



John Whittier Watzek, Jr.

1892-1973

J.W. Watzek Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. J.W. Watzek, was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1892, the youngest of three brothers. His brothers C.H. Watzek and A.R. Watzek, are also memorialized at the Western Forestry Center. He was graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, and Yale and Cornell Universities.

In 1918 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army and spent World War I test firing ammunition for Springfield Rifles as it came off the production line. Following that he moved to Portland and worked as an electrical engineer.

The family timber and lumber business then took him to Chicago where he headed the office for over 50 years. He served as an Officer and Director of Jackson Lumber Company, Lockhart, Alabama; The Crossett Company, Crossett, Arkansas; Crossett Western Company, Portland, and Fordyce Lumber Company, Fordyce, Arkansas.

Mr. Watzek was President of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association in 1935-1936 and was a Director of the American Forestry Association. He was an Active member of the Business Advisory Council to the Department of Commerce and later an Honorary Member. During World War II he served as head of the Lumber Division of the Council of National Defense in Washington, D.C.

He was a member of the Chicago Club, University Club of Chicago, Chicago Golf Club, Multnomah Athletic Club of Portland, and of the Yale Club of New York City. Mr. Watzek was unmarried and died in Chicago in 1973. He was survived by a niece, Mrs. John A. Warren of Eugene, Oregon, and a nephew, P.F. Watzek of Greenville, Mississippi.

While the technical, financial and human problems of operating a business in a number of locations necessarily occupied most of John Watzek's life, his hobby and real interest was in timber as renewable resource, its reproduction, improved management and efficient utilization.