



***Chips***

*and*

***Sawdust***

**A Newsletter**

From

**Forest History**

**Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

403 McIndoe Street

Wausau, WI 54401

**May 1991**

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## Editor's Note

John Saemann, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, recently wrote me that this year's scholarship competition attracted the largest number of applications in its history. Gregg Kvale of Kimberly, WI, a freshman in the Natural Resources Program at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, won this year's scholarship. His essay discussed "Attitudes Adjusting Conservation." Members are reminded that contributions to our scholarship fund are always welcome. Membership renewal notices will be sent out soon. Please consider donating a few dollars to the scholarship fund this year.

I recently received a selection of logging artifacts from last summer's excavation of the Sherry and Gerry logging camp for use in the FHAW's traveling exhibit. The FHAW extends its appreciation to Mark Bruhy, forest archaeologist, and the Nicolet National Forest for its permanent loan of these artifacts to the association. As soon as the appropriate labels are prepared, the artifacts will be incorporated into our traveling exhibit.

As mentioned in the last issue of "C & S," I will be working again with Mark Bruhy on the excavation of a logging camp - this one located on Boulder Lake near Langlade, WI. I will be at the site most days and invite members to stop by and take a look at our work. The project will run from June 15 through June 28, and will be officially open to the public from



June 19 to 26. While we may not have much done yet, you are welcome to visit the site earlier.

Randall, Rohe, Editor

## **Loan Policy Adopted for Association's Travelling Exhibit**

**A**t its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin approved a policy governing the loan of its new travelling exhibit.

The exhibit consists of a 6-panel display of logging relics and framed photos depicting various aspects of early-day logging, lumbering and forestry activities that contributed to the economic and social development of Wisconsin over the past century.

The loan policy is intended to expand the exposure of the educational facets of the display by making it available to non-profit organizations, free of charge. Eligible groups would include local historical societies and museums, public libraries and social studies or history departments of public schools.

The policy includes a written agreement with the borrowing organization, detailing the conditions under which the loan would be made. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Forest History Association of Wisconsin, 403 McIndoe St., Wausau, WI 54401.

Forest History Association members are encouraged to make known this new service to eligible organizations in their home areas.

## Loggers' Folklore in the Upper Midwest

**James P. Leary, Staff Folklorist, Wisconsin Folk  
Museum**

Over the past fifteen years I have been conducting field, archival, and library research on the folklore of loggers in the Upper Midwest, past and present. This research has contributed to a number of publications, exhibitions, and events that are either current or in process:

(1) Thirty-nine annotated humorous tales from the oral tradition of loggers will appear as a chapter in my book *Mosquito on a Windfall: Upper Midwestern Folk Humor* (forthcoming from August House, Little Rock, Arkansas).

(2) "Woodland Indian Fiddles and Jigs" and "Couderay Jig in the Buckhorn," two thirty-minute radio programs about lumber camp fiddling produced by Leary and Richard March as part of a series, "Down Home Dairyland," for Wisconsin Public Radio. Contact Richard March, Wisconsin Arts Board, 131 W. Wilson, Madison, WI 53703.

(3) *Medicine Fiddle*, a film by Michael Loukinen on Indian fiddling, much of it with lumber camp connections, in the Upper Midwest and Canada, should now be available from

UP North Films, 331 Thomas Fine Arts, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.

(4) *In Tune With Tradition: Wisconsin Folk Musical Instruments*, a traveling exhibition and catalog, includes the hand-made logging camp musical instruments of Otto Rindlisbacher and Ray Calkins. For information about the exhibit's tour through the Wisconsin communities of Cedarburg, Appleton, Madison, Marshfield, and Eau Claire during 1990 and 1991, contact Robert Teske, Cedarburg Cultural Center, P.O. Box 84, Cedarburg, WI 53012.

(5) Exhibitions of northwoods tall-tale postcards, "museum bar" artifacts, and single-log carvings are on display at the Wisconsin Folk Museum, Mount Horeb, WI 53572.

