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STATE DIRECTOR PICKS UP THE GAUNTLET

Not long ago I traveled through a part of our planting zone for a distance of 60 or more miles, and having little else to think about and no worries at the time, I was reflecting upon the changes taking place in the appearance of the country through which I went. In this area we have been cooperating with farmers over a period of six years. We have shelterbelts of all ages and in various degrees of establishment. Most of the shelterbelts have received good to excellent care and the trees are growing reasonably well.

The thing which impressed me most about it all was the fact that a person could hardly be out of sight of at least one shelterbelt. Many places could be noted where six or more belts were in view. It is a thrill to have this development occurring and to have had a part in bringing it about.

I think of this now as we face certain adjustments in our working program for Fiscal Year 1941. The living, growing trees, the renewed interest on the part of farmers and others, the realization that new values are added by each year's growth of the trees, the belief that we are laying down a foundation or a framework which will help underwrite the agricultural economy of a large and important region, all these and other factors combine to make me believe that we have one of the most interesting and soul-absorbing jobs that could possibly come our way.

I do not think this is the time to become discouraged. We are to make some more adjustments this year which will require initiative and new ways of getting things done. As has been true in every year thus far, the whole organization has the opportunity to contribute to the changes and to help bring these changes about. If any person on the Project has a good idea, it is pretty sure to get a good trial either in the form in which the idea was first expressed or it may be incorporated into even more important and widespread policies which will help us all accomplish our job.

Most of us, perhaps all of us, have the best jobs we have ever enjoyed. We are as well paid or better paid than we have ever been before in our lives. The loss of a part of our leave privilege is about the only loss we have suffered. We should be mindful that there are thousands of people who have

never had even one day of leave. None of us have had cuts in pay, our opportunity is ever before us. Our job is to be completed.

It is my belief that we may be working toward the goal of our Project for the remainder of our lives. Our job is to make these adjustments; get the counties to help us if that is what it takes; sell the rodent poison to the farmers if that is necessary; encourage the farmers to pool their resources to buy grape hoes; work for free storage with cities and others; or do anything else that may be required. These temporary changes will probably work out for the best in the long run. We would be shortsighted indeed if we did not look at these and our future problems for ways toward greater accomplishments. Maybe our present problems only veil our greater opportunities for the public service.

I think we should busy ourselves about our jobs. Do them the best we possibly can. Improve them at every opportunity. An adequate handling of our I and E responsibilities will help us out of many of our difficulties.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

IT'S NOT THE TIME BUT THE INTEREST THAT COUNTS

"It was a pretty long tour," said Shelterbelt Assistant L. H. Thorpe, of North Dakota, in commenting on a demonstration trip, "but the people participating in it seemed to enjoy it."

The tour was made by 75 Carrington business men and Foster County farmers, and was conducted jointly by Thorpe and County Agent Gray. An attempt seems to have been made to have something to interest everyone, since shelterbelts, crop demonstrations, livestock exhibitions, wind-erosion damage, and grass plots were all on the agenda. The tour required seven hours, and judging from the map which accompanied the report, it is easy to see how that much time could be spent. The map was produced especially for the benefit of the tourees and shows and describes the things to be seen on the trip. It runs pretty strong to shelterbelts, and Thorpe says that the group was particularly interested in a 1936 belt near Glenfield.

Shelterbelt Assistant Dressel also sort of went in for demonstration tours in July. In cooperation with County Agent Thorfinnson, he had three of them, with a total attendance of 100 persons. One of them included the land use planning committee of the county and drew also the supervisors of the Brown-Marshall Soil Conservancy District from Hecla, South Dakota.

VARIED COLORS USED IN MIMEOGRAPHING

Nowadays practically everyone uses the mimeograph in his business. If the concern is small they hire it done, otherwise they purchase a machine suitable for their needs. This has been going on for some time, and the cylinders of the many thousand machines have turned out reams and reams of paper, most of which is on the black and white basis.

