

100 Years of Forestry at The University of Montana-Missoula · 1913-2013

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History

In 1905 the United States Forest Service was established and millions of acres of land in Montana became a part of the national forests. The government needed to hire professional foresters to oversee these vast tracks of land but at the time no training or classes in forestry were available in Montana. In October 1908, Clyde A. Duniway became president of the University of Montana and used his inaugural address to advocate for the establishment of forestry education at the university.

“We miss a splendid opportunity of service to the state as long as we fail to give professional training to our young men who are being attracted into the new field of forestry, which has for its object the conservation of our natural resources. The choice of Missoula as one of the great districts of the National Forest Service gives us a direct contact with this work second to none in the United States.”¹

A few weeks after his address Duniway visited Washington D.C. and met with Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot about his desire to establish a formal forestry education program in Montana.² Pinchot endorsed Duniway’s idea and pledged the support of the Forest Service staff in Missoula.

In January 1909, in cooperation with the Regional Forest Service Office, the university started its first “Ranger School.”³ Botany Professor James E. Kirkwood oversaw the school, which consisted of twelve weekly lectures by staff members from the regional office. The inaugural class included roughly twenty Forest Service employees from around the region. The government paid the school fees and salaries of rangers in the school. The following year the course had forty-two participants from national forests across the country.⁴

¹ “Inaugural Address by President Charles Duniway,” *Kaimin*, October 1908, 14.

² Mary Brennan Clapp, “Narrative of Montana State University 1893-1935,” undated, Mss 582, Box 1.

³ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1920, 58.

⁴ “Short Course in Forestry,” *Kaimin*, December 16, 1909, cover.

In the spring of 1910, the United States Treasury Department pulled funding for the ranger school.⁵ Without government assistance, most of the rangers were unable to afford to continue the course and had to drop out.⁶ Despite the cuts, the university refused to let the school die. President Duniway rallied support by writing in the student newspaper, “no other state has so excellent an opportunity for developing a good forestry school as Montana.”⁷ With President Duniway’s approval, the university stepped in and provided faculty and additional funding for the ranger school.

By the spring of 1911, the university had taken over the day-to-day operation of the ranger school and opened the school up to all men over the age of nineteen.⁸ Furthermore, they required no special prior training to register and charged no tuition for the course. In 1912, the course extended from six to twelve weeks, and upon completion students received a certificate from the university.⁹

On March 21, 1913, the state legislature of Montana authorized the creation of the School of Forestry at The University of Montana-Missoula and allocated \$6,000 for salaries and supplies.¹⁰ The new School of Forestry went beyond the short, job related courses of the ranger school to include botanical and biological components. The school focused on the West and its forest types and unique forest problems.¹¹ The School of Forestry formally opened on September 8, 1914, with twenty-five students.¹² In 1916, the school was re-organized into three departments: forestry, forestry engineering and the ranger course.¹³ In 1927, the School of Forestry closed the ranger course due to low enrollment.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the School of Forestry grew and eventually provided the bulk of the summer work force for the Forest Service. Temporary student workers were the backbone of summer firefighting crews and visitor services programs. By the start of World War II, the majority of these trained men had enlisted in the military. To help the Forest Service staff the

⁵ “Foresters Declared Illegal Students,” *Kaimin*, January 27, 1910, cover.

⁶ *Ibid*

⁷ “Montana’s Outlook,” *Kaimin*, February 1909, page 15.

⁸ “Short Forestry Course,” *Kaimin*, January 12, 1911, cover.

⁹ “Foresters Begin Work,” *Kaimin*, January 11, 1912, cover.

¹⁰ *Laws of Montana, Thirteenth Session*, 1913, 482.

¹¹ “Logging, Engineering and Forestry Courses,” *Kaimin*, March 19, 1914, cover.

¹² *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1915, 37.

¹³ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1916, 29.

summer fire lines, the School of Forestry established a recruiting drive on campus encouraging students from all disciplines to spend the summer working in the forests.¹⁴ In addition to helping staff the national forests, the School of Forestry also offered free classes to the public to help meet wartime labor needs.¹⁵

In 1946, a master's degree program in forestry was established, and in 1964 the State Board of Education approved a PhD program. In April of 2003 the School of Forestry was renamed the College of Forestry and Conservation.¹⁶ Today the college offers five undergraduate degree programs: forestry; parks, tourism and recreation management; resource conservation; wildlife biology and wildland restoration. The college offers graduate degrees in forestry, recreation management, resource conservation, systems ecology, and wildlife biology; and doctoral degrees in forestry, fish and wildlife biology and systems ecology.

¹⁴ "Forestry Students Will Fly for Summer Fire Control," *Kaimin*, May 29, 1941.

¹⁵ "School of Forestry Offers War Training Courses," *Kaimin*, September 27, 1944, 3.

¹⁶ "Forestry School to Change Name," *Kaimin*, January 28, 2003, cover.

Faculty

The School of Forestry began as a joint operation between the university and the Forest Service. In the early years, the Forest Service provided the bulk of the staff and lectures but the head of the school was university Professor of Botany Joseph Edward Kirkwood. Kirkwood was originally from Iowa and earned his PhD from Columbia University in 1903.¹⁷ As head of the ranger school Kirkwood organized lectures by Regional Forester W.B. Greeley and his assistant F.A. Silcox, both of whom went on to serve as Chief of the United States Forest Service.¹⁸ Other specialists in drafting, planning, wildlife and range management were brought in from all over the region to lecture to students.

