

A NEWSLETTER
From

**FOREST HISTORY
ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN, INC.**
403 McIndoe Street
Wausau, WI 54403-4746

SUMMER
1997

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1996-1997

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304 W. Richmond Street
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Karl Baumann - Vice President
1119 Florence Street
Marinette, WI 54143

Robert Brisson - Treasurer
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Frank N. Fixmer - Secretary
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Don Lambrecht - President
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Randall Rohe
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Michael Sobasky
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Mike Weckwerth
110 S. Prospect Street
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HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 21, 1997
MARATHON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
WAUSAU, WI

Directors present: Albrecht, Baumann, Fixmer, Harm, Lambrecht and Rohe. President Lambrecht presiding.

Treasurer Brisson's financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997 was presented by Baumann because Brisson had to cancel his appearance due to emergency surgery for his wife. A lengthy discussion on various aspects of his report produced a number of questions with no answers due to Brisson's absence. Secretary Fixmer was instructed to meet with the treasurer to resolve the questions raised. Following a discussion of current investment policies, approval was given to maintain the "status quo."

PUBLICATIONS. The secretary reviewed the cost of the 1996 edition of the annual PROCEEDINGS and the problem of accumulating inventories of back issues because of overstocking and sluggish sales. He also referred to the disappointing lack of response from the general membership regarding the collection of materials for the proposed publishing of a "Directory of Logging Museums in Wisconsin", which project had been undertaken as FHW's contribution toward the state wide observance of the sesquicentennial of statehood.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD. No current report from co-chairs Sobasky and Saemann. Presumably flyers announcing the 1998 award of \$500. have been printed and mailed to educational institutions for posting at the opening of the fall semester.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS. Chair Rohe has submitted the citations for both the plaques and presentations and the secretary has had the plaques routed with the usual design and arranged for the engraved plates.

MEMBERSHIP. Secretary Fixmer reported that there was a loss of twelve members for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, which included two deaths. However, twenty new members were added to the roster, for a net gain of eight, one of the better recruitment efforts of recent years. He emphasized the need to try to get more support from wood producing companies and wood using industries.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT. Secretary Fixmer reported that he had attended a DNR state park and naturalists workshop in early June with a display of tools and equipment used by loggers and forestry personnel during the early part of the century. He was unable to participate as usual in the annual Wausau "Log Jam" festival due to lack of assistance in setting up and manning FHAW's usual exhibit. He plans to exhibit at the annual convention of the Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) in late September. Plans for a new exhibit on "School Forests of Wisconsin" are on hold because of lack of brochures, photos or other material needed to fill out the six panel display board.

PUBLICITY. No report from Chair Carl Krog. The secretary has prepared a news release about the annual meeting and sent it to the newsletter editors of several forestry related organizations, but not yet to newspapers or other news media.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR FALL MEETING

The FHAW Board will meet on Thursday, October 23rd, starting at 10:00 AM, at the home of Tom Albrecht, Shawano. The following agenda may be supplemented as a result of any new items developed at the annual members meeting of October 4th.

1. Election of FHAW officers for 1997-98.
2. Minutes of Board meeting of Aug 21, 1997.
3. Treasurer's financial report for the first quarter of 97-98 and for the annual members meeting.
4. Critique of annual members meeting.
5. Auction - 1997 results and future.
6. Membership - status of renewals.
7. Traveling exhibit - status of "School Forests" and winter storage.
8. Museum directory - sesquicentennial project.
9. Publications - "C&S", "Proceedings."
10. Publicity - DSAs; Forestry Hall of Fame; 1998 meeting.
11. Donation to Marathon County Historical Society.
12. Service charge to members for copies of FHAW files on forest history materials.
13. Spring meeting of Board - date, place.

Any FHAW members are welcome to sit in on this Board meeting, but should inform the secretary, Frank Fixmer, if they wish to attend.

RANDY and DEBBY BLOMBERG: AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING LOGGERS

(Whoever sent me the following article did not note the source, but I believe it came from the Timber Producer.)

