

Volume 30

Number 1



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A quarterly newsletter from the

**Forest History  
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1001  
Marinette, WI 54143

**Spring 2005**

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# *Chips and Sawdust*

Volume 30, Number 1

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**CHECK OUT**

**Our Website!**

**[www.foresthistorywi.com](http://www.foresthistorywi.com)**



## From The President's Chair

Sometimes we're so busy with our lives we forget we are a part of history. We're all living in historical times because today becomes a part of tomorrow's history. Not a profound statement, but it's worth a reminder now and then. Along that line FHAW has been invited to take part in Antigo's Liberty Days this coming July 15-17. You can read about it on the web at [www.libertyinc.org](http://www.libertyinc.org). The theme is a "Journey Back in Military Time" with an emphasis the World War II era. FHAW is requested to use our exhibit to show the kinds of things that our forests and the people of the north contributed to the war effort at that time. We have a few photos to use and are looking for more. Perhaps you can help!

For instance we have some photos of the Lumber Jills cutting timber with bow saws during that time. The men were scarce in those times. There was the event of the "Pulpwood Parade" in Tomahawk at that time to emphasis the need for wood and paper. I grew up in St. Paul at that time and nearby there was a factory we called the "glider factory". There was a large field next to the factory which the community was asked to use for "victory gardens." The factory used an abundance of paper and wood to ship its in and outbound materials. When we were lucky we could bring home a load of broken pallets and use them in our coal furnace. Wood was an important element in the war effort.

I'm sure many of you have stories and photos you can share. **Will you get in touch with me or a Board or Committee member and help us out?** We could use some help manning the exhibit too.

Another important issue, along the same line, is the matter of protecting recent forest history. With the number of changes that have taken place with in both the government and industries over the last few decades there are ample opportunities to lose track of things. As those who lived the experience depart suddenly there is a puzzle for the people who remain. To both help and hinder the protection of that history is the paradigm shift into the electronic age. A second request is to ask for your participation in protecting that history. There are many ways to do this.

Your photos with a brief description would be great to put in *Chips & Sawdust*, a good historical story would be easy to use at one of our annual meetings and be included in the *Proceedings*, and some artifacts could be donated for preservation in a proper location or lesser artifacts donated to use in FHAW's annual auction.

Please take the time to be involved.

Miles Benson  
FHAW Board President

# BOOK REVIEW

## Rainbow Around the Moon

*An Autobiography by Malcolm Rosholt*

One of Malcolm Rosholt's passions has been to preserve in writing our history and traditions for the enjoyment of future generations. He has written over 25 books on Wisconsin history and on the lives and cultures of other people and nations. Now at 96 years old he has written about his life and his rich family history.

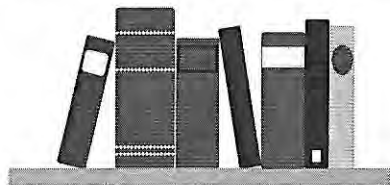
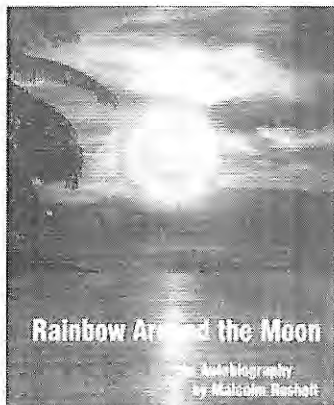
The first part of "Rainbow Around the Moon" starts with the arrival in America of the Rosholts in 1845. In 1847 they moved to the territory of Wisconsin. Here the Rosholt family cleared their land, built their home and farmed the land. They were instrumental in starting the "Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Waupaca". They ran the Rosholt Hotel. They invested in huge tracts of timberland, which made them a handsome return on their investment when logging came to Wisconsin. The town of Rosholt was named after them showing the influence the Rosholt family had on the area. The telling of these and many other old time stories along with Malcolm's early years memories brings the past to life.

The next part of the book tells how Malcolm first gets to know and visit China, a land and people he grew to love. Being a journalist Malcolm gives the reader a close-up view of the war years in China. This includes stories of his meetings with Madame Chang Kai-shek, Pearl Buck, John Birch, Clare Lee Chennault, General McArthur, along with many others. He was assigned to the 14th Air Force (The Flying Tigers) as the liaison-intelligence officer in the China, Burma, India theater of operations. He tells of his participation with them, including his first combat mission. Malcolm received many commendations and when WWII ended he was discharged with the rank of Major.

The final part of the book is "Around the World". Because of his own interest and in the service to our country, Malcolm was able to travel the world extensively. Being a great photographer, he was able to bring his stories back in picture form. While this book offers the reader Malcom Rosholt's unique view, it has a common thread for all Americans, making us think and remember our lives and history. "Rainbow around the Moon" will provide you with many hours of enjoyable and informative reading.

