railroads gave way to trucks, gyppo loggers began to show up in Benton County.

The next big step in gyppo logging was the beginning of tractor or "cat" logging in the 1930's. Prior to this time, a logger needed a steam donkey to yard large Douglas-fir logs and could not economically log scattered timber or timber in small patches. The cost of setting up the high-lead cable system used with a steam donkey was too expensive. When the crawler tractor came along, however, the logger became mobile and was able to log scattered trees and to move from one timber stand to another without the expensive moving and rigging up costs. This development increased the number of gyppos in Benton County and elsewhere.

Salvage Operations

The third big development in gyppo logging occurred after World War II when the increase in lumber prices made it possible to utilize low grade and defective logs. Many gyppos were born during this period when much of the material left in the woods as unmerchantable prior to the war now became merchantable. There were thousands of acres of this type of material, and salvage logging began in earnest. Of course, the gyppo was best suited for this job.

Although it is not as easy for a gyppo to buy timber as it was in past years, it looks as though he will continue to be an important part of the logging and lumbering industry. His future lies in doing the logging job for the timber owner who doesn't want to take on the ulcers and headaches of doing it for himself. Even the larger timber owning companies are employing gyppos to log the small isolated areas, to do the relogging and log the thinnings from young stands. One large company in a neighboring county hires gyppos to do all of its logging, and has as many as 12 of these operations going on at one time. Many Benton County timber owners have found that it is best to turn the tough shows over to gyppos.

For many years to come, the gyppos will be sending logs over Alsea mountain and over other roads throughout the county. They are a tough and ingenious group and will tie into the roughest logging shows, and with brute force and a supply of haywire, will get the job done.

MCDONALD FOREST PROVIDES OUTDOOR LAB FOR O.S.U. WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY STUDENTS

Kathy Keniston
Barometer Writer

[This was published in The Daily Barometer, the O.S.U. daily publication, on May 1, 1970, a few years before the retirement of Professor Davies from the School of Forestry.]

While some students daydream of chucking the books and trekking off to enjoy nature, other students visit the forest several hours each week as part of their study program. The excursions are an important laboratory experience for forestry students at the university. Their "lab" is the 6,800-acre McDonald Forest, about six miles north of Corvallis.

The main purpose of McDonald Forest is to provide an outdoor laboratory where university foresters can apply their technical know-how, according to William A. Davies, Professor of Forest Engineering and Manager of the Forest. The experience saves students the cost of attending a summer camp, and leaves their summers free for paid practical work experience.

Oregon State University is one of a very few schools in the U.S. that has such a nearby forest, Davies adds. It's a 10- to 15-minute ride for the students, in the School of Forestry's orange trucks, from the campus to the forest.

Community interest in McDonald Forest was renewed recently when forestry students arranged and conducted free bus tours through the forest last Saturday and Sunday, in observance of Earth Week. Foresters explained the ecology of Douglas-fir, Oregon's most important tree; clearcutting and alternative methods of harvesting; planting and seeding; herbicides; wildlife management; and stand management through thinnings, pruning, fertilization and irrigation. The tour focused on an example of man's attempt to improve his environment both economically and aesthetically.

The forest was started in 1925 with the purchase of 80 acres of land approved by the State Board of Regents. Students and alumni purchased a small tract to connect this with Highway 99W. In 1930 Mrs. Mary J.L. McDonald, widow of a prominent San Francisco lumberman, donated the first of many gifts for additional purchases, and in 1932 the school forest was officially named McDonald Forest. 181 acres were set aside for the Peavy Arboretum, where plantings of native and foreign tree species are maintained. More than 4,000 additional acres of forest near McDonald Forest are owned by the School of Forestry.

At time of purchase, much of the land was in need of improvement. In recent years, through its contract forester, the school has thinned and pruned 20,000 to 100,000 trees annually, cleared brush and planted the released areas, felled snags, sold merchantable timber, and built and improved roads for logging and other management purposes. The present timber stand is about 90 million board feet with an estimated annual cut of about two million board feet.

The forest is mostly young growth Douglas-fir with some 250-year-old veteran firs, and some very old oaks. Other species are grand fir, western yew, a few western red cedar, and hemlock, along with such hardwoods as Oregon ash, red alder, bigleaf maple, vine maple, wild

cherry, and madrone.

