

American Tree Farm System

Please reply to:

December 11, 1980

Dave Halverson
P.O. Box 82
Custer, S.D. 57730

Dear Dave:

The Tree Farm Committee has decided to name your nominee Dave Papcke as the 1981 Woodlands Tree Farmer of the Year. Congratulations. The decision was not an easy one as competition was stiff. Your presentation convinced us Dave Papcke and family were worthy of statewide recognition.

We would like you to join us at the annual Keep South Dakota Green banquet, Tuesday January 27, 1981 at the Holiday Inn in Pierre, S.D. at 6:15 p.m. You are encouraged if possible, to attend the winter meeting of the Tree Farm Committee at 9:30 a.m. and Keep South Dakota Green at 1:30 p.m. both also at the Holiday Inn.

We recognize that the long distance and personal expense might make it difficult for the Papcke family to attend the banquet. If at all possible we would like them to be present to accept the honor. If they can't attend would it be possible for a relative or friend to be present to accept the award.

Sincerely,



Bill McGrath
S.D. Tree Farm Chairman

BM/TR/wjt

cc. Lyle Lowe, S.D. Division of Forestry



THE SIGN OF GOOD FORESTRY

Custer County Chronicle - September 25, 1980

Papke family receives certificate



The Dave Papcke family is shown receiving its certificate of membership in the American Tree Farm System from the State Forestry Technician Wayne Carroll. Pictured are, left to right: Carroll; Dave Papcke; his son, Mark; wife, Karen; and daughter, Mindy.

The Papckes, who reside in Oxnard, Calif., own and operate a 243-acre tree farm in Custer and Pennington counties. Their diligent efforts have earned them a nomination for Tree Farmer of the Year in South Dakota.

The American Tree Farm System is designed to promote and provide recognition for wise management of private woodlands. Further information can be obtained by stopping in at the State Forestry office. (Two doors down the hall from First Federal Savings in the old Ranch Market building), or by calling 673-2264.



TREE FARMING FAMILY

What does a U.S. Navy physicist do in his spare time? In the case of Dave Papcke of Oxnard, California, he farms trees! Dave's vacations, (and those of his family), are spent laboring on their 243 acre tree farm in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

This two-parcel tree farm consists of 180 acres near Rochford, (pur-



Forest Technician Wayne Carroll congratulates the Papckes on the Tree Farm.

chased in 1972), and 63 acres south of Custer, (purchased in 1975). The majority of these parcels are stocked with small diameter ponderosa pine.

Papcke's tree farming efforts began back in 1977 when he tackled the mountain pine beetle problem on the Rochford tract. Spotting and treatment of 92 trees were done that first year, followed by control measures on 20 new infested trees in 1978 and 30 new hits in 1979. By

staying on top of the mountain pine beetle problem, Dave has kept his losses at endemic levels.

With the help of the State Division of Forestry, Papcke became informed on the mountain pine beetle and how it could best be combated. It was this knowledge which convinced him to have a timber sale on the Rochford tract. Fifty-two acres were laid out, appraised and advertised, but circumstances prevented completion of the sale. Dave recounts: "State Forestry personnel from the Rapid City office explained to me that, because of the long distance

to market, the lower class roads and the lack of demand for roundwood, the economics of such a sale were marginal."

So what alternatives are available to bring the Rochford tract under management? Papcke is now looking at the feasibility of having a sawtimber sale and making roundwood management a family project. "It may be a slow process," says Papcke, "but it gives a tremendous feeling of accomplishment!"

Recent management efforts have been concentrated on the 63 acre tract south of Custer. Due to the small amount of sawtimber, all activity has been of a precommercial nature. Papcke has taken advantage of the Forestry Incentives Program to accomplish 20 acres of thinning and is presently working on an additional 10 acres.



Papcke and Carroll discuss management recommendations while everyone takes a break.

It is on the Custer tract that the family has shown themselves to be an effective work force. They have hand-piled the slash on the 20 thinned acres as a means of reducing fire hazard and improving wildlife habitat. Upon seeing the tremendous amount of work that has been accomplished, a local rancher nicknamed Papcke's children "the brush apes". He was duly impressed by their ambition and progress.

The Papckes have salvaged what they could from their thinnings. Firewood has been the main byproduct but posts have been hand-loaded and hauled to the mill in a pickup truck.