Starting in 1913, University of Montana engineering graduate and local Forest Service employee James H. Bonner became a regular instructor in the ranger courses.¹⁹ The following year another UM graduate, T.C. Spaulding, returned to Missoula to teach after earning his masters degree in forestry from the University of Michigan.²⁰

In the summer of 1913, renowned German forester Professor Carl Alwin Schenck visited the School of Forestry at the University of Montana.²¹ Professor Schenck was one of many European foresters who worked with Gifford Pinchot to help create the United States Forest Service. Schenck established the first forestry school in the United States at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina.²² The school disbanded in the spring of 1913 and Schenck took his final class of students on a road trip to see the forests of Montana.²³ Schenck spent part of his 1913 trip in Missoula lecturing at the School of Forestry.²⁴ In 1914, he returned to Germany to fight in World War I.²⁵ After the war, he returned to the United States and traveled across the

¹⁷ Charles H. Clapp, "Address at Funeral Service for Joseph Edward Kirkwood," *Northwest Science*, September 1928, 69.

¹⁸ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1909, 11.

¹⁹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1914, 17.

²⁰ "Short Course Opened," *Kaimin*, February 5, 1914, cover.

²¹ "German Foresters Coming to Montana," *Kaimin*, April 10, 1913, 3.

²² Forest Historical Society, *Forestry Lectures of Carl Alwin Schenck 1904-1909*, Biographical Note.

²³ *Ibid*

²⁴ "German Foresters Coming to Montana," *Kaimin*, April 10, 1913, 3.

²⁵ Forest Historical Society.

west as a visiting professor before formally joining the faculty at the University of Montana in 1926.²⁶

In the fall of 1914, Door Skeels took over for Professor Kirkwood and became the first official dean of the School of Forestry.²⁷ Skeels was a former supervisor on the Kootenai National Forest and had attended forestry classes at the University of Michigan.²⁸ In the spring of 1917 the United States entered World War I. Faculty and students from the School of Forestry enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers and were assigned to a special unit made up entirely of lumbermen.²⁹ Skeels, along with the majority of the faculty and student body, was sent to France to help harvest timber for the war effort. In Skeels' absence, several acting deans from the University of Montana faculty and the regional Forest Service office were appointed to head the school. Skeels returned to the university in 1919 and served as dean until spring 1923.³⁰

In the fall of 1923, Professor T.C. Spaulding became dean of the School of Forestry.³¹ Spaulding served as dean until 1945 when Kenneth P. Davis was selected.³² Davis was from Missoula and earned a B.S. in forestry from the University of Montana and his masters from the University of Michigan.³³ He served as dean for just four years and, in September 1949, was replaced by Ross A. Williams. Williams received his B.S. in forestry from the University of Montana in 1921 and his masters from Yale.³⁴ Williams retired in 1962 and was replaced by Arnold Bolle. Bolle was from Wisconsin and earned his B.S. in forestry from the University of Montana in 1937 and his masters from Harvard in 1955.³⁵

²⁶ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1926, 44.

²⁷ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1914, 53.

²⁸ *The University of Michigan General Catalogue of Officers and Students 1837-1911*, Ann Arbor: The University, 1912, 871.

²⁹ "Bonner Goes to War," *Forest School News*, January 1918, cover and "Bonner Leaves University for Commission in Army," *Kaimin*, January 18, 1918, cover.

³⁰ "Local," *Montana Forest School News*, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 1919, cover and *University of Montana Bulletin, Fourteenth Announcement Forestry Short Courses*, October 1923, 5.

³¹ *Ibid*

³² *Biography*, Kenneth P. Davis Papers 1930-1974, Bentley Historical Library, The University of Michigan.

³³ *Ibid*

³⁴ "Good to be Back Home Says New Forestry Dean," *Kaimin*, September 30, 1949.

³⁵ *Biography*, Bolle Center for People and Forests, College of Forestry and Conservation, The University of Montana-Missoula, 2012.

In 1972, Robert F. Wambach replaced Bolle.³⁶ Wambach was from Detroit, Michigan, and received his B.S. in forestry from the University of Montana in 1957 and his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1966.³⁷ He served as dean until 1976. From 1977-1978 the school had a series of acting deans. In the fall of 1978, Benjamin B. Stout became dean. Stout was originally from West Virginia and received a B.S. in forestry in 1947 from West Virginia University.³⁸ He attended graduate school at Harvard and earned his PhD in ecology at Rutgers.³⁹ Stout served as dean until 1985 when Sidney Frissell replaced him.

Frissell earned his bachelor's, masters and PhD in forestry from the University of Minnesota.⁴⁰ He served as dean until 1992 when Robert Ream replaced him. Ream served two years and was replaced in the fall of 1994 by Perry Brown. Brown earned his PhD in 1971 from Utah State University.⁴¹ Brown served as dean and associate provost of the university from 2008-2010. In 2008, James Burchfield was appointed interim dean. Burchfield earned his PhD in natural resources at the University of Michigan and had previously served as director of the Bolle Center for People and Forests at the University of Montana.⁴² In 2011, Burchfield was officially named dean of the College of Forestry and Conservation.