(6) The Michigan Traditional Arts Program is organizing a festival to present the traditional occupational skills of Michigan loggers, on the campus of Michigan State University (East Lansing) in August of 1991.

Forest & Conservation History 35  
(January 1991)

## Recent Publications

- Karamanski, Theodore J. *Deep Woods Frontier: A History of Logging in Northern Michigan*. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 1989.
- Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin. "The First Fifty Years." *Timber Producer*

(July 1990): 1-12. Special pull-out insert covering the history of this trade organization since 1940.

- Ryan, J.C. "Breaking Camp." *Timber Bulletin* 45 (June/July 1990): 30-32. Logging camp life during the Minnesota winters, early twentieth century.
- Monte, Mike "Remembering Your Roots." *Timber Producer* (April 1990): 12, 17, 20, 22. Describes Wabeno's annual Harvest Festival, and its star attraction a working steam log hauler

## News Notes

Ralph Eswein and William Krochmalski of the DNR spoke to the Jackson County Historical Society in January about old lumbering times. The slide lecture featured information about lumber trails and railroads, timber cutting methods, lumber camps, and sawmills. A lumber map and a display of logging tools supplemented the slide program.

The recently opened Onalaska Area Historical Society's Museum contains an exhibit titled "Black River Boom Town," which recalls Onalaska's days as a major lumbering town.

## Beef Slough

The largest boom in Wisconsin, and some claim in the Lake States, was Beef Slough at the mouth of the Chippewa River. The *Mississippi Valley Lumberman* (15 September

1879) contained a detailed article on these works taken from the *Eau Claire News*.

During the present season about two hundred and fifty million feet of pine logs have been passed through the Dells reservoir at this place, besides the one hundred and fifty millions manufactured into lumber by the mills of the city and immediate vicinity. In order to gather up a little information for the benefit of our readers, in regard to the great companies that drive and boom this immense quantity of logs, a representative of *The News* recently visited the Slough, and the result of his observations will be found below.

Beef Slough, as it is generally termed, is really one of the mouths of the Chippewa river, and is about twenty-five miles long, its width varying from one hundred to three hundred feet. It branches off from the main Chippewa at a point about three miles below Durand, where its volume is apparently as large as the Chippewa itself. From this point it bears off in a southerly direction, following the table lands which lie at the foot of the bluffs, until it mingles its waters with those of the Buffalo River, where both enter the Mississippi a short distance above the village of Alma. Between Beef Slough and the Chippewa and Mississippi rivers is a large triangular shaped body of heavy wooded swamp land traversed by numerous sloughs, and of little value except for its timber. This tract embraces several thousand acres, extending 20 miles on the Chippewa, 15 on the Mississippi and 25 along the Slough. This bottom land is not inhabited to any great extent, though in an early day when steamboat wood was scarce and high quite a number of Swamp Angels used to eke out an existence by cutting wood and selling it to the boats.

In the year of 1866 some parties owning pine land on the Chippewa conceived the idea of improving the Slough for log-driving and booming purposes. Accordingly, in November of that year Elijah Swift, Timothy Crane and James H. Bacon met at Durand and made a voyage of



exploration down the slough to see if it was fitted for the purpose contemplated. A favorable report was made to the parties interested, and in the spring of 1867 the Beef Slough Boom Co. was organized. Extensive works were put in and logging operations undertaken in the pineries under the management of Jas. H. Bacon, who had exclusive charge for two or three years, when the owners became very much dissatisfied and Mr. E. Swift was sent over from Oshkosh to settle up the company's affairs. The losses entailed on the company by Bacon's logging operations were estimated at \$200,000.