The forest is of interest to fish-and-wildlife students because it is the home of black-tailed deer, bobcats, raccoons, brush rabbits, nutria, mice, blue grouse, buzzards, hawks, owls, song birds, cutthroat trout, and many other sylvan animals. On opening day of deer season last year, almost 1,000 hunters roamed the forest. The university sponsors the deer hunt each fall to help keep the deer population compatible with the growing trees.

The public is not allowed to drive in McDonald Forest, says Davies, because the roads are not safe for public travel, and because many valuable research plots must be protected. Vandalism and litter along the edge of the forest have been a problem, he adds.

Part of the forest is reserved from timber cutting to preserve certain conditions desirable for class instruction. Davies noted that McDonald Forest is "better for study than a perfect forest because of the different conditions and problems." Research foresters and graduate students have an opportunity to study a wide variety of forestry problems because of the varied conditions of the forest, ranging from bare land to mature timber.

APPENDIX C
FOREST PRODUCTS JOURNAL ARTICLE

DOUGLAS-FIR REGION¹: SMALL LOG HARVESTING²

The source has barely been tapped, and the potential is astounding, but problems needing attention include new logging methods for small logs, stand access, market analysis, and an understanding by forest owners of small-log potential.

W.A. Davies³

School of Forestry, Oregon State College



Thinning can double forest yield by harvesting the natural mortality. Here, a small tractor skids salvage and thinning logs.

SMALL-LOG LOGGING in the Douglas-fir region of the Northwest is in a relatively new, experimental stage. Prejudices and traditions make progress in this field slow, but some loggers and wood processors are beginning to realize the possibilities of utilizing Douglas-fir logs under 16 inches in diameter.

SOURCES AND POTENTIAL

Small logs are becoming increasingly important as a source of raw material for the wood industries of the Douglas-fir region. At present the bulk of these logs comes from normal logging operations with some small trees in the stand and from premature clear-cutting in second-growth stands. Other sources include salvage, pre-logging, and thinning. Volume from salvage is decreasing, and the potential is not great due to increased utilization in the original logging. Pre-logging is becoming popular in old-growth stands with understories of small trees. Removing the small trees prior to clear-cutting serves two purposes: (1) there is less loss in breakage, and (2) the final logging, which is geared to handling large material, is more efficient when there are fewer small logs to handle. However, the extra volume derived from pre-logging is not great, because

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² Published in the April 1960 issue of the Forest Product Journal, pp.187-189.

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most of this volume would be removed with the normal logging. Last, but by no means least, is the source of small logs from thinning young Douglas-fir stands. Here we have barely scratched the surface, and the potential is astounding.

The Douglas-fir region is in a revolutionary transition from wild forests to managed forests. As this change progresses, there will be more and more dependence on small logs, and many of them will come from thinnings. The present generation has grown up on large old-growth logs and finds it difficult to think in other terms. The change, however, is inevitable. Only the public agencies and a very few large companies hold old-growth reserves for more than a few years of cutting.

As timber lands are converted to second-growth, good management dictates that an increasing volume can be obtained by thinning the young stands. Douglas-fir is intolerant of shade and grows best in even-aged stands. Silviculturists agree that clear-cutting is the best harvesting practice, and that 80 to 100 years is a logical rotation age. During this rotation age, however, a large quantity of wood is lost, if not removed periodically. Nature is very wasteful and never in a hurry. A newly established stand may contain several thousand trees per acre. During its life, a stand will lose the majority of the original trees by competition, insects, disease, snow, and wind.

Man can salvage a large part of this loss by periodic thinnings, and the volumes obtainable are astounding. Thinning is an important and established part of timber harvesting in Europe. The Danes, who have been growing Douglas-fir for many years, have found that the volume from thinning is about equal to the volume at final harvest. They are doubling the yield from the land by harvesting the natural mortality. Silviculturists have stated that an average of 600 board feet per acre, per year could be thinned from Douglas-fir stands through a 100-year rotation. This volume multiplied by the 30 million acres of commercial forest land in the region is equal to 18 billion board feet, or one and one-half times the present total annual cut in the region. Of course this is a theoretical potential for some time in the distant future. At present, the approximately eight million acres of young stands of commercial thinning size in the region have a potential annual yield of over four billion board feet from thinnings. Probably not more than 50 million board feet and certainly not more than 100 million board feet per year, are now being produced from thinnings.

