

The Preston Forest Research Site

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The 50th Anniversary of Humboldt State College has been commemorated in many ways. Distinctive assemblies, concerts, art showings, and many special scholarships and gifts marked the passing of the half-century of education at H. S. C.

A gift with a most interesting background and of special interest to the Forestry Department and alumni and friends was a two-acre site dedicated to the development of forest research. The donors were Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDowell of Arcata.

This generous gift has a thread of history running all the way back to the very foundation of Humboldt State College on its present campus.

A note from "The History of Humboldt State College" by Professor-emeritus Homer Arnold states:

After instruction began at the Humboldt Normal School on April 6, 1914, the institution soon graduated from its original quarters in an old wooden structure, formerly the Arcata Grammar School, at 11th and M Streets. Having outgrown its original environment, on January 1, 1916, the institution was moved to a new site of 51 acres, on which temporary wood buildings had been constructed. This site was donated by W. A. Preston and the stockholders of the Union Water Company.

The Mr. William A. Preston mentioned above was the father of Mary Estelle Preston McDowell. As shown in the accompanying photograph, Mrs. McDowell, then a little girl of eight, had the privilege of

lighting the fuse to blast the first stump from the site on which is now Founders Hall.

Mrs. McDowell later attended the Humboldt Normal Training School (C.E.S.) and eventually went on to attend Humboldt State Teachers College (now Humboldt State College), and after several years, returned and taught at C.E.S. for two years. She has for many years furnished much energy and enthusiasm to the H.S.C. Alumni Association.

The site of the property deeded to Humboldt State is located two blocks east of the Forestry Building, bordering a full block on Bayview Street, and lies adjacent to State property surrounding the Fish Hatchery reservoir.

It is anticipated that as soon as funds are budgeted by the U. S. Forest Service, facilities to accommodate a branch of the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station will be constructed with space for several research foresters working on land management problems of northwestern California. Kenneth Boe, project leader of the Redwood Experimental Forest for the Pacific Southwest Experiment Station, is presently making his headquarters in temporary offices on the campus.

The possibilities that exist by reason of the availability of this tract for the development of research facilities are appreciated by the faculty, student body, and professional foresters in industry and government. To Mr. and Mrs. McDowell, we express our sincere thanks



A 1915 photograph of Mary Estelle Preston lighting a fuse to blast the first stump from the site of Founders Hall. This unique ceremony marked the first development of the present Humboldt State College campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDowell accompanied by representatives of the Forest Service, private industry

and Humboldt State at the Preston-McDowell Forest Research site. This site was dedicated March 29, 1964.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDowell accompanied by representatives of the Forest Service, private industry and Humboldt State at the Preston-McDowell Forest Research site. This site will be dedicated March 29, 1964. L-R (front): Dr. Robert Calahan, Assistant Director of the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Berkeley; Dr. Lawrence Turner, Executive Dean of HSC; Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDowell; William Minkler, Engineer, Region V, USFS, San Francisco. (Second) Kenneth Boe, Project Leader, Redwood Experimental Forest, Klamath (now stationed at HSC); Dr. Ernest Salo; John Miles, Forest Management Consultant, Eureka; Wes Spinney, Superintendent, Six Rivers National Forest; Dr. Ed Sturgeon.