# PROCEEDINGS OF THE TENTH SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT

Houston, Texas
June 17-19.1969

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## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT

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Southern Forest Tree Improvement Committee

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These Proceedings are dedicated to Thurman E. ("Ted" or "Berc") Bercaw. Berc's death in a crossing accident at Livingston, Louisiana, on June 2, deprived his company and his profession of a singularly able man, and the Southern Forest Tree improvement Committee of a charter member whose contributions were outstanding.

Berc was born in Columbus, Ohio, November 26, 1914. He obtained the B.S. in Forestry at the University of Michigan in 1938, with subsequent work there and at Harvard in forest photogrammetry and photo interpretation. From 1940 to 1946 he served in the U.S. *Army* Air Corps, attaining the rank of Major, and after the War became a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve. After various Federal and State jobs before and after the War, he came to Gaylord Container Corporation (later merged with Crown Zeilerbach Corporation) in September 1946, serving successively as Management Forester, Head of the Forest Management Section, and Head of the Research and inventory Section. A scant two months before his death he was promoted to the position of Chief Forester of Crown Zellerbach's Southern Timber Operations, He was active in numerous professional, civic, and trade associations, perhaps his most notable professional appointment was to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Research Advisory Council, on which he served with great effect for several years.

I first met Berc in November 1947 on a memorable tour of the Southern Forest Experiment Station's planting and brown-spot-control experiments at Bogalusa, Louisiana, and an inspection of damage by the September hurricane to Gaylord Container's 17-year-old, rust-infected, planted slash pine. From then on until my own retirement in 1964 he and I shared data and ideas on tree diseases and artificial regeneration In the mid-Fifties he contributed **the services** of his highly skilled continuous-inventory crews to the 30-year remeasurement of some 20,000 trees **in** the Southern Station's oldest experimental plantations and helped me set up the computer analysis of the results. He and I "cut<sub>s</sub> our teeth together, so to speak, on forest genetics when, in 1951, we were both appointed to the newly formed Committee on Southern Forest Tree Improvement. As Head of Gaylord Container's Forest Management Section he unhesitatingly engineered, in 1952-53, the largest single installation in the Committee's Southwide Pine Seed Source Study.

A big, brilliant, versatile, breezy, rollicking man, Berc galvanized every enterprise in which he took part. Clear-headed boldness and decisiveness always seemed to me his outstanding personal and professional characteristics. He was quick to perceive the essence of a problem, and prompt, imaginative, and thorough in handling it. Work with him was a pleasure as well as an. inspiration, and many beside myself will miss him as a forester and as a friend.

Philip C. Wakeley U.S. Forest Service, Retired

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