³⁶ Congressional Record, *A University View of the Forest Service*, Arnold Bolle, November 18, 1970, 22.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Biography, Benjamin B. Stout Papers 1959-2006, University Archives, Oregon State University, 2012.

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ "Forestry Dean Selected," *Kaimin*, May 2, 1986, cover.

⁴¹ About Provost Brown, The University of Montana-Missoula, 2012.

⁴² Jamie Kelly, "Jim Burchfield Named Dean of UMs Forestry School," *Missoulian*, May 18, 2011.

Students

The first class of the University of Montana Ranger School was not comprised of typical college students. The rangers were older men; many were married and had been working for the Forest Service since it was formed in 1905. Most had never been to college but had extensive experience working in the field. These early rangers helped establish many of the famous and infamous traditions of the School of Forestry. A class of rangers and their wives first conceived of the idea for a Foresters Dance in 1915 and a friendly rivalry between the rangers, also called shorthorns and the regular students, or longhorns, brought about the logging competition known as Boondocker Days.⁴³

The 1911 university yearbook lists the first graduate in forestry as Arthur Fowler Bishop of Cloverdale, California.⁴⁴ Bishop earned his degree three years before the state formally opened the school, so in all likelihood his degree was a combination of courses from the engineering and botany departments. The School of Forestry formally opened in the fall of 1914 and immediately drew men from across the state. In the years that followed the school built up its academic reputation and hammered out course and field requirements.

In the spring of 1918 only eight men arrived for ranger school.⁴⁵ Many of those who had originally planned to take the course were now either enlisted or unable to attend due to the influenza epidemic. The epidemic continued throughout the summer, forcing the university to cancel all classes for the fall of 1918.⁴⁶

During World War I the University of Montana School of Forestry had more men serving in the armed forces than any other similarly sized school of forestry in the country.⁴⁷ Seventy-eight students in the School of Forestry enlisted in the military and served overseas.⁴⁸ Seven students from the School of Forestry were killed either in battle or died from influenza during World War I.

⁴³ "Lumberjacks Will Give Novel Dance Tomorrow," *Kaimin*, February 22, 1916, 4 and *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1917, 55.

⁴⁴ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1911, 21.

⁴⁵ "Eight Enrolled on Course for Forest Rangers," *Kaimin*, January 4, 1918, 3.

⁴⁶ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1919, 51.

⁴⁷ "Montana is First in Army Foresters," *Kaimin*, January 15, 1918, cover.

⁴⁸ *The Sentinel*, 1919, 51.

Marcus Barrett Cook was from Hamilton, Montana. Cook was travelling to France with other American troops aboard the ocean liner *Tuscania* when it was torpedoed by a German U-Boat in the Northern Channel between Ireland and Scotland on February 5, 1918. He was one of more than 200 people who died from the attack. Cook was the first casualty of the war from the university. He was buried in Scotland.⁴⁹

Roy S. Butzerin was originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and grew up in Missoula, Montana. He served in the first three battles of the Marne. Butzerin was killed in action on September 26, 1918, during the Battle of the Argonne. He was recommended for a Distinguished Service Cross and was buried in Belleau Wood, France.⁵⁰

Ward N. Woodward was originally from Rockwell City, Iowa, and died of pneumonia in Toule, France on October 8, 1918.⁵¹

Sidney Wilson Dunbar was from Wisdom, Montana. Dunbar died of influenza on October 18, 1918. He was the first Student Army Training Corps private stationed on campus to die in the pandemic.⁵²

Samuel L. Hiebert was born in Hillsboro Kansas. Prior to attending the School of Forestry at the University of Montana he taught school in Zortman, Montana. He served in the Student Army Training Corps on campus. He died of scarlet fever on October 28, 1918.⁵³

David Mason Whitmore was originally from Key Port, New Jersey. He died of influenza at Camp Lewis, Washington, on November 1, 1918.⁵⁴

Harry H. Higman was from Hamilton, Montana, and died of influenza on November 3, 1918, while serving with the Student Army Training Corps on campus.⁵⁵

⁴⁹ "With Military Honors," *The Delta of the Sigma Nu Fraternity*, Vol. 35, May 1918, 831.

⁵⁰ "Seven Gold Stars on Service Flag of Forestry School," *Kaimin*, November 14, 1918, cover.

⁵¹ Memo, "University of Montana men who died during the world war or as a result of the war," May 28, 1930, Record Group 1, Box 36, Folder Roll of Honor WWI.

⁵² "Seven Gold Stars on Service Flag of Forestry School," November 14, 1918.

⁵³ "Samuel L. Hiebert," *Montana Forestry School News*, Vol. 1, No. 2, November 1918, cover.

⁵⁴ Memo, "University of Montana men who died during the world war or as a result of the war," May 28, 1930.