Our field men from time to time have stated that too many mimeographed letters sent out to the cooperators and Township Tree Committee members were worse than not enough, for John Farmer receives a lot of advertising material

and his first inclination is to drop it unopened in the woodbox. The statements of our field officers coincided with our thoughts, and we therefore scratched our heads and decided something ought to be done about it, for we don't want our letters dropped unopened in the same place.

In reviewing our circular letter history, we found that in most cases the letters sent to the cooperators and Township Tree Committee members were timely, contained information they should receive, and were not issued at too close intervals. This is especially true for the past two years.

Working on the premise that the number of letters was just about right, we decided that steps would be taken to prepare letters in such a way that when John Farmer took his mail out of the mail box, the Government franked envelope would be the first he would open.

We contacted the mimeograph representative and learned that various colors of ink could be used on the same letter without changing the ink in the cylinder. To do this a waxed sheet of paper (cover paper) is placed over the perforated portion of the ink drum, then a cloth ink pad is placed on the cylinder and the desired color of ink applied. The cost of the ink pads is about 17¢ each and can be used many times for the same color of ink.

It is, of course, necessary to cut a stencil for each color and the number of runs depends on the number of colors used on an individual letter. To date we have used up to three colors on a given letter, and the following is a list of the combinations we have tried; one color other than black, red and green; red, blue, and green; and brown, red and green.

It is necessary to carefully adjust the machine on the second and succeeding runs so that the other colors will hit where they should, but this can be done very satisfactorily. From the comments received from the field, we are firmly convinced that the little additional expense and time required has been repaid many times. The old adage is true in this case, "Variety is the spice of life" and we feel sure that our letters will continue to be read by the people on our mailing lists.

- Fred W. Pierce, Kans.

OVER THE AIR WAVES

The Office of Government Reports at Mandan sent the State Director a script which they had received for filling out blank paragraphs for this Region. This script dealt with the National Forests in general, and those close to North Dakota are Minnesota, South Dakota and eastern Montana. It was given at Bismarck over KFYR at 4:45 CST; and at Mandan over KGCV at 5:45 MST on June 4.

- F. E. Cobb, N. Dak.

Information about the Forest Service Program is now being supplied to farmers in South Central Kansas via the air waves.

Station KFH, Wichita, Kansas, has agreed to use news items on their morning Farm News Program. Timely news items, lands negotiation progress, and other information will be supplied this station throughout the coming months.

When the first contact with the manager was made he stated that he would like to have this information to pass on to his listeners because of the large number who were very interested in the program.

This is another approach in this area to the I and E job, and we believe it will pay dividends in the form of voluntary applications.

Robert A. Dellberg, Kans.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Except for the mere fact that publication of shelterbelt pictures is always interesting, there is nothing unusual about a couple of views of a Kansas shelterbelt in "Kansas Farmer" recently. They are monotonously conventional even to the fact that the tractor operator who is cultivating the belt has stopped the machine and twisted around in his seat to face the camera. Reading the accompanying story, I find that the composition of the belt is a little out of the ordinary as though the District Officer had found himself a little long on conifers at the tail end of his planting season. The belt consists, beginning on the south, of two rows of Ponderosa Pine followed by one each of Cedar, Chinese Elm, American Elm, Russian Olive, Mulberry, and Caragana, in the order named.

But wait a minute - This belt isn't ours after all! In fact it was planted before ever there was a Plains Shelterbelt Project. Perhaps the similarity to our belts is not so strange after all, though, for I note that the stock was furnished by the Cheyenne Field Station of the BPI, and its planting supervised by one Harold (Slim) Engstrom, then an employee of that station.

