

PRESS RELEASE

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MICHIGAN DEDICATES FIRST TREE FARMS

WASHINGTON, D. C., (Special)--Led by Governor G. Mennen Williams, public officials joined industry leaders June 10 in hailing the dedication of Michigan's first certified tree farms as the beginning of a new era in the forest history of the Wolverine state.

Governor Williams presented certificates to owners of 18 different Upper Peninsula Tree Farms representing 619,956 acres of timberland. The dedication ceremonies were held at a logging camp near the city of Munising. Michigan's newly dedicated Tree Farms range in size from a 29-acre farmer-owned woodlot to a 288,000-acre industrial forest tract operated by the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, on whose properties the ceremony was held.

"There seems to be a healthy trend in the realization that the welfare of industry and the public is inextricably entwined," Governor Williams declared in his dedicatory address. "The people, who are the source of all power and wealth, would eventually have insisted that our resources be preserved, but self control is the best thing," he continued. "This Tree Farm dedication is an illustration of this fact because the people in industry have developed their own program which is to be of vital interest to Michigan and the rest of the country."

Michigan is the twenty-fourth state to join the Tree Farm program, encouraged nationally by American Forest Products Industries. The addition of the state's certified timberland brings the Nation's total tree farm acreage to 18,271,748. This land represents nearly 1,800 different indi-

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viduals and companies.

The state's Tree Farm program is sponsored jointly by the Michigan Forest Industries and the Michigan Department of Conservation. Later this year the sponsors plan to dedicate 86 additional Tree Farms located in the state's Lower Peninsula region.

Speaking for the forest industries, Sydney Ferguson, Chairman of the Board, Mead Corporation and head of American Forest Products Industries, termed the Tree Farm program vitally important to the economic security of the United States.

"What we are doing for the long-range good of the Nation in this enterprise has great and promising local significance," he declared. "Trees can be grown scientifically and they can be grown profitably. Here in the Upper Peninsula, richly endowed by Nature for this type of farming, timber is not only the basic crop--it is the best crop," the paper company executive continued.

Governor Williams was introduced by Abbott Fox, Iron Mountain. Other speakers included: Bruce Buell, forester for the Northern Paper Mills, Green Bay, Wis.; Jay Price, regional forester from the Milwaukee office, U. S. Forest Service; L. J. Heinske, secretary-manager, Timber Producers Association, Ironwood; Charles Sage, vice president of Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Neenah, Wis.; P. J. Hoffmaster, director of the Michigan Conservation Department; A. J. Erickson, manager of the land and lumber department, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company; Francis Kiefer, president of the Port Huron Sulphite and Paper Company and chairman, executive committee, Michigan Forest Industries; and G. S. McIntire, Michigan State Forester.

The Tree Farm dedication attracted nearly 200 Michigan and Lake States land owners, foresters, industry executives and civic leaders. Following the ceremony the group inspected selectively cut timberland owned by Cleveland-Cliffs.

Michigan's first 18 tree farmers and their certified acreages include: William Bonifas Lumber Company, Marenisco, 112,335 acres; Bruce Buell, Amasa, 3,040 acres; Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, Negaunee, 288,000 acres; The Copper Range Company, Houghton, 75,070 acres; James Demulling, Marenisco, 60 acres; Escanaba Paper Company, Escanaba, 680 acres; Abbott Fox Lumber Company, Escanaba, 5,440 acres; Frank J. Heinz, Manistique, 7,179 acres; Manistique Pulp and Paper Company, Manistique, 15,350 acres; Robert Matter, Boying City, 160 acres; Donald Y. McBeath, Baraga, 29 acres; National Container Corporation, Ontonagon, 20,000 acres; Northern Paper Mills, Amasa, 91,239 acres; Stanley and Chester Pribish, Ironwood, 80 acres; Kenn Stephens, Northland, 240 acres; Charles A. Torni, Ironwood, 64 acres; Russell Watson, Manistique, 400 acres; and Jean Worth, Menominee, 580 acres.