

Chips
and
Sawdust

**A Newsletter
From**

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
403 McIndoe Street
Wausau, WI 54401**

FEBRUARY 1995

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1994-1995

Thomas R. Albrecht
304 W. Richmond Street
Shawano, WI 54166

Karl Baumann
1119 Florence Street
Marinette, WI 54143

Frank N. Fixmer Secretary-Treasurer
604 9th Street
Mosinee, WI 54455

Eugene Harm President
Route 2, Box 46B
Cadott, WI 54727

Don Lambrecht Vice-President
1665 Patten Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

Randall Rohe
UWW 1500 University Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Michael Sohasky
1435 Neva Road
Antigo, WI 54409

Forest Stearns
3040 Sorensen Road
Rhineland, WI 54501

Lamont Engle
5712 South 110th Street
Hales Corners, WI 53130

Jacque D. Vallier Director-Emeritus
10243 North Westport Circle
Mequon, WI 53092

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEMBERS BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 30, 1994

(Editor's note: These are not complete minutes - only information still of current interest has been included.)

Treasurer Fixmer gave his annual financial and membership report. Total membership at year's end was 238, including all categories of membership such as exchange, affiliates, foundations and life members, who do not pay annual dues. The detailed operating statements of receipts and disbursements is available, as usual, on request.

Secretary Fixmer then explained an amendment to the By-Laws which the Board of Directors had approved, but required confirmation by the general membership. This provides for a new position on the Board of Directors, to be designated as "Director-emeritus". By proper motion and second, this amendment was approved by acclamation.

Chairman Don Lambrecht of the nominating committee presented its slate of nominees for two year terms to succeed those directors whose terms expire with this meeting. There being no further nominations from the floor, the following were declared duly elected: Albrecht, Baumann, Harm, Sohasky, and Lamont Engle, as regular directors, and Jacque Vallier as "director-emeritus".

The open floor discussion centered around a request from Secretary Fixmer for suggestions for specific themes that could be considered for future annual members meetings. Among those offered for the guidance of program planning committees were:

1. Contemporary history pertaining to current controversial issues affecting the management of both public and private forests.
2. Non-traditional products of the forest - their history and commercial development.
3. Minorities who have contributed to the state's forest heritage.
4. Art, music and folklore in forest history.
5. Logging dams statewide - legal authority, political aspects, preservation, conversion to power sources, etc.

Also, Treasurer Fixmer was duly elected to serve in that capacity for another one year term. However, he reaffirmed his desire to retire from that position as soon as a replacement becomes available.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 21, 1994
DNR Headquarters, Wausau, WI

Discussion was held on details and results of the annual members meeting. Treasurer Fixmer reviewed the financial aspects. Auction sales netted \$588., which was exceptionally good considering the dearth of real artifacts. There was general agreement that a raffle should be considered for next year to supplement the usual auction, with final details to be arranged for by the annual planning committee. Reports were then presented as follows:

PUBLICATIONS: Rohe reported that all papers had been received but there were very few photographs to illustrate them. He thought that he may be able to provide some from his files. No cost estimates for this edition of the Proceedings until the number of pages and photos are determined.

PUBLICITY: The secretary read a letter from Joyce Bant which reaffirmed her resignation as chairperson. Baumann volunteered to contact a potential replacement.

MEMBERSHIP: The secretary reported that 36 members had been delinquent with dues payments on October 1st. Responses up to October 20th had reduced that number to 21. Since July 1st, 19 new members have been added to our roster.

FORESTRY HALL OF FAME: Lambrecht reported on the induction of John Saemann, our Association's nominee, into the Forestry Hall of Fame. Following discussion of the 1995 competition, it was approved that we submit formal nomination papers for Jay Cravens.

EXHIBITS: Fixmer reviewed the several occasions when the traveling exhibit, featuring three different themes, was displayed. The cooperation of Albrecht, Baumann, Lambrecht, Clark and DNR personnel (in the case of the Phillips Fire Centennial) was outstanding. There will not be any more occasions to commit the displays until next June, at Wausau's "Log Jam" festival.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS: Considerable discussion was held on the disappointing participation of college level students in this competition for the \$300. award. Presumably, this is due to the amount not being enough of an incentive. Approval was given to a trial policy of awarding a minimum of \$600. only every second year, subject to revision depending on the results.

HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM: Fixmer reported on his personal proposal to have a marker erected at the Mosinee Paper Corporation mill for its distinction as the very first integrated kraft paper (Sulfate Process) mill on the North American continent (1911). He suggested that other Board members take similar action for historic sites or events in their local communities. It was further suggested by consensus that an article in "C & S" should provide details on the requirements and costs of this new program and urge members at large to submit proposals.

1995 ANNUAL MEETING: President Harm appointed a planning committee consisting of himself, Albrecht, Fixmer, Stearns and possibly Russ Roberts. In addition to the five themes suggested at the 1994 annual meeting, the following themes should also be considered:

1. History of the DNR.
2. History of forest research.
3. History of the local area where meeting is held.

Because it is expedient to plan and commit to date and site two years in advance, it was agreed that President Harm investigate the possibilities in 1996 at Ladysmith and Stearns do the same at Rhinelander. Other potential sites might be Crandon or Wabeno.

In further regard to annual meetings and traveling exhibit occasions, it was suggested that consideration be given to having for sale photos, books, unusual small artifacts or other memorabilia as an additional source of revenue.

It was agreed to have the spring meeting of the Board at the Elizabeth Inn in Plover, WI, on May 18, 1995.

FHAW DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

FHAW members at large are invited to submit suggestions for 1995 nominees for consideration by the Board of Directors at its May 1995 meeting. At that time, selections are voted on, by closed ballot, for one individual and one organization to receive recognition for distinguished service in the preservation of Wisconsin forest history. Nominations should include a brief summary of the individual's or organization's contributions and should be sent to: Randall Rohe, UWW, 1500 University Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188.

"WISCONSIN'S COUNTY FORESTS: CONFLICT OVER INDIAN TIMBER RIGHTS"

Most members of FHAW are unaware that the former president of the Association, Michael Sohasky, has authored a detailed and authoritative account of the Indian timber rights issue that made news media headlines between 1987 and 1991. In a recently published 100 page, soft cover booklet, Sohasky, Langlade County's forest administrator has put together an absorbing narrative on an important chapter in the history of Wisconsin's forestry program.

