

*time with any of the underlings; he'd just go to the general manager or company president and tell him that he ought to be interested in the future of his timberlands. He would take these men right out into the woods and cut down a tree or two and show them how rapidly these trees were growing and that forestry was not such a long-time proposition as they might have thought. Many a hard-headed lumberman became interested in forestry by just such tactics. . . . Dr. Cary would get them right out in the woods and show them on the ground. He spoke their language."*¹⁶

Frank Heyward, former general manager of the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association, summed up Cary's contribution: "Austin Cary dedicated the last 19 years of his life to awakening southern wood-using industries to the possibilities of timber growing. He was successful to a remarkable degree, and his accomplishments in the fields of fire protection and forest management comprise the greatest contribution by any single person to southern forestry."¹⁷

Meanwhile in Bogalusa, Red Bateman, chief ranger for Great Southern, designed a dibble and planted some twenty thousand acres of longleaf seedlings. Working with primitive tools and both planting and direct seeding, Great Southern also began implementing hog and fire protection. Great Southern produced what may have been the first commercial hand-planted forest in the South. At first the company went out and dug up wild plants for its plantations, but it then established a nursery to provide seedlings. The company's seedlings suffered from fires, and many of the planted trees died, but the effort continued, and as Cary remarked, if the Great Southern plantations survived, "forestry was fool proof in the South." Great Southern also owned several hundred thousand acres of timberland in Mississippi.¹⁸

Another pioneering firm in the implementation of a sustained-yield program was the Crossett Lumber Company in Arkansas. The Crossett story is legendary within the southern forest-products industry. As former Mississippi state forester Richard Allen remembered,

Crossett was one of the largest mills in the country. And they were fixin' to shut that big plant down. And so the board members came down to Crossett, Arkansas, to see the last logs bein' sawed and to decide what to do. . . . [T]his director they said, walked up on the green chain where the logs were bein' pulled up to the saws, and he saw a log comin' up there about 14 inches in diameter. The rings were pretty far apart. And right ahead of it had been a log that was just real dense. . . . And he stopped it, and he said, "I wanta' know where this log came from and where this came from." And he counted the rings and this one here was 28 years old . . . this one over here was 60 sumpin years old. And he said, "What's goin on here?" . . . They . . . found some more logs like that on the yard and they said that logger that's bringin' these in, came from, and they gave the location. . . . [T]hey went out there and they had had a cyclone through that site some 25 years before then. And there was plenty of seed sources, it had blown these trees down and opened up the forest and it reseeded into this young growth, and so this 25 year old cruiser said, "All we've gotta do is reseed it. You don't just go in and cut it, and burn it, and get out and let it go back for taxes." And that's when Crossett became what it is today."¹⁹ □

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Great Southern also produced what may have been the first commercial hand-planted forest in the South. Here, a Great Southern Lumber Company crew is planting one-year old Slash pine seedlings on cutover land in 1925. The seedlings are being planted in plowed furrows near Bogalusa, Louisiana with a planting bar designed by Red Bateman.