Very reminiscent of the early days of this Project, Mr. Sleffel, owner of the belt, says that when he planted it his neighbors derided his lack of practicality and said, "You will never live long enough to sit in the shade of one of those trees." The scoffing failed to influence the trees, however, and they have made good growth despite the fact that they are pretty far west in the state.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

CHINESE WISDOM

After mounting 1018 slides on the Kansas Unit, I (being feminine and naturally of a curious nature) decided that an investigation should be made to determine if my efforts were in vain. A little detective work disclosed that during a six-months' period from July 1 to December 31, 1939, slides were used by our field men 136 times for illustrating lectures, and a total of 7,776 persons were enlightened by visual education regarding the work of the Prairie States Forestry Project. During this period 404 Kodachromes were added to the collection, 262 showing different project activities-- the remaining 142 being duplicates, resulting in a total of 575 different slide subjects on this Unit at the present time.

There is an old Chinese saying that one picture is worth 10,000 words; and since I can see no reason to doubt the Chinese proverb, it would appear that by using the "seeing is believing" technique we are advertising our Project to the extent of 5,750,000 words.

Marguerite Boren, Kans.

NOW YOU TELL ONE

Clifford Laughrey, clerk at the nursery, had his coat stolen Saturday evening--by a catfish.

For benefit of sceptics, it happened like this: He and a couple of other fellows went fishing where the spillway of Lake Babcock enters the river. One of them caught a big 'un of 12 or 14 pounds and had him pulled out onto the rocky riprapping of the bank when the hook pulled out. Fearing the wicked looking fin-spikes, Laughrey threw his coat over the fish before tackling it. The fish kept thrashing around so fast that he couldn't get it under control, and as the fish rolled down the bank it got wrapped up in the coat which didn't seem to hamper the fish's swimming much when it hit the water.

In one of the pockets was a choice recipe for prepared catfish bait; but it is doubtful if the fish can read it as he was just a big-mouthed, ignorant-looking fellow.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE!!

Returns from the Kansas Wildlife Questionnaire are pouring in thick and fast, and some rather astounding assertions are occasionally received.

For instance, Mr. C. H. Offerle, of Ford County, who has a 1938 shelter-belt, has this to say (among other things), "Have seen signs of cougars and tigers but have not actually seen the beasts."

We haven't had a chance to check up on this yet, but when we have recovered from the first shock and have bolstered our courage, a safari may be organized and an expedition launched--providing we are able to borrow a Frank Buck helmet and an elephant gun.

We guess maybe everything is all right as long as the "beasts" don't turn out to be pink. We're wondering whether someone ought to take off a moment to clarify the definition of the word "wildlife."

- Frank Sampson, Kans.

MR. BROWN GOES TO TOWN

For this story I must hark back to February. One cold, wintry day H. A. Brown, of Cooperstown vicinity, contacted this humble officer, waved considerable paper money in my face, and then proceeded with an offer. For every rabbit caught on his farm he would put out ten cents in addition to the market value.

I hopped on my steed (that is exactly what a 1935 International amounts to in 25 below zero weather) and informed a rabbit-crazy gang near Carrington of the offer. Two days later 50 farmers rode 45 miles in 10 below weather in two open 1935 GMC Forest Service trucks to bag those rabbits. Yes, Mr. Brown delivered, and was so pleased that he gave the hunters an additional "fiver".

There is more to Mr. Brown. His belt was suffering from the lack of hand hoeing. Unable to hire any men because of harvest conditions, he hired our Dazey crew to come out on Saturday to do the job. Mr. Brown is what we call a real cooperater.

L. H. Thorpe, N. Dak.

OLD TREE GROVES MOTHER YOUNG PLANTINGS

The influence of old tree groves is perhaps as well demonstrated by newly planted shelterbelts as by crops. This has been particularly well illustrated on two Meade County shelterbelts and one in Clark County, all planted in 1939, a year during which hot winds were extremely detrimental to newly planted trees as well as crops. The E. N. Roberts shelterbelt north of Fowler is perhaps the most striking of the three, and growth and survivals on it vary definitely between protected trees north of an old grove of black locust, green ash and Chinese elm, and those trees not so protected. Measurements and survivals are as follows:

	Protected		Non-protected	
	<u>Approx. Surviv. %</u>	<u>Avg. Ht.</u>	<u>Approx. Surviv. %</u>	<u>Avg. Ht.</u>
Am. Plum -----	85	3'	85	3'
Cedar -----	50	2'	50	2'
Mulberry -----	80	4'	80	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
Hackberry -----	80	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ '	30	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
Am. Elm -----	85	3'	20	2'
Black Locust --	65	8'	0	--
Chinese Elm ---	85	4'	20	3'
Cottonwood ----	90	7'	90	7'
Osage Orange --	70	3'	40	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mr. Roberts insists that the difference is due entirely to the elimination of the hot winds, and that grasshoppers, increased snowfall, or other factors are not the causes.

Supporting evidence is afforded by the Earl Hornbaker belt in Meade County which shows a very pronounced variation in survival between protected and unprotected trees, and the shelterbelt owned by Charles Greene in Clark County which shows a decided increase in growth as well as survival where the belt passes to the north of a small tree grove.

The data indicated above are not sufficiently strong to permit conclusions, but tend to show that certain tree species are more resistant to drying winds than others. The similarities of cedar survival, however, indicate the weakness of the data.

Donald P. Duncan, Kans.

PROJECT LEADERS FOR FORESTRY

The place of the Project Leader in the work of the PSFP is brought ever more forcibly to our attention. Subdistrict Officers in every State must find it the same as in Kansas, where they have a constant increase each year in the number of farmer participants in the program. Some of the subdistricts now have 400 and 500 farmer cooperators. If concentrations were completed it is entirely possible that these subdistricts might have 1500 or more cooperators. We face the problem of taking care of this number of farmers. We are brought to the realization very quickly that it is impossible for one subdistrict man either to know them all well or to interview them frequently.

It seems to me that the employment of another full-time man in these subdistricts is out of the question. To some extent the larger subdistricts may be split up over a period of years into two or more territories, but eventually we are going to have to meet the issue squarely. I wonder if we are all getting ready for it.

The answer seems to be that we must build up an organization of farmer leaders for the Project to look after the interests of the Project in their respective townships, neighborhoods or communities.

In Kansas we have been working with township tree committees. We have usually had three men on such committees. In the subdistricts the number of men on such committees gets to be too large for the Officer to contact and use to best advantage, and we are now considering that three men are necessary in new townships and should be maintained as long as necessary to get a good, acceptable township tree planting plan drawn, but after the plan is drawn and the work is started we should consider having only one or two leaders in the township to keep the plan before the people, and give the direct assistance necessary to help the farmers make progress toward the completion of the plan.

This reduction in Project Leaders in the older townships should help overcome the problem of keeping in close touch with such leaders. We propose in the negotiation season, for example, that the Project Leader will go with the Subdistrict Officer one or two days in the fall season to interview the farmers who have indicated a desire to plant a shelterbelt or to call on those farmers whom the Project Leader thinks would be interested. Also in the fall community meetings which are to be held by the Extension Service in every community, the Project Leaders would make a progress report on the accomplishments to the community and again direct the people's attention to the forestry goal for that community. If, after the two days' work in the township, some people are still not interviewed, the Project Leader could follow up on such persons. In January a final day could be spent in that community or neighborhood and the Subdistrict Officer and the Project Leader could get the matter cleaned up.

It seems that under this general plan a Subdistrict Officer could handle as many as 30 townships with some degree of system and methods as far as negotiation work is concerned. If he had 30 townships and 30 leaders he would have something like two or three days planned with each Project Leader, and he could give the Project Leader so much information about the Project that he would be of immeasurable help in getting a successful program going in a neighborhood or township.