How the timber rights controversy developed, how the County Forests Association became involved, the conduct of the four week long trial that ensued, and the subsequent legal actions, all are chronologically described in a story that was condensed from thousands of pages of minutes of countless meetings, from newspaper reports, from historic treaty documents and from the ultimate trial testimony and judge's decisions. "Wisconsin's County Forests: Conflict Over Indian Timber Rights" may be purchased for \$9.00 per copy by writing to Executive Secretary, Wisconsin County Forests Association, 2250 Ranger Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 54494.

If you enjoy a good autobiography; if you work, or want to work in forestry or natural resources programs ; or if you have an interest in Vietnam; you will want to read:

A WELL WORN PATH by Jay H. Cravens

Recovering from a broken leg, Sgt. Jay Cravens met a forest ranger on Colorado's Gunnison National Forest in 1945. He promptly decided on a forestry career.

After intensive postgraduate professional training in ecosystem management at Colorado State University he went to work for the US Forest Service on the Kaibab National Forest in 1948. Starting at the bottom of the career ladder, literally cleaning out garbage pits and pit toilets, he was promoted to management positions in the Forest Service's National Forest System, Research and State & Private Forestry. He became Acting Chief in 1976 shortly before he retired from federal service to become a Professor at a prestigious university. He recalls engaging stories about forest fires, hunting and fishing, working with loggers, cowboys and Indians, and other unforgettable characters.

Read about the author's experiences faced in the equally fierce battles of Vietnam and those with environmentalists seeking surrogate issues to "stop the world"! Travel with Jay Cravens down Well Worn Paths throughout South Vietnam and experience his work as a civilian from 1967-68 in a beautiful land plagued by terrorists, bureaucrats, corruption, and a war on all sides. You can sense the smell of Agent Orange. You can feel his fear as he stood in predawn hours beside Green Berets in the trenches of an outpost near the Ho Chi Minh Trail ready to operate an M-60 machine gun, 4.2" mortar, and claymore mines. You can almost hear the crash of 10,000 pound bombs, 175 mm artillery explosions and cries of all who were touched by our involvement in that tiny country.

This new book about the US Forest Service enables you to share Jay Craven's experiences of the ever-changing conditions from the woods, to South Vietnam's battlefields, to board rooms, to witness chairs in federal courts. A professorship also enabled him to introduce thousands of tree hugging students to both technical and practical aspects of enjoying a successful career in any organization, natural resources or business related. His book emphasizes the importance of understanding the human spirit, communications, and interpersonal skills..

A Well Worn Path, 512 pages paperback, may be ordered for \$14.95 per copy, plus \$2.00 for postage and handling for the first copy and 75 cents for each copy thereafter. Subtract 40% if ordering five or more copies. Order from: University Editions, Inc., 59 Oak Lane, Spring Valley, Huntington, WV 25704.

! PLAN NOW !

20th ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

A LANDMARK EVENT

SEPTEMBER 8 - 9, 1995

PLOVER, WISCONSIN

JIM KAYSEN'S LEGACY

It was announced at the Forest History Association's annual meeting in Marshfield last fall that the estate of the late James Kaysen of Cedarburg, WI had donated his library to FHAW for disposal as it saw fit. That collection consisted of 111 books, booklets, magazines and other literature. The Association's board of directors had previously directed Secretary Fixmer to sort that collection into two categories: (1) those items which should be retained by the Association as welcome additions to its reference library at the Area Research Center at UW Stevens Point and (2) those items which could be disposed of through other channels.

That sorting was accomplished prior to the annual meeting. The decision was then made to separate those titles which might be useful additions to the student library at the College of Natural Resources, inasmuch as they were primarily textbooks, of which there were sixteen. The balance of the disposables, 36, were set aside to be auctioned off at the annual meeting. Bidding at that auction was spirited on several of the more rare items and helped to increase the total sales made by \$220., a most welcome addition to the Association's operating revenues.

Of the 59 titles retained by the Association, a number were truly "collector's items". Examples: A Primer of Forestry (two volumes) by Gifford Pinchot, published in 1917. Pinchot was the first chief forester of the United States and organized the present day US Forest Service. Two books by Dr. Carl A. Schenck, organizer of the first forestry school in the United States, authored Logging and Lumbering and The Art of Second Growth, both used as textbooks at the one room school on the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina. Other books retained by the Association were published in the 1920s and 30s, most written by well known personalities in the fields of forestry, conservation, logging and lumbering.

The foregoing additions to the Association's reference library will provide a wealth of information to FHAW members and other researchers who utilize those resources. We are indeed grateful to Jim Kaysen's survivors for having made that possible.

Submitted by Frank Fixmer

LOG STAMPS LEAVE MARK ON MICKEY

(The following article is reprinted from The Timber Producer, Dec 1994.)

Mickey Radwanski is right: "Its interesting what you find in those old lumber camps."

Betty, his wife, is right, too: "to me it's just junk."

Like many things, it's all a matter of perspective. One person's trash is another person's treasure.

When it comes to lumber camp treasures, this retired Rusk County farmer hunts for one type in particular. "My main things are the stamping hammers and ox shoes," he tells his *Agri-view* visitor, over cups of steaming coffee and plates of French toast and ham Betty has whipped up. She worries that Mickey and company might grow faint from tramping the woods as they search for relics from yesteryear.

Blacksmithing tools are intriguing, too, Mickey allows. One camp he located had three blacksmith shops. But ax heads are a different story. He finds so many of them that he doesn't even bother bringing them home anymore - just tosses them aside to rust a bit more among the forest leaves.

"It's interesting what you find," he repeats, as if wishing he'd been around to help cut the tall pines of northern Wisconsin, back in that era's heyday, from about 1835 to 1915.

Mickey worked in the hemlock and hardwood era, from about 1935 until World War II. Being drafted into the Army at age 21 and serving in the Pacific pretty much put an end to his days as a professional logger.

"They finished up logging in '41 and '42 - hemlock and that. It's all different now. The guys working in the woods go home every night and have a bedroom and a TV."

But the early days. Ah, the early days - when Paul Bunyan yarns were spun 'round the bunkhouse stove, when the ring of single-bitted axes sounded through the woods, when sturdy oxen skidded the giant pine logs.

