



**A NEWSLETTER  
From**

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

**SUMMER  
1999**

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304 W. Richmond Street  
Shawano, WI 54166

Karl Baumann - President  
1119 Florence Street  
Marinette, WI 54143

Robert Brisson - Treasurer  
N568 River Drive  
Menominee, MI 49858

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

Eugene Harm  
527 Stacy Court  
Cadott, WI 54727

Don Lambrecht  
1665 Patton Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301

Randall Rohe  
22535 W. Beeheim Road  
Waukesha, WI 53186

Michael Sohasky  
1435 Neva Road  
Antigo, WI 54409

John Cline  
1201 Plumer Street  
Wausau, WI 54403

James Adamson  
345 Glacier Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54302

## FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

### !!! ANNUAL MEETING !!!

The 24th Annual Meeting of FHAW will take place on Sept. 17th and 18th, 1999, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Oshkosh is located about 1 1/2 hours north of Milwaukee. All FHAW members should have received a separate mailing in early August detailing the events for the meeting and providing an advance registration form. We encourage attendees to register in advance and to please send these forms in as early as possible. This years meeting will focus on lumbering history in the Oshkosh area and is sure to provide many interesting events and information to all those who attend.

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#### AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are in need of items for the auction to be held at FHAW's Annual Meeting. The auction will be held on September 18th, 1999, as part of Saturday's program of events. Do you have a surplus of any of the following artifacts that you may consider donating to FHAW? We need any and all of the following to help renew interest in the auction segment of our meeting:

Log stamp hammers	Cross cut saws	Axes
Pike pole ends	Scaling sticks	Adzes
Rafting dogs	Wedges	Chains
Various hooks	Cant hooks	Peavies
Bark peeling spuds	Blacksmith shop tools	
Saw gauges	Camp kitchen items	
Ox or horse shoes	Books, photos, or literature	

If you would like to offer any of the above, please contact:  
Mike Sohasky Office: 715-627-6300 Home: 715-627-4025  
or: 1435 Neva Road, Antigo, WI 54409

Mike will make arrangements to pick up your items if you are unable to deliver them to his home or to the site of the meeting in Oshkosh. Remember, the value of your donation is tax deductible, and auction revenues help us to meet our operating expenses. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

## **FREDERIC W. BRAUN BEING INDUCTED INTO FORESTRY HALL OF FAME**

*(From the Wisconsin Tree Farm News, Summer 1999)*

Frederic Braun, the name behind Braun Woodlands, Tree Farm 93 was recently selected to be inducted into the Forestry Hall of Fame. Fred became a tree farmer in 1956 and was named Langlade County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1974 and, along with a partner, Sawyer County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1991. In total he owned over 4,600 acres of forest land prior to his death in 1996.

In addition to tree farming, Mr. Braun was very active in the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA). He was a charter member of the organization and was instrumental in their achieving nonprofit status. He was a firm believer in teaching youth and adults the value of woodlands and to respect the entire woodland community. He contributed articles regularly to Woodland Management.

Fred Braun was an accountant with a thriving business located in Antigo, Wisconsin. With his strong interest in forest land financial management and tax strategies, Fred agreed in 1990 to provide an hour of free help to forest land owners for their questions on accounting or tax matters.

In addition to being a tree farmer, he was an avid sportsman and walker, a church organist, a champion of volunteer work in the Kiwanis International, a teacher, and a writer. Fred was also a member of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin since 1982, and had an active interest in the history of Antigo and Langlade County during its lumbering era.

The Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame began in 1982 with the the first inductees being named in 1984. The basic objective is to give special recognition and honor to individuals who have made significant contributions to the practice and progress of forestry in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee is proud to have nominated Frederic W. Braun for induction to the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame.

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"If we are truly interested in environmentalism, we can do the most good, environmentally, by giving the best care we know how to the parcels of woodland which we have the good fortune to own."

Frederic Braun

## HONORED FOLKLORIST WALKER WYMAN DIES

*(From "The Country Today," River Falls, April 14, 1999.)*

Walker D. Wyman, a history professor and university president whose prolific writings on the fact, lore and myths of ranchers, lumberjacks, Native Americans and animals of the Upper Midwest earned him the title of Wisconsin's honorary folklorist, died in Green Valley, Arizona on March 29. He was 91. At the time of his death, Mr. Wyman had recently published his 23rd book, "Great Legends and Stories of Mid-America." He was a contributing author to many other books, in addition to publishing scores of scholarly works and publications. An avid diarist, Mr. Wyman had written more than 100 personal journals, which he donated to the State Historical Society archives. His 1979 book, "Wisconsin Folklore," became one of his most popular and rewarding works. Excerpts from the book, which originated from a University of Wisconsin-Extension radio course, were published weekly in more than ten Wisconsin daily newspapers and 50 weekly papers. It contributed in part to Wisconsin Gov. Lee Dreyfus that year naming Mr. Wyman as Wisconsin's first honorary folklorist. "The Lumberjack Frontier" (1968, Univ. of Nebraska Press) is his most widely recognized work for its historical and social contribution. It was selected by the English-Speaking Union for its Ambassador Book List for interpreting "the lives, backgrounds, regions and culture of America to the people of other countries."