Soon after this Messrs. Weyerhauser, Schrieker and Swift leased the Slough for a number of years; but that arrangement not proving satisfactory the lease was canceled and one-half of the Boom Co. stock was sold to sundry mill owners on the Mississippi who were members of the Mississippi Logging company. Since that time the concern has been known as the new company, though it acts under the same old charter obtained in 1867. It may be well to say here by way of explanation, that there are three duly organized companies composed principally of the same set of stockholders, which operated on the two rivers and the Slough. The Mississippi River Logging company conducts operations in the woods and buys logs on the banks of the upper river; the Chippewa River Improvement and Log-Driving company takes charge of the logs on the bank and drive[s] them down the river to Eau Claire or below, when they are taken by the Beef Slough company and driven into the Slough, where they are assorted according to ownership and driven into the "pockets" at the rafting works when the owners take possession and run them to the various markets from Winona to St. Louis. These companies are distinct organizations but they are controlled by the stockholders of the Mississippi Co. and their officers are the same.

The works proper begin at Round Hill on the right bank of the Chippewa about three-fourths of a mile above the head of the Slough, where the company have put in a

row of piers to which they have attached a sheer-boom 2,500 feet long. This boom with the aid of another one at the head of Beef island to the south shore, turns the floating logs into the Slough, where the swift current carries them rapidly along. The sheer-boom operates so successfully that very few logs escape. Occasionally while a boat or a raft is passing a few logs go by, but they are mostly picked up below and saved. Thirteen miles from the head of the Slough is located the jam boom. This part of the Slough will hold from 100,000,000 to 150,000,000 feet of logs, according to the stage of the water. Numerous lakes communicating with the main Slough have been boomed, so that its capacity for holding logs is almost unlimited. The passages leading out of the Slough have many of them at least, been closed, and side booms have been stretched along wherever there is any danger of logs escaping, so that there is scarcely any chance for loss. From the jam-boom to the head of the sorting works is scarcely any chance for loss. From the jam-boom to the head of the sorting works is a distance of seven miles. The rafting works extend one and one-half miles. A race or passage extends through the whole extent of these works, on either side of which are the pockets for the reception of the logs belonging to different owners, after they have been assorted. This part of the Slough contains piles, piers and booms till you can't rest. During the rafting season, quite an army of red and blue shirted men are kept busily engaged in assorting and rafting the logs. From the foot of the rafting works to the river is a distance of two and a half miles. This part of the Slough is wide and deep, and is used for coupling up the strings into the brails and rafts. There is sufficient water here most of the season to float the largest steamers that navigate the upper river. During the rafting season the arrival and departure of the raft boats make this part of the Slough exceedingly lively. Some days during the present season as many as twelve raft steamers have been in sight of the company's office at this point at one time. The only lack of room in any respect, is when making up rafts in the busy

season, when it frequently becomes necessary to drop them into the Mississippi in order to make room to work.

If the business of the boom company continues to increase in the future, they may be obliged to utilize the Beef river by building a dam and creating a large reservoir for holding logs while making up into rafts.

The works on Beef Slough are the most extensive and costly of the kind in the Northwest and are scarcely surpassed anywhere for booming and rafting purposes. The total outlay from Round Hill to the foot of the slough since the organization of the old Beef Slough Co., amounts to \$300,000. The daily expenditure of the company in the busy season, when 500 men are employed below Round Hill, runs up close to \$1,000.

It is estimated that at the close of the present season there will have been passed through the Slough 925,000,000 feet of logs, as follows: 1873, 90,000,000; 1874, 130,000,000; 1875, 130,000,000; 1876, 153,000,000; 1877, 106,000,000; 1878, 63,000,000; 1879, 225,000,000 to 250,000,000. The amount boomed this season up to the present time is over 225,000,000, of which about 200,000,000 has gone to members of the company who are engaged in the manufacture of lumber at river points from Winona to St. Louis, and the remainder to various outside parties. The following were the shipment of logs to the river firms connected with the company since the opening of the present season up to Sept. 1st:

Laird Norton & Co., Winona, Minn.: 20 mil. ft.

Yeoman Bros. & Hodging, Winona, Minn.: 10 mil. ft.

Flemming Bros, McGregor, Iowa: 12 mil. ft.

J.S. Randall, Dubuque, Iowa: 2 mil. ft.

Wm. J. Young & Co., Clinton, Iowa: 25 mil. ft.