Project Leaders will require attention. They must be kept informed and they must have a definite job to do. Certain things should be set up during the course of a year which would aim toward keeping the Leaders active and vital. Invitations to special meetings, leaving them a specific follow-up job to do, special reports, and other methods will help to keep the leaders vital, and this kind of leader will help greatly in handling the work in any jurisdiction. These leaders within a county should have authority from the people and responsibility from the community. Carrying this responsibility, they could be of great help in expressing to editors and county officials any matters that would be for the welfare of the Project.

Community protection systems are not going to just happen. We have the job of getting the plans drawn in such a way that the people will accept the plan and then the people will unite in carrying that plan to completion. We should not fool ourselves into thinking that we can draw these plans for people. The first thing we will find is that they will say, "It's your plan. Go ahead." If it is the people's plan, they will say, "This is our plan. It is for our own good. We want to get it completed properly and we want everyone to come into the program so that the greatest possible benefits accrue." They therefore work for their plan and we properly become the technical advisor and the assisting agency. I feel sure that with this approach most of our local problems in land negotiation and local help will be solved. Until this local leadership is developed, I believe that we are always going to have greater difficulties than would be the case otherwise.

We are doing everything we know to tie the Leaders up with county planning, but I think county planning committees will have so much to do that we will need to have our own leaders who are affiliated with the county planning group but not necessarily the county planning group itself. Actually, Forestry Leaders are frequently on the County Land Use Planning Committees, but they are our leaders not because they are county planning officers, but because they are our forestry leaders in a given neighborhood or community. The fact that they are on the County Planning Committee is to our advantage but I would not expect all members of the County Planning Committee to be forestry leaders. There are many other interests in the county which should be and will be represented on the County Planning Committees.

These matters have been discussed frequently with the Extension Organization and they concur with the Project Leader idea. They find that some of their men sometimes think that the leaders take some more time than they are worth but the Extension Director and his staff do not think so. They do not see how the maximum benefits can come to a community until the leadership is developed and actively engaged in the job.

I think we need a fresh look at our Project Leader opportunity. I know we need these leaders and I think everyone in the Kansas organization is trying by every means at his disposal to get them set up and active for the PSFP.
- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

FARM FAMILY DOES THE FAIR

The typical Kansas farmer owns a shelterbelt, and is a member of a Township Tree Committee, it was decided officially by a committee selecting a typical Kansas farm family to send to the New York World's Fair. Carl Sanders, of Harper County, Kansas, their selection, fitted these specifications down to the dead cottonwoods in his 1937 belt.

Early in July, Carl and family took off in one of Henry's oil burners, complete with chauffeur, for a trip to the Fair with expenses paid. The Sanders report that nothing was left undone which was worth doing.

Carl is now back with a fresh outlook on life and a question in his mind as to what tool he should use on the weeds which have skyrocketed in his shelterbelt.

"There were a couple of hot prospects at the Aquarium," says Carl,
"but you know how it is negotiating when the wife's along."

Robert D. McCulley, Kans.

WE FELL FOR THIS ONE

Deviating from our usual custom of confining our items to prose, we are quoting an unusually expressive verse contributed by the North Dakota Office. It was taken from the North and South Dakota Horticulture Magazine.

SHELTERBELTS

I like to think of them....
those mile-long lines of trees....
mile-long lines stretching far....
far into thousands of mile-long lines
across the Nation's prairie.
Green rustling cottonwoods
and elms and ash and cedars....
shady groves on farms
where thousands of little children play....
typifying America....
her noble gesture....
her gallant gift.
I like to think of them:
cottonwoods swishing
and shining in windy moonlight,
elms under a summer sky,
cedars green and festooned with snow,
beautiful and clean and new.
They are more than shelterbelts....
they are America's faith
in the future.

- Thelma Hill Ward

BIRDS COME TO THE RESCUE

From Science News Letter, July 27, 1940:

"Fencing off 15 acres of his farm for wildlife, a North Dakota farmer says: 'I believe that providing an area for nesting and protection of wildlife, grouse, Hungarian partridge, pheasants and other birds will help me solve some of the insect problems on the farm.'"

