

Summer School in the Forest

"Deep in the foothills of the picturesque Ozark mountains, nestled against the shores of Lake Wappapello, vacationland for the whole Midwest, is an 'institution' known as the University of Missouri Forestry School Summer Camp. Here, for 12 glorious weeks, forestry students with two years of school, a two-point grade average, and a II-S draft classification get too much sun, too many insect bites, and too many beans."

As might be surmised, that was written by a student. Bill Houston attended the 1965 session, was graduated this spring, and now is doing graduate work.

University Forest includes some 7000 acres near Poplar Bluff and operates under the direction of a resident forester. It is completely surrounded by the Clark National Forest, which has a gross area of almost 2 million acres. The vicinity, therefore, has the first requisite for a forestry summer camp — lots of trees.

The Forest becomes headquarters, workshop, outdoor laboratory and playground for up to 40 students and regular staff members from Columbia. The students get instruction in forest measurements, forest ecology, field dendrology (a fancy word for tree identification), silviculture, forest utilization and forest engineering. They get 12 hours of credit for the 12 weeks, and they earn them.

Next summer the program changes: Instead of being for upcoming juniors, it will be held for seniors; instead of 12 weeks, the session will last 10, and the final 14 days will involve a visit to some other forested region of the United States. Seniors now take a week's trip. In the past they have visited such diverse





Although he doesn't seem especially interested in the lecture, Henry, the black dog, attends every morning class. Instructing in forest measurement is Dr. Richard G. Smith.



Much of the work at summer camp is practical. Here student Earl Wallace (on tractor) watches as log is prepared for skidding to a central point and then on to the saw mill.



Camp precludes a summer job. Possible financial help is explained by George Brooks, at left, assistant director of student financial aids.



It isn't all study. Horseshoes are popular as is a nightly swim in nearby Lake Wappapello. The spectator on the right is Dr. Donald P. Duncan, who is director of the University's School of Forestry. The school was elevated from departmental status some 10 years ago.



Most of University Forest is made up of oak and hickory. There are some 250 acres of pine, however. Lee Paulsell, associate professor of forestry, explains the history of the pines while student Steve Lindsey takes a sample core which will reveal tree's history—if the growth ring segments are interpreted correctly.



Under watchful eye of forestry foreman John Hardy, center, Ron Allen learns technique of using chain saw. Harold Holland is at right. Below, Holland and Lindsey dig into cans of Beanie Weenees, common field fare.



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locales as the Great Lakes states, southern pine forests and central Rockies, all of which are noted for progressive wildland management. The change is part of a general shift in emphasis of the Forestry School's curriculum. But summer camp will continue to play an important role in pulling together the many basic and applied aspects of land resource management.

"Forestry, actually, is frequently misunderstood," explains Dr. Donald P. Duncan, the school's director. "A better name might be forest resource management, and timber management is just one phase of it. Receiving increased emphasis are outdoor recreation, watershed, wildlife and range management. Our new forestry curriculum will reflect the broad, overall approaches to wildland management problems. The humanities and social sciences will receive increased attention since the forester of the future will deal more and more with people."

Range management involves land that mainly supports grasses, herbs and shrubs which can be utilized by grazing livestock. Forest recreation might vary from nature trails to ski slopes, from water sports to camping. Watershed management becomes more and more important as demand for clean water increases.

Formerly a department, Forestry was elevated to school status in 1957 and is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. Three majors are available at the school — forestry, wood products and building materials management, and residential and light construction. Most of the 200 undergraduates are enrolled in the forestry program, but the demand for graduates

is good in all three fields. The average 1967 graduate with a bachelor's degree received an annual salary of \$6700.

Many persons still believe that the typical forester works for the government, sitting high atop a lookout tower in some lonely corner of the country. Actually he rarely mans a lookout; this is left to others. State and federal agencies do employ a great many professional foresters. On the other hand, opportunities in forest management are numerous in private industry. Pulp and paper companies are particularly active employers, as are large lumber firms. Opportunities range from timber management to research and sales. Today's forester may be found managing a remote, sprawling field district or sitting at an executive's desk in a plush, metropolitan suite.

Most Missouri foresters go into forest management, products and sales, and research. The school's research program is strong at both the master's and doctoral levels.

The well-equipped 18-building summer camp has been operating since 1948, but the forest itself has been owned by the University since the original federal land grant after the Civil War. It is principally an oak-hickory forest, although about 250 acres support short-leaf pine.

At camp the work is hard and the hours long, but many of the forestry school's alumni have said — after they left school — that the session gave them some of the most valuable training they received at Missouri. And employers of Missouri graduates have backed up that statement. Whether in public service or private industry, Missouri graduates, say the employers, are ready to start work. □