

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

Elevation from
department comes
after ten years;
Dr. R. H. Westveld
named director.

From a department to a full School in ten years is the forestry story at the University. On July 1 the department of forestry became the School of Forestry, operating within the Division of Agricultural Sciences and having a director as its administrative head. This brings to nine the number of professional schools in the University, along with its four colleges.

President Ellis said that Dr. John H. Longwell, director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences, had recommended elevation of the forestry department to the status of a professional school, and also recommended that Dr. Ruthford H. Westveld, chairman of the department since it was established here in 1947, be named the Director of the new School.

According to President Ellis, the cooperation and support received from the Missouri Legislature has made possible this advancement in the field of forestry. He said the expansion has been contemplated by University officials for several years because of the rapidly increasing importance of forestry in Missouri's economic development. He also noted the subsequent demand from agricultural and industrial interests for graduates in the research and supervisory field.

"Forestry, with its companion industry, the use of wood and wood products, is rapidly assuming major importance as one of Missouri's leading income producers," President Ellis said, "and we appreciate the recognition from Missouri's leaders that the State University should assume its place guiding the research and teaching program to make it an even more valuable crop.

"Millions of Missouri's acres are most suitable for the growing of timber, and we owe it to the people of those counties where timber prevails to help them raise their economic status to the highest possible level through our teaching, research, and experimental programs." The research work in forestry will continue to function under the Agricultural Experiment Station, and its extension service will continue under the regular Agricultural Extension Service.

In recommending establishment of forestry as a separate School, Dean Longwell pointed out that this divisional status will bring much greater recognition to its graduates and encourage research support.

There are only eighteen other schools and seven departments of forestry accredited in the nation at this

time. The department here has been approved by the Society of American Foresters since 1950.

Forestry instruction leading to a degree was first offered at the University in 1912 in a department of forestry which was discontinued in 1921. A two-year pre-forestry curriculum was established in 1936. Ten years later the University established a four-year curriculum leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry in the department of horticulture and forestry. The following year the separate department of forestry was re-established with Dr. Westveld as professor and chairman. The forestry staff now has twelve faculty members, five of whom have doctorate degrees, teaching forty-four courses in forestry.

Since the re-establishment there have been 172 graduated and ten others have received graduate degrees. About 150 students were enrolled last year.

In his article, "School of Forestry—A Reality," which appears in the July *Missouri Forestry Alumni News*, Dr. Westveld writes:

"The changing of a name or status is no more the end product of an educational institution than is the end product of the forest. In the same way that the tree must be made useful to man either in terms of recreation, water conservation, wildlife cover or such utilitarian products as lumber, flooring, plywood, railroad ties, paper and others, the School and its program must be useful to those it serves—the citizens of the state. The school status recognizes that forestry is coming of age in Missouri and that it deserves recognition as a profession. It is hoped that in this recognition the School of Forestry will gain new supporters and thereby serve more effectively the forestry and wood-using industries of the state. It is our hope that all phases of the program will benefit and that in particular the research and graduate programs will be greatly strengthened."

One unique phase of the work is a summer camp in forestry held each year in the University's own 9,000-acre forestry preserve in Butler County, fifteen miles northeast of Poplar Bluff. It is attended for twelve weeks by students in the forestry curriculum and for four weeks by those in the forest products marketing curriculum, following their sophomore year. The department has also been responsible for management of the University's 4,500 acres of timberland at the Weldon Spring Experimental Farm.