Comment:

While we are not definitely responsible for the above, four of our farmers in the vicinity of Jamestown are doing this very thing.

- F. E. Cobb, N. Dak.

Scientists report that wild geese have no single leader to a flock but take turns leading the flight.

- R-2 Bulletin

CALLING ALL JUNIOR CLERK STENOGRAPHERS

You know, if I wasn't one myself, I'd say there wasn't no such animal. Well sir, it seems that the only way a Junior Clerk Stenographer can break into the news is by getting hitched, fired or otherwise. It's a cinch (I hope) that I'm not going to get hitched, I wouldn't be so sure about getting fired, but I think we all have a good chance under "otherwise". We don't know enough about TM to argue with anyone about a better way to grow trees; we are not experts on Fiscal Control so we couldn't be "Fiscal Hounds," but we are sure to know something that might be worth printing.

We might come under the classification of "Shock Absorbers," you know, one of those things that stops the bumps going up (office) and the ones coming down (field). Anyway we might brag a mite about how many we stopped over a period of time and even quote a few statistics. Again, we might even be called the "Missing Link." After all, it's better to be called something than not to be mentioned at all.

So, sharpen your spurs, you J C - S's and let's try to rule the roost for once.

- Lloyd Houston, Kans.

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Helen Naser, of the Division of Operation, has just returned from a three-weeks' tour of the Golden West. She learned where not to go next time, if you want to get home with any money - Reno and Las Vegas - but if you can detour those spots, she believes there's no place like the West for scenery, unusual weather, and a general good time.

* * *

It was with extreme regret that we lost from our ranks, Harold J. Swan, of the Division of I&E. But we are not losing him entirely, for he has been transferred to the SCS here in Lincoln and we hope to see him often as he takes his noted five-mile rambles around the town. Good luck, Hal, in your new work.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and Rusty are vacationing in the East. They've planned vacations in the past, but something always seemed to turn up about the time they were to leave, however, this time they really got started. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts neglected Niagara Falls on their honeymoon, so are making a belated visit to that beautiful spot. Then to New York, where they are not going to "spare their feet," but expect to give the World's Fair a thorough going over. Washington, D. C., is also included in their itinerary, and they'll be busy there looking up old friends. It's the first real vacation Mr. Roberts has had for a long time, and we hope he and the members of his family enjoy it to the utmost.

* * *

NOTES ON NORTH DAKOTA

From North Dakota, Shelley Schoonover brings back the news that the windstorm that played havoc with the best laid plans of Chippewa men, also laid low about 100 barns in that state of wide, open spaces...The shelterbelts, reports Schoonover, look better than ever, and the Bottineau Nursery, run by the state's forestry school, sold more than 500,000 trees to farmers last year and had to buy more from commercial sources..All but about 40 of the 500 dams put in very hurriedly during the early days of CCC, when water conservation was being stressed as a preliminary to a forest program, are still holding; they are now under the Soil Conservation Service however. The town of Williston gets its summer ice supply from one dam...A farmer irrigates 40 acres from another... And in a 50-foot square pond formed by still a third, 15 or 20 youngsters were seen swimming - in spite of the fact that the soil-colored water was as black as 6 inches up a stove pipe.

- Daily Contact

CUPID STILL ON THE RAMPAGE

Cupid scored two hits in the stenographic section of the Kansas State office recently. Result: Miss Maxine Allen and Lloyd Carlson, who is employed at the local Union National Bank, were married at Manhattan on July 20; and Miss Mary Mullen and Melvin Dodd, Manager of the Dodd Electric Company of Manhattan, were married at Broken Bow, Nebraska, on August 7. Although details are not available as this is written, word has been received that Vincent W. Twoomey, Subdistrict Officer at Concordia, was married at Hancock, New York, on August 12.

