Late afternoon, looking west on the Swift Diamond River, in the College Grant
TIME AND TIMBER IN THE SECOND COLLEGE GRANT

In 1807, after resolving that "the establishment of Dartmouth College has under Divine Providence been signaly useful in diffusing science in the various professions, academies and schools, throughout the state," the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire granted a township of 27,072 acres in far northeastern New Hampshire to Dartmouth College. The land was granted with the provision (liberalized in 1919) that "the incomes of said land shall be applied wholly and exclusively to assist the education of the youths who shall be indigent and to alleviate the expenses of the members of families in this State, whose necessitous circumstances will render it impossible for them to defray the expenses of an education at said seminary without such assistance."

In spite of the subdivision for settlement of the most promising part of the Grant, in 1828, only a few lots were leased, probably due to the rugged nature of the countryside and its extreme remoteness. Even as late as 1841 Francis Parkman could approach the Grant "to have a taste of the half-savage kind of life" in a "howling wilderness." Small amounts of timber were even being sold as early as Parkman's visit, but logging on a large scale did not get underway until 1888, when a twenty-year cutting contract was negotiated permitting the contractor to "cut down, take, and carry away from said grant three million (board) feet a year during said twenty years of the spruce, pine, and cedar, and so much of the fir and poplar as he sees fit to take."

In 1905 the College appointed Phillip W. Ayres as Forester to prevent the rape of the Grant that was occurring at the saws and axes of the "lawless contractors and their friends." Finally, just after World War One, with spruce budworm attacking the trees in the valleys, the College contracted with the Brown Company of Berlin for the sale of all softwood timber. The rotting stumps and scrub that cover much of the Grant today attest to the long-term effects of that particular policy.

Once again, this year, the Grant is to have new management of its timber resources. The College has entered into an agreement with the Seven Islands Land Company of Bangor, a timber management firm, for the enlightened harvest and improvement of the Second Grant timber supply. The term of the agreement is three years, and the cutting is to come under review by the College at yearly intervals. In addition, before cutting in previously uncut areas, the College must approve the stumpage permits that Seven Islands submits. The long range goal of the program, as outlined in considerable detail in a report on Grant timber submitted to the College by Prentiss-Carlisle, a consulting firm also in Bangor, calls for a twenty year program at the end of which time the Grant will have a greater amount of standing timber concentrated in larger and better softwoods.

As this Prentiss-Carlisle report will form the basis for Seven Island’s management of the Grant, it would perhaps be well to examine it in more detail. Prentiss-Carlisle has made estimates of the present forested area of the Grant by acreage and type distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Softwood</td>
<td>4,312</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixedwood</td>
<td>14,395</td>
<td>53.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood</td>
<td>7,642</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Forested</td>
<td>26,349</td>
<td>97.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Forested</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For purposes of harvest, the Grant is divided into eleven operating units, basically following ridges and dividing watersheds. Under the original plan, cutting operations would have begun this fall in Unit VII (See map), the Loomis Valley Brook watershed. However, since the stumpage contractor and Seven Islands are already logging in Wentworth’s Location township south of the Grant, a revised cutting schedule has been approved by the College and logging operations are now underway in Units III and IV south of the Swift Diamond River.

The plan calls for a removal of 4000 cords of wood per year between now and 1989. The method used will be that of selective cutting, with a management goal that aims, according to Prentiss-Carlisle, "for uneven aged stands favoring Spruce-Fir under the controlled cutting to be recommended," and "to embark upon an expanded cut of hardwoods particularly the large old growth trees of poor quality releasing the younger and more vigorous trees." The cutting program will protect the stands along the water and roadways, and, if the College desires, Seven Islands will supervise improvement cutting and junk removal.

D.O.C. President, Charley Allen (Left) and Don Nichol, rafting on Unknown Pond, just west of the Grant
C & T members, John Wood and Don Nichol, and prospective member, Nat Weeks, on the Swift Diamond River in the Grant

In any appraisal of the priorities in the College Grant it is important to have some perspective on just what role money from the Grant logging operations will play in College finance in the coming years. That role is insignificant. Prentiss-Carlisle estimates gross income from the Grant to be $14,000 per year between now and 1975, with an increase in yearly income to a high of $35,000 by 1989. According to Les Peat, Assistant to the Vice President of the College, even though taxes on the Grant are only $630 per year, after paying expenses incurred in the maintenance of the Management Center, the Hell Gate Camp, and the roads, and after paying Seven Islands for their services the College will probably just break even, at least in the earlier years. It is encouraging to note that the flat management fee which Seven Islands gets offers no incentive for them to have the stumpage contractor overcut.