The American Pulpwood Association saluted Randy and Debby Blomberg, owners of Blomberg Logging, Inc. of Ogema, Wisconsin, as America's National Outstanding Loggers for 1997 at APA's annual Awards Luncheon, April 8 on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. APA Chairman Charles Godfrey presented the couple with a plaque and cash award, stating, "Family participation seems to be common to the loggers we recognize as outstanding. This is certainly true of the Blombergs."

Randy and Debby Blomberg began their logging business in 1972, fresh out of high school. Although Randy directs most of the day to day harvesting and trucking and Debby primarily manages the office, both are deeply involved in all aspects of the business.

With a wide assortment of equipment, Blomberg Logging can handle all of the acceptable forest management prescriptions common to North-Central Wisconsin. "But we're more into quality than quantity," says Randy. "Markets are such that you have to sort and merchandise for highest value in order to survive."

"The thing that sets the Blombergs apart is their activities away from the logging job," notes Joel Wagenaar, a forester for Consolidated Papers. Randy and Debby devote about two days a week to association and community involvement. The two are active in APA, the Forest Products Safety Training Alliance, the Timber Producers Association, and Lake States Women in Timber. They are leaders in the Wisconsin and Michigan Log a Load for Kids Program.

Accepting the award, Randy spoke of the need to "continue with our efforts to educate the general public about our forest industry and the truth about our environment. It is the responsibility of each one of us who make our livings from the forest to take a stand, make a statement, and find a way to make the public aware that we are the stewards of the forest and not its destroyers."

These efforts, he said, must not only be directed at the public. "We need to educate within our own industry" - and raise standards through the education and training programs now sweeping the logging business nationwide. "But it isn't only the logger who needs to be educated within the forest industry. There are still many people who work in our industry who have no contact with the forest directly. Many mill workers, office workers, middle management, even CEOs do not connect their livelihood with the future of our forests."

The Blombergs join a growing list of National Outstanding Loggers, including Buck Williams of Pennsylvania (1990 winner), M.M. Wright of Virginia (1991), Riek Lessard of New Hampshire (1992), **Terry Peters of Wisconsin (1993)**, Buck Beach of Mississippi (1994), Don Paradis of Maine (1995) and South Carolina's Tracy Guter (1996). Nominees for this year's award passed through state level recognition to regional awards programs administered through APA's Technical Division structures. The National Outstanding Logger is selected by a jury consisting of chief elected and staff officers of 15 organizations representing a cross section of forestry interests.

The Outstanding Logger program is designed to:

- 1) recognize outstanding logging contractor performance;
- 2) raise the visibility of competent, professional independent logging contractors in the forestry community;
- 3) encourage other independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of the award winners; and
- 4) improve forester - logger relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

The American Pulpwood Association is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. APA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the pulpwood industry.

IN REMEMBRANCE - DUANE SADER

(The following is from The Florence Mining News, Aug 13, 1997. Mr. Sader has been a longtime member of FHAW.)

Duane A. Sader, 73, of Florence died July 26, 1997 at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital in Iron Mountain. Mr. Sader was born September 10, 1923, in Fremont, son of Edwin and Edna (Hildebrand) Sader. He graduated from Weyauwega High School in 1940. Mr. Sader grew up in Fremont, and served in the U.S. Army during World War II, returning in 1946. He graduated from Utah State and Agriculture School in 1946. He married the former Margy Boegh in 1957, in Fremont. Mr. Sader worked as a forester for the Department of Natural Resources, retiring in 1983. He worked in Wausaukee for a year, before moving to Florence in 1958. Duane was known by his family members as a native Badger, by devoting his life to the most basic and far reaching aspects of conservation and natural life.

NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST TRAIL DEDICATION

(The following is from the Three Lakes News, July 16, 1997. Walt Goldsworthy was a director of FHAW some years ago and worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a naturalist.)

Nicolet National Forest officials, members of the Three Lakes Historical Society and interested citizens gathered June 28th for the dedication of the newly constructed "Vanishing Lake Trail" at the northwest end of Fourmile Lake. Charles Rietz, board member of the society who headed up the development of the expansion of the popular Sam Campbell Trail in the Nicolet National Forest, was the master of ceremonies. The ceremony included the presentation of a plaque to Walt Goldsworthy, "For the vision and Leadership in creating the Sam Campbell Memorial Trail." District Ranger E. B. "Butch" Fitzpatrick presented the plaque to Doris Goldsworthy. The hiking trail is located east of Three Lakes off of Highway 32.