C. Lamb & Sons, Clinton, Iowa: 20 mil. ft.

David Joyce, Lyons, Iowa: 10 mil. ft.

Diminick Gould & Co.: 10 mil. ft.

Rock Island Lumber Co.: 5 mil. ft.

Weyerhauser & Denkman, Rock Island: 20 mil. ft.

Hersheg Lumber Co. Muscatine: 20 mil. ft.

Mussser & Co., Muscatine: 10 mil. ft.

Burlington Lumber Co.: 10 mil. ft.

L. Schrieker & Co., Davenport: 10 mil. ft.

Schulenberg & Co., St. Louis: 5 mil. ft.

To move this quantity of logs to their destination has required twenty regular boats and sixteen transient ones. The following is the list of boats engaged regularly in the business: Robert Ross, St. Croix, B. Hersey, Julia, C. Lamb, Laf. Lamb, I.N. Mills, A. Lamb, Sterling Hartford, Sliver Wave, Stillwater, Blue Lodge. The names of the transient boats in the trade are as follows: Nellie Thomas, M. Whitmore, Le Claire Bell, Clyde, Golden Gate, Louisville, Petrel, Buckeye, Tiber, L.W. Barden, Ida Fulton, Natrona, Minnesota, Little Eagle, Dexter, Robert Semple, Abner Gile, A. Reiling, B.F. Weaver, Molly Mohler and Kate Watrous.

The charges for driving and running logs from where they are banked on the upper river to the mills where they are cut into lumber is about as follows:

From the banks on the upper river to Eau Claire, 25 cents per thousand feet. Eau Claire to rafting works in Beef Slough 60 cents. Beef Slough to Rock Island, \$1.00: making \$1.85 per thousand exclusive of the cost of making up into rafts. There is also a percentage of loss in the transmission which varies form year to year and cannot accurately be estimated, thou log owners know that it is considerable.

The office of the company is located on the Slough just below the rafting works, about three miles above Alma and four miles from Wabasha, Minn., with which place it had



semi-daily communication per mail and express steamer Lion.

Mr. Thomas Irvin, the efficient and accommodating secretary of the company, resides here and devotes all his time to looking after its interests. President Weyerhaeuser resides at Rock Island, where he is largely interested in the manufacture of lumber, though he spends much of his time on the Chippewa and along the line of the company's operations.

## Demolished Log Hauler

Robert Duerwachter came across the following note in the *Antigo Daily Journal* (19 February 1914)

### Log Hauler Demolished by Avalanche of Logs when Descending Grade

A rather serious and expensive accident happened at one of the Holt Lumber Co.'s camps Friday afternoon about fourteen miles northwest off Lakewood. A \$5,000 steam caterpillar log hauler was demolished by an avalanche of logs from the log sleigh train attached there-to.

There were six heavily loaded sleighs in the train which was being conveyed down a comparatively steep hill. The steam log hauler weighs a hundred and twenty-five tons and has capacity of a hundred horse power, and is so gauged as to move at a pace of five miles an hour. In going down hill they coat the way with hay so as to steady and impede the speed, when about halfway down the hill the big engine "bucked" became unmanageable and turned end for end, the sleighs of course, coming in collision with it, causing the logs to break away from their fastenings and piling down with awful force upon the hauler, demolishing it to an extent that temporarily, at least puts it out of commission. There

are about fifty men in the crew and fortunately none were in any way injured by the mishap.

## The Further Adventures of Henry Sherry

Probably one of Wisconsin's more colorful lumbermen was Henry Sherry of Neenah. The "Looking Back" section of the *Appleton Post Crescent* recently contained this brief note on one of the many controversial situations that Sherry got himself into.

### Indians attack lumber camp

From the *Appleton Post*, November 1890

Henry Sherry, of Neenah, had five lumber camps in the woods above Shawano, one of them being on the school section in the Keshena (Menominee) Indian Reservation, about 30 miles north of Shawano. Mr. N.C. Bruce, who is in charge of this camp, arrived in this city Friday, and on Saturday received information of a startling character from Mr. Sherry.