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### WISCONSIN FOLKLORE

*Edited by James P. Leary. Available Jan. 1999 from the Univ. of Wisconsin Press.* Highly entertaining and richly informative, "Wisconsin Folklore" offers the first comprehensive collection of writings about the surprisingly varied folklore of Wisconsin. Beginning with a historical introduction to Wisconsin's folklore and concluding with an up-to-date bibliography, this anthology offers more than fifty annotated and illustrated entries in five sections: "Terms and Talk," "Storytelling," "Music, Song, and Dance," "Beliefs and Customs," and "Material Traditions and Folklife." The book covers an enormous range of topics: from Woodland Indian place names and German dialect expressions to Welsh nicknames and the jargon of apple pickers, brewers, and farmers; from Ho-Chunk and Ojibwa mythological tricksters and Paul Bunyan legends to stories of Polish strongmen and Ole and Lena jokes; from Menominee dances and Norwegian fiddling to African American gospel groups and Hmong musicians.

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 20, 1999, Antigo WI

*(These are abbreviated meeting notes, only including items that may still be of interest to our members.)*

**1999 ANNUAL MEETING.** Final plans were reviewed. A round of applause was given chair Einspahr for the time and energy he has devoted to the year's planning process.

**ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2000.** Secretary Fixmer reported that he had enlisted the aid of charter member Terry Moore in making preliminary contacts with potential meeting sites in Rhinelander for FHAW's 25th annual meeting. Discussion ended with consensus approving September 22-23, 2000, at the Holiday Acres Resort.

**AUCTION.** To help improve auction results, a consensus approved the formation of an auction committee to decide on the minimum bids for more valuable items to be offered.

**PUBLICATIONS.** "Proceedings" - Editor Miles Benson indicated his willingness to continue as editor for the 1999 edition.

**TRAVELING EXHIBITS.** Chair Adamson stated his willingness to deliver and set up any specified exhibit to the site of a special event, but will not stay overnight at any events involving more than one day. The secretary pointed out that manning exhibits is a definite problem when there are no member volunteers in some communities. Only three events are scheduled to date: Wausau's Log Jam in June, WWOA's annual meeting, Sept. 17-18 in Oshkosh, and our own annual meeting in Sept. Director Mike Sohasky said that he is agreeable to providing storage for all exhibits between showing dates and during the winter months at his county forest headquarters.

**FORESTRY HALL OF FAME.** Chair Don Lambrecht represented FHAW at a meeting of the HOF selection committee to vote on the 1999 inductees. FHAW did not have a nominee this year, but approval was voiced to nominate member Forest Stearns, retired forest research scientist of Rhinelander for the year 2000.

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP.** Sohasky reported that there were 15 essays submitted and reviewed; the 1999 winner was Alan Kirschbaum, a senior and forest science major at UW Madison. His winning essay was titled "Early Lumbering in Wisconsin: Environmental Impacts."

**MEMBERSHIP.** In fiscal year 1998-99 to date, there were 34 new members, plus 2 reinstatements, and 12 "drop outs" for a net gain of 24.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** President Baumann appointed a committee consisting of Albrecht, Brisson and Sohasky to recommend (at the annual meeting) the replacement or continuation in office, for 2 year terms, the following directors: Baumann, Fixmer, Lambrecht and Rohe. Fixmer reiterated his previous decision not to continue as a director and will retire effective June 30, 1999.

**OTHER ITEMS.** Director Albrecht announced that the WI SAF will be planning to participate in the observance of the National SAF's centennial during the year 2000. Consensus was that FHAW will cooperate, to the extent possible, with the program developed by the WI SAF.

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## FHAW SCHOLARSHIP

The Forest History Scholarship is awarded annually to a student at a Wisconsin college or university.

One scholarship will be awarded this year in the amount of \$500.

Scholarship recipients are selected by a board of reviewers appointed by the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. The sole criterion for selection is a paper written by the student on any aspect of forest or conservation history of Wisconsin.

The paper should be prepared as follows:

- \* Manuscript should be no longer than 1000 words.
- \* Double spaced, typed on 8 1/2 x 11 white bond paper.
- \* Number all pages and use generous margins.
- \* Title page should list author's name, school, class and major.

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 10, 2000. Winner announced in April.

Submit papers to: John Saemann, HC 1, Box 309, Florence, WI 54121

## IN THESE DELLS PHOTOS, NOT A BILLBOARD IN SIGHT

*(The following are excerpts taken from an article written by Dennis McCann in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Aug 8, 1999. Michael Goe is a FHAW member. The article was sent in by Joyce Bant.)*

Early next summer the former studio of acclaimed landscape photographer H.H. Bennett, in some respects, the father of the Wisconsin Dells, will open as Wisconsin's newest historic site. Not a moment too soon, either, because Bennett's thousands of images of early Dells life - from his photographs of daredevil lumbermen riding their logs over roiling Dells rapids to the original Indian residents and the first days of tourism - will be a sorely needed antidote to the commercial clap-trap that is the Dells today.