(In a letter dated August 24th, Mrs. Goldsworthy wrote the following in a letter to Frank Fixmer:)

This plaque was a total surprise to us, and it was too bad that Walt could not be there to accept it. It was a beautiful ceremony out at Vanishing Lake and surprisingly well attended.

We do so enjoy "Chips and Sawdust" and hope it will continue to be printed for a long, long time.

Walt continues healthwise about the same. Some days are fair, so I take advantage of those days to get him out for a ride. The big trouble is that I am so doggoned busy with the museum and also giving immunizations for the Vilas County Health Dept., that he hates to bother me with anything more. The museum will close soon, and I am trying my best to find someone who will take over for me, but as you can probably guess, it ain't easy!

Walt says "May the good Lord be with you", and I say "For many more good years!"

Sincerely,
Doris Goldsworthy

LOGGING CAMPS FERTILE GROUND FOR COLLECTOR

(The following article, written by Bill Draves, is reprinted from the Antique Trader, May 14, 1997. Paul Brenner is a long time member of FHAW and has made many contributions of material for C&S. He has also done much research on the local history of Boulder Junction and the surrounding area. Hope you have a good duck season, Paul!)

With more than 180 log marking hammers, many log ends from early lumbering days and 40 or more 19th century patent medicine bottles, Paul Brenner owns three rare, interesting and valuable collections. Brenner, of Boulder Junction, WI, has been haunting logging camps and mills for several years in search of these century old artifacts. He started his searches in 1947 when he went north from the Milwaukee area and continues looking today.

The hammers are made of iron or steel with design imprints - like cattle brands - on them such as "Jud," "+++" and "HK." Lumber companies used the brands to identify the logs they put into rivers to be floated downstream. They then could pull their marked logs out of the water at the terminal point for lumbering operations.

A separate collection includes many log ends which he discovered in shallow water or dry land near mill ponds. All show the markings imprinted by lumberjacks. At one time, Brenner reports, the state registered more than 6,000 marks in the north central area of the state, known then as the Chippewa logging region.

Also interesting and rare is his collection of small bottles, some three inches high, and many with patent medicine company names and cities on them. All were discovered in the sawdust, sand and dirt of campsites from Wisconsin's major logging days of the late 19th century. One reads, "The Great Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root, Kidney, Liver, and Bladder Cure, Binghamton, N. Y."

Brenner, now 72, lives deep in the woods on 10 acres of land surrounding a small lake. He once owned 600 wooded acres. He moved to the northwoods to work for the Wisconsin DNR first as a laborer, then in lumber sales, and later in land surveying. All three jobs put him close to early logging camps and lumber mills.

Brenner also has a collection of photographs of the logging and lumbering business in northern Wisconsin, many of which he obtained from residents of the area. He has had 35 re-photographed and made into post cards which he has donated to the Boulder Junction Public Library. He also has made a video of the early lumbering and logging days with two friends.

At one time, he cut and sold up to 240 cords of wood a year but now sells only 8 to 10 cords annually. Brenner not only is a logging era historian, but also a lecturer, weather recorder, historian and raconteur.

OLD LOGS MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

(The following is taken from an article written by Joe Manning for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 1997. An article from September 1996 on this same project was printed in a past issue of C&S. This article gives an update on how the project has progressed.)

A lost ancient forest now sitting on the bottom of Lake Superior may become a unique source of rare wood for musical instruments, particularly violins. But the violins will play only if enough large logs can be found. The company recovering the logs claims there may be millions of them just waiting to be harvested. But others familiar with the lake are skeptical, saying there may be far fewer than that. How much success Superior Water-Logged Lumber Co. enjoys will hinge on who is right.

"We expect this to revolutionize the instrument - making industry," said Scott Mitchen, a Milwaukee native, professional underwater treasure hunter and president of Superior Water-Logged Lumber. His company recovers logs from Lake Superior and elsewhere that sank after becoming water-logged while they were being floated to sawmills during the lumbering era, which began in the early 1800s and peaked from the 1870s to the 1890s.

