



"CHIPS and SAWDUST"

A Newsletter from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin

VOLUME I - No. 1

November, 1976

This newsletter is being inaugurated on the premise that our members will want to be kept informed of their Association's growth, its program development and the actions of its directors in implementing those programs. The regularity of the newsletter will depend on the amount of suitable material that may be available. Responsibility for its format and content will not rest with just one editor but will be divided among the officers and directors. If that sounds like this publication may be rather sporadic and haphazard, it is only because, like the early stages of the Association itself, "Chips and Sawdust" will be going through a period of organization, perhaps mostly by trial and error.

Hopefully, items of general interest will be submitted by members from time to time. If readers also wish to use "Chips and Sawdust" as a vehicle for editorial comment regarding the Association's activities, we will try to provide space for such discourse also. We would encourage members who have artifacts or memorabilia for sale or exchange to submit such information for a special column that could be of service to potential buyers. In any event, we want "Chips and Sawdust" to be by members, for members, and about members, but still offering tid-bits of news concerning forest history, both past and current.

MEMBERSHIP GROWING

The Association's membership continues to increase steadily. The honor of becoming the 100th charter member went to Al Barden of Eagle River on October 5, 1976. Al is an instructor of vocational training in forestry and timber production at Nicolet College in Rhineland.

Our membership goal is to reach 200 by December 31 in further observance of this bicentennial year. You can help attain that objective by enrolling a friend with the attached application form.

NEW BOOK ON LOGGING

"Caulked Boots and Cant Hooks" is a collection of personal reminiscences by George Corrigan, charter member who is credited with providing the idea that resulted in the birth of the Association. George details many of his logging experiences during the period 1912 to 1937 in the north central areas of Wisconsin. Those wishing to get an autographed copy can write him at R.F.D. Box 82 - Saxon, WI 54559.

AID TO FOREST HISTORY RESEARCH

For those doing research on a particular aspect of early logging or lumbering history, it is possible that new sources of information can be tapped through your fellow members. For example, you might like to trade log branding hammers with Karl Baumann of Peshtigo, or exchange notes with Ed Steigerwaldt at Tomahawk on how or where to acquire logging camp blacksmith tools. Perhaps you want to know more about the locations of narrow gauge logging railroads--just ask Jim Kaysen of Cedarburg. And Walter Scott of Madison can tell you all you will want to know about centennial trees in the Madison area.

If you want to be put in touch with other members who may share a common interest, just drop us a note and we'll try to make the connection.

EARLY LUMBER INDUSTRY OF NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

One of the more absorbing accounts of the early development of the lumber industry of the St. Croix and Chippewa River drainages is contained in Col. W. G. Hoar's "History is Our Heritage". Particular emphasis is given to the building of the Crescent Springs Railway and the operations of the Shell Lake Lumber Company between 1879 and 1902. The book was published by the White Birch Printing Company at Shell Lake.

LOGGING MUSEUMS

If you have not yet visited any of the seven major logging museums in the state, you are missing an opportunity to re-live some aspects of the old lumberjack days. Take an hour or two to stroll through the re-created environments of that era. Almost certainly you will again hear the stomp of caulked boots, the bizarre words and phrases of lumberjack lingo, and perhaps even the echo of "T-i-m-b-e-r-r-r!" Museum locations are:

- Rhineland Logging MuseumRhineland (Oneida Co.)
- Connor's Camp Five & Lumberjack Special. .Laona (Forest Co.)
- Menominee Logging Camp MuseumKeshena (Menominee Co.)
- Marinette County Historical Museum . . .Marinette (Marinette Co.)
- Paul Bunyan Logging CampEau Claire (Eau Claire Co.)
- Born Lumber MuseumDownsville (Dunn Co.)
- HistorylandHayward (Sawyer Co.)

HISTORIC NOTE

From the front page of the Stevens Point (Portage Co.) "Evening Gazette" of May 21, 1879: "The estimated log crop on Wisconsin streams this season is 1,635,000,000 feet, against 1,075,000,000 last year".

Compare the foregoing with 1973 sawlog production of 386,500,000 board feet, plus 1,758,400 cords of pulpwood, a product for which a market did not yet exist in 1879. If that pulpwood volume is converted to board feet at the conventional rate of 2 cords per 1000 board feet, the total 1973 cut was 1,265,700,000 board feet, a harvest greater than in 1878! Who said Wisconsin's forests are disappearing!