- John D. Hall, Kans.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S 4-H CONSERVATION CAMP

We missed South Dakota's "Sunny" Jim Ferrell at the conference of State Directors and Assistants earlier in the month, and the reason becomes apparent as I wade through a mass of material describing the activities of the South Dakota 4-H Conservation Camp in the Black Hills during that period. Jim's name jumps out of nearly every paragraph of the program and of the report on the camp made by the Extension Service upon its conclusion. Jim must have been a pretty busy "hombre."

State Director Ford, commenting on the camp and Jim's part in it, says: "Jim Ferrell represented the Project and the Forest Service at this camp with his tree identification work. State 4-H Club Leader H. M. Jones told me that Jim did a swell job and they want him back again next year. This camp was attended by 110 4-H Club youngsters from 46 counties of the State. They were the cream of the South Dakota crop, as only the top 4-H members in conservation projects in each of the 46 counties were selected.

"In addition to the 110 4-H members, 15 county agents and three home demonstration agents attended the camp, along with more than 30 adult 4-H Club leaders from over the State."

Following are some excerpts from the report on the camp, prepared by the Extension Service:

"From the first meeting at Canyon Lake park on August 7 until the last goodbyes were said at Camp Judson on August 10, there was never a dull moment at the sixth annual conservation camp. Club members and leaders from 46 counties came together for an intensive three-day conservation program which will have a permanent and far-reaching effect.

"For many of the group it was the first visit to the Black Hills and there were many 'Oh's' and 'Ah's' when they stopped for the first view of Rapid Canyon and its tributaries from the rimrock trail about ten miles southwest of Rapid City. Here was a panorama of nature as it has come down through the ages.

"Afternoons at camp were spent in the laboratory, each member selecting one of four different electives. All members had previously been on collecting tours which included tree leaves, insects, flowers and grasses. From the specimens which they had gathered, together with some furnished by the instructors, they made collections to take home with them. George Gilbertson, extension entomologist, supervised the assembling of insect collections for 31 members. E. K. Ferrell of the U. S. Forest Service performed a similar office for 44 members who prepared herbariums of tree leaves. Dr. L. C. Snyder of the State College botany department supervised 18 members who made collections of grasses and 33 of flowers.

"The exhibit on the last evening of camp was truly marvelous and several people remarked about the exceptional amount and high quality of work done by these young people in five hours of laboratory work. All of them had their collections ready to take home with them. Most of them succeeded in identifying and mounting twenty specimens or more.

"Each evening motion pictures were shown, all of them having some bearing on conservation. Colored slides of shelterbelts, flowers and birds added to the desire for home beautification. Pictures were shown by Earl Bales, visual education specialist of the State College Extension Service. He also took a number of pictures of various camp activities.

"Two playlets were presented on the last evening of camp, one on trees entitled 'Stop that Wind' coached by Kenneth Wanless and one on South Dakota grasses entitled 'Grasses Then and Now' coached by Fred Beers."

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

TREES AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Most people think of shelterbelts as just something to check the wind and stop soil from blowing, but Mr. John Weathered, four miles south of Norwich, stated that aside from these advantages his belt is helping to build up his farm by filling up gullies.

This year, for the first time in 24 years, he was able to combine and plow his entire field as a unit. Previously he has had to farm his place in patches because of gullies washed through the field, but this year, because of the way his 1938 shelterbelt has held the soil back, it has filled up the gullies on his farm.

- Norman C. Brubaker, Kans.

MORE "GAUNTLET PICKER-UPPERS"

On page 1 of this issue of PLAINS FORESTER begins an article by State Director Reitz setting forth his reactions to the new difficulties under which the Project is laboring. This article was written and submitted some days prior to the State Directors' conference, and at the end of that conference I handed the manuscript back to Reitz and asked him if he would now like to have a chance to revise it before publication. He said he would not - that the article still expressed his views, if anything more so than before.