The "Jurassic Park of wood," as Mitchen describes the sunken logs, includes birch, oak, maple, ash, pine and hemlock. The recovered logs are kiln-dried and cut. So far, a maple log large enough to provide the wood for a complete violin has not been found. Many maple logs would be necessary to establish a credible wood supply for the instruments.

So far, two acoustical instruments have been manufactured - a guitar

made from red birch, which will be given to singer Johnny Cash next month, and a dulcimer. Maple logs must be at least a yard in diameter, said Joseph Nagyvary, a biochemist at Texas A&M University who studies and makes violins. Nagyvary has examined samples of maple recovered from Lake Superior and thinks the water-soaked wood could produce musical instruments of similar quality to the famous violins of Antonio Stradivari. "The important practical issue is how many logs are down there. The company may be too optimistic about the number of maples," Nagyvary said.

The wood from water-soaked, old growth maples is similar to the wood used by Stradivari to make his violins nearly 400 years ago, according to Nagyvary. The instruments were made from wood that had been soaked for long periods. "These results make me hopeful that a major improvement in violin making could be achieved if this quality wood could be found in large enough size," Nagyvary said in a letter to the company.

Instrument maker Chris Hinton, who works at Superior Water-Logged Lumber, said the instruments' unique sound results from the bacterial removal of gums and resins in the cells of the wood while under water. "The recovered maple is specifically suited to violins. You don't find wood like this anymore," Hinton said.

Acoustical musical instruments are one of the uses that have been found for the treasured wood. Leick Furniture Inc., in Sheboygan, is using recovered oak to create a limited edition of antique appearing "Ashland curio cabinets," which will be sold through Porter's of Racine. The cost: \$2,500. The new Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority building opening next month in Madison will feature red birch paneling made from the underwater logs. Paneling made from recovered wood has been used in a mansion built for software giant Bill Gates and in the Saddledome, where the Calgary Flames ice hockey team plays.

The success of the company will depend on both the number of logs in the lake and finding more uses for the lumber. So far, Superior Water-Logged Lumber's has yet to make a profit, Mitchen said. Stock in its parent company, Enviro-Recovery Inc., has been available over the counter for two months, selling in the \$3.50 range. But Mitchen said one or two good contracts to supply wood will get the firm into the black. Superior Water-Logged, based in Ashland, has 25 employees.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands receives a fee from companies recovering logs, and the money goes to the Common School

Trust Fund because the logs are considered unclaimed property, board secretary Stephanie Thorn said. The fund receives 30% of the estimated value of a recovered log.

During the logging boom of the last century, when Wisconsin led the nation in timber production by clear cutting massive virgin forests, logs were lost when they sank. Often, because of the low water temperatures, the logs did not rot. Nobody knows how many logs sank into the depths of Lake Superior, the other Great Lakes, inland lakes or rivers.

There are a handful of other upstart companies also logging Lake Superior, but, unlike Superior, none of them has a sawmill. "While removal of the logs may be harmful to fish habitat and plant life, the DNR has not yet objected to any of the permits issued for log removal. The DNR's Smith says an environmental study needs to be done soon to determine whether removing the logs is harmful to the environment. "What's going on now is a gold rush," Smith said. Nearly 600 applications have been filed for permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. The DNR and Historical Society make recommendations on the permits.

The recovery process in Chequamegon Bay and the sawmill at 2200 E. Lake Shore Drive are fast becoming tourist attractions. Mitchen said 15,000 people have visited the sawmill since October 1996, when the site was opened to visitors.

Mitchen plans to involve more local craftsmen in the manufacturing of wood products, sold as Timeless Timber, and to reduce the prices. He also plans to open a series of Timeless Timber gift shops throughout the Midwest. "I think the individual hobbyist and craftsman will eventually account for much of our wood sales," Mitchen said.

ANNUAL CONVENTION WISCONSIN COUNCIL FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin will hold its Annual Convention for Local History on October 24 and 25, 1997 at the Society's headquarters in Madison. Friday, October 24 will consist of workshops on the topic of historical photographs, a sesquicentennial question and answer period, an address by the council's president, and an award ceremony. Saturday, October 25 will feature a bus tour focusing on transportation history in Wisconsin. Interested individuals may call (608) 264-6579 for more information.

