

Biographical Portrait

THE FOUNDING FATHERS *of the* CROSSETT EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

By Don C. Bragg

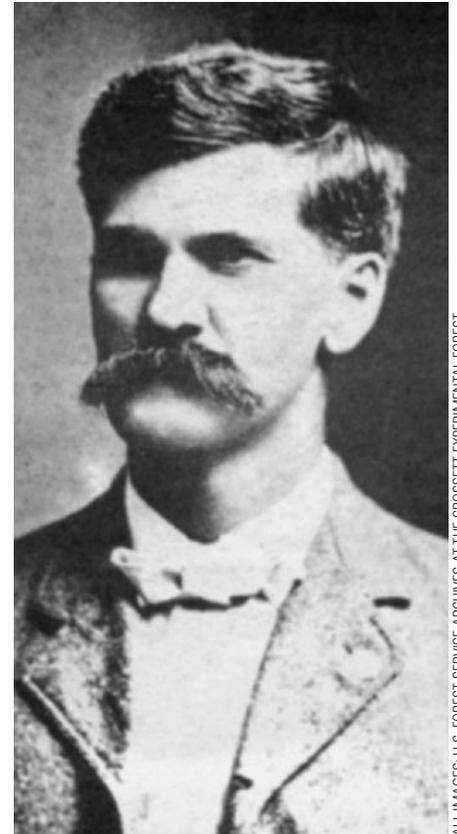
Remarkably enough, if it were not for the exploitive practices of the early lumber industry, there would have been no need for a research and demonstration forest in the piney woods of southern Arkansas, and more than 75 years of southern pine silvicultural history at the Crossett Experimental Forest would not have occurred. But history is what it is, and the rise of the United States as an industrial power during the first decades of the twentieth century meant a corresponding demand for huge quantities of raw materials, draining the once-thought inexhaustible forests of eastern North America. By 1930, decades of exploitation had liquidated almost all of the virgin timber of the South, putting lumber companies and the communities dependent on them on the verge of failure. They were now faced with a dilemma—should they uproot their operations and move on or simply close their doors forever?

Or was “perpetual operation” a viable option? Even though Gifford Pinchot and a number of like-minded individuals had been advocating sustainable forestry for decades, the scientific basis for effective silviculture was slow in coming, largely because of the lack of a viable research platform. In the southern United States, very few universities had active forest science programs. The Forest Service did not open the Appalachian and Southern Forest Experiment Stations until 1921, and even then these nascent research efforts suffered from limited staffs and funds.¹ Although a few technical publications were produced by federal researchers and foresters in Arkansas during the first decades of the twentieth century, the Southern Forest Experiment Station did not get formally involved with the state until about 1930, and then only in an advisory capacity.²

Yet the foundations for sustainable forestry and the Crossett Experimental Forest were laid years before, and really only required a triggering mechanism. Lumberman Edgar W. “Cap” Gates and his business partners founded the Crossett Lumber Company in 1899, setting the stage for the changes to come. By 1907, Yale professor Herman H. Chapman began taking his students to the South (where the big timber still remained), and his classes worked with various lumber companies. Chapman also served as a consultant for the Crossett Lumber Company and recommended hiring professionally trained foresters. One of the first foresters employed by the company was Albert E. Wackerman, a Yale graduate who eventually moved to the Forest Service’s Southern Forest Experiment Station and helped Russell R. Reynolds coordinate the agreement between the station and the Crossett Lumber Company that, in 1934, witnessed the opening of the Crossett Experimental Forest—Reynolds’s professional home for the next 35 years.

EDGAR WOODWARD GATES (1866–1935)

Edgar Woodward “Cap” Gates was born on February 19, 1866, in Big Rock, Iowa. Gates received little in the way of a formal education and learned many of life’s lessons through experience (both good and bad). As a teenager, Gates moved to Colorado and worked in the mines, where he was severely injured in a dynamite explosion that cost him the sight in his right eye and much of the use of his left eye.³ Fortunately for Gates, he had three older brothers in the lumber business in Arkansas, and he joined their operations at the Thornton Lumber Company in 1886. Gates started in an entry-level position as a fireman show-



Edgar Woodward “Cap” Gates

eling sawdust into a boiler but quickly worked his way up to running the small mill.⁴ Restless by nature, Gates worked as a logger at Eagle Mills, Arkansas, then left for the state of Washington before returning to work at another family operation, the Gates Lumber Company in Wilmar, Arkansas.⁵ He served as manufacturing superintendent at the Wilmar mill until 1900, when an opportunity in nearby Ashley County beckoned.

