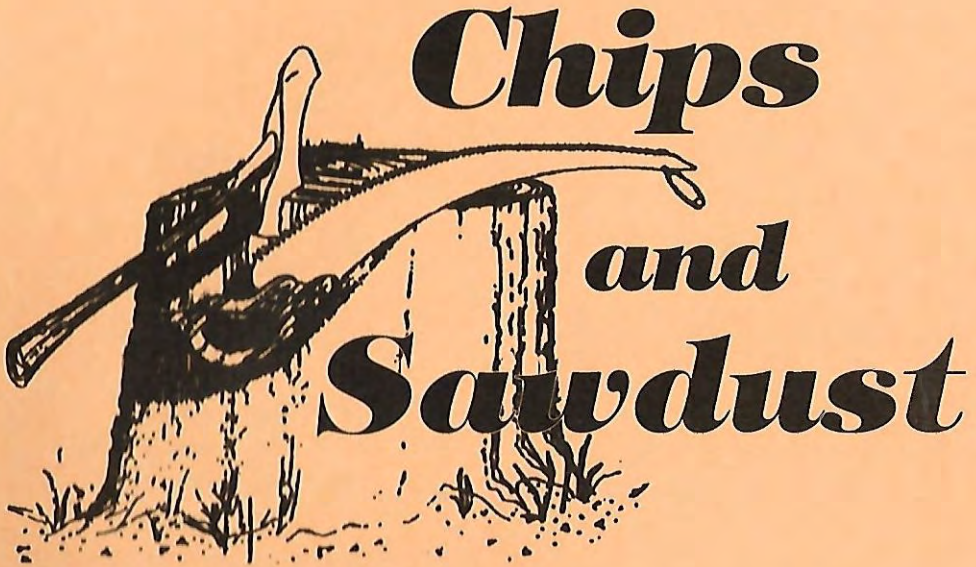


Volume 36

Number 1



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

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Winter 2011

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Chips and Sawdust

Volume 36. Number 1

Table of Contents

From the President's Chair.....pages 2 - 3

Heard from our Memberspages 3, 9, 10

Forest Products Laboratory, 1910—2010.....pages 4 - 5

“Experiences of B.F. McMillan”pages 6 - 7

Obituaries.....page 8

“Lumberjack Saved the Union Fleet” page 11

FHAW Membership Application.....page 12

Mark Your Calendars



**Forest History Association
of Wisconsin
36th Annual Meeting**

**September 15—17, 2011
Holiday Inn Conference Center
Marshfield, Wisconsin**

Living History Presentations

***Lectures and Tours at Mead Wildlife Area
And Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame***

***Lumberjack Songs with Brian Miller
Accompanied with Randy Gosa on the banjo***

MapleFall Festival Activities and much more

From The President's Chair



Dear Friends,

Spring is around the corner – “March comes in like a lion and....” I wish you all a Happy Easter.

This winter brought some sad news for us. Members of the “Greatest Generation,” some within our ranks have left us - Eugene Harm, a co-founder of FHAW and John Saemann. (Please see the news inside.) We are all greatly saddened. The FHAW has received some wonderful donations in their memory. The Board will be working on scholarships to further forestry studies by students.

Also, in the “New Books ,” we are pleased that John Koning, the 2007 FHAW Fixmer Award recipient has published The Forest Products Laboratory -1910-2010: Celebrating a Century of Accomplishment. Published by the University of Wisconsin Press, the book is a terrific history of FPL’s work and amazing contributions to industry. The order blank and instructions are inside!

The “History of Wisconsin Logging” exhibit has been at the Marshfield Library this winter and will be returning to Chippewa Falls this spring. If you would like it for your conferences or meetings, please contact a Board member. In addition, a new DVD exhibit is being developed to work with a LCD and monitor/tv. This exhibit was funded again by the Hamilton Roddis Foundation.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has completed the review of the Forestry section for their educational series for the teacher edition. They are about to embark on making an interactive DVD for teachers and students. FHAW needs to continue to work on and have input on these projects.