NEW LUMBER EXHIBIT AT OSHKOSH PUBLIC MUSEUM

(Taken from the Oshkosh Public Museum MUSEUMEMO, Winter 1997. This museum newsletter, along with some other interesting lumbering information, was sent to me by member Larry Easton of Neenah. Thanks Larry!)

The great white pines of northern Wisconsin gave economic life to Oshkosh in the second half of the 19th century. The magnificent pine forests seemed limitless, able to provide wealth for mill owners and investors, and employment for thousands. When the spring thaw came, drives down the Wolf River brought a tremendous number of pine logs to the extensive sorting pens on Lake Poygan at Boom Bay and along the Fox River in Oshkosh. From there the logs were sent to dozens of mills in Oshkosh to be made into lumber, lath, sash, windows, doors, and shingles. So many mills once lined the banks of the Fox River that Oshkosh became known as "Sawdust City."

The museum opens a major exhibit in the Steiger Wing on April 27 (1997) which takes a look at this short but important period of history. The exhibit "The Coolest Business: Ice Harvesting in Oshkosh, 1860 - 1950" will be replaced by "A Big days Work: Logging and Lumbering in Sawdust City," which will run until mid-1998. Sections of the exhibit will portray cutting the trees, working on the spring river drives, and production in the lumber mills. Other sections of the exhibit will be devoted to the wood products manufactured by Oshkosh mills as well as living and working in Sawdust City. The mills provided employment for thousands of European immigrants. During the winter, logging camps in northern Wisconsin gave employment to sawyers, teamsters, blacksmiths, saw filers, cooks, boatmen, and others.

The life of a logger was anything but easy. During the short winter day, a team of two sawyers using a cross cut saw was expected to cut between 40 and 50 large white pines. The felled trees then had to be cut into standard lengths. Lumberjacks put in a "big day's work," earning between \$26 and \$30 a month for this labor.

Work in Oshkosh mills was no easier. Men, women and children labored in sometimes dangerous, noisy conditions to turn the logs into dimensional lumber and a host of other building products. They received about \$1 a day. Eventually, poor working conditions and low pay lead to

an organized strike by mill workers in 1898. Information on the "Great Strike," as it came to be called, is scarce. The powerful mill owners, dominated by the influential Paine Lumber Co., repressed information. Today, few records can be found pertaining to the strike.

By the turn of the century, the vast pine forests, cut with little regard for the future, were almost gone. In the wake of deforestation came forest fires and erosion, and farms were created in the cutover area on moderately productive, sandy soil. The slow-growing white pines were replaced by fast-growing aspen and other species, giving rise to the pulp and paper industry. In Oshkosh, the end of the lumbering era caused most of the mills to close. The boom time was over.

One future exhibit that the museum plans may also be of interest to our readers, and is described as follows:

By far the largest and most comprehensive exhibit will be "Place Over Time: Waterways." This exhibit will illustrate the tremendous influence and role that Lake Winnebago and the Fox River System have had and continue to have on life in this region. "Waterways" will explore settlement patterns, environmental problems, and commercial and recreational use of waterways, beginning with prehistoric Indian cultures. This powerful exhibit requires a considerable amount of space due to multiple themes and large artifacts such as boats. The master plan calls for the first phase of the exhibit to be developed in the first floor gallery. Should the Phoenix Building become a reality, "Waterways" would be expanded into the new exhibition spaces.

From the Marinette Menominee Eagle Herald:

March 15, 1897. P.B. Wood, representing a Chicago firm, has been in Marinette and Menominee the past few days exhibiting his snow locomotive for hauling logs and displacing horses in the woods. The locomotive, it is said, has been brought to a point where it is now practical. Frost & Bergeron of Iron Mountain, Mich., it is said, will put in one this winter.

May 10, 1897. Fully 1,000,000 feet of logs are fast on the rocks at the head of Horse Race Rapids in the Menominee River, the property of several companies that have been operating above the falls and on the tributary streams that empty into the Menominee. The water at this point is quite low and much difficulty will be experienced in driving these giants of the forest.

STEVENS POINT IN 1874

(From The Wisconsin Lumberman, March, 1874.)