Gates maintained that the idea for the Crossett Lumber Company came to him in 1888 while working in Thornton, but his chance did not arise until years later,

ALL IMAGES: U.S. FOREST SERVICE ARCHIVES AT THE CROSSETT EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

when he was at the Gates Lumber Company.⁶ Using his own money and the financial help of a cousin, Gates optioned to buy 50,000 acres of prime pine timber in Ashley County and Morehouse Parish, Louisiana.⁷ He then managed to persuade his brothers, Peter, Albert, and Charles Gates, as well as Gates family-linked investors Edward S. Crossett and Dr. John W. Watzek, to buy out their option and open a new operation—the Crossett Lumber Company. Cap Gates became the on-site manager of the company and directed the construction of a mill and town hewn from the piney woods.⁸ The new community of Crossett was a true company town: all the buildings (including residences) and businesses were owned by the company from its establishment in 1899 until 1946.⁹

For the first two decades of the twentieth century, Gates operated the Crossett Lumber Company similar to most lumbering concerns of the time—trees were harvested to supply the mills as quickly as markets would permit. At this time, most lumbermen had almost no interest in what would become known as sustainable forestry.¹⁰ Cutover lands were disposable assets, to be sold if possible and abandoned if necessary. Gates encouraged the sale of the company's cutover lands, especially to farmers—he considered himself an agricultural hobbyist and entrepreneur, and the more farmers he could get to buy his cutover timberlands, the bigger the market he could develop for his wood products.¹¹ Under his direction, the Crossett Lumber Company supported a local farm bureau, introduced new crops and farming techniques, and encouraged cattle and hog breeding programs.¹² Gates even opened a cattle farm to the east of Crossett to demonstrate how proper farming practices could make former cutover lands agriculturally productive.¹³ These efforts soon proved to be of little avail, since the soils of the area were far more conducive to growing trees than raising crops or livestock.

Gates's diversification of the wood-processing end of the business proved more successful. His willingness to experiment with new product lines to improve the efficiency of his milling operations helped pave the way for the Crossett Lumber Company to consider forestry as an option.¹⁴ By the early 1920s, the company was implementing Professor Chapman's recommendations and had started a forestry department. Cutover lands were now being acquired

along with virgin timber, and Gates's vision of "perpetual operation" (i.e., sustained-yield forestry) started to be realized. However, much remained to be learned about the practicality of managed southern pine timber, spurring the Crossett Lumber Company to continue its working relationship with the Yale Forest School and to forge a new partnership with the Southern Forest Experiment Station. Even his former cattle farm contributed to this effort—it eventually became a permanent camp to lodge Yale forestry students while they studied pine silviculture and logging operations.¹⁵ Until his passing, Cap Gates continued to support innovation in the forest products industry and southern pine silviculture, including the construction of a chemical wood facility (1931), the opening of the Crossett Experimental Forest (1934), and a kraft paper mill (1937).¹⁶

HERMAN HAUPT CHAPMAN (1874–1963)

Herman Haupt "Chappie" Chapman was born on October 8, 1874, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and named after his maternal grandfather, Civil War general and civil engineer Herman Haupt. Chapman attended the University of Minnesota, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in 1895. Chapman followed this with additional coursework in agriculture (and every forestry course available at the University of Minnesota at that time), earning another bachelor's degree in 1899.¹⁷ In 1897, Chapman became the superintendent of the new North Central Forest Experiment Station office in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, where he established the first pine plantations in that state.¹⁸ In September 1901, Chapman enrolled at the newly formed school of forestry at Yale University; he received a master of forestry degree in 1904. Yale then employed him for nearly 60 years in varying capacities, including the inaugural Harriman Professor of Forest Management.¹⁹ Chapman had a long and distinguished career in forestry; this biography, however, will focus on his contributions to the genesis of the Crossett Experimental Forest.

Chapman's research and teaching frequently took him to the southeastern United States. By the first decade of the twentieth century, virtually all of New England and most of the northern Lake States had been thoroughly lumbered, making the largely uncut southern forest-



Herman Haupt "Chappie" Chapman

lands appealing as an educational venue. Furthermore, southern forests were also not snowbound when classes were in session. Chapman first took forestry students southward for their spring field course in 1907, and over the years Yale students went to various lumber companies to study mill operations and inventory their timberlands.²⁰ In spring 1912, following an invitation by Charles Harlan Watzek, a Yale University forestry graduate and son of Crossett Lumber Company cofounder John Watzek, Chapman brought the Yale forestry camp to southeastern Arkansas.²¹ The younger Watzek had been decidedly pessimistic about forestry careers in the South, largely because of what was perceived to be an unacceptably slow rate of growth from the pine timber of the area.²² However, observations by employees of the lumber company had suggested the opposite.