For those who can't wait, there is a sneak preview of sorts. Using many of Bennett's photos, Dells Country Historical Society and New Past Press, an Adams County book publisher, have joined forces to produce "The Dells: An Illustrated History of Wisconsin Dells" that ought to be required reading in waiting lines at modern Dells amusements. Often using cameras he devised, Bennett rode with lumberjacks, spent time with the Winnebago now Ho-Chunk - people and climbed steep bluffs and crawled into dark caves to document the incredible geology of the Dells region.

The Dells is, and always was, about more than tourism. "The Dells," edited and largely written by Michael Goe, tells of the native people who loved the land before developers did, so much that one of them, a Ho-Chunk leader named Yellow Thunder, resisted the white man's efforts to remove him from Wisconsin for almost 30 years. In one attempt to stay, Yellow Thunder bought 40 acres in the town of Delton, reasoning that as a landowner and American taxpayer he could not be moved to a western reservation. That land became the site of Indian pow wows and dancing, literally setting the stage for Dells Indian ceremonies that would draw tourists for more than a century.

Goe also tells of the wild and woolly days when lumbermen pushed their logs through the tricky canyons along the Wisconsin River, of the Confederate spy Belle Boyd, who died while giving a postwar talk at the Dells and who is buried there yet today, and of the famous "lost city of Newport," a Dells community that was to have become a great city - until the railroad went elsewhere. "The Dells," \$9.75, is widely available in the Wisconsin Dells area or can be ordered from New Past Press Inc. by calling 608-339-7191.



## WISCONSIN'S PAST AND PRESENT A HISTORICAL ATLAS

*(Joyce Bant also sent me some information on a new book with the above title. The book was prepared by The Wisconsin Cartographers' Guild and published by The University of Wisconsin Press in Madison. The copyright is 1998. The book contains a section titled "Timber, River & Mill," and once again our own Randy Rohe is a major contributor. This book should be available now in most bookstores and libraries. The following is from the forward of the book.)*

Despite Wisconsin's rich history, no historical atlas has been produced in the state since 1878. *(Editor's note: There was also an Illustrated, Historical Atlas of Wisconsin published in 1881.)* Wisconsin's Past and Present: A Historical Atlas, created by the Wisconsin Cartographers' Guild, has filled this void with a fascinating and colorful portrait of the state's complex development. This useful and entertaining guide, produced to mark 150 years of statehood, provides a lasting resource for map lovers and history buffs, and for everyone interested in Wisconsin's heritage. The atlas features historical and geographical data, including full color maps, descriptive text, photos and illustrations.

The atlas highlights the peoples and cultures, economy and land, and sociopolitical landscape of Wisconsin - from Native American mounds to weather hazards to labor history. In lively detail, it explores the history of indigenous peoples, immigrant groups, cultural legacies, natural resources, agriculture, industries, geographical and political boundaries, political and social movements, and government institutions. A fitting complement to Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial, this atlas celebrates the people and land of a remarkable state.

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY SIGURD!

This summer marks what would be the 100th birthday of Sigurd Olson, one of Wisconsin's most famous outdoor writers. Though he died in 1981, he is well remembered. The following is from "Songs of the North," a collection of essays:

"I look at wilderness now with profound respect, knowing that it must be preserved as a retreat for harried mankind in a world hurtling toward what seems to be a complete divorce from the past. Knowing what it means, I can better understand the vast complex of our needs and the longing for a way of life that with many is only a memory."

## NEENAH HISTORIAN FINDS TRAINS SOO INTERESTING

*(The following article, written by David McIntyre, is from the Appleton Post-Crescent, May 10, 1999. It was sent in by Randy Rohe. Larry Easton has long been a member of FHAW and has contributed much material to our newsletter.)*

Soo Line. A funny name for a railroad. While lines such as Chicago and North Western, Union Pacific and Wisconsin Central seem to be the names of "real" railroads, the Soo Line sounded more like a mistake. Perhaps it should have been Sioux, after the Native American tribe. Or could it have had oriental origins? No, Soo it was and Soo it remains. The name emanated from the French name Sault, as in Sault Ste. Marie, twin communities on either side of the northernmost point between Michigan and Canada. Sault is pronounced Soo (or sue). The railroad was real, playing an important part in the development of the state.

Larry Easton, of Neenah, a retired teacher, is the archivist of the Soo Line Railroad Historical Society, with about 1200 members worldwide. For 12 years, he edited the society's magazine. Easton concedes that being the archivist is no small job. And a tour of his basement attests to that fact, as countless boxes, records, schedules and blueprints take their place amid model trains, a replica of what might have been a station master's office - complete with paraphernalia - and a variety of lights, switches and artifacts from various railroads.

