

# "Tree Farms" Program Launched in Arkansas

## More Than 1,000 Attend Opening Ceremonies at Fordyce—Governor Atkins and Other Speakers Endorse Private Initiative System—Certificates and Signs Awarded

FORDYCE, Ark., June 6.—The Arkansas Tree Farm System was launched here to-day with a celebration, featured by a barbecue lunch, which attracted more than 1,000 farmers and other owners of timberland in this section of the state. The Tree Farm Program, which in Arkansas is being sponsored by the Arkansas Forestry Commission, will be extended to cover all the timber-producing regions of the state, with similar celebrations in other sections in the near future, according to State Forester Fred Lang who took an active part in the affair here to-day. Mr. Lang was assisted by a committee composed of outstanding timberland owners of the state, with Peter F. Watzek, Jr., chairman, and the program has been widely endorsed by newspapers and civic organizations throughout the state.

The principal speaker at to-day's celebration was Governor Homer Adkins, who spoke on "The Forest Future of Arkansas," and who estimated that an increase of from ten to fifteen million dollars in the wealth of the state could be attained by a 25 per cent increase in the growth of timber. Governor Adkins, incidentally, was one of the group of 22 timberland owners who were awarded certificates of qualification and official "Tree Farm" signs by Forester Lang, who stated that the timber stand on the Governor's 178-acre farm in Hot Springs county had been examined and found to be managed in accordance with the "Tree Farm" requirements of the Forestry Commission.

The first certificate awarded was given to John Knight, farmer, on whose land four miles from Fordyce to-day's celebration was held. Mr. Knight has 640 acres of timber which is being protected from fire and harvested on a cycle, producing continuous crops of timber. Mr. Knight was proud to have the celebration held on his land and proved a gracious host—even though he was a little apprehensive as to the possible damage to his young seedlings. Like most true tree farmers, Mr. Knight is mighty careful about looking after the tiny seedlings, the forest trees of to-morrow.

Other signs and certificates were awarded to A. D. Jones, Fordyce; Fay W. Walsh, Princeton, Dallas County; Joe Benson and W. C. Jones, both of Fordyce; Wilkins Estate, Fordyce; Fordyce Lumber Company; T. F. Sisson, Princeton; S. B. Horne, Sparkman, Calhoun County; Cecil T. Nutt, Tinsman; B. W. Harrell, Calhoun County; T. G. Horton, Manning, Dallas County; J. L. Key, Sparkman; B. A. Watson, Thornton, Calhoun County; R. R. Reynolds, Crossett; W. R. Watson and W. S. Watson, Ellisville; Ross Watson, Tinsman; H. L. Morgan, Fordyce, and Hampton Garner, Kingsland, Cleveland County.

Charles T. Evans of Little Rock, Arkansas Power & Light Company official, was the master of ceremonies at the celebration and introduced the speakers, also officiated at the crowning of the Arkansas Tree Farm Queen, Miss Billie Wilson of Little Rock. The coronation was preceded by a dramatic skit symbolizing the contribution of the pine forests to the war effort, and the entertainment was interspersed by musical selections by a local string band and quartet.

### Welcomed by Mayor

The visitors were welcomed to Fordyce by Mayor B. G. Hickey, who mentioned the dependence of the town's prosperity on the maintenance of the forests and the forest industries. A similar note was sounded by

of Commerce, who spoke of the one-time Ike Murry, secretary of the local Chamber fears of a timber famine and the changed outlook in Fordyce and Dallas County since it has been assured that the forest industries may be perpetuated by a perpetuation of the forest resources.

### Timberland Owner Speaks

M. L. Sigmon, a prominent timberland owner of Monticello, and a member of the Arkansas Tree Farm Advisory Committee, spoke on "Private Initiative in the Forest Industries." He endorsed the Tree Farms program enthusiastically, saying: "It is a common-sense program because it recognizes the common-sense fact that the greatest progress and the only safe progress is that which comes when each individual citizen makes his own problems his own responsibility; when each individual citizen is free to use his own judgment in finding the best solution and making it work. . . . I say to you that the very reason why this nation of ours is the greatest, most advanced, most prosperous on earth, can be found in the fact that we have never encountered a problem so big that it couldn't be solved by the free initiative of individual citizens. . . . Nobody has to use compulsion to force the American people to solve a problem. They solve their problems because they want to solve their problems." Going on, Mr. Sigmon said:

"The problem of supplying the nation's future needs for lumber, wood pulp and plywood is not essentially different from the problem of the nation's future needs for milk, automobiles, cotton or pigs. Natural forces of economics, applied to the initiative of the farmers who grow the tree crops and applied to the initiative of the manufacturers who buy the timber for lumber, pulp and

plywood, will provide the solution just the same as similar forces solve the problem of next year's butter and eggs or next year's telephone service. In fact, natural forces already are providing the solution." In conclusion, Mr. Sigmon said:

"The forests of America will be kept perpetual as adequate sources of the lumber, pulp and plywood which the American people need. The owners of these forests and woodlands will keep them that way through their own private initiative. Here in America we shall once more demonstrate that the private initiative of the American farmer, the American business man, the American laborer, is the best-of-all way to solve any problem and is the reason that ours is the greatest country in the world. Similarly we may see that it is these same natural forces, expressed through private initiative in the forest products industries, which have led to the creation of the Arkansas Tree Farm System, an organization specifically designed for the specific purpose of spreading this gospel of good forestry to every tree grower in the state."

### Governor Lauds Private Initiative

Governor Adkins in his address amplified and agreed with Mr. Sigmon's comments on the importance of maintaining the private initiative system.

"No one is more convinced than I am," he said, "that our nation and our state could never have attained their greatness except for the successes which have been accomplished through private initiative. It was private initiative which brought into this state the millions of dollars needed for its first great industry—the sawing of timber. And it was private initiative which, in operating that industry, produced the pay-rolls, the spending money and even much of the tax revenue which built our schools, our highways, our bridges and our state and city institutions. To-day it is private initiative which our farmers use when they decide to practice good forestry, and which they also use when they choose what crops they will raise—whether it will be trees or cotton, cattle or corn, or a combination of them all."

Governor Adkins briefly touched on the basic principles of our system of government, and the dangers attendant upon extending the powers of government beyond its proper limits and into the field of the citizen's indi-



Arkansas Tree Farms System signs and certificates were presented to 22 south Arkansas farmers by State Forester Fred Lang at the Arkansas Tree Farmers Forest Festival near Fordyce June 6th. They are, front row, left to right: J. M. Hannegan, Hampton, who accepted the sign for B. W. Harrell of Harrell; T. F. Sisson, Princeton; Hampton Garner, Kingsland; H. L. Morgan, Fordyce; Joe Benson, Fordyce; B. W. Mays, Princeton, who accepted a sign for Fay W. Walsh, Princeton; Cecil C. Nutt, Tinsman; W. R. Reynolds, Crossett; and A. D. Jones, Fordyce. Back row: W. B. Morne, Sparkman; Ben A. Mayhew, who accepted a sign for the Fordyce Lumber Co.; J. L. Key, Sparkman; B. A. Watson, Thornton; John C. Knight, Fordyce, at whose farm the festival was held; Miss Billie Wilson, Little Rock, who was crowned Queen of the Arkansas Tree Farms System; Governor Adkins; T. G. Horton, Manning; W. R. Watson, Ellisville; W. S. Watson, Ellisville; Wesley Kauffman, Fordyce, and W. C. Jones, Fordyce. Signs were also presented to the Misses Bess and Mable Wilkins, Little Rock, who own a timber farm near Fordyce, and to Ross Watson, Tinsman.