

ARMOUR SUMMER CAMP, 1920, TROUT LAKE, WIS.

It was with light hearts that, on the morning of June 5, after a stiff night of poker, our young engineers stepped off the train at Minocqua. Our first step was to look over that Wisconsin metropolis. This was done in fifteen minutes, the most interesting part being an old cannon, placed conspicuously near the station. The arrival of Charlie's "Toonerville Trolley" necessitated our leaving this frontier burg for parts unknown. It did not take us long to realize that an A. I. T. graduate was not the builder of this railroad. We had no time to contemplate however, for the rolling of the train had a lethargic effect upon us. We were awakened by Charlie's cry of "State House." Here, carrying our instruments and suit cases, we alighted. Our dreams were realized as we viewed our surroundings. Trees were all about us. We could imagine animals roaming about. But these were left for the time being as a square meal was uppermost in our minds. Since no welcome committee or "jitney" awaited us, we were left to find our camp alone. This we did with little difficulty, where we lost no time in getting to our tents and rooms and arranging them to our own satisfaction. This was followed by a meal which left us in the best of spirits. The afternoon was spent in getting used to our surroundings.

The next day being Sunday, we were left to our own pleasures. Since the nearest church was 15 miles away, we resorted to games such as 500 and checkers. Hikes were made to Trout Lake Station and Boulder Junction. The latter consisted of a hotel soft-drink bar-room, a few stores and five houses. It was rumored that the town was infested with lumber-jack desperadoes whose pet aversion was the city chap. However, the rumor was groundless for not a single lumber-jack was sighted.

We received our first lesson in surveying on Monday. This consisted in the use of the tape. The succeeding days were spent in traversing, leveling, topographic surveying with rod, stadia and plane table, railroad location, cross-sectioning, triangulation, sounding, measuring the flow of streams, and sighting on the sun for azimuth. A few nights were spent in sighting upon Polaris. Under the able guidance of Profs. Phillips and Armstrong and Mr. Singer, we had little difficulty in becoming proficient surveyors. All was not work however, though at times it was difficult to find a suitable place where we could lie down and not be molested by the sun and flies.

An evening class in "500" was readily organized. Those expert in the game were found to be able instructors. Evening hikes were made to near-by lakes and various summer resorts. Of the latter the Rocky Reef Resort was the most popular. Here, under the guidance of the K. M.'s some of the boys learned to play that most interesting game called "Ouiji," in which O. G. Smith and Bob Mayo became most proficient. Our enjoyment here was short-lived since the proprietor, for some unknown reason, took a violent dislike to the Armour boys. Enjoyment was then made by hauling various students from their beds and tossing them gently, but firmly, into the waters of Trout Lake. This was soon done away with since the howling of the mob disturbed the slumber of our esteemed cook, Mrs. MacDonald.