The 2011 Fall Conference will be in Central Wisconsin. Please be sure to check for dates and Registration material in the *Chips and Sawdust* , Summer, 2011 edition and watch for PR announcements.

The FHAW Board will be meeting in May. If you have any items that you would like on the Agenda, please contact me.

I am pleased that an article written by our 2005 Guest Lecturer at Camp 5 Museum, Charles Day, and your president will be published this spring in the *American Aviation Historical Society: Primary Light Airplane Gliding School at Janesville, Wisconsin*.

Have a wonderful Happy Easter.
Sincerely,

Sara W. Connor



Heard from Our Members

Karl Baumann — Marinette, Wisconsin and Estero, Florida

From time to time the Forest History Association of Wisconsin has featured information about members and their efforts on behalf of Forest History. I would like to recognize one member, Jerry Poprawski, who has contributed to our organization over the years. Jerry is a retired public school history and math teacher of 31 years. He was born in Lake County, Michigan where logging was a vital part of community life and developed a keen interest in logging and lumbering history of the area. A collection of Lake States logging artifacts, books, visits to lumbering museums, and interviews with local historians led Jerry to develop two living history programs on the life and lore of the lumberjacks. The two programs, “Bull of the Woods” and “Peavey-Pigs-Pirates & Pike Poles” have been performed at historical societies, museums, schools, and historic sites in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. A chance encounter with Frank Fixmer introduced Jerry to the Forest History Association of Wisconsin where he has been able to keep his passion for lumbering and forest history alive and growing.

Larry Easton — Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

Editor's note: The following article appeared in the previous issue of Chips and Sawdust, but a *Continued on page 9*

Forest Products Laboratory, 1910–2010
Celebrating a Century of Accomplishments
Compiled and edited by John W. Koning Jr.

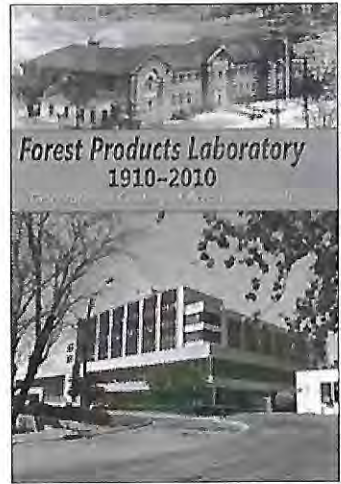
"A testament to the long-standing and innovative contributions of the Forest Products Laboratory to U.S. Forest Service research over these past 100 years. I am continually impressed with the depth and breadth of this research, and former assistant director Koning has done an excellent job compiling such a comprehensive work."

—Tom Tidwell, Chief, USDA Forest Service

Founded in 1910, the Forest Products Laboratory was created as an interdisciplinary research facility to solve difficult problems important to sustainable forest management and to a diverse wood products industry. The laboratory—a federal facility located on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus—conducts cutting-edge research that has transformed old industries and created new ones, including lumber production, corrugated containers, recycled paper, production of alcohol from wood, commercial cultivation of shiitake mushrooms, and hundreds of other businesses. This book illustrates what can be accomplished when the American public supports a federal laboratory that works in cooperation with universities, industries, and associations.

It includes:

- concise summaries of 65 significant achievements of the Forest Products Laboratory, with citations to the original research reports



536 pp. 9 x 12
Over 500 color and 300 b/w
photos

ISBN 978-0-299-28320-9

"No one knows the rich history of the Forest Products Laboratory as John Koning does. His efforts in compiling this all-inclusive book, from conception to final design, have been most impressive. FPL's tradition of problem solving and dedication is inherent in this work. To see our progress in print like this, with so many wonderful photos and knowledgeable descriptions, is yet another historic event marking our centennial year." —Chris Risbrudt, Director, Forest Products Laboratory

- a comparison of wood utilization in 1910 and in 2010
- examples of the financial impact of the wood products industry on job creation and on the American economy
- color photographs throughout illustrating research initiatives and products, forest ecosystems, and the FPL facilities over the course of a century
- three reprinted reports that provide in detail the history and impact of selected examples of FPL research
- a list of many of the people who have worked at the FPL during its one-hundred-year history. The curious browser will find this inviting, colorful book full of surprising and remarkable information about the many ways that wood products affect daily life. Scientists, manufacturers, policymakers, and other experts will find it an extraordinary reference and history of significant accomplishments in forest products research.