⁵⁵ *Ibid*

All seven of the students who died were honored on campus in the Memorial Row, located between McGill Hall and the Education Building. The land for the row was purchased by the university in 1918 from Ronald Higgins.⁵⁶ Montana's state tree, the ponderosa pine, was selected for planting and the Forestry School Nursery provided saplings.⁵⁷ The trees were planted at a dedication held on Arbor Day May 13, 1919.⁵⁸ Law School Professor W.L. Pope delivered the address,

“let us resolve that like these trees their memory shall be forever green... when countless generations of students have walked upon this campus and looked upon these trees, men shall remember and say that these men died to save the world.”⁵⁹

After the ceremony, the trees were marked with white wooden crosses bearing the name of the honored. On February 17, 1927, the crosses were replaced with bronze plaques paid for in part by the Forestry Club.⁶⁰

After World War I, the school gained popularity with men from across the country looking to venture west. In 1920, more than half of the students registered in forestry courses were from states other than Montana, and by 1930 the percentage had increased to two-thirds of students.⁶¹

Starting in the 1920s the School of Forestry established a tradition of taking senior students on a spring field trip during their final semester. The trips began as two to three day jaunts across the northwest to national forests and lumbering operations. Eventually it expanded into a weeklong bus ride across the west and included visits to Forest Service offices and research stations in states like California, Arizona, Utah and Colorado.

The start of United States involvement World War II in late 1941 signaled another slow down for the School of Forestry as most of its students enlisted and went overseas to fight. Fourteen

⁵⁶ Elsie Tschudy, “Memorial Row,” *Kamin*, November 25, 1919, 2.

⁵⁷ *Ibid*

⁵⁸ *Ibid*

⁵⁹ *Ibid*

⁶⁰ Charter Day Program, The University of Montana, February 17, 1927, Record Group 1, Box 101, Folder Corbin Hall General.

⁶¹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1920, pg 59 and *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1931, 37.

students from the School of Forestry were killed in World War II.⁶² Twelve were stationed overseas when they died.

Europe

Fred C. Beyer, John R. Greene, Ernest Pfister, William H. Plummer Paul E. Rieger and Kenneth Wolf

South West Pacific Area

Robert O. Jamison, Harold A. Lewis, Richard C. McClung, Walter F. Shaffner, James A. Shelton and Clinton G. Wilmsen

United States

Wells Cahoon, Glen Van Bramer

The School of Forestry dedicated a bronze bell in the Main Hall Memorial Carillon as a tribute to those students who died in the war. The inscription on the bell reads, “to the inspiration and devotion of all those foresters whose fight for conservation protects our birthright.”⁶³

On August 5, 1949, tragedy befell the School of Forestry. The Mann Gulch Fire was started by a lightning strike on the Helena National Forest.⁶⁴ The fire grew to 5,000 acres and killed thirteen men. Six of the men killed were students at the University of Montana and three were enrolled in the School of Forestry.⁶⁵

Silas R. Thompson was a twenty-one-year-old junior from Charlotte, North Carolina. Leonard L. Piper a twenty-three-year-old sophomore from Paris, Tennessee, and Eldon Diettert a nineteen-year-old freshman from Missoula, Montana. Diettert was the son of Botany Professor R.A. Diettert. In 1950, the greenhouse next to the forestry building was official dedicated “The Memorial Greenhouse” in their honor by the State Board of Education.⁶⁶ In 1953, the School of

⁶² “In Memoriam,” *Forestry Kaimin*, 1946, 2.

⁶³ Dedication of the Memorial Carillon, program, October 18, 1953, The University of Montana-Missoula.

⁶⁴ David Turner, “The Thirteenth Fire,” *Forest History Today*, Spring 1999, 26 and Norman Maclean, *Young Men and Fire*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992, 27.

⁶⁵ George Remington, “Jumpers Die at Mann Gulch; Six Students Among Thirteen Dead,” *Kaimin*, September 28, 1949, 3.

⁶⁶ R.H. Jesse to Ross A. Williams, letter, July 13, 1950, Record Group 1, Box 99, Folder Forestry Greenhouse.

Forestry and the Forest Service Regional Office dedicated a bell in the Main Hall Memorial Carillon to all thirteen of the fire victims.⁶⁷

For one hundred years, the School of Forestry prepared students for careers in federal and/or state forestry programs and private lumber companies across the country. Today students have expanded their studies to include areas like wild land fire science, cultural heritage management and understanding the role of nonprofit forestry organizations.

⁶⁷ Dedication of the Memorial Carillon, program, October 18, 1953.

Buildings

Pinchot Hall

When the Ranger School opened in 1909, classes were held in either the basement or attic of Main Hall, depending on the weather and the season.⁶⁸ In March of 1913, the Montana legislature authorized the creation of the School of Forestry and allocated \$6,000 for supplies and salaries. Newly installed dean Door Skeels took \$2,635 and hired local construction company G.H. Pew to build the department a home.⁶⁹

The new building opened in the spring of 1915 and was affectionately called the “Shack.” The two-story, 32 x 54’ building was located behind Main Hall and constructed of exposed timbers. A hedge surrounded the building; in the center was an arch of branches. Above the front door to the building, the word “Forestry” was spelled-out in wood. The first floor had classrooms, offices and a fireplace. Several large, open drawing rooms were on the second floor.

