



A Newsletter

From

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

403 McIndoe Street

Wausau, WI 54401

May 1990

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Editor's Notes

The planning committee for our 1990 Annual Meeting has already outlined the program for this year's meeting. I hope all members will make a concerted effort to attend this year's meeting. Anyone who has items to donate for our third annual auction--lumbering artifacts, relics, books, photos or other memorabilia, please contact Frank Fixmer or one of the Board of Directors. The proceedings for the 1989 meeting are now at the printer and will be distributed in early May or mid June as usual. Copies of most of the past proceedings are still available. Write Frank Fixmer for a price list of those still in print. I would like to thank all of you who returned the annual meeting survey. The results proved both surprising as well as expected. The survey will be discussed at the May meeting of the Board of Directors and used as a guide to plan future annual meetings. I recently learned that FHAW member Lee Andreas of Lake Tomahawk is seriously ill in a Minneapolis hospital. Lee is a forester with the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company and is the dam tender for the Rainbow Flowage on the Wisconsin River.

Randall Rohe

1990 Annual Meeting

Public Education --- Through 75 Years of Wisconsin Forestry will be the theme of the annual meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin October 5 and 6,

1990 on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus. The meeting will present excerpts from Wisconsin Forest History including: the evolution of the tree planting machine, an analysis of Wisconsin forest inventories, demonstration forests in Wisconsin and higher education in forestry and resource management. A field trip will be held on the Schmeekle Reserve to highlight conservation education and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame will be held at 4 pm October 5th in the College of Natural Resources on the Stevens Point campus. A reception and banquet will follow.

Details of the program will be available in early summer. Additional information can be secured from: William A. Sylvester, 211 Green Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Phone 715/341-4275.

Cathedral of Pines

An earlier issue of "Chips & Sawdust" reprinted an article on the Cathedral of Pines, a stand of virgin white pine in Oconto County. The April 7 issue of the *Appleton Post Crescent* reported that the Nicolet National Forest had secured the tract.

The U.S. Forest Service Nicolet National Forest has acquired a 2,229-acre forest tract in Oconto County from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a nonprofit organization that conserves open space for the public benefit.

The parcel includes part of the Cathedral of Pines virgin forest, with its thriving blue heron rookery. McCaslin Brook, a Class I trout stream, winds through the property.

"This Cathedral of Pines tract will be an excellent addition to the forest with its many wildlife benefits and majestic white pines. It will also provide numerous dispersed recreation opportunities for the benefit of the public," said Mike Hathaway, supervisor for the Nicolet National Forest.

We are proud to be transferring this beautiful and varied resource into the protective custody of the Nicolet," said Martin J. Rosen, president of TPL.

"Thanks to the foresight of the Forest Service and the cooperative efforts of the Wisconsin congressional and state delegations, the Sierra Club and Milwaukee Audubon Society and others, this very special place will be enjoyed by future generations."

Gary Zimmer, Forest Service district biologist for the Lakewood District, enumerated the many varieties of plant and animal life the land supports.

"This acquisition protects the remainder of a blue heron rookery, as well as woodland raptors, some of them on the state's threatened list, and pine marten, a state endangered species. It is a unique viewing area for species in their habitat. It includes part of the super-canopy of virgin white pines as well as older hardwoods and hemlock."

Zimmer, who has helped conclude a breeding-bird survey of the Nicolet including some sites in the newly transferred tract, says he encountered "a number of uncommon songbirds, including blackburnian warbler and magnolia warbler."

The parcel's mixed second growth hardwood forests are also home to black bear, fox, bald eagle and other important and easily disturbed species. Its wetlands host beaver, mink and other species whose presence indicates the healthy quality of the habitat. The primordial virgin stands of the Cathedral of Pines have long been a popular destination for thousands of forest visitors.

In 1987, TPL acquired these lands from Primerica Corp., formerly American Can, as part of their major dis-

position of woodland holdings throughout Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

The Great Wisconsin River Logjam

This year's logjam will be held June 22-24 at Oak and Isle of Ferns Park in Wausau. Entertainment will begin Friday June 22nd at 1:00 p.m. with an afternoon of children's entertainment, including logging stories. At 4:00 the Amateur Lumberjack Contests, featuring many local teams, will begin. Saturday and Sunday begin at 8:00 a.m. with an all-you-can eat lumberjack pancake breakfast. Sheer's Lumberjacks will do two shows on Saturday and three on Sunday. Featured will be speed climbing, log rolling and cross-cut saw events. The demonstration area will feature a working sawmill and a horse team skidding logs. Frank Fixmer intends to man an FHAW exhibit. For more information contact the Marathon County Historical Society, 403 McIndoe St., Wausau, WI 54401.