It's those days that most interest Mickey. To him, one tool best captures the spirit of that time, and has captured his mind and energy. The stamping hammer.

Most folks know what a branding iron is, and stamping hammers are related. In fact, Mickey has read that the cowboys of the Old West borrowed the stamp hammer idea and altered it for marking cattle.

Unlike a branding iron, a stamping hammer is not heated. Instead, it's simply swung so its face - bearing a configuration of raised letters or numbers, or both - leaves a deep impression in the end of a log.

Stamp hammers, Mickey explains, were registered at the courthouse. The person who cut the log - the "feller" - had a stamp hammer for marking logs, plus one bearing the stamp of the company he worked for. Once in a while, says Mick, the logging company's "head guy" stamped a log, too.

After the river drivers floated the logs out of the woods to a landing, logs from several companies might be intermingled. That's where the stamped marks in their ends made sorting easy.

Just as with cattle, "they used to rustle logs - cut the end off and put their own mark on" Mickey says. Sometimes, though, the heavy stamping hammer marks still showed up 18 inches deep into the wood.

Mickey's interest in the old hammers was sparked some 15 or 20 years ago. "Well, I worked in the woods all my life," he says, "and another guy collected them, and I looked at his collection and said, 'Whoa! I'm getting into that!'"

He got "into" it in rather a big way, too. These days, Mickey figures, his collection of log stamping hammers stands at "34 different brands." Yet many more have been recovered, according to a booklet, *Wisconsin Log Marks*, by Howard Peddle.

When Mickey has doubles of a hammer, he sometimes trades with fellow enthusiasts. "We usually have a stamp hammer meeting every fall. I usually go to it and have one that's very rare," he points out. Representing the Empire Lumber Company, out of Eau Claire, this particular specimen is a hammer/ax combination. The letter on its face is a large capital "D." To this day, Mickey makes a point of closely examining every ax head he unearths.

What's a stamp hammer worth? According to Mickey, a dyed-in-the wool collector might pay an average of \$350. One enthusiastic fellow paid him \$125 for a hammer even though the letters rubbed off when Mickey tried cleaning it.

Finding the old stamps is not always easy. On the day *Agri-view* visited, drives and hikes to three camps of long ago turned up not a one.

Yet on other occasions, Mickey has had phenomenal success. At the main supply camp for W. T. Price, he found 14 stamping hammers. "It wasn't worth moving," he theorizes. "It wasn't worth taking" when the company moved on to a new area.

Another time, he located six stamp hammers simply lying in a pile.

Sometimes what Mickey finds was left behind after a fire. He remembers a camp near Fifield, where he stumbled onto a startling scene: as many as 20 crosscut saws sticking right up out of the ground. The farmer thinks they might have been hung in a shed, and when the shed burned, the saws fell.

Besides stamp hammers, Mickey has quite a collection of ox shoes; ax heads; the iron parts of cant hooks, pike poles and peaveys; chains; wedges; and bottles, though he usually gives the bottles away.

One of his older bottles is what Mickey calls a "snoos jar." Betty brings the crockery jar out of the basement, and sure enough, imprinted right on the bottom are the words "Copenhagen snuff, Pittsburgh, PA."

Mickey says the loggers filled their snuff cans from such jars with a nickel's worth of tobacco every morning before heading out to fell and skid. A couple of other unusual bottles are pottery ink wells, and pint whiskey flasks that were used for kerosene are not uncommon.

Among the other treasures Mickey's metal detector and pick have pinpointed are an 1886 two-cent piece and a medal from the Spanish-American War. "In one camp I found a little pistol - only half of it. We tried and tried to find the other half," he relates.

Before he can find lumber camp treasures, Mickey has to find the camps. Through a history professor at UW-Eau Claire he obtained copies of pre-1883 maps. And, by his own detective work he has sniffed out clues to the whereabouts of more.

"I usually walk the riverbanks," explains Mickey. In an area of virgin pine, he says, the first camps were typically set up about 300 feet from the water. Later, when the supply of pines near the stream was exhausted, they set up a camp further inland - as far back as 8 to 10 miles - and sleighed logs to the water.

When Mickey got started searching for stamping hammers, he didn't have to go far. Only about 600 feet from his house lies the remains of an early lumber camp. He remembers a bottom on the farm that was "completely covered with stumps. You could jump from stump to stump."

These days, Betty and Mickey's daughter, Nanna Brenner, and her husband, Rod, manage the farm. They milk the 50 Holsteins, leaving Mickey plenty of time to cruise the backroads of the Flambeau State Forest in his four-wheel-drive pickup truck, and to plot future expeditions to logging camps he has heard tell of.

For now, though, he still has lots of ground to cover with his metal detector at Hacket Farm, one company's main supply camp. Mickey says it actually was a working farm, with livestock and crops.

From a grass-covered rise, Mickey could almost lob a rusty nail into the Flambeau. He points out the stone-lined well - filled in now, except for the top six or eight feet - and the sunken remains of Hacket Farm's three root cellars.

Up on the top of the bank lies an assortment of rusty metal - evidence that Mickey has been here before. He takes his metal detector to a new spot and runs it over the grassy ground. A steady beep signals some object in the soil. Each time that happens, Mickey uses his pick to investigate. In an hour he uncovers an ax head, a small wedge, a short length of chain, broken horseshoes, a hardy - but no stamping hammers.

At another spot along the Flambeau, he uncovers much of the same. Undaunted, Mickey vows to come back. After all, half the fun of finding buried treasure lies in the hunting.

If you're as much in love with Wisconsin's northwoods and its lumbering lore as Mickey is, the hunt takes on special meaning. Pausing on the trail up from a long-overgrown camp that he refers to simply as "Wounded Knee," Mickey gestures toward a giant white pine stump. Though it has mostly rotted away, the stump still offers a hint of what magnificent trees and forests once grew here. Says Mickey with a sigh, "If that stump could talk."