The Soo Line was incorporated in Wisconsin in 1883, according to Easton. It was to run between Minneapolis - St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The route was completed four years later, through the efforts of thousands of men working without the convenience of modern rail laying equipment. At its peak, the combined Wisconsin Central and Soo Line had more than 1000 miles of roadbed in Wisconsin, Easton estimated. "Since 1888, the Canadian Pacific (CP) has owned a major interest in the Soo Line. However, the Soo operated independently from the CP. Now, the 'new' Wisconsin Central owns all trackage in Wisconsin that used to be the Soo Line. It acquired that when the Wisconsin Central purchased the Soo Line's Lake States Division in 1987," Easton said. "The Soo Line was made up of a number of predecessors, one of which was the 'old' Wisconsin Central," he added.

In 1906, a group of lumbermen from Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Appleton decided to build a railroad from Appleton to Argonne to move wood products to that area. In 1921 the line ran between Neenah and Argonne and when completed, was sold to the Soo Line. In the spring of

1909, the Soo leased Wisconsin Central lines and doubled its miles in the state. The Soo's influence in the Fox River Valley came from the fact that it ran through Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Neenah and Menasha. Although its main line ran westward from Menasha, it operated a spur line through Appleton to Shawano. "The Soo Line maintained sperate stations from the C&NW along rails that ran through common cities such as Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Appleton," Easton said.

In 1961, the Soo Line, the old Wisconsin Central and the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroads merged, with the Soo name surviving. In 1985 the line purchased the Milwaukee Road. During its peak years, Easton estimates the railroad ran four passenger trains a day and six to eight freight trains through the Fox River Valley. The Soo Line ceased operations through the Fox River Valley from Chicago and Minneapolis when its Lake States Division was purchased by Wisconsin Central in 1987, ending a proud tradition.

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## **RHINELANDER FOREST TO SUPPLY U.S. CAPITAL TREE**

*(From the Wausau Daily Herald, May 16, 1999. Written by Jay Edenborg.)*

For the first time in 20 years, a Wisconsin tree will serve as the National Capital Christmas tree. The Millennium Christmas Tree for the U.S. Capital will be selected from the Argonne Experimental Forest in Rhinelander. The tree will be cut in November and transported to community events and then on a whistle stop tour to Washington D.C., where it will be decorated and lit in a special ceremony on the west front of the Capital facing the Washington Monument.

The tree that ends up in Washington will be 70 feet tall, 2 feet taller than any previous Capital Christmas tree. However, the chosen tree will start out much taller than 70 feet, explained Bridget Haggerty, coordinator for the Wisconsin's Millennium Tree Steering Committee. "We think its appropriate that the tallest tree ever will come from Wisconsin," she said.

The selection of the Argonne Experimental Forest is significant because it will be the first time the capital tree is taken from a research forest. Research forests are established to test effects of different environmental conditions. Haggerty said the Millennium Tree will give Wisconsin a voice to promote its forests. "This gives us a chance to talk about the value of forests in Wisconsin," she said. "A lot of people don't know that forest research is constantly being done to improve forest's productivity."

## **GIFT ALLOWS WADE HOUSE TO RECONSTRUCT DAM, SAWMILL**

*(From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 25, 1999. Written by Jacqueline Seibel.)*

Greenbush. To escape the dirt and din of the Wade House restoration project in the 1950's, Herbert v. Kohler Jr. imagines, his mother found refuge along the banks of the Mullet River. Ruth De Young Kohler - and before her, her sister-in-law Marie C. Kohler - were the forces behind the creation of historic Wade House as a tourist site, and part of their vision was that the dam, sawmill and mill pond someday be reconstructed here. Both women died before that could happen.

Their family, though, has ensured that their vision be completed with a \$1.8 million gift to the State Historical Society for the reconstruction of the dam, sawmill and mill pond. The gift, along with a \$400,000 state grant from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, will finance the \$2.2 million reconstruction project, said Mark Knipping, Wade House curator.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week at the 1850 stagecoach inn, one of seven historical sites operated by the State Historical Society. Construction has begun, and the sawmill is expected to open to the public in 2001. The facility will provide a rare view of a working, water powered sawmill with reciprocating blades, Knipping said.

After a decade of research, two archaeological excavations unearthed the original foundation of the mill. Researchers pieced together much of its history through business records, newspaper articles, historical atlases, census records and other governmental documents. The Robinson-Herrling sawmill, as it will be called, is named for its two previous owners, Knipping said. The sawmill was originally built in 1847 by Charles Robinson, son-in-law of Wade House builders Sylvanus and Betsey Wade. After the sawmill burned in 1853, it was rebuilt in 1855 and sold to a recent German immigrant named Theodor Herrling. Herrling's family operated the sawmill until dismantling it in 1910.