According to his story, a party of 100 Indians from the reservation made a descent upon the camp and burned all the buildings and utensils, 14 oxen and 12 horses being included in the holocaust. The men from the camp were compelled to flee for their lives.

If any lumberman's biography would make an interesting study, it would be Henry Sherry's.

# Lake Yields Old Logging Chains

**M**alcolm Rosholt recently sent the following article from the *Rice Lake Chronotype* of December 19, 1990

## Rice Lake Yields 100-Year Old Logging Chains

When weed harvesters, Dave Paul and Dale Stoeckel, tried dredging up two huge logs from the lake this summer, little did they know that the logs and what was holding them together were part of Rice Lake history.

Boom chains, or logging chains, for the Rice Lake Lumber Co. which operated from 1887 until 1928, held fast the two boom logs. When the lumber company was still operating nearly 75 years ago, logs were floated from Mikana to Rice Lake.

Once the logs reached Hiawatha Park, loggers placed the booms in huge circles and chained them together to pull them to the Rice Lake Lumber Co.

The logging chains were stamped with the initials R.L. indicating their Rice Lake origin.

Bruce Ward of Rice Lake, a member of the board of directors of the proposed National Lumbering Hall of Fame and local logging history enthusiast, says these two logs must have broken free and sunk into the lake, to be found decades later. The logs and logging chains were found near the dam, Ward said.

After much work and trouble, the logs, along with the boom chains, were taken out of Rice Lake. Paul took the chains home and is donating them to the National Lumbering Hall of Fame.

The logs are in bad condition, said Ward, but the chains are in fairly good condition considering their submerged state. Ward hopes to display the chains and the logs at the Lumbering Hall of Fame when the hall is established.

Efforts by the editor to find out more about the Lumbering Hall of Fame have thus far failed.

## Big Logs

Occasionally period newspapers mentioned the large logs cut by loggers during the white pine era. The following examples, appeared in the *Shawano County Journal*, 7 March, 1872 and in the *Forest Republican* (Crandon), 23 August, 1907.

Among the "small timber" cut on Section 10, Town 31, Range 14, the past winter, is a little affair called "Uncle Crowell's Boom Stick," cut by the old gentleman himself. Its measurement, taken by Mr. R.C. Heald while on a late trip to the Upper Wolf, is five feet nine inches at the butt, and 74 feet from the butt it is 42 inches through. Mr. Crowell is 68 years of age, and we understand intends to lumber two years longer, health permitting, among the small timber of that region. The Messrs. Crowell are said to have the best lot of logs banked on the Upper Wolf.

What is claimed to have been the biggest saw log ever cut in Northern Wisconsin was recently converted into lumber in one of the Chippewa Falls mills. The log was about six feet in diameter and fourteen feet long and was cut ten years ago near the north fork of the Chippewa River.

For about five years the mammoth log was encountered in various parts of the Chippewa river by drivers and they often experienced considerable trouble by its presence.



The log was finally run into the pond at Chippewa Falls and on account of the interest it created, because of its large size, it was kept there several years. Before being sawed into lumber it was split by dynamite into four sections.

## Baled Sawdust

The sawmills produced an enormous amount of waste in the form of sawdust, slabs, and edging. The lumbermen tried many different uses for their waste. Some sawdust was even baled and sent to southern Wisconsin and Illinois, presumable to be used for insulating blocks of ice.

During the past few months, A. Weed & Co. have been shipping sawdust by the car load to Chicago and other points in Illinois, as well as to several cities in Wisconsin. The demand for the article has increased to such an extent that Messrs. J.H. Dale & Co. the extensive ice dealers of Crystal Lake, Wisconsin, are now shipping it in bales from Weed's mill. These gentlemen have a hay press at work near the mill in the yard at the foot of Washington St., pressing the sawdust in the same manner as hay is baled. The press is run by horse power, four horses being engaged at the work; one man is engaged cutting heavy wire for the proper length of the bale; one man is kept busy forking the sawdust on the machine; while two men are engaged feeding the press.