John W. Koning Jr. joined the staff at the Forest Products Laboratory in 1961 and conducted research in paperboard packaging. Following retirement in 1986, he joined the Engineering Professional Development Department in the College of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and worked with industry in developing educational courses. He has published articles on a range of subjects including research management and corrugated containers.

Order your copy of Forest Products Laboratory,
1910—2010

Through the University Press:

[http://shop.wisconsinhistory.org/productcart/pc/
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From the Newspaper Archives



Editor's Note: The following article appeared in The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, on Friday, January 29, 1904, Page 4. It reminds me that the young men who became successful Wisconsin lumbermen did so by overcoming adverse conditions while working with determination to build their businesses. I hope you enjoy reading it too.

Experience of B. F. McMillan

"One of the hardest experiences that I ever had," remarked B. F. McMillan of McMillan, the lumberman, at the Hotel Pfister, "was back in the 90s. My brother and I were logging together. We had three camps, and consequently three landings on the stream on which we were operating.

I went to the upper landing to build my wanigan, which, by the way, is a cook shanty on a float, to prepare for the crew, which was to come up and start the drive. As I was at work I noticed that the water was going down rapidly, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon I realized that it would be impossible to start the upper drive. This necessitated a change of plans, as brother was to send

up the drivers the next day. I started immediately for the mill to intercept the men, and as it was only five miles to the middle drive I concluded to stop there and investigate the conditions. I jumped on a log and went floating with it down the stream after the fashion of the lumbermen of the day. I arrived at the middle landing about 6 o'clock in the evening and soon made up my mind that the drive could not be started.

"I went then to the lower end of the drive, picked out a log, and started down the stream once more. It was getting dark, and in the course of my journey millward I encountered one of those great bends in the river that would take an hour and a half to go around by water and about fifteen minutes to make the distance across by land. However, to cut across, the water still being high, I had to pass over a large area that had been flooded by a creek that had overflowed its banks.

"I took to the water, pike pole in hand, feeling my way ahead with it, calculating that when I came to the creek, I would cross it with the pole.

"I waded in the water, waist

deep, which was coated over with ice about as thick as window glass. Darkness gathered in round about me and I was left floundering. I did not want to get a complete ducking by dropping into the creek, and in the darkness I could not find it.

"It was then about midnight, and dreadfully cold, and I was afraid I would get cramps. I concluded to go back to terra firma, build a fire – I carried a stock of matches in my hat – and wait until morning. I put this program into effect, and as I stood warming myself I ate a lunch of bread and fried pork that I had, water soaked, in my pocket.

"Cold as I was, and with my clothing frozen, I could not remain inactive. I went to the river once more, and in the darkness managed to find a log and get on it by wading in up to my armpits. It was so dark, and the bank was overhanging with trees and underbrush, so that I was afraid of 'sweepers.' Don't know what a sweeper is? Why, those overhanging trees, which will sweep you off the log.

"I reached the lower drive all right, and then started overland for the mill. It was as dark as pitch. I had to pass by a lot of old shanties, and I went in and tried to find something to make a light, but failed. On the outside I struck a match, found a whisk of hay, and made a hay rope. By lighting this from time to time I managed to follow the hay road, and journeyed along until I had but one match left. It was then about 3 o'clock in the morning, and I used my last Lucifer in building a fire, camped out there under the stars until daylight, and managed to reach the mill just as brother was sending the men out to the drive.