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In "A Sand County Almanac," Aldo Leopold wrote:  
"The largest pine rafts in history slipped down the Wisconsin River...to build an empire of red barns for the cows of the prairie states."

## **HISTORIC BUSINESS FURNITURE COMPANY STARTED AS MILL 151 YEARS AGO**

*(Article written by Jim Chilsen of Associated Press. From the Wausau Daily Herald, July 6, 1999.)*

**SHEBOYGAN FALLS.** Richardson Industries owes its birth to a determined farmer and some trees that got in his way 151 years ago. The company, which makes and sells furniture and other home related products, is one of Wisconsin's oldest family-owned businesses, and might even be the oldest, according to a study by the Institute for Family Enterprise at Bryant College in Rhode Island. Richardson Industries has six divisions and about 900 employees today - but it began in 1848 with a sawmill on the Mullet River. Farmer Joseph Richardson and a brother-in-law, Egbert, built the mill to process piles of logs they collected while clearing the land. The company's history is not lost on its new leaders, the sixth generation of Richardsons, who can still walk along the millrace their ancestors scooped out to power the sawmill.

Today, along with solid wood dining room and bedroom furniture, the company's other areas include building materials and weather-resistant wood for decks and sign posts. The private company doesn't give out exact sales figures, but vice president Jim Richardson said the company hopes to see \$100 million in sales soon. It's a far cry from the days of farmer Joseph's mill, which used a water wheel, leather belts and a saw to cut lumber. Today there is no mill, but some things haven't changed. The furniture is still assembled by hand.

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## **29TH COUNTY FOREST IS FIRST ADDED SINCE 1966**

*(From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 10, 1999)*

A new county forest, in Vernon County, will become the state's 29th county forest and the first added since 1966, officials said. The newly designed Vernon County forest will start with 650 acres, the state DNR announced last week.

The last county forest created in the state was in Marathon County, in 1966. Langlade County was the first county to register a county forest, in 1929. There are more than 2.3 million acres in the county forest system, more than either the total amount of state or national forest lands in Wisconsin, said Bob Mather, county forest liaison with the DNR.

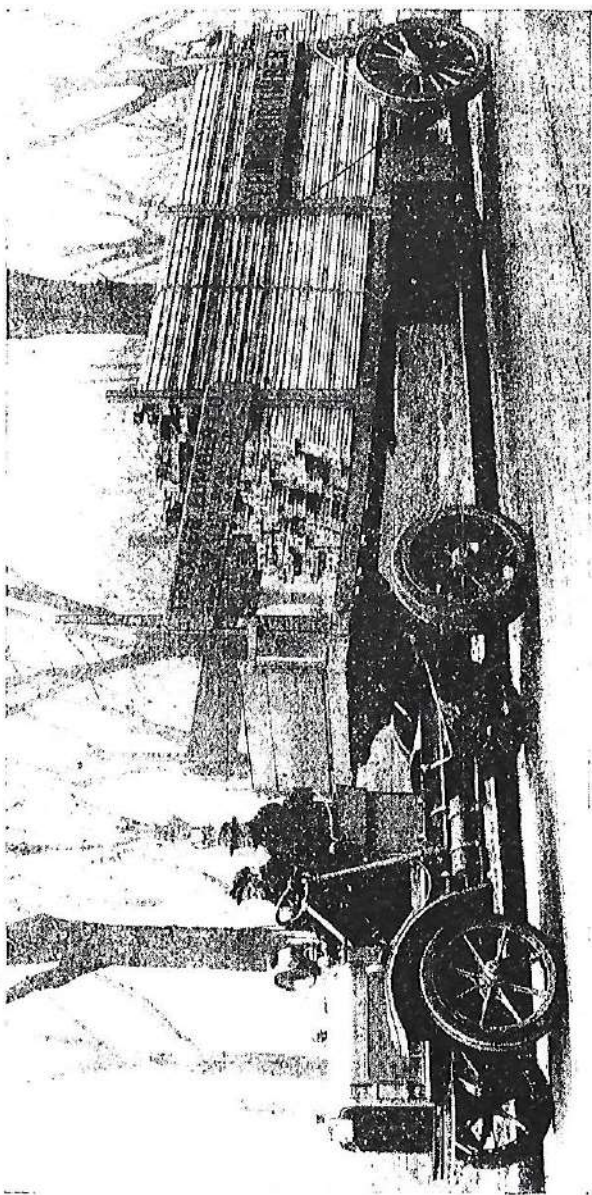


Figure 45: One southern concern uses the trailer attachment pictured above in connection with its 2½-ton truck. With this arrangement the truck has a capacity of four or five tons. Note the ordinary pair of wagon wheels used. These wheels are not "anti-friction," of course.