The family has shown themselves to be an effective work force.

You can't do hard physical labor unless you are physically fit... and the Papckes are! Bicycling is a favorite family pursuit and they often go riding together. Dave rides his bicycle 20 miles round trip to and from his job at the Pacific

Missile Test Center in Pt. Mugu, California. Not unlike tree farming, bicycling keeps the body fit and contributes towards resource conservation. It is this consciousness regarding resource conservation which convinced the Papckes in managing their own renewable resource.

The entire family has sacrificed other interests in favor of making the tree farm a success. They have a beautiful sailboat docked near their home in Oxnard and they make good use of it. In addition to sailing, Mindy enjoys horseback riding and Mark is an avid



The family hard at work, l-r: Dave, "Field Marshall" Karen and "the brush apes", Mark and Mindy.

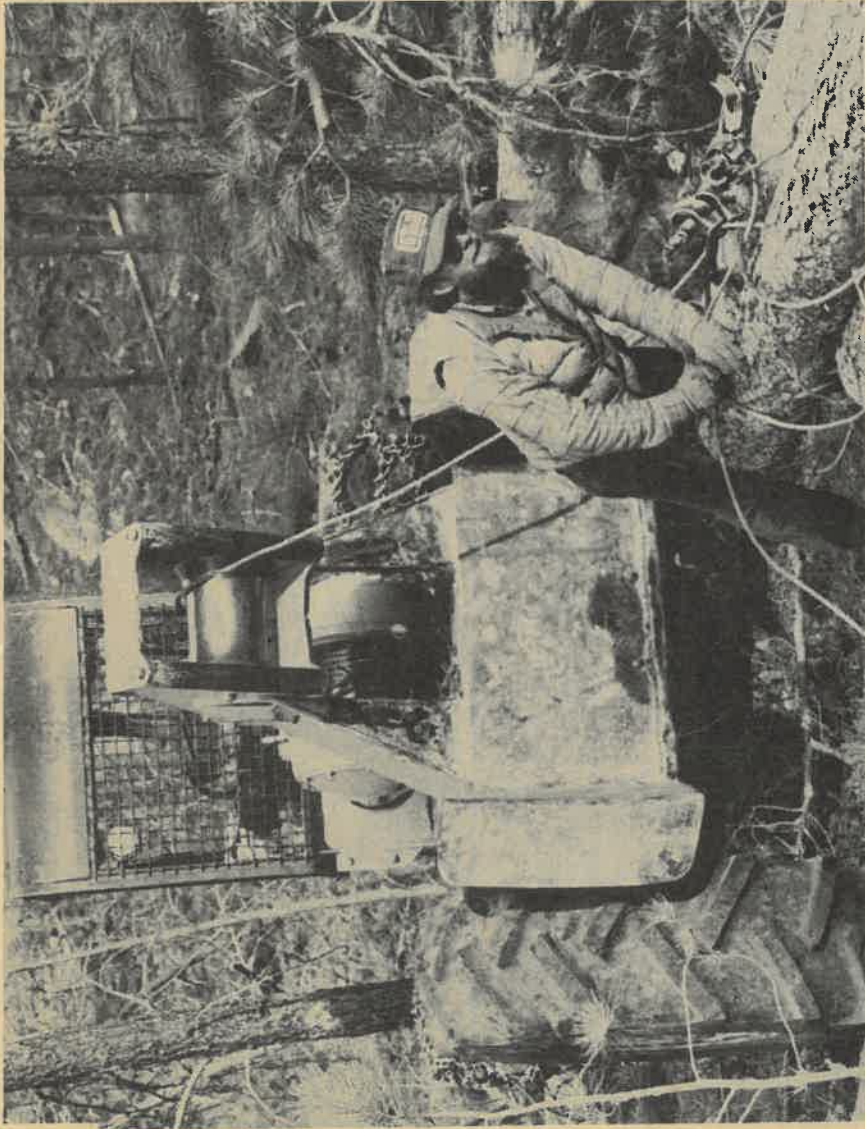
motorcycle rider and baseball player. When you consider the many enjoyable interests that they have bypassed in favor of working on their tree farm, it becomes obvious that the Papckes are dedicated to the principles of the American Tree Farm System. They rightfully deserve the title of American Tree Farmers!