The city of possibilities is Stevens Point. Located at almost the geographical center of the state, with water privileges unequalled and railroad communications completed and in course of construction equal to those of any other point, its business and population must soon make it the leading and most important interior point in Wisconsin.

A recent visit to the Point gave us new and enlarged ideas of its advantages as a city. We found it had a population of 3,500 which is fast increasing, it has six churches, well conducted schools, three banks, seven hotels, five very large steam saw mills, one water power saw mill, a grist mill, three steam shingle mills, with other manufacturies, carriage shops, lathes, etc., in proportion.

The leading hotel is the Curran House, Henry and J.D. Curran proprietors. It is one of the most popular hotels in the country. Its guests are always cared for as only attentive landlords can and do care for guests and all who have once enjoyed its hospitalities return to its rooms whenever business or pleasure call them to the Point.

The citizens have recently engaged in an enterprise that promises great results and an enormous increase to the business and population of the place. We allude to the organization of the Stevens Point Boom Company. By the kindness of Henry Curran, who took us up the river behind his well known trotting stallion "Dan," we had a fine view of the work done by this company. Although the work was commenced but a year ago, the company already has safe boomage for about 50 million feet of logs which can and will be very largely increased.* The booms and piers are located in slack water in a bend in the river nearly two miles long and about 300 feet wide, it seems, and experienced men claim, that neither ice nor freshets can ever disturb the stock.

Lumbermen have already shown their appreciation of the value of this work and have nearly completed no less than four steam saw mills of the largest capacity. They will all be ready for operation as soon as the river opens. These mills are being erected by the following firms: Weston & Sons, Cronkhite, Davis & Plummer, Karner & Stevens, and the Knox Brothers; the estimated capacity of each mill is 80,000 feet per day. Knox Brothers are also erecting a large shingle mill as are also Cronkhite, Davis & Co. When we estimate the amount of capital that

will be required to operate the great wood butcheries, the number of men that will be there employed and these great additions they must make to the population and business of the city, mall will appreciate the value of the Stevens Point Boom.

The Wisconsin Central railroad is adding largely to the business of the place. Its machine shops are located here and are to be enlarged this spring. The line of this road runs through some of the finest timber lands in the state and lumber is being moved as fast as the company can furnish transportation, the great drawback being the lack of cars. This the company promises to remedy as fast as cars can be manufactured.

*{From the editors of the Wisconsin Lumberman: This boom already has capacity for 80 million feet. There are eleven saw mills really tributary to Stevens Point, instead of four. All but one of those here named were in operation last season.}

PAY OF FORESTERS

(From The Profession of Forestry, by Arthur D. Read, M.F., published by The Macmillan Co., 1934.)

To the young man choosing his vocation, salary is naturally a very important consideration. What does the job pay? What are the opportunities for promotion? Forestry has often been classed as one of the poorer paid professions, but there are foresters making \$15,000 to \$20,000 and more per year (all salaries mentioned are pre-depression figures). These figures are small compared to outstanding salaries in other professions and vocations; but the number of foresters is small; the field is at the present time small. As forestry expands, as it will, the number of the higher salaries will increase while the extremely high salaries will presumably advance still farther.

According to Graves and Guise (Forestry Education) the present average salary of foresters, for beginners, is \$1,200 per annum; for ten years after graduation, \$3,500; for twenty years, \$4,300; twenty-five years, \$4,800. Salaries in the U.S. Forest Service in applied forestry are as follows:

Forest Guard (temporary employee)	\$ 900 per annum
Assistant Forest Ranger	1620 - 1860
Forest Ranger	1800 - 2040
Junior Forester	2000 - 2600
Forest Supervisor	3200 - 4600
Forester	8000 - 9000

THE STUTTS CREEK DRIVE OF 1902

(From the Manistique Pioneer - Tribune, Nov. 14, 1963. Article written by Harvey Cookson Saunders. Although this story takes place in the Michigan U.P., it is an interesting account.)

William Gibson, cook, Charles Prato, cookee Art Sanburn, William Parkhurt, Duncan Wilson and I were sent from Manistique up the L.S.&M railroad to Scots, to go in on Stutts Creek, about a mile below where the three branches come together to form the main creek. We were to set up tents, cut wood, brush out and repair pole trails. Duncan Wilson was the teamster, and our supplies came in from Scots on the railroad. It was April and there was lots of snow, and we used sleighs to move in.