100-Year Old Wolf Springs Forest 1889-1989

By Charles H. Stoddard

Although pioneer-woodsman James Wolfe died in the early 1920's, his dream and his little oasis of trout springs and big pines lives on into the 1980's--and hopefully for many centuries.

It was my fortune to learn about the "Old Wolfe Place" from a college-mate at the University of Wisconsin who shared with me a driving interest in conservation. Fred Zimmerman, now a key official in the Department of Natural Resources, spent his summers near Minong as a boy and described to me what northern Wisconsin could have been were it not for destructive logging and fires. "You've got to see it to believe it," he said.

So in the summer of 1931 in my old Model T Ford I rambled out to the Chittamo town road following Fred's directions. True to his description, the Wolfe Pines dominated the landscape to the northeast. It was an island forest in the midst of the cutover. (I learned later that a ground fire had burned over much of the adjacent area in April 1930 but fire fighters managed to deflect the fire from this still young stand of white and Norway pine.)

As I walked down the trail from the town road through the thick pines to the first spring, I was carried away by the thought that here alone was the answer to a young forester's dreams--a forester's forest. (A truly impossible dream for me with \$18 in my pocket and a \$12 Ford my only possession!)

On to the clearing and the trout ponds below where the water flowed into Wolfe Creek. Only the charred ruins of Jim Wolfe's house remained, and the trout pond dams had been dynamited by poachers. The trout hatchery had collapsed in 1930.

Five years and five hundred dollars later I was able to make a down payment to the Blaylock family of Red Lake (near Wascott) who had inherited the property from Wolfe. Because my employment as a forester always seemed to be in some distant assignment, progress in the pre-World War

It years was slow. But I was able to build a small cabin out of lumber from logs salvaged from trees killed in a beaver pond down Wolfe Creek, to plant a few bare acres on the south and west sides and to begin a forest management program (mainly thinning the thick stand of young pines of pulpwood). My schoolmate, Fred Wilder, and neighbors-- Steve Ansel, proprietor of the Chittamo store; the Lamberg boys; Ernie Block, who farmed nearby; and Harold Smith, his nephew (who was later killed on a destroyer in World War II)--all helped in these projects. In the spring of 1938 Smith and Block hand planted 22 acres of red pine on the rough south slope above the south gate--the first of 15 small plantings of red pine. I prepared a detailed map, timber survey and forest management plan in 1941 just before going off to the Navy.

In 1946 when I returned, my first project was to mark for selective cutting enough big timber (the trees across the pond were larger and less dense--many were in poor condition and needed to be removed to make room for better trees) to build my house, and to cut more timber for sale to pay for other building materials. Lumber was good "trading stock" for nails, cement, windows, shingles and wallboard during the shortages of the early post-war years. We moved in early in 1947 with much interior finishing left to do. Rebuilding of the trout pond dams were completed in the spring of 1947 and the ponds were raised to their present levels.

In the 25 years since then my boys and I have made many changes, but we have tried in every way to work with and not against nature--to fit our efforts into the surrounding environment. (Only an impartial visitor can be the judge of that!) Some of the larger undertakings:

--October 1939 -- First carload of pulpwood shipped to Nekoosa Edwards Paper Co.

--Added 200 acres of adjacent land along Wolfe Creek acquired from a land company--total 300 acres.

--1955-49--Built two more small lakes down stream by damming Wolfe Creek and flooding large grassy meadows. Grew wild rice on these lakes.

--1940-1970--Planted nearly 30 acres of pine and spruce plantations on scattered openings but left 4 small fields for livestock and wildlife. Also a patch of berry-bearing shrubs for wildlife.

--1955-1960--Put in a road system in the new lands.

--1938-1972--By carefully selecting our mature timber we have harvested 80 MBF of sawlogs, 600 cords of pulpwood and posts (mainly on the original 80 acres).

--1946--30 MFB of lumber sawed by Dana Grimm's portable mill.

--1970--Standing are 500 MBF in a solid stand of timber on the original 80 acres.

--1959-1960--Built a 25-person capacity boys' camp and operated it for 10 years. It is now leased.