This hardcover 8½x11 book of 272 pages is filled with over 250 rare, new and old photos. The history of the Rosholt family shows what this country had to offer to those who were willing to work and fight for it. \$29.50

Other books by Malcolm Rosholt: *Letters Home from Shanghai*; *The Wisconsin Logging Book*; *Chinese Fairy Tales*; *China's First Lady*; and *The Press Corps of Old Shanghai*.





## **About the Author: Malcolm Rosholt**

Malcolm Rosholt was born in a village in central Wisconsin named for his grandfather, J.G. Rosholt, pioneer lumberman and banker, and grew up with the smell of pine sawdust in his nose. When he was fourteen, he worked in his grandfather's sawmill where custom sawing was done for farmers, and when he finished high school he worked one spring in one of the last big sawmills in the state at Eagle River. Living with the crew in a shanty built on a barge anchored in the river, he listened to the stories of the

lumberjacks and he heard about their hardships, and their good times, and he ate of the good food that was piled high on the table three times a day.

After completing his B.A. degree in 1931 (St. Olaf College), Rosholt left for the Orient where he became a reporter on an English-language newspaper in Shanghai. In 1933 he came home to get married and brought his bride back to Shanghai. Here in 1936, a daughter was born who was named Mei-fei, for a famous beauty of the T'ang Dynasty.

Rosholt covered the Sino-Japanese wars in Shanghai in 1932 and in 1937, and in 1938 he returned home to lecture and write about his experiences.

A year after America's entry into World War II, he was commissioned a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force, returned to China on a troop transport, and flew over the famed Burma "Hump" to join the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force commanded by Claire L. Chennault.

After the war, he re-established his residence in Rosholt where he became deeply interested in state and local history. Since 1948 he has published or contributed to eleven books on Wisconsin and two on his experiences in China with the Air Force. His books on Wisconsin have twice won him the coveted Award of Merit from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He continues his interest in local history, and is the curator of the Rosholt Pioneer Museum which is filled with artifacts of pioneer life and has an extensive picture collection.

*In memory of Malcolm Rosholt 1839-1939. He was a prolific writer on many subjects for which he did extensive research. His most noteworthy forest history related publications are: The Battle of Cameron Dam, Lumbering on the Chippewa, Wisconsin Logging Book and his The Wisconsin Loggers video series.*



# **Family Forestry Expo**

**Camp 5 Museum, Laona, WI**

**July 23rd • 11 am (first train) to 4 pm**

**A Day of Education & Fun for the Whole Family!!!**

# Tracks From The Past

## The Flanders Spur

The timber harvest in northern Oconto County was coming to an end in the 1930's. Not only stump pastures remained but also logging railroad grades left behind their marks as well. Many of these railbeds can be found today. Timber cutting was done in the winter and in the summer the railways were laid into the stands of timber that were scheduled to be cut in the following winter. Tracks and ties were taken up when a cut was completed and laid elsewhere.

Logging railroads in this area made connections with the Chicago and Northwestern Railway at many locations. The location that will be discussed in this paper is the Flanders Spur which was built by the C & NW in 1923 on its Laona Line of the Lakeshore Subdivision.

Flanders Spur is located about one mile south of Carter, WI on the west side of Highway 32. Its length was only 2,698 feet, and from this point the C & NW built an additional 2.44 miles of track for the Oconto Lumber Company (founded by George Farnsworth). With this rail line the Oconto Company extended their spurs into the timber lands. Holt Lumber Co. also used it to reach their holdings in Forest and Langlade counties.

In the short length of the Flanders Spur was a three track rail yard that facilitated switching operations. 1938 aerial photos show strings of flat cars on the side tracks. In 1941 the Oconto Company ended their railroad operations at this Spur, and Holt's entire railroad program ended in 1938.

In the present time a large portion of the Flanders Spur can be seen. Some of it has been buried by the relocation of Highway 32 and the construction of Diamond Roof Road.

The Oconto Company began railroad operations at the West End of Bonita Branch Line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway in 1916. From there the harvest was being conducted in a northerly direction through the townships of Doty, Wolf River, and Townsend. In 1928 operations ended at the Bonita Branch at which time the Oconto Company began hauling timber to the Flanders Spur. Many grades are found between these points.

The map and accompanying guide explains the main features of the Flanders Spur.



# CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN

BUILT 1928 - ABANDONED after 1942

T31N R15E SECTION 4

Township of Townsend, Wisconsin

## MAP GUIDE FOR THE FLANDERS SPUR

1. Point of beginning. The north switch point of the Spur at the Main Line. Presently buried under Highway 32. The writer took measurements from an original C & NW map and found the switch point to be in the east gravel shoulder of the Highway and across from the Quartz Hill parking lot. South of the parking lot the grade can be found.
2. Switch Yard. The grade widens to where three sets of tracks were laid. It runs on a high fill through a ravine. Coal and firebox cinder is present.
3. Wooden Box Culvert Site. A ten foot deep and 15 foot wide gorge marks the site of a wooden culvert. In the past 60 years the culvert deteriorated and erosion carried away this part of the grade. Some timbers are found at the bottom of the gorge. On the east bank there is much old garbage from neighboring taverns. (Liquor bottles, glass and oil cans.)
4. Drainage Ditch. A drainage ditch was built in 2003 to divert a spring creek away from the Diamond Roof Road. It runs 300 feet north of Diamond Roof Road. In this part of the obliterated grade bits of coal and firebox cinder are present.
5. Diamond Roof Road. This is also known as Forest Road 2123. This part of the road covers the south connecting track to the former Main Line of the C & NW. South from this point FR 2123 covers the rest of the Flanders Spur and on the west side some evidence of the grade can still be found.
6. End of C & NW Ownership. The writer marked this point by tying a pink ribbon on a double yellow birch tree. At this point the C & NW built an additional 2.44 miles of track for the Oconto Lumber Company. Following south on Diamond Roof Road one can find more spur grades. Some of these are used as logging roads, snowmobile trails, and fire lanes.

Map information obtained from:  
C & NW Historical Society Archives  
Field Survey Conducted by Brad Pagels  
10-30-2004



# RN RAILWAY - FLANDERS SPUR

HWY 32

To CARTER

QUARTZ HILL

C&NW RR (MAIN LINE. abandoned ca. 1980)

N

To TOWNSEND

FR 2123

## LEGEND

- +++++ Visible Railroad Grade
  - ▬ Roads Built Over Railroad Grades
  - ① Map Guide Reference Point
- Scale 1' = 600 feet

## AFTERWORD

Railroad grades are a reminder of what has happened in the past in this part of the Nicolet National Forest. To walk on one of these grades it is hard for one to imagine what the land looked like when the rails were taken up, all the large timber was cut and fields of stumps were all that was left. Today the forest is back along with sound timber management practices, the trees are indeed growing well and healed the scars of the practice of "cut out and get out".

The writer has been exploring grades and collecting information to share with the U.S. Forest Service Archeologist in an endeavour to preserving some of the railroad grades for future generations to learn and know about forest history.

## REFERENCES CITED

Joseph Pierson, Archivist, C & NW Historical Society

-Provided the Valuation Map of Flanders Spur (V46 Map 11 Drawer 188)

Tim Sasse, Website "Master List of Wisconsin Logging Railroads."

"Photos From Wisconsin's Past"

-page 158, map of the "Cucumber Line. Courtesy of Dr. Randall E. Rohe. Malcolm Rosholt, Author

"Tracks From the Past" submitted by Brad Pagels.

Email: [pagreb13056@yahoo.com](mailto:pagreb13056@yahoo.com)



Taken from the *Montana Logger*, July 2002

# **Ghost of the Forest: Vanished Lumber Towns of Wisconsin**

## **~ ORDER FORM ~**

The hardcover book, with dust jacket, is available for \$42.50 plus postage and handling. For books shipped to libraries via Wisconsin Libraries' Delivery Network there is no postage charge but a handling fee of \$1.50 per book.

Number of Copies (x \$42.50 per copy) \_\_\_\_\_

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# "A Journey Back In Military Time"

1776  
Civil War  
WWI &  
WWII  
Camps

Antigo Liberty Days  
**July 15, 16 & 17**

Langlade County Fairgrounds  
Antigo, WI

**WWII US & German  
Battle Re-Enactment**



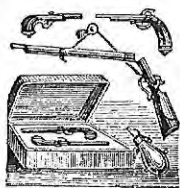
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# **REGISTER NOW!**

## **FHAW 2005 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Register NOW! Elkhart Races are  
the same weekend,  
EARLY REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!**

**Baymont Inn  
2932 Kohler Memorial Dr. Sheboygan, WI 53081  
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www.baymontinns.com**

**Greenbush & Sheboygan County  
Historical Society Museum**

**Friday & Saturday  
September 30th & October 1st**

**Friday Tour will feature the:**

- **Wadehouse • Herrling Sawmill**
- **Kettle Moraine State Forest**
  - **Sheboygan County  
Historical Society Museum**
- **A Furniture Factory in Sheboygan**
- **Friday Night Dinner & Auction**



**Saturday Meeting will be held in the lower auditorium of the Sheboygan County Historical Society County Museum. Tentative speakers are expected to include the History of furniture production, Restoration of the Herrling water powered sawmill, and Timber Rafting on the Great Lakes. Also, on Saturday we will hold our Membership Annual Meeting.**

# Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

## - Membership Application -

Please enroll me as a member and participant in the Association's program of developing the educational and historical aspects of

- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Membership (\$5.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$15.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$25.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non Profit Organization Membership (\$25.00)
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)

Other Contributions:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student Awards
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Capital Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operations



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail this application with payment to:

**Executive Secretary**  
**Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1001**  
**Marinette, WI 54143-1001**

Detach along line

Detach along line

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### 31st Annual Meeting

Sara Connor (Camp 5 Museum)  
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Laona, WI 54541  
SWCN6488SC@aol.com

### 32nd Annual Meeting

Sara Connor (Madison)

### 33rd Annual Meeting

Open

### 34th Annual Meeting

Open

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