*by Ron Johnson
Agri-View*

THE WAY IT WAS IN 1878 - PART IV

*Previous issues of **Chips and Sawdust** reprinted portions of an article from the **Historical Atlas of Wisconsin**, describing the state's lumber industry in 1878. The following concludes the series with estimates of total production (primarily pine), its impact on the economy of that time, the prospects of a rapidly diminishing timber supply becoming exhausted and the future of the industry. Readers will find the author's analysis prophetic in several ways.*

The extent of the timber supply in this state has been a matter of much speculation, and is a subject upon which but little can be definitely said. Pine trees can not be counted or measured until reduced to saw-logs or lumber. It is certain that for twenty years the forests of Wisconsin have yielded large amounts of valuable timber, and no fears

are entertained by holders of pine lands that the present generation of owners will witness an exhaustion of their supply. In some sections it is estimated that the destruction to the standing timber by fires, which periodically sweep over large sections, is greater than by the axes of the loggers. The necessity for a state system of forestry, for the protection of the forests from fires, has been urged by many, and with excellent reason; for no natural resource of the state is of more value and importance than its wealth of timber. According to an estimate recently made by a good authority, and which received the sanction of many interested parties, there was standing in the state in 1876, an amount of pine timber approximating 35 billion feet.

The annual production of lumber in the districts herein described, and from logs floated out of the state to mills on the Mississippi, is about 1.2 billion feet. The following table gives the mill capacity per season, and the lumber and shingles manufactured in 1876:

DISTRICT	SEASON CAPACITY	LUMBER MANUFACTURED IN 1876	SHINGLES MANUFACTURED IN 1876
Green Bay Shore	206,000,000	138,250,000	85,400,000
Wolf River	258,500,000	138,645,077	123,192,000
Wis Central RR	72,500,000	31,530,000	132,700,000
GB & Minn RR	34,500,000	17,700,000	10,700,000
Wis River	222,000,000	139,700,000	106,250,000
Black River	101,000,000	70,852,747	37,675,000
Chippewa River	311,000,000	255,866,999	79,250,000
Mississippi River	509,000,000	380,067,000	206,977,000
Total	1,714,500,000	1,172,611,823	782,144,000

If to the above is added the production of mills outside of the main districts and lines of railway herein described, the amount of pine lumber annually produced from Wisconsin forests would reach 1,500,000,000 feet. Of the hardwood production no authentic information is obtainable. To cut the logs and place them upon the banks of the streams, ready for floating to the mills, requires the labor of about 18,000 men. Allowing that, upon an average, each man has a family of two persons besides himself, dependent upon his labor for support, it

JOHN F. ROSS, PRESIDENT
SCHOFIELD, WIS.

M. P. MCCULLOUGH, VICE-PRESIDENT-SECRETARY
SCHOFIELD, WIS.

A. T. EVANS, TREASURER
CHICAGO, ILL.

BROOKS & ROSS LUMBER CO.

MANUFACTURERS

HARDWOOD - HEMLOCK - PINE
LATH, SHINGLES, CEDAR PRODUCTS AND CORDWOOD

CHICAGO OFFICE
39 SO. LA SALLE STREET

SCHOFIELD, WIS., March 28, 1925

Schaller & McKey Lumber Co.,
Janesville, Wisconsin.

All Agreements and Contracts are contingent upon fires, strikes, accidents, delays of carriers, and other causes, unavoidable or beyond our control. Delivery is made F. O. B. cars at point of shipment, and prices, unless otherwise stated, are based on furnishing regular grades as made at loading point. We do not guarantee safe delivery, nor are we responsible for any loss or damage of material while in transit, our delivered prices being a guarantee only so far as the freight and delivered prices are concerned and based on rate of freight in effect at time prices are made. Any advance in cost of delivery will increase prices proportionately. All quotations subject to change and previous sale. We recognize only written orders.

Gentlemen:

We are today in receipt of an addition from our Mr. Bartholemew for your car of Spruce and we have now entered up the entire car as per the enclosed acknowledgement, which we trust you will find correct and exact.

We thank you very much for this business and you may rest assured you will receive a nice car of lumber.

Yours truly,

BROOKS & ROSS LUMBER CO.,

Ph. Sawyer
Sales Manager.

RGS/H



would be apparent that the first step in the work of manufacturing lumber gives employment and support to 54,000 persons. To convert 1,000,000 feet of logs into lumber, requires the consumption of 1,200 bushels of oats, 9 barrels of pork and beef, 10 tons of hay, 40 barrels of flour, and the use of two pairs of horses. Thus the fitting out of the logging companies each fall makes a market for 1,800,000 bushels of oats, 13,500 barrels of pork and beef, 15,000 tons of hay, and 60,000 barrels of flour. Before the lumber is sent to market, fully \$6,000,000 is expended for the labor employed in producing it. This industry, aside from furnishing the farmer of the west with the cheapest and best of materials for constructing his buildings, also furnishes a very important market for the products of his farm.

The question of the exhaustion of the pine timber supply has met with much discussion during the past few years, and, so far as the forests of Wisconsin are concerned, deserves a brief notice. The great source of supply of white pine timber in the country is that portion of the northwest between the shores of Lake Huron and the banks of the Mississippi, comprising the northern portions of the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. For a quarter of a century these fields have been worked by lumbermen, the amount of the yearly production having increased annually until it reached the enormous figure of 4,000,000,000 feet. With all of this tremendous drain upon the forests, there can be pointed out but one or two sections that are actually exhausted. There are, however, two or three where the end can be seen and the date almost foretold. The pineries of Wisconsin have been drawn upon for a less period and less amount than those of Michigan, and, it is generally conceded, will outlast them at the present proportionate rate of cutting. There are many owners of pine timber lands who laugh at the prospect of exhausting their timber, within their lifetime. As time brings them nearer the end, the labor of procuring the logs, by reason of the distance of the timber from the water courses, will increase, and the work will progress more slowly.