Volume from thinnings is non-depletable. Properly done, thinning is a stand improvement measure. The final harvest volume will be at least as great as in an unthinned stand, and the quality and tree size will be greater. This is one instance where a timber owner can have his cake and eat it too. It would be good practice to thin even if no profit were made, if the stumpage value came out to zero. However, the stumpage value of thinnings can be high where the stand is accessible and near a market. Recently, a public agency put a salvage thinning up for bid and realized \$28 per thousand board feet.

Many owners of young timber don't appreciate the possibilities in thinning and salvage. State and county extension foresters are doing a good job of educating the small owners, and as owners become aware of the values involved there should be a rapid increase in the volume of wood from this source.



This 85-year old stand of Douglas-fir has been thinned twice. Second thinning yielded 6,000 board feet per acre.



This 90-year old stand of Douglas-fir could yield about 7,000 board feet per acre in salvage thinnings.

LOGGING PROBLEMS

Logging small logs in the Douglas-fir region is in a groping, experimental stage, but things are moving fast. The methods used are essentially the same as those used in old-growth logging, but with smaller equipment. One company pioneered commercial thinning with horse logging, because it was thought that any other method would do considerable damage to the remaining stand. Later this company switched to small tractors and found that if loggers have the proper attitude, little damage is done. Recently, cable systems have been developed for thinning and salvage on the steeper areas. Many other types of equipment have been used to a limited extent in conjunction with horses and farm-type tractors, and have been satisfactory with careful loggers. Steel towers mounted on trucks have been used, including homemade donkeys mounted on trucks, rubber-tired tractors, and even farm tractors. However, the basic systems are the same as those used for many years in the normal clear-cut logging.

The variety of loading equipment used to load small logs is as great as the variety of yarding equipment. Most of the conventional systems, with smaller equipment, are employed. Some operators are loading one small log at a time with tongs or end hooks. Others are using grapples and fork lifts, and can load several logs at once.

The cost of logging on a board-foot, log-scale basis obviously is greater for small logs than for large logs. There is a mixture of sizes and the logging must be geared to handle large logs. If the costs are converted to a cubic-foot basis, the cost differential between large and small logs is not as great.

Here are some figures on small thinning operations in Douglas-fir in Willamette Valley of Oregon. The areas were similar in size (between 30 and 40 acres) and from 5,000 to 7,000 board feet per acre were removed from each. Following is a tabulation of the costs on these three areas plus the costs on an area that was clearcut after an earlier thinning some years before.

Area	Average Log	Cost per M bd. ft. Scribner Rule
No. 1	50 bd. ft.	\$30.00
No. 2	82 bd. ft.	\$27.00
No. 3	100 bd. ft.	\$23.00
Clearcut	345 bd. ft.	\$18.00

The above costs include truck hauls of 12 to 15 miles. All areas were tractor logged, and no road development cost was involved.

It can be seen from these figures that log size affects the logging cost when the unit of measure is the board foot, Scribner rule. When the costs were converted to a cubic-foot basis, it was found that they were similar for each area. This shows that the logging costs per cubic foot of wood can be about the same for small logs as for larger logs, as long as the board foot Scribner Rule is the unit of measurement for logs, the small-log logger must handle more wood, and therefore more weight per board foot than the large-log logger. Perhaps the unit of measurement will be changed in the future. Cubic feet and weight have been used to some extent. One large company, which contracts much of its small-log logging, pays the logger on a weight basis. Each load is weighed and the contracts call for a price per ton.

Another obstacle to logging small logs, especially thinnings, is lack of access. Much of the young timber of thinning size is far from a road or on very steep ground. Timber owners are reluctant to incur large development costs that cannot be amortized by the first cut. Thinning on steep ground is very difficult with the present methods, and new ideas and new developments in equipment and methods are needed.

In fact, new developments are needed in all phases of small-log logging. As previously stated, small logs are handled primarily by the same methods as used for large logs. We loggers in the region have been slow to adopt new methods developed and proven in other regions and in other countries. Tradition ties us down. Certain things have become standard and it is difficult to think in any other terms. Perhaps someone with imagination and who knows nothing about logging or our traditions is best qualified to develop new ways of handling small logs.