By the 1920s, the school had outgrown the “Shack.” Architect Ole Bakke of Missoula designed a new building and R.C. Hugenin of Butte was the onsite supervisor of construction.⁷⁰ The three-story, 130 x 56’ building cost \$135,000 to construct and was paid for with money raised through a state bond.⁷¹ The building has a granite foundation and a roof of green colored Spanish tiles. Above the windows on the second floor are terra cotta panels bearing a relief of a green pine and ax, the emblem of the Forestry Club.⁷² The building officially opened in 1922 and was named the Gifford Pinchot Hall of Forestry in 1923 for the first Chief of the Forest Service.⁷³

In the 1930s former university student Irvine Shope was commissioned by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to create a series of murals for the interior of the building. Shope received a degree in fine arts from the university but spent his first two years studying forestry.⁷⁴ The murals were painted on canvas shipped all the way from New York and depicted historical

⁶⁸ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1927, 28.

⁶⁹ “Contract is Let for New Building,” *Kaimin*, December 10, 1914, cover.

⁷⁰ File 210 Forestry Building State University, Record Group 39, Physical Plant Box 4, 1985-43.

⁷¹ “Our New Shack,” *Forestry Kaimin*, Vol. 4 No. 1, 1922, 29.

⁷² *Ibid*

⁷³ “School News,” *Inter-Mountain Educator*, Vol. 19, No. 1, September 1923, 31.

⁷⁴ “Forestry Building Panel Await Addition of Murals,” *Kaimin*, February 15, 1939, 3.

scenes of forestry in Montana. In addition to funding from the WPA, the Forestry Club contributed money raised at the annual Foresters' Ball to help pay for the murals.⁷⁵

Forestry Memorial Greenhouse

In 1939, the greenhouse next to the Natural Sciences Building was built for the schools of forestry and pharmacy to share.⁷⁶ The building was paid for with a Public Works Administration grant.⁷⁷ Initially the schools shared the facility, but by the early 1940s forestry was forced to move out and conduct studies off campus at facilities on nearby national forests.

In the fall of 1946, School of Forestry Dean Kenneth P. Davis requested funding for new a greenhouse on campus, in order to allow the school to continue research projects and testing done in the tree nursery.⁷⁸ Davis's request was denied. The following year Davis again requested funds for the building without which he felt the school's integrity would be at risk.⁷⁹ Davis argued that the school's newly established graduate program was losing potential students because they were unable to complete mandatory greenhouse studies.

In 1951, the State Board of Education finally allocated \$35,678 from a bond to construct a greenhouse for the School of Forestry.⁸⁰ Opened at the start of fall semester 1951, the 103 x 25' glass and iron building was designed by the Missoula architectural firm of Fox and Ballas and dedicated "The Memorial Greenhouse" in honor of the students killed fighting the Mann Gulch Wildfire in 1949.⁸¹

Mount Sentinel Lookout

During the summer of 1914 students in the School of Forestry constructed a trail from the base of Mount Sentinel 620 feet up the mountain.⁸² The trail had only two switchbacks and ranged

⁷⁵ *Montana Forestry Club Handbook*, University Publications, 1954-1955, 8.

⁷⁶ T.G. Swearingen to G.F. Simmons, letter, June 8, 1939. Record Group 1, Box 5, Folder Natural Science Building Addition Contracts.

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ Kenneth P. Davis to C.W. Leaphart, letter, December 13, 1946, Record Group 1, Box 99, Folder Forestry Greenhouse 1946-1962.

⁷⁹ Charles Waters to Kenneth P. Davis, letter, October 9, 1947, Record Group 1, Box 99, Folder Forestry Greenhouse 1946-1962.

⁸⁰ The University of Montana, *University of Montana 75th Anniversary, 1893-1968*, Missoula: Information Services Publication, 19.

⁸¹ R.H. Jesse to Ross A. William, letter, July 13, 1950, Record Group 1, Box 99, Folder Forestry Greenhouse.

⁸² "Sentinel Trail Lures Many People Despite Weather," *Kaimin*, November 10, 1914, 1.

from two to four feet wide.⁸³ In the spring of 1915, the School of Forestry built a laboratory and fire lookout on Mount Sentinel at the top of the trail.⁸⁴ The lookout was built with timber collected and prepped by students over the winter break. The lookout was a six-sided, two-story structure with windows encircling the second story. Students staffed the lookout and the structure was maintained by the school. The university had a telephone installed so that fires could be reported.⁸⁵ In 1929, the lookout burned down; it was not rebuilt.

Nursery

In 1911, Professor of Botany James Edward Kirkwood established a small tree nursery on the north side of campus along the river.⁸⁶ Professor Kirkwood and his botany students oversaw the nursery. After the creation of the School of Forestry in 1913, the nursery began to focus on issues of reforestation and oversight was transferred from the botany program to the School of Forestry.

In 1926, a metrological station was constructed on the nursery grounds to study wind direction and velocity.⁸⁷ The nursery expanded in 1930 to include a total of thirteen acres. The additional land was purchased by the alumni association for the School of Forestry and rented back to the university.⁸⁸ In 1932, an arboretum was established in the nursery extending from the north side of McGill Hall down to the banks of the Clark Fork River.⁸⁹

Throughout the 1930s, the nursery received funding from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to fence the grounds, construct new buildings and install a new watering system.⁹⁰ As World War II drew closer, funding for WPA projects began to taper off and in May of 1940 the WPA cut off funding for the nursery.

The university and the School of Forestry wanted to keep the nursery open during the war so they paid the operating costs themselves. The majority of students and staff who ran the nursery

⁸³ Ibid

⁸⁴ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1916, 29.