Just as we were about to go to press - which accounts for the extreme posterior position of this article - we received two other communications along the same general lines as Reitz' article and which deserve mention. One of them is a letter from State Director Emerson which reports upon a regular meeting of the District Officers and Nurserymen of the Nebraska organization. He says:

"I believe you will be interested to learn that the general morale of the Nebraska organization is good. I believe that since the first shock of learning that appointment status was lost is now wearing off the men are accepting their lot in excellent spirit. There was very little complaining, and after a full discussion of the situation, we went on with plans for the future in much the same spirit as in past years.

"I do not believe there is any general let-down in the enthusiasm of our field force to do the best possible job within our means. I believe that their pride is hurt somewhat in having lost appointment status rather than that they feel too badly about losing leave and other privileges of appointment status. I am particularly impressed with the loyalty of our outfit and the spirit to minimize personal loss so long as there is a fighting chance to yet salvage something and put the Project on a permanent basis.

"I think our meeting was a success and well worth while. It gave each man an opportunity to clear up questions which were bothering him. It offered an opportunity to talk the situation out, and I believe the men regained confidence from each other."

The other document is a circular letter issued by State Director Ford to all of his permanent appointed personnel. Beginning with the theme that "the spirit of morale of an individual or group of individuals is not broken or dampened by work but can be completely shattered by worry," he goes on to relate that he has just returned from the State Directors' conference at Lincoln and considers it to be his duty to "give each supervisory individual on this Unit the 'low-down' on where we stand.

"First of all I want to say that I personally went down to the State Director's conference as low or lower than any of you possibly could have been. I felt that the bottom had fallen out of everything. I also want to say to you that I came away from that conference feeling fully a thousand percent better. The reason for that change is hard to put your finger on, but I think it was due largely to the fact that I was convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that we have the backing of our Regional Office and the

best organization in the Government, the Forest Service is 100% behind this Project and the personnel who have worked so hard to give it the success and outstanding reputation that it now enjoys in all of the six States involved. I went to Lincoln with the feeling that the Project people in the States had been more or less 'sold down the river' and I have a feeling that some of you may be also entertaining similar notions. I was wrong and you are wrong if you are harboring such ideas. I am now convinced that everything possible has been and is still being done for the Project and for you men who have put it over."

After a discussion of the factual aspects of the situation, Ford continued:

"I am convinced after conferring with Regional Office and Washington Office people that everything possible is being done and is going to continue to be done for us people in the States. After all, nobody could ask for more. Should any individual have an offer for another position with Civil Service status that offer will reach the person involved and he can make his own decision. Whatever that decision might be, that individual will still have the respect and high regard of this office, and I'm certain that the Regional Office feels the same way.

"We have a job to do, a big job. We can't do it by whining and pouting. I've personally done my full share of that sort of thing and the only thing it got me was to hurt myself and the organization I'm trying to represent and I'm certain your reward for too much of such action will be the same.

"This thing isn't on the rocks by a long shot. This Project has been in just as tight squeezes several times since 1935 and we are still planting shelterbelts that look mighty good to these Prairie-Plains people we are trying to help. Our reputations are going higher and higher in the minds of our people each year. Let's keep them going still higher. Remember, the individual or the group who has succeeded under real adversities has a place and a living in our scheme of society.

"I was down, but now I'm up. I'm trying to get you boys to feel the same way. When you are down, the best way to get off the floor is to work like the devil and accomplish things that other folks thought were impossible. Those are the kind of men who never need fear for the future. The world is looking for such men and it will find them regardless of how remote their location may be."

"Any comments that I might make upon those statements of faith would appear callow at best. Suffice it to say that the world is also looking for leaders with the courage and selflessness to stand aright in the face of adversity and wave their followers forward.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

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A new method of bending wood is described in an article in the June issue of Wood (London). The wood is treated with a solution containing 0.1 to 1 percent of a tanning agent, after which the wood can be bent, folded, or wound into any shape. By this process, the author says, wood is made more pliable than by the usual methods of heat and pressure.

- W.O. Daily Digest