The bales weigh about 800 lbs., are circular, and are consequently easier handled for shipment than in any other shape.

(From the *State Gazette*, 15 June 1878)

## Facts from the Forrest.

Mill town newspapers often carried articles on upriver logging operations. The following article on logging on the Black River appeared in the *Liberal Democrat* (La Crosse) February 23, 1877.

Neillsville, Feb. 19.-- I have been intending to write you for several days past, and the reason I have not done so, is that I thought it might snow, in which event the

### LOGGING BUSINESS

would present an altogether different out look. But as it now is, the weather remains about as it has been for the past three weeks or more, and today the sun is shining as bright and warm as ever. The turnpike here is as dry and dusty as in summer, no snow to be seen on the road except where there have been drifts during the winter, from which the water is running very freely today and the sun seems as warm as in April. In fact everything in appearance, seems to indicate spring. There is no prospect of snow whatever, and the loggers here have concluded to be satisfied with the weather as it comes. Quite a number have held their men and teams in waiting, so that in case snow should fall, they would be ready for business without any delay, but the warm weather has continued so long that they have become almost discouraged, and the result is that men and teams are coming out of the woods continually, as it [is] considered too expensive to keep a crew doing nothing, and have no prospect ahead. There is

### VERY LITTLE HAULING

done this side of 30 and 31, particularly on long roads. In some instances where they have short roads, that are protected by timber, they still continue to haul but have to

put snow on their roads in order to do so, and in other instances they snow their roads in the afternoon and

#### **HAUL ALL NIGHT.**

But with this kind of weather, that will last but a short time, as the snow, even in such localities, is fast disappearing. Those that have bank chances are using them now in preference to snowing the roads, as it is almost impossible to meet expenses under the latter method. There is

#### **VERY LITTLE SNOW**

even in the woods, until one gets up into 30 and 31, where I learn there is six inches or more and good work is being done. That cannot last long unless we have more snow and cold weather. Loggers will all, of course continue to do some work with their own teams as long as they can, as they are obliged to keep them whether there is work to do or not. This is

#### **A HARD WINTER**

on the jobbers, as in many instances they fall short of their contracts and more particularly of their expectations, while the men they employ feel the effects of this short winter as much, if not more than contractors themselves, as quite a number of them came into the woods almost destitute, and in fact without sufficient clothing to keep themselves warm. As they have only worked a month or so, they have earned very little more than enough to pay for their outfit and their expenses to and from the woods. At this time of the year it is very hard work to find employment, as most of them run the river or work on the logs at the mouth in the summer. And the men who bring teams in the woods are generally farmers from Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, who have nothing to do at home and come up here for the purpose of earning a few dollars to help purchase their spring outfit. They also go home this season with scarcely any money, as wages have been lower than in former years, and there has not been much hauling for them to do, so as they came a long distance, it has of course taken a large portion of their earnings to defray expenses. It will, therefore, be readily seen that it has been considerable of a drawback to the

people in the country, while those who have logs for sale at the mouth of the river will be benefitted by it, as a decrease in the cut will of course increase the price of those logs that are put in the market the coming season. The scarcity of logs this winter will have a tendency to make

#### **A CLEANER DRIVE**

this spring than ever before, as those who have logs in the river will make every effort to get as many of them through to the boom as possible, and no time or expense in so doing, will be spared. At present I think the

#### **AMOUNT OF LOGS**

banked on Black river and its tributaries, is seventy-five millions or thereabout, which would be fifty per cent of the estimates at the commencement of this winter's operations.

#### **THE BLACK RIVER LOGGERS**

convened on Thursday last, at this place, to make the necessary arrangements for the drive, etc. There was quite a large attendance, and among those present I noticed the following mill owners, from down river: Mr. David Joyce of Lyons, Iowa, and Mr. Lindsay of the firm of Lindsay & Phelps, of Davenport, Iowa.