⁸⁵ Ibid

⁸⁶ "Nursery," *Kaimin*, September 21, 1915, 3.

⁸⁷ "The Meteorological Station of the Forest Service," *Forestry Kaimin*, May 1926, 57.

⁸⁸ "Forestry School Nursery Sends Out Nearly Half a Million Trees and Shrubs to State Farmers," *Kaimin*, June 3, 1930, 4.

⁸⁹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1933, 25.

⁹⁰ "School of Forestry Nursery Receives Grant of \$19,000," *Kaimin*, October 4, 1938, cover.

had enlisted in the military so the university contracted with the army to have internees from the Fort Missoula Internment Camp work at the nursery.⁹¹ After World War II, the United States Department of Agriculture took over the nursery. The nursery closed in 1952 to make room for the construction of the Field House, now called the Adams Center.

⁹¹ Memo, September 29, 1943, Record Group 1, Box 33, File Forestry Nursery.

Forestry Camp

From the first ranger courses in 1909 to the graduate level GIS mapping courses of 2012 the School of Forestry always emphasized the importance of pairing classroom instruction with practical field experience. Prior to 1913, students in the ranger school often attended courses outside in nearby national forests or at local lumbering operations. In the spring of 1914, the School of Forestry established a policy that required students to spend a portion of their summer break working in a national forest or a lumbering facility.⁹²

To encourage participation in and understanding of the field experience, the school held a camp in the spring of 1915 on Salmon Lake.⁹³ The entire faculty and forty upperclassmen attended the camp. The success of the camp prompted the faculty to declare it a yearly tradition. Camp was cancelled in 1917 and 1918 due to low enrollment and World War I but resumed in 1919 and became a unique part of the forestry school experience.⁹⁴

In 1928, the Forest Service loaned the School of Forestry 1,500 acres of land near Pattee Canyon on the Lolo National Forest.⁹⁵ The loan was designed to give students space to conduct experiments and demonstrations, effectively giving the school a 1,500-acre outdoor laboratory.

In 1937, the School of Forestry received a donation of 19,058 acres of land from the Anaconda Company.⁹⁶ The land was to be used as a research station and permanent location for the student camp. An additional 1,212 acres adjacent to the Anaconda Company land was donated by the Northern Pacific Railroad a year later.⁹⁷ The combined donation was the work of School of Forestry Dean T.C. Spaulding and Anaconda Company Superintendent of Lumberman W.C. Lubrecht.⁹⁸ The camp was named in honor of Lubrecht and today it is called the Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

For almost forty years, the School of Forestry camp at Lubrecht Experimental Forest consisted of a collection of old buildings and temporary facilities. In 1982, the Castles Forestry Center was

⁹² "Logging, Engineering and Forestry Courses," *Kaimin*, March 19, 1914, 4.

⁹³ "Foresters Take a Trip Up the Blackfoot," *Kaimin*, April 30, 1915, cover.

⁹⁴ "Too Many Enlistments May Kill Spring Camp," *Kaimin*, April 19, 1917.

⁹⁵ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1928, 27.

⁹⁶ *School of Forestry Newsletter*, Vol. 1, No. 2, August 1989, 4.

⁹⁷ "Land Grant Received by Forestry School from Northern Pacific Railroad," *Kaimin*, September 30, 1938, cover.

⁹⁸ *Ibid*

built to provide a permanent space for research.⁹⁹ Today the Lubrecht Experimental Forest is the home of the College of Forestry and Conservation summer camp and numerous faculty and government research projects.

⁹⁹ *School of Forestry Newsletter*, August 1989, 4.

Student Organizations

Forestry Club

The Forestry Club was established in October of 1914, one month after the official opening of the School of Forestry. The purpose of the club was to “further forestry at the university and to provide discussion on forestry questions.”¹⁰⁰ All students enrolled in the School of Forestry were automatically members of the Forestry Club and paid dues of \$1 per quarter.¹⁰¹ The dues were used to assist “financially distressed foresters” and fund club cookouts and hikes. The club met every two weeks and maintained an office in the both the original “Shack” and later in the Forestry Building.

In January of 1920, members of the club organized a rifle club open to all students on campus.¹⁰² The club was very popular among students who hunted. Members practiced shooting and organized tournaments on campus at the ROTC rifle range. By 1935, the club had forty members and was sponsored by the National Rifle Association (NRA).¹⁰³ As a part of their sponsorship, the NRA provided the club with guns and ammunition.

From 1943-1944, the Forestry Club was inactive due to the high percentage of forestry students who had enlisted in the military but by 1945 membership in the club was back up. In 1952, the Forestry Club organized the first Fall Smoker. Traditionally held the Sunday before freshman orientation the Fall Smoker provided old and new forestry students an opportunity to catch up and meet before classes started.¹⁰⁴ The tradition of the Fall Smoker continues today.

Today the Forestry Club organizes the Foresters’ Ball, sponsors and participates on the UM Woodsman’s Team and volunteers at the Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

Druids

In 1923, a group of upperclassmen in the School of Forestry met with faculty to discuss the need for a professional forestry society on campus specifically for juniors and seniors.¹⁰⁵ The students

¹⁰⁰ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1931, 146.

¹⁰¹ *The Sentinel*, 1933, 98.

¹⁰² “Rifle Club Organized,” *Kaimin*, January 23, 1920, 3.