Along with these major projects, we have added to our house, planted a garden every year, tried to raise a few mallards and brook trout, maintained our dams, ponds and lakes (impounded water always seeks to find new outlets), and tried to carry out release cuttings and to control white pine weevil and blister rust. We find that maintenance now occupies most of our efforts.

Our guiding principles have been to apply the most advanced techniques of resource management to these still wild lands--using common sense in their application. We would hope that Jim Wolfe, could he see his lands today,

would be happy with their state. And we also hope that the Wolf Springs Forest will demonstrate that man can live in harmony with the green, wild and living things on our planet without destroying them.

And, finally, that we will leave this little bit of primeval America in a better state than we found it.

Members in the News

- **Donald O. Ingram**, Wisconsin Rapids, director of timberlands for Consolidated Papers, Inc., retired January 31st after more than 38 years of service with the company. He has moved to Grand Marais, MN, where he has a tree farm, thus continuing his long involvement in the tree farm program which he greatly expanded for Consolidated during his tenure.
- **Miles K. Benson**, Rhinelander, has succeeded Don Ingram as director of timberlands for Consolidated Papers. Benson joined Consolidated in 1977 as a research forester after prior service with the Institute of Paper Chemistry at Appleton and with the former Owens-Illinois Northern Timberlands Division in Tomahawk.
- **William J. Emerson**, Milwaukee, had repeat open-heart surgery on February 10th. Bill is still recovering at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee from his difficult and dangerous operation, but will enjoy hearing from his many friends by way of his home address: 4485 South 5th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

- **Fred Ziemann**, Wausau, is an avid philatelist (stamp collector to the rest of us) who exhibits his topical stamp collection (featuring owls!) all over the United States and even a foreign country or two on occasion. He recently took part in a national exhibit in Oklahoma City, OK.

C.C.C. Reunion

A recent issue of the Milwaukee Journal January 29, 1990 contained the following article on the Civilian Conservation Corps by Peter Eisenhauer.

Work crew vets cherish memories

Conservation corps jobs were tough

"I was a belly robber," Leonard Bielinski admitted.

"I was a dog robber," Chet Kintop confessed.

They were talking about the days, some 50 years ago, when they had some of the more coveted jobs in the Civilian Conservation Corps camps.

The Depression-era program, created by the federal government, put unemployed men to work in camps all over the country. From 1933 to 1942, more than 3 million men worked in such camps, where they planted trees, cleared roads, and built dams, observation towers and bridges.

Locally, their work can be seen at the five former camps sites in the Milwaukee area that are now country parks: Estabrook, Honey Creek, Kletzsch, Sheridan and Whitnall. Crews at a sixth camp, Blue Mound, also worked on the Honey Creek Parkway.

Bielinski and Kintop reminisced at a recent reunion of Civilian Conservation Corps alumni at the West Allis-West

Milwaukee Recreation Center. About 65 of the old corps boys turned out for the event.

A "belly robber," Bielinski explained, was a cook. Some said they remembered the bologna and cheese served every Sunday, but Bielinski insisted that he served three good meals a day at the Blue Lake Camp near Minocqua in Oneida County in 1933.

Kintop remembered: "You couldn't beg, borrow, or steal a job [during those Depression years]."

His "dog robber" title was camp slang for an officer's orderly, Kintop said.

For the boys in the Cs, it was another day, another dollar--literally. In addition to food and lodging in barracks, they got \$5 in hand each month, and another \$25 was sent home to their families.

"As much as we hated it, when it was time to re-enlist, we got right back in line," said George Premetz, who was at Blue Lake Camp after Bielinski.

Alfred Hope, 70, is a co-founder of the local chapter of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni. He went to Scott Lakes Camp, near Three Lakes, in Oneida County, from his home in West Allis in 1939.

Alfred's wife, Dorothy, lived in Three Lakes, and that's where she met him. She remembers watching the skinny recruits, some as young as 16, get off the train.

Some of the boys from the city couldn't walk more than a mile on the gravel roads, she said in an interview at the couple's South Side home. But working outdoors and getting three square meals a day built them up.

"They improved themselves 100%," she said. "Here were these emaciated little things that didn't look like they would last a day when they first came, and they went out as big strong men."

Alfred Hope added: "There were no front-end loaders back then."

According to the alumni association, corps projects across the nation included building 3,116 lookout towers, 7,622 impoundments and dams, and 38,550 vehicle bridges,

and restoring 3,980 historic buildings. They also planted 3 billion trees and put in 4.8 million workdays mapping and surveying.