In the future of this industry there is much promise. Wisconsin is the natural source of supply for a very large territory. The populous prairies of Illinois and Iowa are nearby and unfailing markets. The broad plains of Kansas and the rich valleys of Nebraska, which are still in the cradle of development, will make great drafts upon her forests for the material to construct cities in which the first cornerstone is yet unlaied. Minnesota, notwithstanding the fact that large forests exist within her own confines, is even now no mean customer for Wisconsin lumber, and the ambitious territory of Dakota will soon clamor for

material to build up a great and wealthy state. In the inevitable progress of development and growth which must characterize the great west, the demand for pine lumber for building material will be a prominent feature. With the growth of time, changes will occur in the methods of reducing the forests. With the increasing demand and enhancing values will come improvements in manipulating the raw material, and a stricter economy will be preserved in the handling of a commodity which the passage of time only makes more valuable. Wisconsin will become the home of manufactories, which will convert her trees into finished articles of daily consumption, giving employment to thousands of artisans where it now requires hundreds, and bringing back millions of revenue where is now realized thousands. Like all other commodities, lumber becomes more valuable as skilled labor is employed in its manipulation, and the greater the extent to which this is carried, the greater is the growth in prosperity, of the state and its people.

THE SUNKEN TREASURE IS LOGS!

SCUBA LUMBERJACK

(The following article, authored by James Flatley, is taken from Newmonth, Jan/Feb 95. James Flatley lives in Wellington, FL and regularly visits Washburn, WI, the source of the story.)

Popping to the surface just off the stern of his Island Explorer, Scott Mitchen pushed off his mouthpiece, flipped back his mask, and shouted to his crew, "Hey, guys! I think we've discovered a wooden bottom lake!"

Mitchen, following a successful career as an underwater salvor in the warm waters of the Caribbean, returned to his native Wisconsin in 1986 to search for shipwrecks in the cold waters of Lake Superior (average annual temperature, 40 degrees F). Using his expertise with sophisticated underwater detection equipment he located several wrecks in the Apostle Islands area of Chequamegon Bay. However, his attention was diverted from the wrecks by further discovery of "hundreds of thousands of logs upon logs" mixed in with chips and slab wood.

Searching archives in the Washburn and Ashland Museums he learned that the logs were left over from the sawmill days of the late 1860s until shortly after the turn of the century. More than 30

mills lined the eastern shore of the Bayfield Peninsula engaged in processing timber from the Wisconsin mainland, the Apostle Islands, and the neighboring shores of Michigan, Minnesota, and Ontario. The logs were skidded to the beach or sent down river to be assembled into gigantic rafts along the lake shore. The rafts were then towed to the mill sites.

Delays in processing sometimes occurred. During the depression of 1894, not a single mill operated. Chequamegon Bay was one big log raft! The bark of the logs became water soaked and many, particularly hardwoods, sunk to the bottom. "We estimate that 25-30 percent ended up this way," Mitchen stated.

He continued, "I learned that in the 1930s local people, using pike poles, were retrieving logs visible in the shallows. There are at least 30 houses in Washburn built from this lumber. A resort owner, Dick Bodin, has built his cottages and paneled part of his home with logs he has recovered. What really got to me was the fine quality of the wood - the grain and hardness. I decided to salvage some from deeper water."

Scott Mitchen explained his uncomplicated method to harvest the logs. "Working at depths of 30-40 feet I attach an I-bolt to the end of a log sucked into the chips and slab wood. I can do three, four logs, then pull a webbing through and attach it to an empty air bag. A compressor on the Explorer kicks in, the bag fills, and they pop right up and hang there like a stringer of fish. If the log is a biggie, I do one at a time. We tow them into shallow water and stack 'em up. When we have a pile of a couple of hundred we bring in the crane and barge and we're on our way to the mill."

When asked how much of a "forest" was down there, he felt that by his estimate there are "tens of thousands - probably a 20 year supply." He added, "They average 14 feet long by 22 inches in diameter. The biggest so far was 16 feet with a diameter of 36 inches! Its ring count showed it to be 375 years old when it was cut down. Just imagine, it was a seedling when Columbus arrived."

The growth rings are also an indicator of quality. Present day tree harvests might produce 5 or 6 rings to the inch. The Chequamegon Bay logs regularly show 25 to 30 rings per inch!

How could logs submerged for 125 plus years possibly be in any condition to make their recovery worth while?

"Well," replied this combination Paul Bunyan/Captain Nemo, "We decided to 'pull' some samples of birch, maple, and oak. Just the bark was water logged, but they've been in a cold, uniform environment with a low oxygen content. We peeled off the bark, and there it was! Perfectly preserved wood: When we banged it with a hammer - solid as a rock!"

Realizing the potential of the discovery, Mitchen added some partners to his Explorations International and began the long process of establishing his case for possession of the timber. He explained, "The state becomes the custodial owner of any lost or abandoned property left on state lands for more than 60 days."

Through the efforts and expertise of his partners in Explorations International, the State of Wisconsin enacted legislation (1992) which overcame problems encountered in other jurisdictions. Permits issued by various state agencies (i.e., DNR, State Historical Society, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands) assure that the search for logs is conducted without any possible disturbance of the environment, and provides for the security of submerged archaeological and historical sites. The state is paid a fee based on a percentage of the appraised value of the timber.

"Our corporation has since secured all the relevant permits to 'log' the areas we have so far identified, but we're not about to rush in and 'clear-cut' the bottom of Chequamegon Bay. The entire area was devastated by the hunger for lumber a hundred years ago. In less than 30 years, 90% of the land in this county was laid idle. We plan to be very stingy with this resource. At this moment, we have several hundred offers to purchase this prime timber. And I'm sure aware of its value, but we're dealing with a living history lesson down there," Mitchen explained.

"When I was working in the Caribbean, same thing," he continued. "Whenever I found a cache of Spanish gold or silver, there was a rush of adrenaline. A real thrill! It's the same here, but a lot colder. Locating a d recovering logs that bear end stamps of original loggers gives me that same charge!"

What is in the future for the Chequamegon Bay Forest? Under Scott Mitchen's leadership, events are moving along swiftly. The corporate structure has been enlarged again, and the new partners are excited about the prospects.

The City of Ashland has set aside over 9 acres of waterfront property for the express purpose of constructing a working replica of a nineteenth century sawmill. Scott explained the project, "Open to the public, it will be unique in the world, providing an irresistible attraction to this area of Wisconsin. The mill will saw logs we have salvaged. A state-of-the-art sawmill will also be part of the development. Artisans will be employed to construct furniture from this lumber. Additionally, we plan to build a complex of buildings incorporating logging camp structures including a bunkhouse, dining facilities, stables, blacksmith shop, etc." The complex will also include some buildings typical of sawmill operation: company store, saw filing, machine shops, and company hotel.

