10-21-1964

The Knothole, October 21, 1964

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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EDUCATION FOR SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF VETERANS

If your parent died or is totally and permanently disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces of the United States in the Spanish-American War, in World War I or since September 16, 1940, you may be eligible for 36 months of Educational Assistance, including Vocational Counseling and $110 per month while in college or other training program. Get further information from your counselor or Dean or from the nearest Veterans Administration Office.

SPOTLIGHT ON A PROF

First to be spotlighted in this hopefully weekly column is Dr. Robert T. LaLonde, an Assistant Professor of Forest Chemistry. Dr. LaLonde joined the College of Forestry in 1959 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1957. Currently, he is working in several areas of chemistry with the help of four graduate students.

The area of greatest interest to Dr. LaLonde is the synthesis of sesquiterpenes, a group of organic compounds each having 15 carbon atoms. Synthesis of these compounds would bring about a better understanding of chemical reactions and new and better methods of synthesis of other compounds. Sesquiterpenes are an important group of chemicals used in perfumes, flavorings, and as intermediates in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Dr. LaLonde is presently concentrating his resources in a study of reaction mechanisms.
Cyclopropane, a very rigid, strained-bond, electron-rich compound, is reacted with various electrophilic (electron-deficient) reagents. From the products it is possible to gain information about the mechanism, or the course, of the reaction. Findings from this research can be applied to other reactions whose mechanisms are doubtful or unknown at all. This knowledge would lead to better methods of production or synthesis of chemicals.

Dr. LaLonde is also working on replication of molecules. To the template compound (the compound to be replicated) are added the reactants from which the template compound can be synthesized. The reaction is then allowed to proceed. Hopefully, the template compound will exert some influence and the product of the reaction will be identical to it. This may sound very far-fetched to many, but this is just what happens in a living organism in reproduction.

We, the Editors, would like to wish Dr. LaLonde and his research staff much success in their work. And to the Sophomores in F.C. 20 we would like to say that Dr. LaLonde is not what you so colorfully may think, but one helluva man to know.

R. S.
Dr. Bray, encouraged by public support, along with Hendrick S. Holden introduced a bill to the State Legislature in 1910 to establish the New York State College of Forestry. This bill, known as the Holden Bill, was vetoed by Governor Charles E. Hughes on July 18, 1910 for economic reasons. Early in January, 1911, the newly elected senator of Onondaga County, J. Henry Walters reintroduced the Holden Bill. Some six months later Governor John A. Dix, successor to Governor Hughes, signed the bill despite continued opposition to the idea.

At the first Board of Trustees meeting Dr. Bray was elected Acting Dean. Dr. Bray, however, was not interested in the post and four months after his election he started interviewing candidates for the position. His choice, Hugh Potter Baker, assumed his responsibilities in February 1912. There were many problems facing Dr. Baker. The first and most important were funds, only $15,000 was left of the original $55,000 appropriation to launch the college and provide the salaries of the two forestry faculty members, the Dean himself and Professor E. F. McCarthy. The second problem was that of poor physical conditions - two small classrooms in the basement of the Lyman Hall of Natural Sciences. The third problem was the small faculty. This faculty had to be diversified and this was the biggest problem that faced Dean Baker.

M. H.

VOX SILVAE

On this past weekend, Vox Silvae, the college's debate club, hosted the New York State Debate Association's annual fall meeting. The meeting was held on Friday night and Saturday.

The meeting was attended by thirty schools, bringing 120 students and thirty-three coaches. The schools came from as far away as New York City and Buffalo.

On Friday night there was a panel discussion on the national debate topic. The panel included Dr. Roscoe Martin, the Chairman of the Syracuse U Department of Political Science, Dr. Alton Bartlett of the Industrial Relations Department at the University of Buffalo, and Dr. Sidney Sufrin, Professor of Economics and Business Administration at Syracuse University. Following the discussion the debaters had an opportunity to question the panelists.

On Saturday morning there was a demonstration debate on the national debate topic, "Resolved that the Federal Government should establish a national program of public works for the unemployed". This was followed by critiques by various coaches of the different aspects of the debate and debate skills.

After lunch the debaters met again for "brain-storming" sessions on the topic. The meeting as a whole gave new debaters a look at what debate really is and the older debaters a chance to discuss the topic.

A FORESTER*

"The Forester is an amateur woodsman with a college education. There are two classes of Foresters. One class believes in keeping abreast of those broad dynamic movements of the present day that challenge the best efforts of the nation's thinkers. The other class fights fire, builds truck trails, plants trees, and wears old clothes.

Some Foresters have offices, some live in cities, and some work in the woods. Lots of the Foresters spend practically their entire lives in God's great out-of-doors. They love to hunt and fish. They would too -- if they only had time.
It used to be said that a Forester's best friends were his horse and his axe. Today a Forester has no need for a horse and he might cut himself with an axe. Years ago most every Forester wore a big Stetson hat and carried a gun on his hip and a flask in his pocket. Nowadays big Stetson hats are worn only in the movies and you hardly see a Forester carrying a gun.

An interesting thing about a Forester's life is that he meets all kinds of people from hobos to multimillionaires. It is not uncommon for a Forester to have the privilege of personally doing a millionaire tourist favors. However, there is no record of a millionaire tourist ever doing a favor for a Forester. But even if they don't make much money, it's nice, steady work, and they have lots of fun.

Another satisfactory thing about a Forester's career is that he is his own master, absolutely independent and answerable to no one for his professional conduct. That is except to his wife, ladies' garden clubs, sportsmen's associations, nature lovers, newspaper editors, and local politicians.

Forestry is a very pleasant profession because it is so easy to get ahead. Many Foresters graduate from college with only a few debts and immediately get a job and a wife. In about ten years time, in addition to the same job and the same wife, they have more debts and five kids. That's why Foresters are so happy."

*I ran across the above definition of a "Forester" in a back issue of "The Conservationist" and thought that the student body might be interested in seeing it.

Michael Hall

MOOSEWOOD'S NOTEBOOK NO. 31
See What's Happening to Your Faculty!

EXCERPTS FROM
THE PROBLEM OF LEADERSHIP IN THE UNIVERSITY
Ross L. Mooney
Ohio State University

In the five years since the Russians put Sputnik I into orbit and sent the American demand for brains almost as high, few changes have been as impressive as the swift evolution of the college professor. The popular caricature of absent-minded Academic Man, complete with pipe, shabby suit, and air of genial befuddlement, is swiftly receding into the museum of discarded stereotypes; and in its place is a picture equally exaggerated but equally drawn from reality. From his dusty cocoon the professor has suddenly emerged as consultant, world traveler, diplomat, technician, and television personality. And his metamorphosis, amusing as it may be, has raised the question, voiced in tones of mounting alarm, of just who is to do the teaching now that he has become a many-splendored thing.