They also got an education, Alfred Hope said. Most of the camps had libraries and sponsored classes. "There were a lot of fellows that learned to read and write in the Cs," he said.

Army Reserve and forestry officers directed and drilled the corps. The military style at the camps, with 200 to 300 corps members, meant 5:30 a.m. wake-ups, with inspections before the 6 a.m. flag-raising. Bed sheets had to be made taut.

"If they couldn't bounce a quarter on your bunk, it was KP [kitchen duty] for you," Kintop recalled.

And Uncle Sam got a trained group of recruits when the Conservation Corps boys enlisted for World War II, as most of them did, according to some of the alumni.

"A lot of these guys, this was the best time they ever had in their life," Alfred Hope said. "Later, during the war, there was sadness, disaster, hardship."

Nostalgia for the Civilian Conservation Corps association, which had an estimated 2 million surviving alumni, got a boost during the 50th anniversary of the corps in 1983. Corps members, who think it is still a good idea to pay young people to do conservation work while they learn job skills, were among those who convinced Congress to approve a \$225 million, three-year revival of the corps. But former President Ronald Reagan vetoed the proposal in 1984, calling it "costly and unnecessary."

The state established the Wisconsin Conservation Corps in 1983. Funded at about \$2 million annually, it has 45 crews of 6 or 7 people doing work similar to the old corps.

Beyond talking over old times, the local alumni chapter is making efforts to see that their work is remembered. A corps barracks building at Whitnall Park was renovated last year with the help of a friends of the park group. This spring, the chapter will place a plaque in Estabrook Park, where

another camp built the Milwaukee River dam that is still in use, chapter President Frank Klobuchar said.

Dog robbers, belly robbers and other Conservation Corps alumni interested in the group can call Klobuchar at 476-4690.

Foster & Fairchild

One of the better known lumbermen of western Wisconsin was N.C. Foster whose operations were headquartered at Fairchild. The *Daily State Gazette* (5 September, 1878) described the Foster operations thusly:

Fairchild

Familiar Traces in a New Location

The Mill and Business of Foster, Cooke & Co.

A Complete Establishment

They are Building Up a Live Town

Fairchild, Wi., Aug. 27, '78.

After taking the necessary time to look over the ground and sights about Minneapolis we took the C. Minneapolis St. & Paul road for Fairchild, where Mr. Foster goes into business again, and I take a trip over their property,

When Mr. Foster came here about twenty months ago, there was very little about the town to attract a stranger; but all this has been changed through the capital and enterprise of the firm. They have a first-class saw mill that cuts about forty thousand feet of lumber per day, a double dry kiln that dries a large proportion of the lumber and shingles; and planing machinery to put the lumber in shape for long shipment. They find their best market near and beyond the Missouri, and that it pays to dress all lumber before shipment as the saving in freight is greater than the expense of planing. Everything about their large establishment is con-

ducted with the greatest regularity and precision, each department being under the supervision of experienced men who thoroughly understand their particular branch of the business, insuring success to the whole.

Their mill is located about three-fourths of a mile from the station, on Coon creek, a branch of the Eau Claire river. A short, inexpensive dam gives them a pond capable of storing about all the logs they could manufacture in a season's work.

As the past winter was very unfavorable for lumbering operations, they were unable to secure a full stock of logs, and were by necessity driven to trying the pole roads, or tram ways, which have in their case proved a complete success. They use five cars with four horses to a car, and handle on a mile and a half, or two miles haul, about eight to eleven thousand feet to each car per day, which is full as well as can be done in average winter work. As a large proportion of their timber is small, averaging about six to nine logs the thousand, they are able to handle it with ease during the entire season. The company have a spur of the West Wisconsin, or Chicago Minneapolis & St. Paul, as it is now called, running to the mill, and usually pass the lumber from the planers directly into cars. A portion of their space and power is devoted to the shingle business, but as their timber pays better when used for lumber they make this a subordinate branch only using the rough logs and slabs in their manufacture.

Feeling that good, reliable men are always best and that such men can only be received by offering them good wages and pleasant surroundings, the company have erected nearly thirty comfortable houses near the mills which are let at low rates to men with families, thus securing the best class of employees. In the village there is a great change also. The company have erected a fine store about 25 x 100 feet, two stories high, with cellar under the whole building, where they keep a complete stock of goods in all the lines required in a new and growing region. This branch of the business is under the immediate supervision of Mr. Mc-

Laren, who appears to know every person that comes along, and to supply their wants as soon as stated. They have a grain warehouse near the track where they have the bulk of their goods unloaded and stored until required.

