

Upper Puget Sound

Knut Lunuum

“We lived in some weird places. The crews usually lived in the Civilian Conservation Corp camps (CCC). In Knut’s crew there was another married couple and we didn’t have to stay in the bunkhouse. We would find one place after another, mostly shacks to stay in. When I wrote home to mother I called them cottages. They were shacks. We would stay six weeks in one place, two months in another maybe. We traveled all over Alabama and then back to Arkansas. We were happy.” – Hazel Lunuum



Knut Lunuum was born in 1905 in Norway. At the age of two, his family moved to Silvana, Washington in Snohomish County and purchased 40 acres. Although his father, Haakon Lunuum, had been a teacher in Norway, the family cleared the land and began a new livelihood as farmers.

Knut’s life on the farm instilled in him a reverence for nature, a value he would draw on throughout his career. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1924 and went on to the University of Washington, graduating in 1929 with a degree in forestry.

Hazel, “It was right in the heart of the depression. Jobs were very scarce, even for those who were just out of college. At that time, they were building the Everett Pulp and Paper mill. Knut first got involved while working in the construction of the mill and later worked in its operation. As the depression cut down the jobs, he was out of work.”

As a young couple, Knut and Hazel lived on the road most of the time, staying in shanties and tents. Hazel, “In 1937 Knut became an assistant ranger in Heavener, Oklahoma. Things were getting better. We didn’t move around quite so much. Then Knut was made ranger and we moved to Arkansas, and then back to Alabama. But we always wanted to get back to the Northwest. Finally, in 1947 he heard about a job as Washington extension forester at Washington State University (WSU), so he applied and got it. We moved to Pullman and we were there for 21 years until Knut retired.”

Knut traveled statewide working with tree farmers and extension agents. He was influential in the WSU and UW working together to share information, as well as bringing Western Washington Farm Forestry together with Eastern Washington Farm Forestry to form the Washington Farm Forestry Association. Knut had a flair for copywriting and created numerous slogans, the two most popular being, “Trees of Washington” and “Trees are a Crop.”

Knut continued to lead an active life as a volunteer after retirement. His projects ranged from the Washington Farm Forestry Association to the development of Troll Haugen, a mountain lodge for the Sons of Norway. A section in the Yakima Arboretum is dedicated to Knut for his influence and contribution.



“Knut’s passion was trees. He loved trees. I don’t think he ever saw a tree that he didn’t like.” – Hazel Lunuum

Knut Lunuum, 1905 - 2002

Hazel Allan Lunuum, born May 31, 1910

Original Founding Member Western Washington Farm Forestry Association