RAILROAD BOXCAR ADDED TO MANY FEATURES OF IXL MUSEUM

(This article, written by Rose Schultz, is from The Herald-Leader, Menominee, MI - Marinette, WI, Jan 11, 95.)

IXL Historical Museum has a new addition, that of a very old Soo Line Railroad boxcar. Since last March, this antique unit has been standing on an unused spur in a field of IXL Industrial Park. On Dec. 26, it was moved to the museum property to stand alongside the old IXL company warehouse, which had been moved to the same site in February 1993. For the National Historic Site, these two units serve to add immensely to the history of the logging and lumbering industry which thrived in the area a century ago and is being preserved here.

The boxcar venture had a strange beginning. Larry Easton of Neenah, WI, historian for the Soo Line Railway, became enthused with IXL when writing a lengthy article for the Soo Liner Magazine about Hermansville's extensive business with the railroad dating to the 1880s. An old photograph used in Wisconsin Land & Lumber Company advertising showed the big warehouse with a Soo Line boxcar alongside it being loaded with lumber. It was then that Larry set the wheels in motion to obtain an old boxcar for the museum to imitate the warehouse scene.

Last March, over a circuitous route along various points in Wisconsin, the boxcar was pulled into IXL Industrial Park by crews of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, present owners of the former Soo Line system, where it was set on an unused Chicago & Northwestern spur. During the summer months it was given two coats of barn red paint by John Malone and Lester Johnson, museum board members. There it rested until December 26.

It was John Malone, retired Soo Line Railway employee, who last summer took upon himself the project of getting the car from its track position to its special museum site. Using old railroad track preserved from the company's heyday, John engaged volunteers to help landscape and prepare the bed alongside the warehouse and then lay the track in exact position to accommodate the car.

It was at this point that Earl St. John, noted lumber and businessman and owner of St. John Forest Products at Spalding, offered to move the boxcar. Its wheel bar is 41 feet long, almost 9 feet wide, and 13 1/2 feet high, with a capacity of 80,000 pounds. The plan was to set it on John's lowboy trailer, on which a set of rails 41 feet long had been welded to a frame having the proper rail gauge of 56 1/2 inches rail to rail measurement.

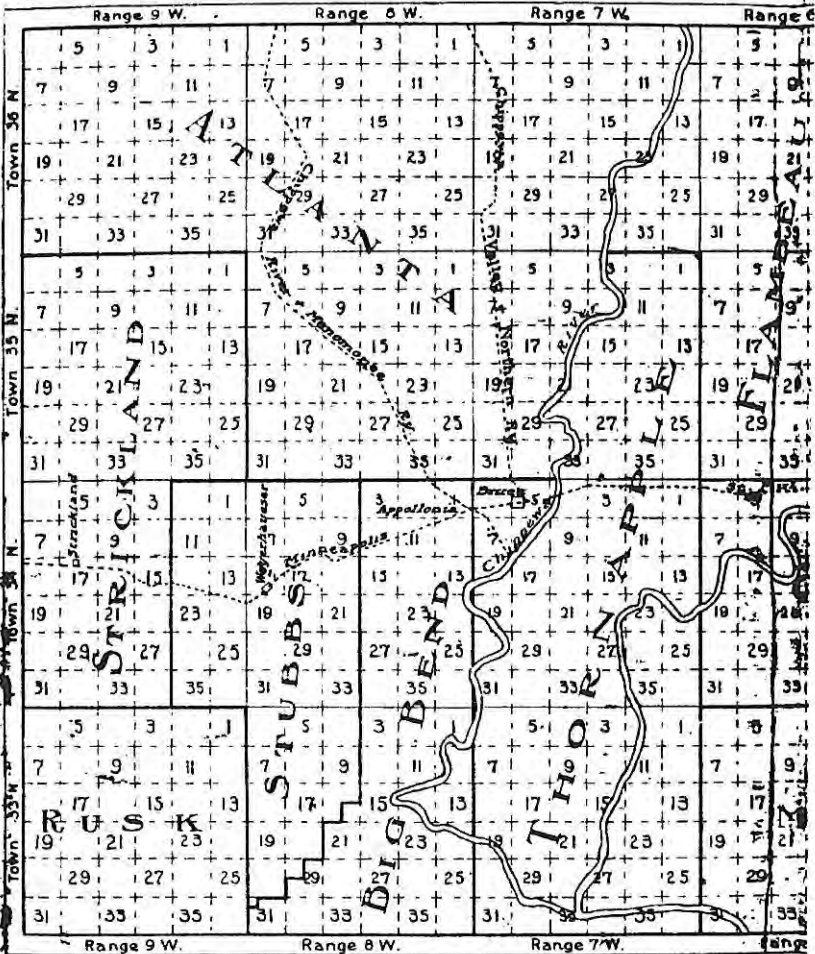
St. John and his crew, experts in the handling of and working with heavy forest equipment, moved the boxcar onto the lowboy. The precise construction and laying of the track enabled a perfect fit. It was then towed to its destination. Although the actual distance to the site over rough terrain was short, St. John opted to use a half mile course over the paved Earle Drive through IXL Industrial Park.

It was less than two years ago that the Vandermissens of Escanaba towed the large warehouse down Highway 388 and through the lumber yards to rest alongside the museum. Standing there also is a small house car donated by the Soo Line, used originally to accommodate the pede and section crew. Nearby also is the building used as an office garage. Built along with the museum, it was used to house hand operated fire fighting equipment along with Mr. Meyer's horse drawn carriage.

The boxcar, of braced construction, was built in February 1914 by AC&F for the Wisconsin Central Railroad as No. 131068, which number, along with other important information, will be painted on the car. The car is the type once used by the Wisconsin Land & Lumber Company (IXL) to ship its famous hardwood flooring nationally during the early part of the century. The warehouse and car will be used to exhibit old mill equipment used during its glory days.

It was the expertise and modern equipment of St. John that enabled the completion of the project. Assisting him were his son, Tom, Tracy Fornier and Richard Leaveck. Others donating their time and equipment over the summer were Richard Kleikamp and Gerald Dugree, who helped in the groundwork and track along with Lester Johnson and David Faccio. The museum extends thanks to all. It is such specialty help from local and area businesses and citizens that has given the museum encouragement and impetus to further preserve and improve this valuable historic site, along with the wealth of records in its possession of the logging, lumbering, and hardwood flooring manufacturing era spanning a century.