Each member of the firm is making a home for himself. Mr. Cooke has his house completed and is nicely fixed, with a large, airy, well arranged house, and grounds that can be very tastefully improved.

Mr. Foster is building a large house on a gentle rising knoll near the railroad and Mr. McLaren is putting up a comfortable home on adjoining lots. They will have homes worthy of the name. The permanent character of the improvements make an observer feel that the proprietors have "come to stay." There is a little colony of men from Brown County employed in and about their establishments. Mr. W. H. Williams, for some years a resident of Ft. Howard, has charge of the books and accounts. Mr. Rice, who for so many years had charge of the Owego mill, has the same position here. Calkins & Powers are engaged in logging for the firm; they also run a farm near the mill and meat market in town. Mr. W. H. Lett owns and manages the Fairchild hotel, a house that receives a well merited support, while the mill and yards have many familiar faces.

About a half dozen years later the *Green Bay Advocate* (7 February 1884) under the heading, "Scientific Lumbering," provided additional insights to Foster's operations.

Receiving a notice from Mr. Foster that my services were wanted at the above named place [Fairchild], I forthwith started by the G.B.W.A. St.P. RR., which road I kept to Merrillian, where I changed cars by taking the C., St. Paul, M. & O.R.R. After leaving Merrillian a few miles, the road comes out of the scrubby pine forest and enters along the edge of one of the finest farming countries to be found in the northern part of the state. 14 miles from Merrillian is the beautiful little village of Fairchild, of about 400 inhabitants. This whole town is to a large extent owned by Mr. Foster: the houses are large, and nicely painted, with blinds and all the latest improvements. Mr. Foster here has

a large store of dry good and groceries and employees six or seven clerks, who are busy at all times waiting on his immense trade. He also has a large hardware store where there is employed three or four more clerks who are kept at work in their line. He also owns a large elevator, which is doing an immense business, I should say, by the amount of teams to be seen unloading. About one mile from the station can be seen his mills. The saw mill, which is large, and has all the best machinery for the manufacturing of lumber and shingles, contains one rotary 54 inch circular saw, one double cotter and two hand shingle machines, besides a lath mill. Near by is the planing mill, which has all machinery belonging to a first class mill of its kind. He also has a large machine shop, where he does all his own repairing. This shop is under the management of Milo Burkart, an old Green Bay boy, (the right man in the right place,) in fact Mr. Foster has got mostly all Brown County men at the head of this enterprise. C.C. Bradley has charge of the filing room. Mr. Bradley has been with Mr. Foster 13 years, which speaks well as to his ability in that line. Clark Witherall is head sawyer, and when I say Clark is one of the best sawyers, I know I speak the truth. He will be remembered as sawing for J. W. Woodruff for a number of years. Fred Hood is head clerk in the store, (there are three Hoods now at Fairchild; father, mother and baby all doing well.)

Mr. Foster owns about 160,000,000 of pine which lies almost in one body from one to twelve miles north of his mill. Through this immense body of timber Mr. Foster has build a standard garage R.R. of about 17 miles in length, which he calls the Chicago, Fairchild and Eau Clair R.R. He has three locomotives which weigh about 16 tons each, and any amount of cars. I saw No. 40; don't know how many more he has got. These cars are like any platform cars, only not so high and carry from three to four thousand feet of logs each. One engine with 6 cars is kept at work hauling logs for the mill. It makes four round trips each day and hauls from 15 to 18 thousand each trip, which are sawed about as fast as they get them. The mill averaged 56,000 of

lumber and 65,000 shingles every day I was there, which was a wonderful sawing for winter, the timber being frozen as hard as a stone. Don't think it is beat anywhere in the state, for the size of the mill. Mr. Foster has at present about 8,000,000 feet of lumber and 16,000,000 of shingles piled in his yard -- a sight to see of itself. He sells large quantities of lumber and shingles to the farmers, some coming as far as 40 miles.