During this trip to Crossett, the Yale students stayed at the company's Hickory Grove Camp and conducted an inventory on 9,000 acres of company lands south of the city.²³ Chapman published a report in 1913 on their Crossett work that was considerably more optimistic than Watzek's assessment, assuming certain steps were taken to ensure the tree growth.²⁴ In this

report, Chapman recommended that the company do a better job in protecting the stands from fire and leaving more vigorous seed trees behind to support a second cut of timber from their properties.²⁵ Over the next decade, it became increasingly obvious to the company that there were viable opportunities for perpetual operations. In 1922 Chapman was again called on to help inventory the company's lands and make more recommendations on forest management. One of his suggestions was to hire trained foresters. The first professionally trained forester hired by the Crossett Lumber Company was W. K. Williams, though he soon departed for an extension position with the U.S. Forest Service.

Chapman continued to work with the Crossett Lumber Company for many years, accompanying Yale students to later spring camps at Crossett and working as a consultant to the company from 1939 until his retirement in 1943.²⁶ He made a final tour of his former southern "haunts" just a few years before he died, including a visit to Crossett. On this trip, Chapman visited the timberlands he had once helped manage and met with some of the many Yale forestry graduates who worked for Crossett.²⁷

ALBERT EDWARD WACKERMAN (1897–1980)

In 1927, Albert Edward "Wack" Wackerman became the second forester hired by the Crossett Lumber Company. A native of Cleveland, Wackerman earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in 1921, followed by a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry in 1922. His career started in 1923, when he was hired as a junior forester and assistant silviculturist with the Lake States Forest Experiment Station. Wackerman's early work focused on pine management, particularly in Michigan, and how to improve the drainage of lands for forestry purposes. During his tenure with the Crossett Lumber Company, Wackerman helped implement the recommendations of Professor Chapman. Wackerman worked on inventories of the company's remaining virgin and second-growth timber (including growth-and-yield), the establishment of a fire protection system, and the development of management plans.²⁸ With Wackerman's assistance, the company also explored new wood products opportunities (including hardwood lumber and flooring) and began to manage its second-growth pine.



Albert Edward "Wack" Wackerman

However, the timber industry struggled mightily during the Great Depression. The Crossett Lumber Company, unlike many of its peers, did not fold, but it did cut wages and scaled back operations. After two 50 percent pay cuts in 1932, Wackerman left the company for a position with the Southern Forest Experiment Station and was stationed in New Orleans by early 1933. Hired under a federal program authorized by the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928, he helped study the profitability of forestry for industrial landowners.²⁹ Wackerman's experience in southern Arkansas and his ongoing efforts with the Crossett Lumber Company led him to work closely with Russell R. Reynolds, another forest economist with the Southern Forest Experiment Station. Their collaboration on timber management strategies was successful enough to prompt the company to offer the Forest Service some of their cutover lands for what would eventually become the Crossett Experimental Forest.³⁰

In 1934, Wackerman left the Southern Forest Experiment Station for a forester position with the Southern Pine Association in New Orleans. During this period, he continued to help companies such as the Union Saw Mill Company of Huttig,

Arkansas, develop forest management plans. Always looking for new opportunities, in 1937 Wackerman became the first forester of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, which operated railroads along the southeastern coast of the United States. In this capacity, Wackerman was charged with encouraging forestry along the rail lines from Virginia to Florida—work that he did not do for long, for in 1939 he was appointed by Clarence F. Korstian as one of the original faculty members of the Graduate School of Forestry at Duke University. He held the position of professor of forest utilization there until his retirement in 1967.