DELLS FARM & MILL CO.



Handwritten notes:
 137
 15

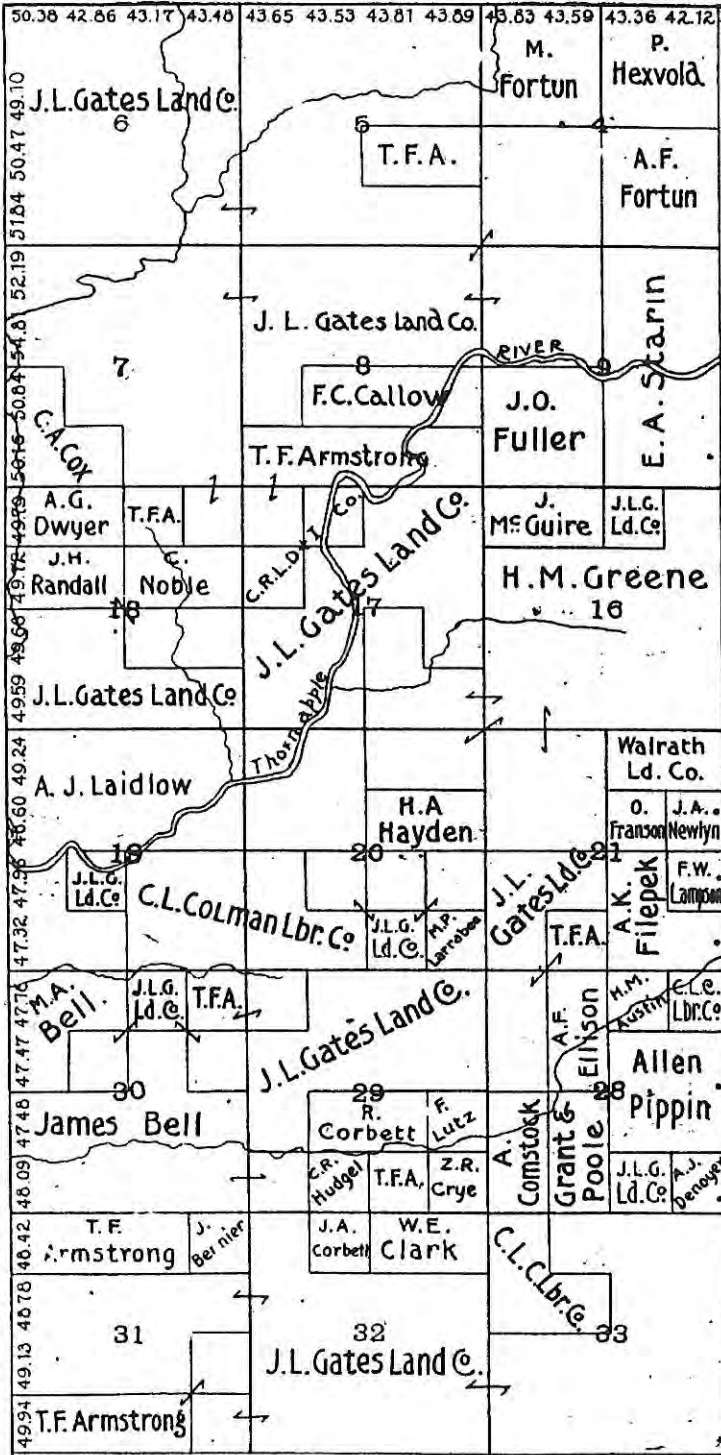
1. W.	Range 5 W.				Range 4 W.				Range 3 W.					
3	5	7	9	11	3	5	7	9	11	3	5	7	9	11
15	17	19	21	23	15	17	19	21	23	15	17	19	21	23
27	29	31	33	35	27	29	31	33	35	27	29	31	33	35
3	5	7	9	11	3	5	7	9	11	3	5	7	9	11
15	17	19	21	23	15	17	19	21	23	15	17	19	21	23
27	29	31	33	35	27	29	31	33	35	27	29	31	33	35
3	5	7	9	11	3	5	7	9	11	3	5	7	9	11
15	17	19	21	23	15	17	19	21	23	15	17	19	21	23
27	29	31	33	35	27	29	31	33	35	27	29	31	33	35
Range 4 W. Range 3 W. PLAT BOOK OF GATES CO. WIS. EXPLANATION □ School Houses ☆ Saw Mills △ Churches ⊙ Cemeteries = Wagon Roads — Rail Roads • Settlers Compiled by Paul Foust + Julius Jungblut Milwaukee, Wis.														
Range 5 W. Range 3 W. PLAT BOOK OF GATES CO. WIS. EXPLANATION □ School Houses ☆ Saw Mills △ Churches ⊙ Cemeteries = Wagon Roads — Rail Roads • Settlers Compiled by Paul Foust + Julius Jungblut Milwaukee, Wis.														