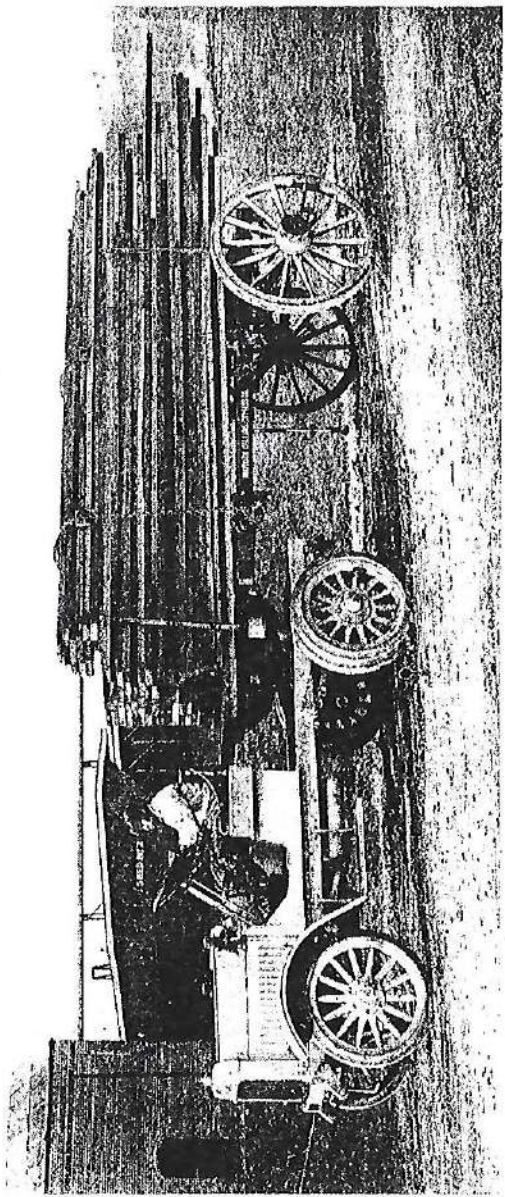


Figure 46: The tractor-trailer principle is here shown carried out even further than in Figures 43 and 44. An eastern company operates this specially equipped tractor. The tractor is used mainly for hauling large quantities of lumber for considerable distances over smooth roads.

## OLD TIME LUMBERJACKS... A LEGENDARY BREED

*(The following article, written by Bob Becker, is from The Timber Producer, May, 1999.)*

At 89, George Pasanen is still a striking, imposing figure of a man... tall, erect, alert, sure-footed, and above all, quick of wit. Pasanen, of Exeland, is an old time lumberjack. He's real, and he's authentic. He's seen the vast stands of virgin forest that once covered our north country. And he's worked in those woods, lived in the logging camps, when the pines, maples and hemlocks were harvested many years ago.

Bruce Ward, a Barton County dairy farmer, and a logging history buff, introduced me to Pasanen recently. What a pleasure it was to listen as George told of his logging days! "My folks came from Finland," he said. "They settled on the Brunet River about ten miles from Weirgor in 1905. They still had river drives there then. My folks built a log house where we four boys and our two sisters grew up. We had fences made of white pine stumps and we cut wild hay in the marshes. I liked that."

Logging was in full swing in the region, and when George reached 14, he went to the woods seeking a job. "I went to work in an Edward Hines Lumber Company camp near Loretta in 1924," he said. "Moonlight Pike was the camp boss. We cut hemlock and hardwood, some nice yellow birch. I remember landings with 100,000 board feet of logs decked on them." And a bit of lumberjack humor. "The camp cook had a big tin horn he blew at meal time," George said. "And I asked him how many men he could cook for. 'I can cook for just as many as this horn can call in,' the cook answered."

And a time when George was riding next to a teamster driving a team of horses pulling a sleigh load of logs. "I was chewing on a piece of meat," George said. "And when the teamster yelled 'whoa,' it got stuck in my throat. That's when I figured I was chewing on horse meat!"

Though most of the white pine had been cut earlier and driven down creeks and rivers to sawmills, Pasanen remembers hemlock logs being driven down the Flambeau River in 1926. "I did make a drive of some pine logs of my own once down a creek into the Brunet River," he said. "But then they were loaded on trucks and hauled to Ladysmith." The Tuscobia railroad line carried many logs, he said. "Logs went to mills at Park Falls, Rice Lake and Eau Claire. I remember the Hines Mill at Park Falls when it had 82 million board feet decked or in the water!"



Pasanen preferred to work on loading and decking crews. "The logs would come to the landing on sleighs," he said. "Then we decked them using swinging booms and horses for power - some of those horses knew more than the teamsters! When steam came, that was fast. It didn't take long to unload. Trucks began hauling about 1932. That was the beginning of the rubberjack!"

Pasanen liked the old time logging camps. "The camp life was good," he said. "The best life I ever had. Plenty to eat. The bowls of food looked like muskrat houses! And plenty to do. Nowadays loggers talk about breaks. We only had one, and that came about the middle of March with spring break-up. You didn't need a watch! You ate in the dark in the morning and in the dark at night! The wages were \$40 to \$60 a month, and you had to be good. I was in one camp that had 200 men and 37 teams of horses!"