It was my intention to go over this road to the North end, where he had a contract to put in 100,000,000 for Eau Claire parties, 25,000,000 to be in the river by the first of June; of the 15,000,000 [sic] he has already in about 9,000,000. On this contract he has two engines and about 40 cars, with I think three camps in the woods; don't know how many men to a camp, but not many. He has it so systematized that it doesn't take a woods full of men to get out the logs. I went out part way, 5 miles, with the train that supplies the mill. We had six cars in the train. All the help employed on each train is engineer, fireman, and one brakeman. When we got within a half mile of the loggers the engineer sounded the whistle and by the time we got to the skidway there were three men and one yoke of oxen to load. Here we left two cars and went on to another skidway where we left two more and then went on still to another, where was loaded the last two, which took about 20 minutes, we then backed up and found the other cars all loaded and the men gone back in the woods to their work of getting out more logs. In one and a half hours from the time we left the mill we were back again with 20,000 feet of logs; had made the run of 10 miles and loaded six cars, which I call big work.

La Grippe in Camp

Much folklore surrounds the life of the lumberjack and conditions in the logging camps. It has been stated

often, for example, that because of the good food, fresh air and hard work there was little disease or sickness in the camps. The following article from the *Appleton Post* for March 1890, which recently appeared in the Looking Back column of the *Appleton Post Crescent*, presents quite a different picture.

La grippe has been the cause of intense suffering among lumbermen in the camps of northern Wisconsin and Michigan. Nearly everyone has had it and for want of proper care, many have nearly died from its effects.

Will Mory, who returned from that region a few days ago, says that little sympathy is shown many of the victims of the disease. He tells the story of one fellow that was taken down to the hospital at Rhinelander the day he came home.

The fellow became ill and was carried to the camp. A diagnosis of the case was made by a number of lumbermen and they decided that the only treatment that would save his life was that which they administered.

They bathed the top and back of his head with a very strong lye and poured a pitcher of ice water down his neck. They then put him in bed and covered him with a dozen blankets in order to sweat him thoroughly.

There was no expression of surprise when the man commenced losing his hair.

Various aspects of life in the logging camps of nineteenth century Wisconsin have been researched in some detail. The topics of disease, sickness, and medical care, however, remain largely undocumented. Perhaps a FHAW member might be interested in undertaking such a study. The topic certainly would make an interesting paper for one of our annual meetings or an article for "Chips & Sawdust."

Information Wanted

Tim Kent is writing a book on the dugout canoe in the northeastern woodlands-prairie-plains region of North America, an area roughly framed by the southern borders of Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas and the Rockies, extending eastward to the Atlantic and northward into Canada, plus the area of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Part of the study entails taking detailed measurements, descriptions, and photographs of every surviving dugout canoe from the study area, both full size and miniature ones, made by both Indians and Europeans, from the prehistoric era to the early twentieth century.

He would very much appreciate information on any full size or miniature dugout canoes anywhere in the area of study, whether in museums or private collections. Also, leads on dugout finds (newspaper clippings, etc.) would be helpful.

This is a study of several years duration, so even if members hear later of surviving dugouts or leads on finds, please contact Tim Kent at 543 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park, Illinois, 60304.

SHSW Annual Meeting

This year the State Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held at Ashland, June 22-23. The meeting will offer two days of programs and tours on the history of the Che-

quamegon Bay area. Friday will feature a full day of presentations on historic topics, a workshop on historical records grant writing, and an awards banquet. The presentations will include "Wisconsin to Washington: Following Weyerhaeuser West." For more information on the meeting contact the SHSW at 816 State St., Madison, WI, 53706, (608)-262-9613.

Pastport In Time Program

The Nicolet National Forest heritage resource program invites public participation in archaeological excavations during the summer of 1990. One of the projects will involve the archaeological survey and excavation of a logging camp site near Langlade. The camp has been tentatively identified as one operated by Henry Sherry and George Gerry in 1877. The project will run from June 18th through the 29th and will be co-directed by Mark Bruhy, Nicolet National Forest Archaeologist, and Randall Rohe, University of Wisconsin Center-Waukesha Geography Professor.

Each participant must commit to five continuous days of work, beginning on a Monday (ie., June 18th or 25th). It would be best to arrive on the preceding Sunday. Sites have been reserved for participants at the Boulder Lake Campground. Participants may make other lodging arrangements themselves. Everyone will be required to participate in a Monday morning orientation at which time the project objectives and structure, regional history and archaeological methods and techniques will be discussed. Send inquiries only to CEHP, Inc., PO Box 18346, Washington, D.C., 20036. It is expected that the project site

will be open to the public for several days but those dates have not yet been established. CEHP will release the dates to major Wisconsin newspapers and other media at a later date.