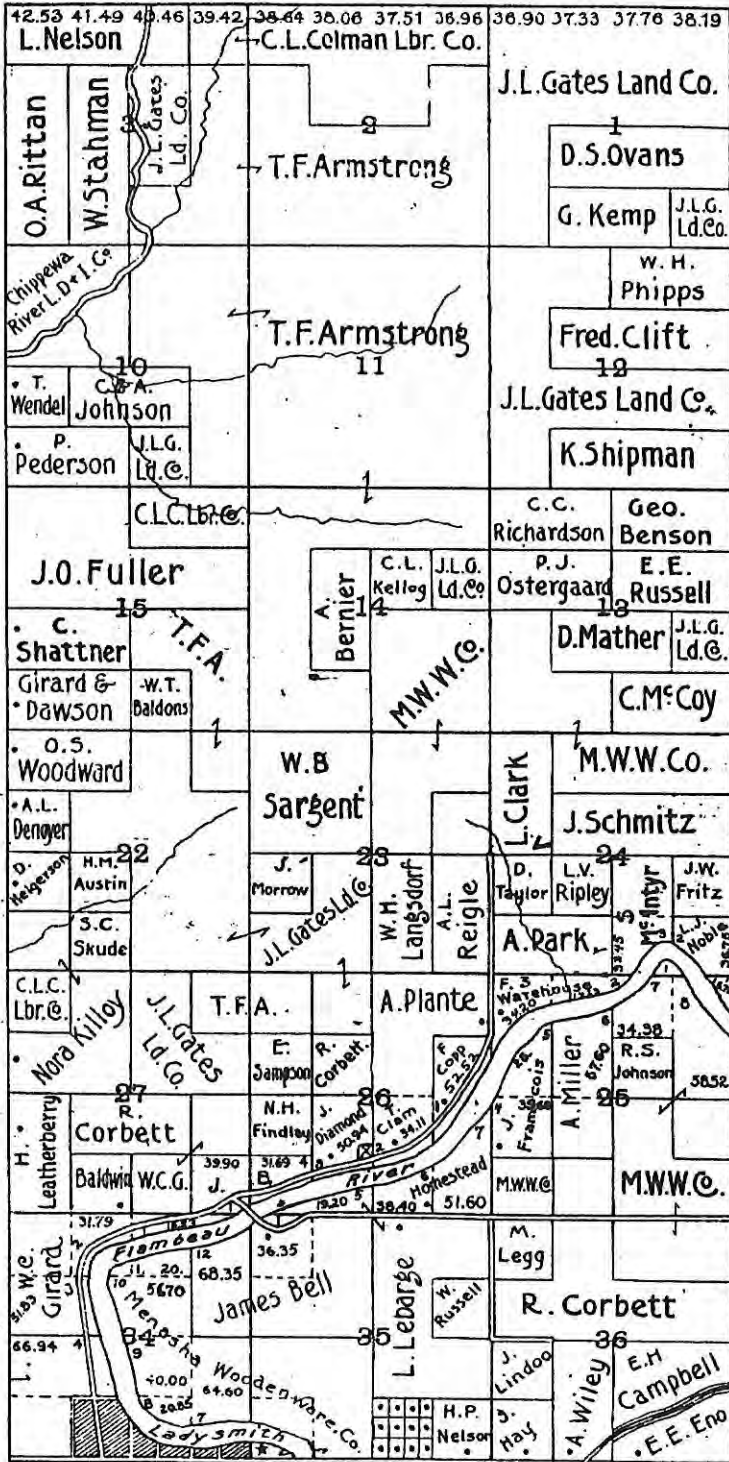
Town 33 N

Town 33 N

ARSHALL

Town 33 N



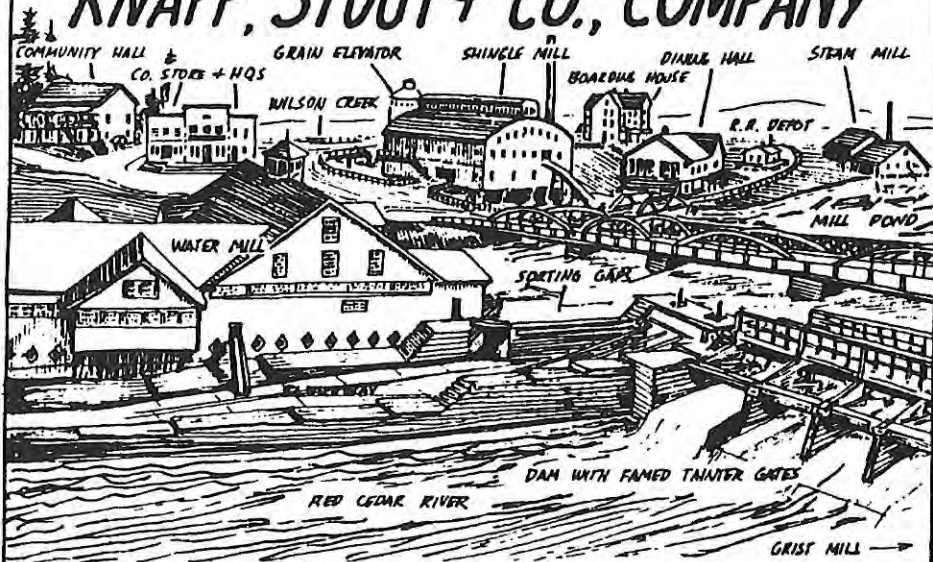


WISCONSIN LORE and LEGENDS



LARGEST LUMBER OPERATION IN THE 1880'S

KNAPP, STOUT & CO., COMPANY



IN 1879 THE K. S. + CO. COMPANY PRODUCED 100 MILLION BOARD FEET OF LUMBER, "... MORE THAN ANY TWO OTHER FIRMS IN THE U.S. WERE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING!" THREE YEARS LATER IT HAD AN OUTPUT OF 150 MILLION BOARD FEET!

HEADQUARTERED IN MENOMONIE WHERE IT MAINTAINED 3 SAWMILLS AND A GRIST MILL. THE COMPANY RAN MILLS AT RICE LAKE, CHETEK, PRAIRIE FARM, CEDAR FALLS, AND DOWNSVILLE ON THE RED CEDAR RIVER. IT MAINTAINED STEAMBOAT OPERATIONS FROM DUNNVILLE AND REED'S LANDING, MINN. AND ESTABLISHED LARGE RETAIL AND WHOLESALE YARDS AT DUBUQUE AND FT. MADISON, IOWA AND AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. IT OPERATED FROM 1846 UNTIL IT CLOSED ITS MILLS IN 1901.

LOU + JOHN
RUSSELL
'87

SOURCE: EMPIRE IN PINE, ROBT FRIES, STATE HIST. SOC. OF WIS., MADISON, 1951

© 1987 JOHN M. RUSSELL

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 1994-95

Distinguished Service Awards
Randall Rohe

Forestry Hall of Fame
Don Lambrecht

Publicity
Vacant

Student Awards
John Saemann
Mike Sohasky

Annual Proceedings
Randall Rohe

Newsletter - Chips & Sawdust
Ray Clark

Traveling Exhibits
Frank Fixmer

**FHAW MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT
ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER TO:**

Ray Clark, 2720 Lawrence Drive
DePere, WI 54115

The Post Office will not forward bulk 3rd class mail.
Please inform the secretary of any change in address.



Forest History Association
of Wisconsin, Inc.
403 Melndoe St.
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DE PERE, WI
PERMIT NO. 104