The knowledge that they are doing their part in the wise management of our resources and the satisfaction in a job well done are all the reward that the Papckes need or expect for their efforts. I believe that they deserve more, that they have earned the right to be honored with the Tree Farmer of the Year Award. Thus, it is with firm conviction that I nominate Dave Papcke and his family-for Tree Farmer of the Year in the state of South Dakota.

Alan D. Hendricks

Alan D. Hendricks
Timber Forester
South Dakota Division of Forestry
Custer District

David J. Halverson
District Forester



Dave Sorenson taking his turn. Since all three skidders were working the hill, and since there

was only one clear path straight down, they had to wait for the

other two to head down before the next could follow.

Physicist Turns Forester

A tree grows in Brooklyn. But a million trees grow in one Point Mugu employee's 280-acre woodland in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

"And that's too many trees for a forest of that size," says physicist Dave Papcke (Oxnard) of the Electromagnetic Systems Division at Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu, Calif.

Ever since Papcke bought his wooded acreage eight

demands efficient utilization of our sources of energy, the Tree Farm System has rigid standards for qualifying as a Tree Farm.

The woodland, Papcke explained, must be: (1) privately owned; (2) managed for the growth and harvest of repeated forest crops; (3) adequately protected from fire, insects, disease and destructive grazing; and (4) reforested after each harvest."

thinning job himself.

So, chain saw in hand, Papcke headed for his South Dakota woodland last July during a four-month leave of absence from Point Mugu.

He pitched a small tent on his property, stashed away his first week's supply of food from the nearest town, 25 miles away, and started the endless job of thinning out the overgrown woods, Papcke recalled.



Dave heads toward the camera. This shot shows a little of the angle of the hill we were on. The hill itself wouldn't be so bad if it

hadn't been coupled with the frozen ground conditions, which made even going about on foot a nasty business.

logs and posts which he stacked in piles to be hauled away.

"Incidentally," he said, "I received the Tree Farm certificate for my land, and I was really thrilled about that."

A surprise ending to his four-month forestry stint also delighted Papcke.

He was named "Tree Farmer of the Year for the Western Region of South Dakota." Papcke said he will receive the award in February at a ceremony in the state capital, Pierre.

Recalling his recent experience of wilderness living, Papcke said: "There's nothing like hard, physical work outdoors in a natural setting that probably hasn't changed much for centuries."

Papcke said he usually saw other people in his woodland only when Forest Service workers dropped by every two weeks.

"I was almost bitten about four times," he said, "...but those rattles really worn you, so I managed to get away."

Not wishing to kill snakes in their habitat, Papcke said he once picked up a rattling rattler, using a stick, and threw it into the brush.

Often, a starless night with no moon to brighten the woods, Papcke recalled he would listen to "The Mystery Hour" on his battery-operated radio.

"It got a bit spooky," he admitted, "but by the end of the program, around nine o'clock, I was almost sound asleep after all that tree-cutting."

Life's a bit different for Papcke now that he has returned to his California routine.

His tree-cutting exercise has given way to riding his bike to and from work

4611 South "F" Street
Oxnard, California 93033
February 5, 1981

Governor William P. Janklow
Capitol Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

On January 27, 1981, I and my family received the TREE FARMER of the YEAR award for the Black Hills area. This award was presented at the annual banquet of the KEEP SOUTH DAKOTA GREEN ASSOCIATION, which was held in Pierre, South Dakota. There have been few times when we have felt so proud!

We have worked many long and hard hours on our forest lands in the Black Hills, but the success of our efforts and the receipt of this fine award is, in a large part, due to the very capable assistance, dedication, and cooperation of the State Division of Forestry personnel in Pierre, Custer, and Rapid City. I feel that these Division of Forestry personnel have done, and are doing, and outstanding job in assisting private woodlot owners, such as myself, in managing their forest lands in accordance with sound forestry practices. They are an asset to the state of South Dakota and a pleasure to work with.

Sincerely,



Dave Papcke & family

cc/ Representative George Mortimer
Division of Forestry, Pierre, South Dakota
→ Division of Forestry, Custer, South Dakota
Division of Forestry, Rapid City, South Dakota
Division of Forestry, Deadwood, South Dakota