"It was a terrible experience while it lasted, but I was as tough as a pine knot in those days, and was about the next day, suffering no inconvenience whatever from the exposure. I am a pretty healthy fellow at the present time, don't you think?"

And B.F. McMillan of McMillan beamed forth rays of cheerfulness as he pulled away on a choice cigar of a domestic brand.

In 1873, Benjamin F. McMillan and his brother, Charles, embarked extensively in the lumber business. In that year, they selected a mill site along the Little Eau Pleine river north of Marshfield in Marathon County. That site later became the village of McMillan.

FHAW Bids Farewell to Two Members

Eugene L. Harm, 87 formerly of Cadott, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Tuesday, February 15, 2011. He was born in Cadott to Louis and Mary (Lyden) Harm on January 7, 1924.

Eugene served the town of Arthur as clerk for 45 years. In his early years he was honored as a "Young Farmer of Chippewa County." He was a charter member of the Cadott Historical Society and recognized as a Hall of Fame member of the Chippewa County Historical Society. As an avid, lifelong collector, many of his artifacts are displayed at both museums.

He was a member of the Wisconsin Forest History Association which continued the family legacy of the logging era.

Eugene will be remembered for his love of family and storytelling of local history including his beloved Drywall community. He enjoyed long rides in the country side, trips to the farm and family cabin.



John H. Saemann passed away on Sunday, January 9, 2011. He was 94 years young and until recently was very active, mentally acute and a major Packer and Badger fan. He passed away in Union Grove, Wisconsin at the Veterans Assisted Living Facility.

John was born October 14, 1916 at Plymouth, Wisconsin the son of Jesse and Adelaide (nee Krumrey) Saemann and grew up in Adell, Wisconsin. He attended Waldo High School, the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Go Badgers!) and graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

John was Marinette County's extension Forestry Agent and Forest Administrator for 33½ years. After retiring he and his wife, Patricia, moved to his forest property in Florence County. He served in the Army during WW II. He taught in the Engineer School (surveying) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and spent 14 months overseas in England, France, and Germany.

He enjoyed active membership in the Marinette County Historical Society and the Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

John was recognized in 1986 with the Distinguished Service Award from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin: he was recognized with the John Macon Award from the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters in 1991: and in 1994 was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame.

Continued from page 3 technical error caused the loss of contact information for Larry Easton.

As the timberlands close to Oshkosh were cleared, logging was done at greater distances. The upper waters of the Wolf River were being exploited with dams controlling the water flow for the log drives in the spring. When the Wisconsin Central built through the middle of the state, this opened up new timber lands and a reliable means of getting it to the manufacturers in the Fox Valley.

In the Stevens Point Journal, January 3, 1873, an article on Lumbering appeared giving some statistics and interesting information on the Wisconsin Central's roll in this industry. Below are excerpts from the article, raising some questions which need to be answered:

"And now some of those engaged in lumber manufacturing at Oshkosh have turned their faces towards the north west, and aided by the Central Railroad, are getting their next summers supplies from away northwest of Stevens Point. The pioneers in this enterprise have a large gang of men in the woods near the track and it is their intention to put in 4,000,000 feet of logs. They will be taken down on the cars and dumped off at Gill's Landing, from which point they will reach the city via the Wolf River."

Continued on page 10

The Soldiers of Poverty



The story of service in Civilian Conservation Corps Company 692 that developed Giant City Park in Makanda, Illinois. After transferring to Mellen, Wisconsin to develop Copper Falls State Park, they fought relentless wild fires during the drought of 1936 and endured one of the coldest winters in Wisconsin history. Enjoy this tribute to the men who labored in our parks and forests. 335 pages, 217 graphics, Cost \$23.18 - (includes Wisconsin 5.6% sales tax)

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*Meet Mary J. Schueller
at the FHAW Fall Conference on September 17, 2011*

Continued from page 9 WHAT FACILITIES WERE THERE AT GILL'S
LANDING FOR UNLOADING LOGS?