Recent Publications

- Benson, Barbara E. *Logs and Lumber: The Development of Lumbering in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, 1837-1870*. Mount Pleasant, Michigan: Clarke Historical Library, 1989. xv + 309 pp. Illustrations, maps, footnotes, bibliography, index. Forestry was the leading industry in mid-nineteenth-century Michigan, and consolidation of the state's sawmills helped it to become the nation's leading supplier of lumber.
- Easton, Larry E., The Clark County Extension. "A Brief History Of The Marshfield-Greenwood Branch," *The Soo*, Part I (January 1990) 12:20-39, Part II (April 1990) 12:12-37. Examines the individuals and communities involved and the circumstances and events leading up to the construction of the Clark County Extension. Contains much lumbering history and a number of excellent photos. *The Soo* often contains articles related to logging and lumbering history. For information on back issues write Back Issues, *The Soo*, 949 Gail Ave., Neenah, WI 54956. For information on membership write Treasurer, J. Michael Harrington, 3410 Kasten Court, Middleton, WI 53562.

- Halsey, John R. "Enduring Traces of the Lumberjacks." *Michigan History* 73 (July/August 1989): 11. Post-Civil War loggers of Michigan's great white pine and hardwood forests have left a fragile archaeological legacy.
- Ryan, J.C. "Logging Camp Pests." *Timber Producers Bulletin* 44 (June/July 1989):36-38. Camp hygiene was an ever-present concern for the lumberjacks who worked in the virgin pine stands of northern Minnesota during the period 1840-1920.
- Ryan, J.C. "Horses Moved the Logs." *Timber Producers Bulletin* 44 (February/March 1989):26-28. Covers the hazards to horses in logging camps, late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Lumbering History Video

Malcolm Rosholt, author of "The Wisconsin Logging Book," and "Lumberman on the Chippewa," now turns his attention to video and presents a nostalgic overview of the great logging era in Wisconsin from 1839 to 1939. A TV mini-series of five tapes of less than 60 minutes is being projected. All significant phases of forest industries based on old photographs, maps, film clips, live action shots, and interviews with former lumberjacks will be used.

Part I, "King of the Woods," takes the viewer into the lumber camps and into the woods. It also includes a re-enactment of an actual logging operation staged in a pine forest of Marathon County featuring modern day lumberjacks using axes, crosscut saws, canthooks, sleighs, and hor-

ses. Other videos available are Part II: "Rivers and Raftsmen," and Part III: "Sawmills and Sawdust." All are on standard VHS for the VCR, 41-plus minutes. \$19.95 each on sale at your local Bookworld store or from the author at One River Drive, Rosholt, WI 54473.

The Collapse of Wisconsin's Lumbering Industry at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century

By Carl E. Krog

The closing of the large sawmills and the general decline of lumber production during the early years of the twentieth century caused a period of difficult adjustment for the city of Marinette, as well as for the northern part of the state of Wisconsin in general. At the beginning of the century, Wisconsin was still the foremost producer of lumber in the United States. Five years later, Wisconsin had slipped to second place in the nation, behind the state of Washington. Lumbering, however, remained the foremost industry in the state. The number of workers in the lumber and timber industry declined from one-quarter of the total number of wage earners in Wisconsin in 1900 to 18 per cent in 1905. There was a general decrease in capital, number of wage-earners, wages, and value of products. The value of lumber products declined by 23.3 per cent during the same five year period. In 1900, \$47,000,000 was invested in the lumber industry; five years later, only \$37,000,000.

Marinette's lumber industry followed the general pattern of the state. In 1900, \$4.3 million was invested in lumbering. Five years later the investment had decreased by one quarter to \$3.2 million.

Although Marinette followed the pattern of the state's lumber industry, it did not follow the pattern of continued growth characteristics of Wisconsin cities not dependent upon lumbering in the southern and eastern regions of the state. During the first five years of the twentieth century, the number of wage-earners in the paper-making city of Appleton increased by 59 per cent; in Kenosha by 40 per cent; and in Fond du Lac by 68 per cent. The increase in employment in most cities during the five year period varied from 12 to 24 per cent. Only the northern Wisconsin cities, like Marinette, almost totally dependent upon the lumbering industry for employment, showed a decline in the number of wage earners. Ashland and Merrill lost 24 per cent of their workers, Superior 23 per cent. Marinette suffered the sharpest decline of all, losing one third of her workers during the first five years of the twentieth century. There were 2,485 wage-earners in Marinette in 1900. Five years later that figure had shrunk to 1,645. During the same period, wages declined by 15 per cent, and the number of manufacturing establishments by 17.8 per cent. In 1900, there were 45 factories and mills, in 1905, 37.