"The old blacksmiths were really good," he added. "They could fix anything from shoeing your horses to sewing your mittens!" Was the work dangerous? "No, not if you kept your eyes and ears open," he replied. In 1950, Pasanen worked in his last Wisconsin camp. He then went to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for a winter, logging big white pine. "There it snowed eight days a week and twice on Sunday," he said. He also spent some time in Idaho.

Today, though long retired, he still keeps in touch with the logging life he's known. "I make handles for tools like axes, cant hooks and peaveys," he said. "I make them out of white oak. That's my favorite tree." And to demonstrate his skill, he produced an old axe and cant hook that he'd expertly repaired for a customer. "My father used to tell me," he said, "if you can't do it good, don't do it at all!" Like many of the old jacks I've met over the years, George Pasanen is a colorful figure. I'll not soon forget him... standing dressed in his red-plaid wool shirt, his heavy gray Malone pants staggged above the ankle, his well-traveled rubber-bottom boots. And especially, the big safety pin that held the top button hole of his woolen longjohns. He's a genuine link to Wisconsin's distant past, a true lumberjack. ...A breed of men of which legends were made.

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#### **SUPERSTITIONS** (From *Lumberjack Lingo*, L.C. Sorden, 1969)

Some lumberjacks would not stay in a bunkhouse if there were popple logs in it. It was believed that the cross Christ was crucified on was made of popple. They thought it would bring bad luck. Lumberjacks never ground their axes on Sunday. They thought it was bad luck and that they would probably cut their feet the next time their axes were used.

## LOGGING'S HEYDAY LIVES ON AT MUSEUM

*(The following article, written by Dennis McCann, is from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 27, 1999. Several of our members sent me copies of this article - thanks to all of them and to all others who continue to send me materials for this newsletter. I have had articles about the logging museum at Keshena in the past, but will print this one also to encourage those of you who haven't been there to go. It is well worth the visit.)*

KESHENA. The railroads - remember them? - long ago put rough-and-tumble rivers like the Wolf out of the logging business. But a century ago, those early spring days when the lumberjacks would loose their logs from muddy banks to ride the wild rivers to mills and markets must have been marvelous to behold. "From Keshena Falls," said one account, "there are but two rapids, and they are not bad. The boys ride logs over them without mishap. It usually takes about two weeks to get through Shawano as there are logs to sort out, a shanty to build, supplies and ice to load and boys to sober up."

Now the Wolf is a rafter's paradise, known for play, not work. To the south, dams prevent the sturgeon, sacred to the Menominee Indians, from even reaching Keshena Falls. But one thing has not changed. Thanks to selective cutting and careful management - not to mention wisely stubborn resistance to the pressure to level their land and become farmers - the Menominee still possess a most imposing forest, thousands of acres of tall pine and hardwoods that give hint to how much of Wisconsin's north once looked. And tucked into a glade in that forest, abutting the Wolf River just below its tumble through Keshena Falls, is a museum filled with artifacts that tell the rest of the logging story.

Saws for men, yokes for oxen, come-alongs and g0-devils. In a talk about summer travel recently, I urged parents to bring their families here to see how the forests once rose so tall and mighty and to view the tools that brought almost all of it down. It was good advice, but while I had often driven the winding road under a canopy of green, I had never actually visited the Menominee Logging Camp Museum. Now I have. The advice stands.

With 20,000 artifacts displayed in seven buildings of authentic log and timber construction, the museum claims the world's largest collection of artifacts from Wisconsin's logging era. It was developed 30 years ago when a Milwaukee couple, Jacque and Dorothy Vallier, were seeking a place for their large collection of artifacts. They decided that a museum

should be established, and they selected a site on the banks of the Wolf for its historic role in logging and because the Menominee were still involved in logging. Jacque Vallier, a botanist who then was chairman of the science department at Milwaukee's Washington High School, hoped at the time that the museum would attract visitors to the reservation and teach people about the logging era and the role the Menominee played in it.

Even tribal members need to be reminded sometimes. My guide for the museum tour, Roxie LaRock, said that as a young man her grandfather, peter, had worked in a logging camp and often talked about those days. But like many young people, she only half listened to an old man's stories. "Like I say, I wish I had paid more attention to it when I was younger," she said.

The Menominee entered the logging business in the 1870s when Congress allowed them to harvest dead timber for their own use. Eventually a sawmill was built at Neopit, but while vast forests were clear-cut all around them, the Menominees were more restrained. "People in surrounding areas wanted to come in and just cut it all down and make a city like Shawano," LaRock said. "But the (tribal) people didn't want it." Pressure to turn their forests into farms ended in 1908 when Congress, at the urging of Wisconsin Sen. Robert La Follette, established a selective logging system for the Menominee based on sustained yield. While the tribe harvested millions of board feet each year, it was estimated in 1952 there was still as much standing timber as there had been in 1908.

