



## *Clyde S. Martin*

1884-1963

Clyde Martin was one of America's first foresters. Born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania (population 5,200) September 19, 1884, he took his Bachelor of Science degree at DePauw University in 1905 and his Masters at Yale Forest School two years later. At that time forest management was something of a book phrase in the United States. The science of forestry and the profession itself were in infancy stages. Even the fundamental matter of forest protection from fire and pests was just beginning to get a foothold.

But there were men of vision in government and industry who saw what could be done and had to be done, and were willing to tackle the job. One of these was Clyde Martin, who started with Weyerhaeuser (then Weyerhaeuser Timber Company) right after finishing at Yale and thus launched a career that was to become a model of forestry achievement.

From 1907 to 1912, Martin was on the company staff. Then he spent two years in the

Grays Harbor country with Saginaw Timber Company. There followed six more years with Weyerhaeuser at Tacoma. Then in 1920, at the age of 36, he got a call to India as consulting forest engineer for the national government. Three years later, he was appointed chief forest engineer for the Madras presidency. During the seven years he served in that position, he broadened his experience with forest tours in Mesopotamia, the Sudan and much of Africa south of there to the Cape of Good Hope.

In 1930 Martin, now with 23 years experience, returned to the United States and went into the lumber manufacturing business in Oregon, where he learned in ins and outs of sawing and selling lumber in a depressed economy. This stint was to stand him in good stead when in 1934 he became chief forester for the Western Pine Association, which represented hundreds of forest industries in the 12-state pine region. One of his first chores there was to help work out new operating codes and forest

practice rules, the foundation for today's long-range forest management methods.

Martin was tireless in his devotion to forestry. His ability to cooperate, coupled with his knowledge, made him a valued man in association and committee work, of which there is necessarily abundance in the complex timber world. He served on dozens of national, state and local councils dealing with forestry matters, was chairman of many and executive officer of some, but always with the cooperative approach and always with effective excellence. He was a relentless battler for forest protection and a stout supporter of the Keep Green program.

Two more job changes were ahead for Martin. In 1940, he came back to Weyerhaeuser, seasoned in the many complicated procedures of the timber business, in engineering, economics, forest growth and industry relations with government and public. He was named forest counsel, in charge of the company's forest relations. There he became one of America's most influential foresters. Upon retirement in 1954, he switched to the consulting front, joining George L. Drake, another eminent early forester, in a firm based at Tacoma. Martin remained active and interested in his beloved profession until the end, which came February 10, 1963.

Along the way, many honors came to Clyde Martin. His election in 1948 as president of the Society of American Foresters marked the first time this national professional group had chosen a private industry forester as chief. During his two-year tenure, he helped foster a code of ethics and sponsored other progressive steps. He was made a Fellow of the Society.

In November 1961, Martin was awarded the Sir William Schlich Memorial Medal of the

Society in recognition of achievements in the advancement of forestry. This esteemed award was established in 1935 with President Franklin D. Roosevelt as first recipient. Martin was the 11<sup>th</sup> to receive it. The citation accompanying the award to Martin credited him with "being as much as any man.....responsible for the successful alliance of our profession with the forest industries."

"The fact that industry today is the largest single employer of foresters is due in no small part to the influence and example of Clyde Sayers Martin," the citation added.

A year after his passing, the Weyerhaeuser Company dedicated to him a permanent monument and a living memorial tree (planted by Mr. Martin) on a timbered bluff overlooking the Pacific between Copalis and Pacific Beach. Speaking at the site, a part of Clemons Tree Farm, the nation's first Forester E.F. Heacox said the memorial "symbolized the vision and foresight which Clyde Martin displayed in such great measure throughout his career."

The American Tree Farm Program, one of the dynamic popular movements of the Twentieth Century, was very close to Clyde Martin's heart. Its stature today is in part a tribute to his loyal effort. He never wavered in his conviction that timber management is good business and good for America.

Like Nestor of the ancients, Clyde S. Martin wrought notable results with wise counsel. His 55-year career as a forester spanned an age of enormous progress in American timber management, progress that bridged the gap between the "vanishing resource" concept and the bright promise of endless crops through tree farming. He saw his

chosen profession grow from a few dozen practitioners to many thousands. He helped, and watched with pride, as the professionals deployed over near and distant woods, into the mills and offices and on up into managerial echelons of industry. He tallied the reward in serried ranks of young timber weaving that beautiful green freshness over the landscape from coast to coast. In addition, by virtue of his own practical knowledge, special skills and innate persuasiveness he had a hand in virtually every step of the progress.