RUSSELL ROY REYNOLDS (1906–1986)

Russell Roy Reynolds was born on December 21, 1906, near Howard City, Michigan.³¹ Reynolds received a bachelor of science degree in forestry in 1929 and a master of science in forestry in 1930, both from the University of Michigan. In July 1930, Reynolds accepted a position as a junior forester with the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans. Between 1930 and 1933, Reynolds worked on forest economics studies with lumber companies from Mississippi to Texas.³² A forest economist by training, Reynolds had the quantitative skills to conduct inventories of standing timber and time-and-motion studies related to logging practices. He also focused much of his work on the efficacy of using trucks to haul logs to the mill—the industry standard today but a revolutionary concept in the early 1930s. This research proved that trucks were a more cost-efficient means to extract pine timber from lower stocked stands than railroads, whose high construction and maintenance costs required a substantial quantity of large sawtimber to be profitable.³³

In 1932, Reynolds helped the Ozark-Badger Lumber Company of Wilmar, Arkansas, quantify the "pine tree banking" approach that owners Leslie K. Pomeroy and Eugene P. Connor had pioneered during the previous decade.³⁴ The Ozark-Badger effort led to Reynolds's next major assignment—marking Crossett Lumber Company's timber prior to harvest of the 25,000-acre "East Block" parcel, a project based on the earlier cruises of Wackerman.³⁵ On August 13, 1933, Reynolds moved to Crossett and immediately began work on this marking job.

Pleased with the progress, the company

soon offered the Forest Service land to be chosen from its cutover properties for an experimental forest and research center. Reynolds and Wackerman, with the assistance of Southern Forest Experiment Station director Elwood L. Demmon, combed the countryside and selected a 1,680-acre parcel about seven miles south of the city of Crossett.³⁶ In October 1933, Reynolds was appointed the director and lead scientist of the Crossett Experimental Forest and set about developing the facility. Construction of the buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, performed mainly by federal relief program workers, continued for several years after the official opening on January 1, 1934. Reynolds and his family moved out of a company-owned house in Crossett into a log cabin “forester’s home” on the grounds of the experimental forest on July 9, 1936, where they would live for the next 33 years.³⁷

Over his long career at the experimental forest, Reynolds worked on projects ranging from time-and-motion studies of truck logging, improving the succession of natural pine regeneration, intermediate treatments and release cuttings in established pine stands, and other low-cost forest management techniques in southern pine stands.³⁸ Reynolds is best known for his work on uneven-aged loblolly and short-leaf pine silviculture, especially with the Farm Forestry Forties. A man of strong convictions, Reynolds sometimes clashed with his silvicultural contemporaries. Herman Chapman, for instance, had long espoused the value of controlled burning and had published papers on the topic.³⁹ Reynolds, however, believed that prescribed fire was detrimental to the practice of uneven-aged silviculture in southern pines. Reynolds only grudgingly implemented studies of fire on the Crossett Experimental Forest in response to agency pressure to consider this treatment, and not surprisingly, he was convinced his results proved the incompatibility of fire in uneven-aged pine.⁴⁰ However, the accumulation of evidence supporting Chapman’s position on the role of fire in southern pines eventually led the Forest Service to change its position against the use of controlled burning in this region.

Reynolds also resisted the growing popularity of even-aged silviculture, especially the more intensively managed plantations favored by many in the timber industry. Reynolds opposed an early effort to include even-aged (clearcutting) studies on the



Russell Roy Reynolds

Crossett Experimental Forest, as suggested by fellow Southern Forest Experiment Station scientist Philip Wakeley, leading to years of disagreements between the two.⁴¹ Another example can be found in Reynolds’s rebuttal of a 1973 article by Harry E. Morgan, Jr., a senior vice president at Weyerhaeuser Company, which touted the fiber yield and economic return of short-rotation plantations over uneven-aged stands.⁴² Although industry has almost universally converted to plantation management in the southern United States, Reynolds was correct in insisting that the uneven-aged management of southern pines remained a profitable and productive option, even if more challenging to implement and maintain.⁴³

Reynolds retired from the U.S. Forest Service in January 1969.⁴⁴ Much to his chagrin, the Crossett Experimental Forest was closed on July 1, 1974, to save money and concentrate on plantation-based studies. During the next few years, Reynolds lobbied for it to be reopened to support the silvicultural research and demonstration needs of landowners not interested in pine plantations. At the same time, Georgia-Pacific, which had purchased the Crossett Lumber Company in 1962, sought to reacquire the property on the grounds that the

terms of the original arrangement were no longer being met. The Forest Service, however, decided to keep the forest rather than allow it to revert to Georgia-Pacific.⁴⁵ With much fanfare, the Crossett Experimental Forest reopened on February 14, 1979, with Reynolds among the dignitaries in attendance. He would later lend his support and knowledge to his successor, James B. Baker, who was charged with getting the experimental forest back into productive service. Although retired, Reynolds continued to give tours of the forest and contribute to publications well into the 1980s. His career was recognized by the Forest Service, which gave him two Superior Service awards, and by the Society of American Foresters, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation, and the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association; he also received the 1963 Progressive Farmer Man of the Year.⁴⁶