"This is practically the first winter that these forests have been accessible, and yet we are told that 13,000,000 feet will be cut and shipped out on the cars. This work will be divided between nine camps, which are now in full operation. Three of these are on section 23, (Auburndale) two on section 32, (Marshfield), one at section 35, two at Waltham, one at section 54, and one at section 75. The latter camp is engaged in getting out spars. Four million feet of these logs go to Oshkosh, one million to Rounds at Menasha, some to Weyauwega, and many to this place."

WHAT IS MEANT BY "ROUNDS AT MENASHA"?

"To show the amount of business that the above mentioned logging operations will give the railroad company, we will state that 4,000 feet of logs are considered a car load. Therefore to transport 13,000,000 it would require 3,250 cars; or it would take a train of fifty cars, making one trip a day, sixty five days to carry off 13,000,000 feet."

DID THE RAILROAD HAVE ENOUGH CARS TO HANDLE THIS AMOUNT OF BUSINESS? (THE 1873 ROSTER SHOWS 200 FLAT CARS.)

If you can provide additional information regarding the above questions, contact, Larry Easton, archivist, at mileposts@sbcglobal.net

**19th Annual
Maple Fall Fest**
Marshfield, Wisconsin
September 17 - 18, 2011

(Same weekend as the FHAW Fall Conference)

150 Arts & Craft vendors, Pancake Breakfast, Maple Seminars, Amish Specialties, Farmers Market, Children's Area/petting zoo, Food Court and Beer Garden.

Lumberjack Saved Union Fleet

On April 30, 1864, Joseph Bailey (1827 – 1867) of Wisconsin Dells commenced a fantastic attempt to save the Union Navy.

Earlier that spring, 30,000 Union troops had invaded Louisiana to stomp out Confederate resistance in the West and seize valuable supplies. They ascended the Red River on 60 transport ships accompanied by ironclad gunboats.

But half the fleet ran aground in a mile-long rapids, so the Union troops headed into combat on foot. The Confederates repulsed them, though, and they rapidly retreated to their ships, expecting to get away.

While they were gone, however, the Red River had sunk even lower. The Northern soldiers found their gunboats and transports completely stuck. There seemed no alternative but to flee overland and destroy the country's finest ships so they wouldn't fall into enemy hands.

That's when Joseph Bailey proposed damming the river below the rapids to raise its water level. The idea struck most of the Union officers as a great joke. They apparently had never met a Wiscon-

sin lumberjack.

Directing 3,000 men night and day, many of them working waist deep in the Louisiana muck, Bailey constructed an earth and timber dam that raised the river depth to nearly six feet. But just after the first gunboat shot through, his dam partially collapsed and the skeptics felt vindicated.

Undaunted, Bailey's crew promptly built a series of wing dams upriver, such as loggers used to channel the current. The water rose again and, as thousands cheered from shore, the remaining ships cascaded over the rapids to safety and the Union forces escaped downriver.

During the remainder of the war, Bailey served as an engineer and led cavalry raids in the Gulf states. In November 1864 he was commissioned brigadier general, and in March 1865 was brevetted major general, in recognition of his service in saving the Union Navy.

Leaving the army in July 1865, Bailey returned briefly to Wisconsin and then moved to Nevada, Vernon County, Missouri. *(From Odd Wisconsin, April 2010)*

Read more short Wisconsin histories at the Wisconsin Historical Society, Odd Wisconsin page —<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/odd/>

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 Wisconsin's forestry and logging industry. Attached is payment for:

- _____ Student Membership (\$5.00)
- _____ Individual Membership (\$15.00)
- _____ Family Membership (\$25.00)
- _____ Non Profit Organization Membership (\$25.00)
- _____ Corporate Membership (\$50.00)
- _____ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)

Other Contributions:

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



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35th Annual Conference

September 23-25, 2010

Green Bay, Wisconsin

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