

WELCOME 1/

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You people are all welcome to these beautiful high hills of North Carolina and we hope you have a good time.

I remember the first meeting that I attended like this. It was back in about IVY). At that time Jack May was Superintendent at the Ashe Nursery in Mississippi. He had a hundred thousand dollars invested in the nursery which amazed the state boys. We had fifteen or twenty thousand on the outside.

During this meeting we had one state forester from Tennessee. He listened to us for 2 hours talking about light showers * pumps and capacity; and then, out of common courtesy, the man who was running the meeting called on him for a few words. He said, "You boys are all wrong. You don't need water systems, all you do is have 50 little nurseries scattered all over the state. The rain and the Lord takes care of you. If you lose a couple of nurseries you still got plenty."

Well, after a while we got to needling him a little bit about this business of having 50 nurseries scattered around, and about that time the clouds came up over Jack's nursery and it began raining. The rain just came down in torrents. We ran into a little cone shed and Hap said, "Look here, Fred, I told you the good Lord takes care of you. You don't need any water system in this nursery." And Jack had a hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment.

Back in about 1930, Jack said he was going to raise about a million trees and everybody thought they were a bunch of screw-balls. Now we are growing something like one hundred million.

All of this is past history but there is still a challenge to the future. We have solved the idea of quantity. The Soil Bank Program proved we can grow all the trees that people need. However, if we've got to grow with the rest of them we've got to get into this superior tree business. That is not going to change the quantity but the quality. Now what are we going to do with these trees? How are we going to plant them? What's going to be our forest management practices in the future? Are we going to clear-cut and plant these superior trees? Are we going to get enough seed for direct-seeding from these superior trees? It looks to **me** as though the management practices are going to depend on you people as to what we are going to do in the future.

1/ Recorded and edited by the Conference Secretary.