

Kansas Forest Industries Committee
P. O. Box 546, Wichita, Kansas

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CONTINENTAL LINKUP OF
TREE FARMING IS COMPLETED
IN KANSAS

PARSONS (Special)--The coast-to-coast linkup of the American Tree Farm System was completed Friday, with the driving of a "green spike" reminiscent of the golden spike used to connect the transcontinental railroad in earlier times. Two trees were planted in honor of Kansas for becoming the 48th state to join the forest industry-sponsored Tree Farm program. R. A. Woods, president of the Parsons Commercial Bank and Dr. Glenn H. Beck, dean of agriculture, Kansas State University planted the trees, one from the East Coast and the other a native of the West Coast. The program took place on the Kansas Gas and Electric Company Tree Farm adjacent to the power plant east of Parsons.

"This event has been a long time in the making," said Robert D. Love of Wichita, presiding officer. "--more than 22 years, because it was 22 years ago that the term Tree Farm was first used by a lumber company to help describe its methods of timber management to its neighbors. Since that time tree farming has become a nationwide program to encourage good forestry on privately-owned timberlands." Love is chairman of the Kansas Forest Industries Committee, state sponsor of the Tree Farm program.

L. C. Collister, manager of the Tie and Timber Treating Department of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry. Co. and chairman of the Kansas Tree Farm Committee presented certificates to 14 tree farmers, the first to be certified in the state. "We hope to demonstrate through tree farming that good forestry can increase the income of the forest landowner

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through the integration of his woodlands into his regular farming operations, said Collister.

Principal speaker of the day was J. D. Bronson, Yakima, Washington, president of American Forest Products Industries, Inc., the national sponsor of the American Tree Farm System. Kansas' forests are an important resource that "...has influenced the history and the development of the state from the beginning of its settlement to the present day, and will continue to influence it in the future," said Bronson.

Bronson stated that the present harvest of Kansas timber could be tripled from \$15 million to \$45 million, while still maintaining the forest in a healthy and growing condition. "It is up to the landowners in Kansas," he said, "to prove to the potential investors of the state and to the forest industries that they are capable of carrying on good forestry on their lands. When this is done, I'm sure they will find more and more industry moving into the state."

Bronson called the KG&E Tree Farm an outstanding example of "...multiple use in action -- the type of use that the forest industries are trying to encourage through their Tree Farm program. The kind of management where each area is picked for its most important function, and managed for that particular use. Other uses may be subordinated, or excluded entirely, according to the needs of its owner."

"With the increasing demands for wood products, as well as more recreation areas," Bronson continued, "we must conclude that it is absolutely necessary to use our land for these many benefits if we are going to meet our future needs and to maintain our present high standard of living."

Bronson also cited the importance of trees to the western part of the state in protecting the fields and farmsteads from drying winds and

driving snows. "Because of their importance to the farming community and the state, outstanding windbreaks and shelterbelts are also admitted into the Tree Farm program," he said.

S. J. Sickel, vice-president in charge of operations for KG&E announced that a 12-acre portion of the Tree Farm has been set aside for preservation in its natural state. It was named for Amos Long, a pioneer farmer who owned the land when KG&E bought it more than 40 years ago.

Members of the Parsons Explorer Post, headed by Advisor Bill Brewer directed traffic and helped Smokey Bear give out seedling trees as favors to the people attending the program. Music was provided by the Girl Scout Troops of Mrs. R. J. Waxse (correct), Oswego, and Mrs. Richard Miller, Parsons.

Tree farming is sponsored by the Kansas Forest Industries Committee with the assistance of the Agricultural Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

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Editor Note: The following tree farmers were certified at the dedication:

Brown County

Mrs. Roma Holley Conroy, Everest

Mrs. Conroy has planted walnut trees in openings, removed weed trees, and conducted timber harvests on an individual tree selection basis.

Ellsworth County

Mrs. Elfrida Gamber, Wilson

Mrs. Gamber's windbreak was planted in 1940 and has received good care and is composed of vigorously-growing trees.

Labette County

Kansas Gas and Electric Company, Wichita (The Tree Farm is adjacent to the power plant east of Parsons)

Labette County (cont.)

This 225-acre forest was dedicated as a demonstration Tree Farm to show good forestry practices. The area includes several different forest types, each requiring different treatments. The most unique is a 12-acre tract of undisturbed virgin forest that will be left in its wild condition. Another area will be established as a picnic site, and others will be managed for wood production.

Dale and Alberta Dick, Parsons

Pecan production is the primary objective on this Tree Farm. Part of the property consists of native pecan stands which have been cleared of underbrush and thinned to encourage the production of nuts. A private recreation area has been developed around a pond on the farm.

George Elmore, Chetopa

This is also a pecan operation. He has 120 acres which have been cleared of competing trees, and maintained for nut production.

Leavenworth County

William H. Walden, Bonner Springs

Inspecting forester John K. Strickler, of Kansas State University, says that this is one of the best young walnut stands in eastern Kansas. Walden has completed 19 acres of thinning and has earned substantial income by marketing wood from his thinnings.

Republic County

George E. Sis, Belleville

An excellent young 7-row windbreak that has been well cultivated and protected.

Shawnee County

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wilson, Topeka

Mr. Wilson has thinned his entire Tree Farm, having removed crowded and diseased trees. He has started some pruning to increase the quality of his future crops, and plans to plant walnut seedlings in openings next spring.

Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Chapman, Silver Lake

The Chapman's own a Christmas tree plantation, and expect to begin shearing them for higher quality trees in the spring of 1964.

Stafford County

Cecil Delp, St. John

Delp is one of the first Christmas tree producers in the state. He has planted 90 acres, and has been exceedingly active in seeking the best management practices for his plantation.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Teichman, Stafford

One of the largest and oldest shelterbelts in the area, this Tree Farm has received good care, which is reflected in the good condition of the trees. This shelterbelt has yielded a number of fence posts to its owners.

Sumner County

Elton Hilt, Wellington

Hilt has planted pecan and walnut, and done some thinning on his Tree Farm. One of his primary interests is the improvement of wildlife habitat on the property.

Wyandotte County

Houston Gray, Kansas City

Mr. Gray has completed 6 acres of thinnings, and expects to thin 8 more acres this year. He also has several acres of Christmas trees that he has planted.

John T. and Alice C. Rohde

Mr. Rohde is interested in testing geographic origins of Scotch pine seed in his Christmas tree plantation. He has interplanted trees in his woodland and weeded out inferior species.