We loaded the cook's stove, tent, blankets, and tarps to make shelter for the horses, and stayed at Jim Finn's camp overnight. Finn had timber in the two south branches of the Stutts, and his camp was east of where M-94 is now. It was noon when we got to the camping place, and the five of us were there eight days cutting wood and repairing pole trails through a swamp that flooded up along the North Branch of the Stutts for about two miles. George Roberts had banked many thousand tie cuts and cedar posts, and George L. Hovey and his river crew were to put them afloat and drive them to where the three branches came together. Jim Finn contracted to deliver his timber into the main Stutts.

F.N. Cookson came in after we were there a week, with the 25 men, and it was our job to drive the timber down the main Stutts, so Finn and Hovey would have space to get their timber out of the creeks while the water was high. Hovey got his timber down first, and moved down the river and set up tents at a place called Sunnyside, where the CCCs later built a bridge in the 30s. Hovey stayed on the river until Finn got his timber into the main Stutts. He left his tents and supplies just as they used it - a man to watch it for Cookson, and his men to use. He went to the Indian River to bring the drive down, and on the Indian River the company had log camps for the drivers to stay in, so they didn't use tents.

One or two days before we moved to the tents that Hovey used, Charles Prato's brother came in looking for a job, and to visit our cookee at the same time. The next morning he was sick. I think he stayed about two nights, and went out to Scots on the railroad, where they put him in a cabin as a smallpox patient. In five days after Prato left, three of us were sick, and in four more days, 23 of the 27 man crew were sick. I was the third one to be sick, and was really sick with a high fever. Every time I bent over I could not straighten up, my back hurt so.

Dr. Cole was the health officer, and he came up and placed us under quarantine. In a few days, however, Sid Grace, Henry DeRush and a fellow we called Kit Foot said that a man needed whiskey to make the smallpox pimples come out, so they broke quarantine and walked to the pest house at Manistique. I think it was five days before I went back to working on the river, and all the rest were back to work in five to seven days, except the three that went to the pest house. I still do not believe it was on the square that they kept us under quarantine until the timber was all in the main Manistique River.

Then clean up day came. We were in tents on the West Branch of the Manistique, just a short distance above where the Stutts enters. Mr. Hutt arrived with a large kettle - the kind a farmer would use if he was going to butcher a herd of hogs - and three or four barrels of formaldehyde. He told us to put up poles and lines inside the tent and hang up our best clothes and blankets, shoes and all, that we wanted to take away. We put on the poorest clothes we had, as they were to be burned after we got a barrel bath in potato treated water. There was about a foot of straw on the floor of the tent that we had been sleeping on. When everything was hung up, they lit the wick of the fumigator and closed the tent up tight, and we sat down to wait for our clothes, and our bath, and be on our way to spend our stake.

Art Sanburn and I were sitting on the river bank about 75 feet from the tent, and as we watched, the roof started to raise up and the sides bulge out. We thought it was caused by the fumigators. Art said, "I believe it is going to take off. It is well staked down, or it would be going right now." Just then someone hollered "Fire!" We ran to the tent and started cutting side ropes. I cut two or three and ran to the long rope that went to the peak of the tent. When I looked up, all I had was the rope - the tent was all burned in a gush of flame.

My clothes and Jim Allison's were close to the end near the river. We got our boots and a change of clothes, but did not go back for more as one of the men had a large caliber revolver and about 100 rounds of cartridges for it in the tent. The cartridges started to explode, and brass and ashes were flying, so everyone got back to a safe distance and watched it burn.

The Stutts Creek 1902 drive was finished, but not forgotten by the men that took part in it, and I believe most of us didn't suffer as much as some in the country from vaccination. We had some luck. Billy Gibson, our cook, did not get sick, and for a time he was nurse as well as cook, and we all owe much to him.

TALES OF OLD HATTEN SITE AS TOLD BY MIKE COYLE

(The following article, written by Nancy Wieneke, is from the New London Press - Star, June 13, 1997. The article was sent in by member George Akin of Green Bay.)