Of prime concern to the Dartmouth Outing Club, and to Dartmouth students in general, will be the effect the new plan has on recreation and conservation in the College Grant. D.O.C.'s Peaks Camp and Alder Brook Cabin, as well as the Merrill Brook Cabin, the Hell Gate Camp, Sam's Cabin, and the Management Center will all come under the aegis of C. Allison Merrill, the College's Director of Outdoor Affairs and the chief professional officer of the D.O.C. Al Merrill and concerned members of the Club are now considering plans for the coordinated recreational use of the Grant, as well as proposals designed to control the
use of snow-mobiles and other obnoxious vehicles within its boundaries. Also being considered are proposals for the setting aside of certain areas to be preserved from all future logging to allow them to return, as much as possible, to their original virgin condition. To this end, D.O.C. President Charles W. Allen and four other members bushwhacked through sixteen miles of the northern and western parts of the Grant to explore some of the more remote areas. They found evidence of large quantities of beaver, moose, deer, and other animals and visited some places of rare scenic beauty that could be endangered by future timber operations. Definite plans for preserve areas are now being worked on, and the D.O.C. is interested in obtaining the views of other members of the community as it deliberates on this question.

All in all, the proposals now being put forth for the Grant sound more promising than any in the past. It must be remembered particularly that the College has not sold or leased the Grant in any manner, and still retains full and very direct control over its management. The question that must be asked, in light of the minuscule amount of revenue to be obtained, is just how much of the Grant should be set aside as complete preserves. While some logging, particularly in second-growth areas, is desirable, it would certainly be well to leave as much of the area undisturbed in the future as possible. Perhaps it all boils down to a simple question: Is the prime consideration of the College as it handles the Second Grant in the next few years to be revenue or recreation?

Ed. Note: Acknowledgement is here made of the invaluable assistance of Les Peat, Assistant to the Vice President; and of the excellent review of the history of the Dartmouth Grants prepared twenty-two years ago by Bob Monahan '29.

TRIPS THIS FALL

This fall the D.O.C. and Cabin and Trail are running a series of hiking trips in the beautiful country of Northern New Hampshire. These trips are open to anyone in the College community, and full information and equipment are available in the D.O.C. offices in Robinson Hall.

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1: MOOSILAUKA CO-ED WEEKEND - - Dancing, hiking, and socializing at the beautiful Ravine Lodge.

NOVEMBER 1: WEBSTER-JACKSON - - A fine day climb with spectacular views of the Presidential and Crawford Notch.

NOVEMBER 8: SMARTS MOUNTAIN - - Climb an easy peak not far from Hanover and enjoy canoeing on Reservoir Pond. Lunch will be served at Himman Cabin.

NOVEMBER 13 - 15: COLLEGE GRANT - - This trip is solely for deer hunters. Arrangements should be made through Bait and Bullet.

NOVEMBER 15: KILLINGTON MOUNTAIN - - A day climb on one of Vermont’s scenic 4000 foot peaks.

NOVEMBER 21 - 22: MT. MOOSILAUKA - - An overnight trip with a stay at our own Summit Cabin. Hike the seldom traveled trails on the mountain.

Organizational meetings for the above trips are held on the Wednesday evening preceding the trip at 7:00. Departure times and transportation will then be arranged.

A NEW ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joining the D.O.C.'s professional staff this fall is a new man directly concerned with day-to-day student activities in the D.O.C. Earl Jette, a forester and former supervisor of Firestone rubber interests in Libya has started working in his office in Robinson Hall. Earl, a graduate of U. Maine and Yale School of Forestry, will be assisting John Rand, but, more importantly, he will be easily available to help students with outdoor projects or problems and to run some of the D.O.C. programs the year round.

Earl himself sees his job as involving as little desk work as possible. He will be assisting the Woodsmen's Weekend team (Yes, there is still a Woodsmen's Weekend!), overseeing the shooting sports program under the new D.O.C. affiliated Trap Shooting Club, teaching the outdoor rec gym program, working with the ski touring program, and teaching undergraduates in the field of forestry and forest-related subjects. Earl has expressed a great deal of interest in College policy in the College Grant, as well as his desire to get out on C&T and D.O.C. weekend trips. He'll also be helping the Cabin's Department of C&T keep the D.O.C. trail facilities in good shape. Primarily, though, his office will always be open, and he'll usually be there or in the D.O.C. shop in the basement of Robinson, for students to consult when they need help on any outdoor-related topics.