THE LEGACY OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS

Each of these men—Gates, Chapman, Wackerman, and Reynolds—played a crucial role in the establishment, operation, and even survival of the Crossett Experimental Forest. Without any one of them, it is likely that this important experimental forest would never have contributed valuable research on the piney woods. Many of the original long-term research and demonstration projects have been maintained to this day—the Good and Poor Forties recently were harvested again, for example, and marked their 75th anniversary in 2012. Current scientists and staff at the Crossett Experimental Forest are upgrading the facilities and adding new research projects intended to carry this experimental forest well into the future. □

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NOTES

1. Philip C. Wakeley and James P. Barnett, *Early Forestry Research in the South: A Personal History*, (SRS-137) (Asheville, NC: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 2011): vii–viii.
2. Don C. Bragg, “Learning the Hard Way: The Beginnings of Forest Service Research in Arkansas,” *Journal of Forestry* 103 (July/August 2005): 248–254.
3. George W. Gray, “The Forest Lives On in This Lumber ‘Camp’ Built for Permanence,” *Forest Echoes* 14 (April 1954): 3.
4. Gray, “The Forest Lives On,” 3.
5. Dallas T. Herndon, *The Centennial History of Arkansas*, Volume III (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922), 385.
6. Gray, “The Forest Lives On,” 3.
7. *Ibid.*
8. John Wordy Buckner, *Cap Gates’s Tent City* (Little Rock, AR: Rose Publishing Company, 1983), 1–5.
9. Carolyn Blanks, “Industry in the New South: A Case History,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 11 (Autumn 1952): 164–175; George Walter Balogh, “Crossett: The Community, the Company, and Change,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 44 (Summer 1985): 157–159.
10. Henry Hardtner of the Urania Lumber Company in Louisiana was a notable exception.
11. George W. Gray, “The Forest Lives On, Part II,” *Forest Echoes* 14 (May 1954): 13–15.
12. Janice Clark, “The Rose Inn,” *Ashley News Observer* (Crossett, AR: April 19, 1973 edition).
13. *Ibid.*
14. One such experiment included the development of wooden silos manufactured by the Crossett Silo Company, which was part of the company. J. Frank Keeley, *Arkansas and Her Resources: Facts and Figures from Every County in Arkansas* (Little Rock, AR: Little Rock Publishing Company, 1915), 19.
15. Janice Clark, “Crossett Forests Leap into the 20th Century,” *Ashley News Observer Sesquicentennial Section*, Wednesday, April 9, 1986, 34.
16. James D. Callahan, “Crossett—Monument to Planned Forestry,” *American Forests* 54 (April 1948): 152–154. Improved utilization of hardwoods and pines, coupled with the ability to use smaller trees in the charcoal and paper manufacturing process, allowed for the thinning of second-growth pine timber and removal of unwanted hardwoods.
17. Most of these early details are taken from the biographical sketch originally from the *Yale Forest School News* 51 (October 1963): 71–73, reprinted in the documentation on Chapman’s papers in the Yale University Library collection. Diane E. Kaplan and William E. Brown, Jr., *Guide to the Herman Haupt Chapman Papers* (MS 134). (New Haven, CT: Yale University, August 1986), 4–6.
18. Kaplan and Brown, *Guide to the Herman Haupt Chapman Papers*, 4; Henry Schmitz, “Herman Haupt Chapman Awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of Minnesota,” *Journal of Forestry* 45 (August 1947): 590–591.
19. Schmitz, “Herman Haupt Chapman,” 590; University of Minnesota Forestry Students, “Dedication in Memory of Herman Haupt Chapman, 1874–1963,” *Gopher Peavey Alumni News* (St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, 1964), page unnumbered.
20. Herman H. Chapman, “Prolonging the Cut of Southern Pine, Part I. Possibilities of a Second Cut,” *Yale Forest School Bulletin* 2 (April 1913): 1.
21. Janice Clark, “Crossett-Yale Have Enjoyed Close Relationship Since 1912,” *Forest Echoes* 18 (April 1958): 8.
22. Anonymous, “‘Dear Professor Chapman’: Letters from Yale Forestry Graduates, 1910–1912,” *Journal of Forest History* 25 (October 1981): 208.