If properties could talk, some would have some real tales to tell. Mike Coyle's warehouse on East North Water St., recently purchased by the city for demolition, has a long history. Parts of it are original to the Hatten Lumber and Sawmill which occupied the location early in this century. As soon as the city is able to clear the site, it will be re-selling the property to a developer who will be building upscale condominiums.

Coyle, in a last tour through his old warehouse building, pointed out an anchor type overhead shaft which had supported sawmill machinery. This building, he said, has been remodeled, but it contains the original building with hand-hewn beams. Barn wood covering the outside of the building was also sided over with flat gray siding. The back part of the 120 x 60 foot building for sure is all original and the front was probably added on, he said.

Along the Wolf River, he pointed out remnants of old cable which was used to hook logs onto, which were then taken by derricks into the sawmill. To the east of the building, Coyle pointed out the foundation for the old steam engine, which had been bolted down there and was the power source for the mill.

Logs were floated down the river from the north, then taken out with derricks, hauled into the sawmill and cut up. Then, Coyle said, they were transported across the road to the Embarrass River where there was a railroad bridge to tramways on the other side of the Embarrass where the lumber was stored. Looking at the site now, all that can be seen are woods, and an old pillar if you look hard. The tramways, Coyle said, were very high and had railroad tracks where the logs were unloaded. What was left of the tramways could still be seen in the 1940s before they were burned out. "The kids would play on them. Mothers didn't care for this because they got nails in their shoes. We used to swim there (in the Embarrass near the site). Our underwear was never white again, but Embarrass brown."

Coyle recalls there was still a railroad bridge there in the 1950s. "Back in 1950 they had fires from the sawdust (at the old storage site), and drove the firetrucks across the railroad bridge to put it out." When it

caught fire it burned and smoldered for almost half a year. At the time Coyle purchased the old lumber yard on the south side of the street and the tire store on the north side of the street; there was an old four stall wooden door garage to the east of the tire store, where Hatten used to keep his Model A Fords. Coyle purchased the old lumberyard site from Mrs. Henry Miles Sr. in 1963. Miles had been running it as a lumberyard since the late 1930s.

According to local historian Lester Lehman, Hatten sold his lumberyard/sawmill to a party from Oshkosh, who ran it from 1937 to 1938. Then Miles purchased it from him. The history of a sawmill on this site dates back to the mid 1850s, Lehman said. After looking at the inside of the old building, Lehman said the timber looks like the way building was done in 1882 or 83. The size of the present Coyle building looks like old pictures of the front of the Hatten Mill. However, he said, the top story was taken off from the mill, a different roof was put on and the tramway was removed from the front of the building.

Coyle had some stories to tell that he had heard of the site. "When the lumberjacks were done riding the logs down river they would get bored hanging around the sawmill. They took to eat fishing. Word is one evening they had such a large catfish on, they couldn't pull it out. They grabbed a mule off a logging team and hooked it on the fishing line. It happened the bank was steep. It rained that day and the mule lost its footing; the fish dragged it in the river and drowned the mule.

On logging drives they had a cook shanty raft following, akin to the great plains chuck wagon. The cook made the loggers pancakes and eggs. "Word was that's where they carried all the dough," Coyle added.

Hatten, rumored to have been a millionaire, was a bachelor and never married. "He had a motel room at the Elwood, but it was said, to save money he slept in his office at the sawmill." In a paper written about William H. Hatten by Kristen Karpf and now in possession of the New London Museum this was said: "Hatten was a leading figure in the business life of New London for more than 40 years and an outstanding person in political circles and businesses in Wisconsin. He was taken to be very mean and stingy, when actually he was looking out for himself and being thrifty. He contributed thousands of dollars, and they were great assets to the parties and to the institutes receiving them.

(Editor's note: New London has a nice museum concerning its local history, located downtown in the basement of the library, and is open weekdays.)



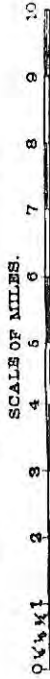
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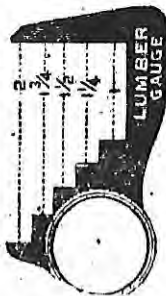
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