¹⁰³ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of the State University of Montana, 1935.

¹⁰⁴ *Montana Forestry Club Handbook*, 1952, 13.

¹⁰⁵ Dick Kern, “Druids,” unpublished, Mss 605, Box 2, Folder 12, 1948.

wanted to form a selective organization that promoted scholarship and fostered relationships between soon to be graduating students, faculty, alumni and potential employers.

In 1924, the Montana Druids were established as an academic honor society for foresters.¹⁰⁶ In order to become a member a student had to be enrolled in the School of Forestry, be a junior with a C in at least ninety-five credits and “have a sincere interest in the profession.”¹⁰⁷ The name of the new organization came from English legends that referred to Druids as ancient tree worshippers and the wisest men of the forest.¹⁰⁸ The emblem of the organization was a shield with an “M” and a white oak leaf.

In the beginning, membership was limited to twenty men with twelve new members chosen each year.¹⁰⁹ The Druids were inactive during World War II due to the high percentage of forestry students who had enlisted in the military. Today the Druids are involved in campus and community service projects related to forestry and conservation.

Forestry Kaimin

In 1915, the Forestry Club began publishing a yearly newsletter called the *Forestry Kaimin*.¹¹⁰ The *Forestry Kaimin* reviewed the activities and projects of the Forestry Club, published the work of students and faculty and research papers from the Forest Service Regional Office. The yearly newsletter evolved into quarterly publication that included short stories and updates on alumni of the school. Over five-thousand copies of the 1918 *Forestry Kaimin* were printed and mailed to alumni across the country.¹¹¹ The *Forestry Kaimin* was not published from 1919-1921 due to World War I or from 1942-1945 due to World War II.¹¹² By the late 1960s, the publication had become much smaller and was focused mainly on the activities of current students. It ceased publication in 1967. The *Forestry Kaimin* reappeared as an annual publication in the 1970s.

¹⁰⁶ “Montana Druids,” *Forestry Kaimin*, 1924, 54.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid

¹⁰⁸ Ibid and Kern, “Druids.”

¹⁰⁹ Ibid

¹¹⁰ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of Montana State University, 1947, 175.

¹¹¹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of the University of Montana, 1918, 114.

¹¹² *The Sentinel*, 1947, 175.

Foresters' Ball

The Lumberjack Dance

On February 23, 1916, the inaugural Lumberjack Dance was held at the University of Montana.¹¹³ Participants in the ranger school organized the dance for students in the School of Forestry. The rangers began planning for the top-secret event in the fall of 1915. In an interview with a *Kaimin* reporter on November 18, 1915, dance organizers were asked about the plan for the evening's entertainment. "The committeemen shifted their chews and replied, 'the features of the entertainment will be unusual and will be staged by forestry talent. We refuse to divulge more.'¹¹⁴ Despite the cryptic reply, or maybe because of it, students were eager to attend the novel event and more than three hundred purchased tickets.

The dance was held in the original campus gym. Guest were required to wear "woods and outing costumes"; those who showed up in a suit or tie were turned away.¹¹⁵ The gym was decorated with tree boughs and the bathroom doors were disguised as ranger cabins. A lumberjack's dinner, prepared by the wives of the ranger school men, was served in "true camp fashion" to all the guests.¹¹⁶ At one point, a hold up was staged and \$1 was taken from each man at the dance. At the close of the evening a bonfire was lit in front of the gym.

The second Lumberjack Dance was held on February 19, 1917, to coincide with the university's Charter Day.¹¹⁷ In a reversal of roles, students in the Forestry Club organized the dance in honor of the ranger school participants. The week before the dance the first Longhorn-Shorthorn indoor meet was held. The Longhorn-Shorthorn meet was a competition between students enrolled in the School of Forestry and participants in the ranger school.¹¹⁸ The meet included ax throwing, sawing, pole climbing and numerous other competitions in forestry skills. When the ranger school closed in 1927, the School of Forestry students challenged their classmates in other

¹¹³ "Lumberjacks Will Give Novel Dance Tomorrow," *Kaimin*, February 22, 1916, 4.

¹¹⁴ "Foresters Will Dance at First Annual Ball," *Kaimin*, November 18, 1915, cover.

¹¹⁵ "Lumberjacks Will Give Novel Dance Tomorrow," February 22, 1916.

¹¹⁶ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1916, 106.

¹¹⁷ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1917, 55.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid*

disciplines to compete. The event grew to be called Boondockers Day and was held annually on campus the week before the Foresters' Ball.¹¹⁹

At the third annual dance on February 21, 1918, each guest was asked to sit out a song and write a letter to a University of Montana student serving overseas.¹²⁰ A program from the dance was included with each letter mailed. The following year the program for the dance reserved certain dances specifically for sailors, soldiers or members of the ROTC.¹²¹ In 1921, the dance was held off-campus for the first and only time at the Union Hall in downtown Missoula.¹²² In the early years, the event was referred to as either the Lumberjacks Dance or the Foresters Dance but by the mid 1920s, it was known by its current name, the Foresters' Ball.