23. Chapman, “Prolonging the Cut,” 1–3, 21. Coincidentally, the Hickory Grove Camp was on land that twenty years later became part of the Crossett Experimental Forest.
24. *Ibid.*, 9–22.
25. *Ibid.*, 2, 21–22.
26. Clark, “Crossett-Yale Have Enjoyed Close Relationship Since 1912,” 8–9.
27. Anonymous, “A Forester of Fame Returns to Crossett,” *Forest Echoes* 20 (June 1960): 1–6.
28. James P. Barnett, “Faces from the Past: Profiles of Those Who Led Restoration of the South’s Forests,” (SRS-133) (Asheville, NC: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 2011): 51–52.
29. Elwood R. Maunder, *Oral History Interview with Elwood L. Demmon* (Durham, NC: Forest History Society, February 13, 1959), accessed at: <http://www.foresthistory.org/Research/ohisrch.html#D>.
30. Russell Roy Reynolds, “The Crossett Story: The Beginning of Forestry in Southern Arkansas and Northern Louisiana,” (SO-32) (New Orleans: USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, 1980), 40 p.
31. *Ibid.*, iv.
32. *Ibid.*, 4.
33. Russell Roy Reynolds, “Truck Logging of Pine in Mississippi and Louisiana,” *Occasional Paper* 28 (New Orleans: USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, July 1933).
34. *Ibid.*, 4.
35. *Ibid.*, 5.
36. *Ibid.*, 7.
37. *Ibid.*, 25.
38. His correspondence during this period shows that Reynolds turned down numerous university and timber industry positions (although he did work part-time, funded by a fellowship from the Charles Lathrop Pack Foundation, during the mid-1930s), even when his salary was being cut by the federal government during the Great Depression.
39. Henry Bull and Russell Roy Reynolds, “Management of Loblolly Pine: Further Study Needed,” *Journal of Forestry* 41 (October 1943): 722–26; Herman Haupt Chapman, “Management of Loblolly Pine: Common Sense Needed,” *Journal of Forestry* 41 (October 1943): 726–27; see also Barnett, “Faces from the Past: Profiles of Those Who Led Restoration of the South’s Forests,” (SRS-133) (Asheville, NC: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 2011), 43–45.
40. Reynolds, “The Crossett Story,” 38.
41. Unpublished letter from A. E. Wackerman to Russ Reynolds, July 10, 1934; Philip C. Wakeley and James P. Barnett, “Early Forestry Research in the South: a Personal History,” (SRS-137) (Asheville, NC: U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 2011), 56–58.
42. Harry E. Morgan, Jr. “The Economics of Intensifying Forest Management,” *Forest Farmer* 32 (July/August 1973): 6–8, 14, 16, 18; Russell R. Reynolds, “Selective Timber Management—Its Role,” *Forest Farmer* 33 (March 1974): 6–7, 12.
43. James M. Guldin, “Experience with the Selection Method in Pine Stands in the Southern United States, With Implications for Future Application,” *Forestry* 84 (December 2011): 539–546.
44. Always a vocal advocate of good forestry practices, in retirement Reynolds corresponded with numerous local, state, and national representatives regarding pending legislation and even wrote to then Governor Bill Clinton in 1980 to express his concerns about legislation that he believed would unjustly hinder proper timber management.
45. Failing to reacquire the forest did not disappoint Georgia-Pacific, which preferred the research program at the experimental forest to the land and timber. Correspondence on file shows that in 1974 John E. Wishart, then the forestry manager of the Crossett Division of Georgia-Pacific, vociferously opposed the closing of the experimental forest and suggested that if it had to happen, the facility be given to the University of Arkansas–Monticello (which declined the opportunity). Faced with failing to meet the terms of the original 50-year agreement, the Southern Forest Experiment Station sought a legal interpretation from federal lawyers regarding the terms and definitions incorporated in the deed from the Crossett Lumber Company, and was told that the experimental forest must be staffed locally (not administered remotely) with scientists and administrators, as was insisted by Wishart and Georgia-Pacific in a later letter. In 1977, funds were appropriated for its reopening, and James B. Baker was named the new project leader on February 27, 1978.
46. Other accolades Reynolds received before his death on August 1, 1986, included becoming a fellow of the Society of American Foresters (in 1957) and a Golden Member (at least 50 years of membership in the society).