#### **NEILLSVILLE SOCIALLY**

is very lively now. Last Thursday evening the cornet band of this place, gave a grand ball and supper, which was considered a most enjoyable affair by all present. Saturday and Sunday evenings Wong Chin Foo delivered a lecture here and this week Thursday the Masonic order of this place, are to give a grand dress party, at the O'Neill House, which promises to be the largest and finest affair of the season. The week following there will be a grand masquerade, under the management of the young men here. Will write again soon, Forrest.



## **Chequamegon's Logging Camp Project**

**L**ike the Nicolet National Forest, the Chequamegon National Forest will excavate the site of a logging camp this summer as part of its Passport In Time program. The two-week project (June 3-13) will investigate the remains of Brown's logging camp that was operated between 1913 and 1914, apparently by the Rust-Owen Lumber Company. Later a settler utilized it as a homestead. The site will be open to the public June 8. For more information contact Cari Ver Planck, Chequamegon Forest archaeologist at 715-762-2461.

## **National Forest System Centennial 1891--1991**

**by Herb Evans**  
**(From the Nicolet News)**

This is a special year for the Forest Service and the Nation. This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Forest System. The Creative Act of March 3, 1891, gave the president the power to "Set apart and reserve...public lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth...as public reservations." Thus began what is now the 191 million acre National Forest System.

While we celebrate the passage of the Creative Act as the official beginning of the National Forest System, we should recognize that our roots go back even further. In 1876, one hundred years before the passage of the National Forest Management Act, Representative Greenbury L. Fort of Illinois introduced a bill to preserve public domain forests adjacent to navigable rivers and streams. Fort's bill was ahead of its time, however, and it never received serious consideration in Congress.

Of greater consequence, perhaps, is that in the same year Congress appropriated \$2000 for the Commissioner of Agriculture to prepare a report on forestry matters. Dr. Franklin B. Hough, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was selected for the job. Hough prepared a series of four reports that helped shape American forestry policy. One of his reports, for example, addressed the novel issue of a government selling timber while retaining title to the timberland, something that had been done in Canada, but not in the United States.

As a result of Hough's reports, the Commissioner of Agriculture, created the Division of Forestry in 1881 and appointed Hough as its Chief. In 1886, Congress confirmed the creation of the Division and appointed Bernhard Fernow Chief.

As Chief of the Division of Forestry, Fernow (like Hough before him) had no lands to manage. Driven by fears that excessive logging was damaging the Nation's watershed and reducing its timber supply, Fernow and others lobbied Congress to provide for the preservation of public domain timberlands. The efforts of those early conservationists resulted in the passage of the Creative Act of 1891.

President William Henry Harrison lost little time in exercising his authority to set aside forest reserves. On March 30, 1891, Harrison established the Yellowstone Park Forest Reserve. Within two years, Harrison had established

15 forest reserves, setting aside a total of 13 million acres in the West.

While the Creative Act allowed public domain lands to be set aside, it did not provide for the administration of regulation of those lands. As a result, Congress passed the Organic Administration Act of 1897, providing that reserves were to be established to secure conditions of favorable water flow and a continuous timber supply.

At first, forest reserves were administered by the General Land Office, an agency of the Department of the Interior. However, with the passage of the Transfer Act of February 1, 1905, administration of the reserves became the province of the Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry. In March 1905, the Division of Forestry became the Forest Service, and in March 1907, forest reserves became national forests.

Editor's Note: Both the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forests were formally established in 1933 as a continuation of the process that started in 1891.

## Beavers Stop Log Drive

The lumbermen encountered many obstacles on driving logs down the streams of Wisconsin. Probably the most unusual one was that described in a note in the *Forest Republican* (1 May 1908).

### BEAVERS STOP LOG DRIVE

**Animals Build Solid Dam Across the Fence River.**

The drive of the Kimberly-Clark company on the Fence River has been held up. Until Henry Dykes of Iron Mountain, who has charge of the drive, effects a compromise with the beavers or resorts to dynamite, the logs will not go down

stream. The beavers last fall built a perfect dam across the Fence river about fifteen miles from Floodwood. It is a dam that will not be swept out by the spring freshets. It is constructed of sticks, stones, and mud, and is laid so well that it is an impregnable wall. The drive of the company has been halted there and Mr. Dykes will use dynamite to clear the way.