The warning of impending disaster due to an eventual lack of timber to feed the sawmills was sounded repeatedly during the last quarter of the nineteenth century by Easterners living in a formerly timbered region. The pattern was clear. The Marinette and Peshtigo *Eagle* quoted a speech of Congressman H.W. Sage of New York in 1876 warning that Lower Michigan would be depleted of its tim-

ber resources in another decade and a half, and the citizens of Michigan would face the problem already faced by Pennsylvania and Maine. Sage, who represented a cut-over district in upstate New York, ended his remarks by warning the citizens of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to profit from the experience of the eastern states. In 1880, the Eau Claire *Free Press* denounced the practice of sending "armies into the woods to slaughter pine by the 100 millions, to get them to the market and to convert them to immediate dollars, without regard to any future use of [or] benefit to the country. That's what's the trouble in Maine. They have stripped the state of its great pine forest in the north, and find now only a troublesome crop of grangers and greenbackers in their place."

Because of the wasteful methods employed in harvesting logs, part of the wood was lost before it reached the mills at the mouth of the Menominee River. Sixteen foot logs were normally taken from an ordinary tree. The lumber companies paid loggers by the 1,000 board feet of logs they brought in. The amount paid the loggers was so small that they could not afford to spend time to finish up and take out the fifth, or last, log. As a result, nearly one-tenth of the timber was left behind in the woods. Fires readily consumed the choppings and slashings left by woodsmen. It was estimated in 1880 that fires burned five per cent of the forests, and sooner or later, over half of the region that was cut over was also burned over. As the twentieth century wore on, reforestation in the Great Lakes states would reclaim much of the land lost to ax, saw, and fire, but the process took many years.

Committee Chairmen 1989-1990

1990 Annual Meeting

William Sylvester

Distinguished Service Awards

Frank N. Fixmer

Publicity

Joyce Bant

Student Awards

John Saemann

Mike Sohasky

Annual Proceedings

Randall Rohe

Newsletter

Randall Rohe

Traveling Exhibit

Alvin Barden

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE 1877 SHERRY AND GERRY LOGGING CAMP
NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST, WISCONSIN

Beginning Monday, June 18th, a study team headed by Forest Service archaeologist Mark Bruhy, and Professor of Geography Randall Rohe, will conduct archaeological investigations at the location of a logging camp that was in operation for perhaps two years in the 1870's. The study team will include volunteers who will commit at least one week of time that will involve instruction in archaeological methods and techniques, and the actual excavation of remnant architectural and structural features. As noted by Dr. Rohe, "oral tradition and historical documentation provide only a partial record of what transpired during the Great Lakes lumber era. Archaeology with its potential to provide descriptions of little documented social groups, activities, and processes can fill in the gaps".

Following the American Civil War, the wealth and abundance of Northwoods pineries became of keen interest to industrialists seeking building materials needed to supply a growing nation. The stories of those entrepreneurs and the fortunes they made at the expense of the forest have been told and retold. What of the common folk - the immigrants, pioneers and adventures - who built and occupied remote camps while cutting the pine? Setting aside generalizations and popular conceptions, what can we learn from archaeological study at this camp? Come and join us while we discover the past. Come and observe, or join the team as an archaeological volunteer.

Volunteers, who must register by June 11th, will be provided free camping at the Boulder Lake Campground located in the southern part of the Nicolet National Forest (only volunteers will be provided free camping; we will be staying in campsites number 3, 4, 5 and 8). The campground can be reached by going east on County Highway WW from its intersection with State Highway 55. Proceed half a mile until you reach Forest Service Road 2116, and from here north a mile to Boulder Lake Campground. The Sherry and Gerry Camp is located less than a quarter of a mile south of State Highway 64, approximately 5 and 1/2 miles east of the town of Langlade. To reach the camp, look for a sign along Highway 64 and pull safely to the side of the highway. A well-marked trail to the south of the road will lead the way to the camp. The public is invited to visit and observe Thursday June 21st through Sunday June 24th, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.