

Edward P. Stamm

1892-1964

“To my mind forestry as practiced by our professionals on both the private and public forestlands of this nation represent the great anchor to windward for the whole conservation movement in America. Who can deny that this is the great structure on which the whole foundation rests? The mantle of leadership has fallen on all land managers.”

Ed Stamm was a man who had earned the right to lead, and understood the great demands and responsibilities of that position. He saw clearly how the present had evolved from the past, and ever more important, how a sound future must evolve from the present. The best forestry methods and practices must be compatible with the needs of the individual, the industry, and the nation.

His service to America began as a Railroad Artillery officer in WW I. A civil engineer graduate of Ohio Northern University, Ed started his forestry career as a logging engineer for the Pacific Lumber Company in 1919. His philosophy toward the management of the nation’s forestlands began to develop; safety for the individual, self-sufficiency for the industry, a sound base for the future. Very soon he had earned his nickname, “Snag Exterminator Stamm,” because of his perpetual insistence on the removal of snags and other safety hazards.

In 1926 he relocated to Washington where he became logging superintendent for Crown Zellerbach at the Cathlamet

operations. Here his farsighted logging techniques began to build one of the finest forestlands in the United States. To Ed Stamm, leadership meant recognizing and solving many problems that did not exist before. When his operation ran out of accessible timberlands, he designed and introduced a revolutionary bulldozer blade that created a vast network of new logging roads and railbeds. He also played a major role in developing the air-tong leader and the log-bundling system, to eliminate the loss of “sinkers” in the water during towing. Though Ed was recognized as one of the most progressive innovators in Northwest forestry, his priority always remained safety. The E. P. Stamm Safety Award is presented annually to the Northwest logging division which demonstrates the greatest improvement in its safety record.

After serving as Northwest Timber Operations Manager, Ed Stamm was appointed a vice president of Crown Zellerbach in 1953. Through these years he had built up over ¾ million acres of the best managed forests in America. He was one of the first foresters to practice intensive thinning, pre-logging, and selective logging in the Douglas fir stands of Oregon and Washington. He advocated quick reforestation by planting and seeding. His concept that the forest could be managed to provide production along with new recreational sites for the public was revolutionary to the industry.

“I wish I could look into the future as did Jules Verne, Alfred Tennyson, and Buck

Rogers and foresee our land and water requirements as the population grows. I wish I could tell you all how we could stretch these resources to meet all of our future needs."

Ed Stamm tried. He was a pioneer in environmental planning, and envisioned thousands of city playgrounds, greenbelts, highways and waterways created and guided by sound forestry principles. He spoke for the zoning of private and public forests to provide maximum functional and ecological use from this great resource. He advocated the education of school children to the needs and rewards of the forests. No detail would escape his attention. Few men have foreseen a need so clearly, or felt a concern so deeply as Ed Stamm. Fewer men have possessed the stamina, courage and ability to show that vision to so many others.

"We are ready for progress, if we as leaders can bring to it a new sense of balance and sympathetic consideration of the rightful needs of every group and every individual."

Retirement in 1957 gave Ed the chance to broaden his experience. His conservation philosophy was no longer confined to the forests of the Northwest. Survival through conservation necessitated a balanced compatibility between the needs of the people, the industry, and the forests of every country. His consulting and advisory duties ranged to Canada, Labrador, Australia, New Zealand, Honduras, and Alaska. In 1959 he was a member of a United States Scientific and Cultural Exchange Team to the Soviet Union. Each trip convinced him further that sound forestry was a world-wide concern, and

must be the cross-section of an international endeavor.

His membership in civic and forestry organizations was characterized by the same energetic and farsighted leadership which gave rise to so many innovative contributions in industry. The list appears endless: Fellow of the Society of American Foresters; Director of the Industrial Forestry Association of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, and the Pacific Logging Congress; Director, President, and Life Member of the American Forestry Association; member of the Forest Industries Council Board, the Lumberman's Industrial Relations Council, the Columbia Basin Loggers, the Pacific Northwest Committee on Forest History, and the Forest Research Society.

Ed Stamm had earned the right to lead, and by example had transferred his energy and clear vision to all foresters who would follow him. The man and his principles are perpetuated in the 80 thousand acre Stamm Managed Forest in Columbia County. The philosophy, concern, and dedication of the man can only rest in his own words, a timeless challenge to the forest industry he loved so well.

"Forestry faces an exciting period of expanding horizons and changing perspectives. New challenges and new opportunities call for greater responsibilities on the part of principals and land managers and for new programs and new practices that will enhance the contribution of the forest to the well-being of the nation. May we hasten progress toward this goal."