By the late 1920s the Foresters' Ball had become an annual campus tradition. It was the one night of the year when women living in residence halls on campus and in sororities were allowed to stay out past curfew.¹²³ In 1926, the ball organizing committee formally invited the legendary lumberman Paul Bunyan and his blue ox Babe to the ball.¹²⁴ The tradition of inviting Bunyan and Babe continued into the 1990s. The 1926 decorating committee installed a "Rangers' Dream of Paradise" in one of the wrestling rooms at the back of the gym. Paradise included a miniature waterfall and pond and a glowing full moon.¹²⁵ Four hundred people attended the 1926 ball.¹²⁶ As the ball grew in size so did the profits from it. The money raised was put back into a scholarship fund to help students in the School of Forestry.¹²⁷

The job of organizing the ball became more complicated as the event grew. By the late 1930s, the Forestry Club decided to have a separate ball committee chair, called the Chief Push, oversee the entire event. The Chief Push was responsible for supervising all the tree cutting and hauling, decorating the gym and organizing the volunteers.¹²⁸

¹¹⁹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of The University of Montana, 1969, 26.

¹²⁰ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Junior Class of The University of Montana, 1918, 118.

¹²¹ The Forest School Ball, Dance Card, February 14, 1919, Melville Leroy Woods Scrapbook.

¹²² "Foresters Ball Recalls Woodsman Dances Given During Other Years," *Kaimin*, January 1, 1934, cover.

¹²³ *Ibid*

¹²⁴ "Paul Bunyan Here for Hop," *Kaimin*, February 26, 1926, cover.

¹²⁵ *Ibid*

¹²⁶ *Ibid*

¹²⁷ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of Montana State University, 1939.

¹²⁸ *The Sentinel*, 1937, 148.

In 1932, the Anaconda Company Greenough Lumber Camp donated a Michigan wheels, or highwheels, to the School of Forestry.¹²⁹ A highwheels was used to drag cut trees through the forest. The week before the ball the highwheels was placed in the center of the oval to provide publicity for the ball and help sell tickets. Over the years, much of the original wooden structure has been replaced, today only the iron is original.¹³⁰

The Foresters' Ball was not held from 1942-1945 due to World War II.¹³¹ In 1947, the ball was expanded to two nights to accommodate the growing crowds.¹³² In 1951, a beard-growing contest was added to help promote ticket sales; first prize was an electric razor.¹³³ Starting in the late 1950s the ball was held in the fall versus the traditional spring date. The fall start date did not allow enough time to hold the popular beard-growing contest so it was cancelled. Eventually the event returned to being held in the spring semester and beard-growing contest resumed.

At the first Lumberjacks Ball in 1916, tickets were \$1 per couple and included full meal. In 2012, tickets to the ball were \$20 a person or \$30 for a couple, no meal provided. The 2011 ball raised over \$20,000 for scholarships in the School of Forestry.¹³⁴ The 95th annual Foresters' Ball was held in 2012 at the Adam's Center. The larger venue allowed more people than ever to attend the event. Numerous serious issues with alcohol arose at the 2012 ball prompting the potential cancelation of the almost 100 year old event.¹³⁵ In cooperation with the university administration, the Forestry Club reorganized the event for 2013 to be smaller, family friendly and more educational.¹³⁶

¹²⁹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: The University of Montana, 1988, 32.

¹³⁰ *Ibid*

¹³¹ *The Sentinel*, Missoula: Associated Students of Montana State University, 1946, 139.

¹³² *The Sentinel*, 1947, 225.

¹³³ *The Sentinel*, 1952, 22.

¹³⁴ "Foresters Ball to Change Venues Décor," *Kaimin*, January 24, 2012, cover.

¹³⁵ "President Seeks Improved Foresters Ball," *University Relations Forum*, Vol. 40 No.5, February 27, 2012.

¹³⁶ Memo, Royce C. Engstrom to Foresters Ball Student Committee, Subject: Strategic Plan for Future Foresters Ball, April 30, 2012.

Bertha: The First Lady of Forestry

Bertha the Moose is the unofficial mascot of the Forestry Club. She is actually a male moose whose story begins in 1926 when Dr. Carl Schenck donated her to the Forestry Club.¹³⁷ Schenck was given the 60 pound moose head by George Merck who bagged her in a drainage on the Bitterroot National Forest.¹³⁸

The foresters were extremely proud of their new mascot and quickly made her an integral part of their club ritual and annual ball. In the 1930s Bertha became the object of a rash of kidnappings by different campus groups, none more successful or long lasting than the students of the Law School. The Law School students timed their crime to coincide with the start of preparations for the annual Foresters' Ball. In most cases, Bertha was returned in time for their big night but there were a few years where she was notably absent.

By the late 1980s, Bertha was looking very ragged; the constant kidnappings had taken a toll and she was in need of a makeover.¹³⁹ The Forestry Club held raffle and raised money to have her remounted and fixed up. In 2000, the Law School established the MLA or Moose Liberation Army to free Bertha. In response the Forestry Club organized FART, the Forestry Armed Response Team. The tradition of kidnapping Bertha continues today. In 2012, students in the Law School stole Bertha. As retribution, the Forestry Club filled the lobby of the Law School building with trees.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁷ "Bertha Lost and Feud Revived," *Kaimin*, January 23, 1945, cover.

¹³⁸ "Forestry School Plans Raffle for Bertha Benefit," *Kaimin*, October 27, 1988, cover.

¹³⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁰ "Feature Photo," *Kaimin*, January 26, 2012, 8.