## Information Wanted

The Jones Lumber Corporation will celebrate its 100 year Anniversary in 1993. Photos, company records, and information on the history of the corporation (previously known as Jones Brothers, G.W. Jones Lumber Company, T.T. Jones Lumber Company) are needed. Please contact the editor at UW-Waukesha, 1500 University Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188. The company operated mills at Buckbee, Elcho, Wabeno, and Appleton, WI.

## Largest Sawmill in the World

A correspondent of the *Evening Wisconsin* penned a description of the Chippewa Valley that included a section on the Union Lumber Company's sawmill. It was reprinted in the *State Gazette* of 2 July 1875.

The saw-mill of the Union Lumber Company of Chippewa Falls is claimed to be the largest of its kind in the world, that is, capable of sawing more lumber than any other mill. The building is wooden, 50 feet wide by 100 feet

long. There are four gang saws, each containing twenty-four saws and capable of sawing a log a foot and a half square into twenty-three boards, in four minutes; three rotary saws, each of which will saw a board in a minute; one muley for sawing joist; five sets of edgers; eight trimmers; two lath mills; one picket mill; one header, and three slab grinders; the latter are used for grinding all the slabs and waste material into saw-dust, which passes into the river, thence to the Mississippi, the Gulf of Mexico, and is lost in the broad Atlantic. The mill has a capacity of sawing 180,000 feet of lumber per day, or 55,000,000 feet per year. This year only about 30,000,000 feet will be sawed. Now only 160 men are employed running it, but when in full running capacity (night and day) 300 men are employed. The mill is run by water power, ten water-wheels being used. The lumber is rafted on the Chippewa river to the Mississippi, and distributed at points along the river at the principal cities. Shingles are also manufactured to a large extent. The boom works of the company extend up the river a distance of six miles; here the logs are assorted, the Union Company retaining its own and letting the logs of the other companies pass down the river. One hundred men are employed in the sorting of logs. The capital stock of the company is \$1,500,000. Hon. Thad. C. Pound is President, D. M. Peck Vice President, and N. Pierce Secretary. S. Barnard, of New York, Senator Wallace and F. Coleman, of Pennsylvania, were directors. In the winter the mill is idle, and all the men go up the river to the logging camps, and sufficient timber is cut for the next season.

## In Memoriam

The Forest History Association lost another of its long-time members and supporters when **Calvin B. Stott**, 89 died on February 5, 1991, at West Bend, WI.



Stott was a forester with the U.S. Forest Service for forty years and best known for his development of a continuous forest inventory system. His innovative technique for periodically measuring changes occurring on large forest properties was widely adopted by industrial forest owners throughout the Lake States.

Stott was the recipient of a number of awards for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of forestry and the timber industry. Those honors came from the Society of American Foresters, Timber Producers Association of Michigan-Wisconsin and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1985 he was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame.

## Photos Wanted

**P**aul Jakubovich (809 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202, Phone 223-5717) is writing a book about Victorian houses. Since many of them were built of white pine lumber, he is looking for photos of a stand of large, virgin white pine or a sled load of large white pine logs to use as illustrations in his book.

**Paper for this issue of "Chips & Sawdust"  
was provided courtesy of  
Badger Paper Co., Peshtigo, WI.**

## **Committee Chairmen 1990-1991**

### **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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# WANTED: ITEMS FOR AUCTION

*The annual members meeting for the past three years has featured an auction sale of numerous artifacts, memorabilia and other items related to early-day logging and lumbering. These have been donated by members and the proceeds have been used to meet operating expenses of the Association which were not met by its low dues structure.*

*We again solicit contributions of such items to be auctioned at the 16th Annual Members Meeting, to be held next October. If you would like to donate anything for this year's auction, please contact your nearest member of the Board of Directors, as listed on the inside front cover of this newsletter, for arrangements for delivery to the site of this year's annual meeting.*