One tradition is the use of a choker, a short cable attached to a log in the yarding process. Loggers claim that the cost of logging small logs is high because it costs as much to put a choker around a small log as around a large one. If this be true, perhaps chokers should not be used; some type of mechanical hand or grapple would be more efficient.

Many new ideas have been discussed. The most glamorous one is probably the use of helicopters. As yet this has not been proven practicable. Rubber-tired tractors will probably replace many of the crawler type. Skylines are used extensively in Europe to transport small logs, and more use will probably be made here of skylines and other cable systems. Certainly, many new ideas, some as yet unheard of, will be developed as the old-growth forests are replaced by thrifty young stands.

MARKET PROBLEMS

The availability of markets controls the production of small logs, and at present the outlets in the region are not adequate. Most of the small logs are sawn in mills designed for large logs. It is not efficient to put a 6-inch log on a large carriage and run it through a head rig designed for 60-inch logs. Some scrag mills and small gang mills are in operation, but most of them are units of larger mills. They are used to keep the small logs away from the main mill, and the owners are not anxious to purchase additional small logs.

The pulp market is not good at present. Prices paid for small logs are low due to the availability of other cheap wood such as chips. Pulp chips may be purchased at the saw mill for the equivalent of \$15 per 1000 board feet. As long as this condition exists, the volume of small logs used for pulp will remain low.

The use of small logs for veneer is increasing. Some 4- and 8- foot lathes have been installed to peel the better logs. Usually only logs more than 14 inches in diameter are used, which leaves the smaller logs for other types of utilization.

Small logs may be used for poles, but this is not a large market. Only a few of the trees cut in a thinning operation are adequate for poles. Therefore it appears that the greatest potential use for logs from 6 to 15 inches in diameter is lumber, with the leftovers being used for pulp.

The value of small logs for lumber production is high if manufactured in an efficient plant. On a log-scale basis (Scribner Rule) the pond value may be higher for small logs than for large logs. This is due to a higher overrun from the small logs. A study made by the Forest Products Research Center in Corvallis, Oregon, shows that the overrun from logs six to 16 inches in diameter is about 50 percent. The overrun from larger logs cut in conventional saw mills is usually between 10 and 20 percent. Even with a slightly higher milling cost, the small logs may have a higher pond value on a log-scale basis.

In some cases, where efficient small mills are operating, this higher value has been reflected in the log price. One company in western Oregon, which operates a very efficient gang mill, paid \$55 to \$60 per 1000 board feet for small logs down to 6 inches in diameter during 1958. Lumber prices were not particularly good last year, but this company showed a profit. A neighboring, larger mill paid a slightly lower price for larger logs and showed a loss for the year.

Sawmills designed to cut large logs are no longer considered to be efficient unless integrated with other uses. The owner of a large sawmill must either give up the mill or expand to other uses to get greater value from the logs. This is not true of small mills designed to cut small logs. It appears that the operation of one of these small mills, with the leftovers being chipped for pulp, is about the only way to get into the lumber manufacturing business in a small way, at the present time. In the future there will probably be numerous efficient, small mills specifically designed to cut small logs only. They will be supplied by salvage to some extent, but chiefly by thinnings from small woodlots, from tree farms, and from the public forests.

SUMMARY

As stands in the Douglas-fir region are changed from wild forests to managed forests, small logs will become more important as raw material. Presently, small logs are coming from the normal logging operations, prematurely cut second-growth stands, salvage, pre-logging, and a limited amount of thinnings. The greatest potential source is from thinnings. Small-log logging is in a groping, experimental stage, and new ideas and developments are needed. An important obstacle to small log production is lack of markets. Lumber appears to be the most logical utilization, and mills particularly designed to cut small logs are needed.



Left to Right: William Davies, Pat Robertson, John O'Leary, and Walter McCulloch, c. 1948.
(Photo courtesy: Mrs. Joan Davies)

WILLIAM A. DAVIES

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND MANAGEMENT OF
O.S.U. RESEARCH FORESTS
BENTON & POLK COUNTIES, OREGON: 1946-1973

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