Modern logging is mechanized, but the museum shows how it was done when horses and oxen did the bull work men couldn't handle. There are horse shoes and collars, ox goads and yokes and nose nets used to shoo flies. There are whip saws and buck saws, circle saws, band saws and all the strange tools needed to keep them sharp. "Sometimes some older men will say, 'I used this,'" LaRock said, but even so, a wall of mystery tools still begs for explanations.

What would a logging camp be without a train? Between buildings, a small saddleback locomotive appears to be emerging from the trees. One log building is equipped as a dining hall would have looked, another has wagons and sleighs, chains and skidders. Yet another houses the tools of the camp carpenter.

The Menominee Logging Camp Museum, on Hwy VV south of Hwy 47, is open Tuesday through Saturday from May 1 through October 15. For information call 715-799-3757.

## A MAMMOTH LOG ONE BROUGHT TO TOWN MONDAY THAT MEASURED NEARLY ONE HUNDRED FEET. CHARLES PRIDE THE PURCHASER.

*(This article is from the Appleton Weekly Post, March 16, 1893. It was sent in by member Donald Peotter of Appleton, who said he found it while doing some research on local history.)*

Alex Bates, of Shiocton, arrived in the city late Monday afternoon with that mammoth white pine log that was purchased near Shiocton by Charles Pride. The log was cut by Mr. Bates on Ed Laird's farm and measured 108 feet in length, twelve feet of which was taken off before it was hauled here. The stump measured 34 inches in diameter and the top 9 inches. The terrible condition of the roads made the task of hauling the log a most difficult one. It was conveyed on two heavy lumber bobs drawn the greater portion of the distance by four horses. Whenever a bare place in the road was reached an extra team was attached. Mr. Bates was just two days in covering the distance, sixteen miles, having started early Saturday morning and arrived here the Monday evening following. The tree was the tallest of a clump of white pines that grew on Mr. Laird's farm. The purchaser will utilize it for a jim pole for erecting smoke stacks. It was left on the Pearl street hill for the present.

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## HOW TO MAKE A LOG RAFT

*(From A-Rafting on the Mississippi, by Charles Edward Russell, 1928. The author states that the following method was in use during the middle of the 1800s on the St. Croix River.)*

The boards from the mill were sixteen feet long and an inch thick. They were arranged side by side, one layer one way and the next criss-crossed on this until twenty-four courses had made an even edged pile sixteen feet wide and thirty-two feet long. This was called a crib and was the unit of the raft. It was now framed in with pieces of 2 by 8. Holes were bored in these and stakes called "grub-pins" were thrust through the holes to keep the frame together. For running the St. Croix the rafts were made of ten cribs in length and three in breadth.

The smaller rafts of the St. Croix were customarily made into larger rafts to run the Mississippi. One such raft was twenty cribs in length, six cribs in width, or roughly 642 feet by 100. Rafts grew longer as the business found its bearings...

## KIRCHMEYER'S COLLECTIONS REFLECT INTEREST IN HISTORY

*(From "The-Bee", Phillips, WI, Dec. 10, 1998. Written by Cathy Peterson.)*

Russell and Jeanne Kirchmeyer have obtained a new addition to the many collections they have accumulated at their home near Phillips. Russell recently purchased a complete set of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin's quarterly publication, "Chips and Sawdust." "The Forest History Association of Wisconsin is a relatively new organization which is dedicated to preserving an important part of Wisconsin's past - its logging and lumbering industry," he said. "Their publication contains interesting articles about logging camps and the men who worked as loggers. It is important that this history be recorded. Wisconsin's logging industry has been replaced in part by the tourist industry, so it is important to preserve the tools, artifacts and history of the logging era for future generations."

The Kirchmeyers' bed and breakfast business (East Highland Bed and Breakfast) is located in the former East Highland School. The entire building is filled with a treasure trove of collections, including old kitchen utensils, buttons, glass bottles, snuff jars, spittoons, metal banks, stamps, coins, guns, traps, barbed wire, World War I and II artifacts and memorabilia from abandoned mines. "My grandparents came from Germany and some of Jeanne's came from Sweden," Russell said. "We feel very fortunate to be able to have some of their heirlooms. We want to share our history and the history of the area with those who come to our home. We enjoy meeting people and giving tours of our place to anyone who is interested."

Jeanne said they enjoy telling their visitors the history of the home's furnishings and the larger artifacts, many related to logging, which are located in the barn across the road. "People are delighted to see the many collections of interesting things we have," she said. "What we have is what results when two pack rats have been married for 47 years." Russell said his interest in area history and logging began long ago. He said his grandfather came to America from Germany, where he had done logging in the Black Forest. He said his father was a logger, whose footsteps he followed. He still has the first bow saw he used when he started working in the woods when he was 10 years old.

The Kirchmeyers are willing to share their historical knowledge with anyone who is interested. They have given tours to school classes, senior citizen groups and other organizations, as well as individual guests.

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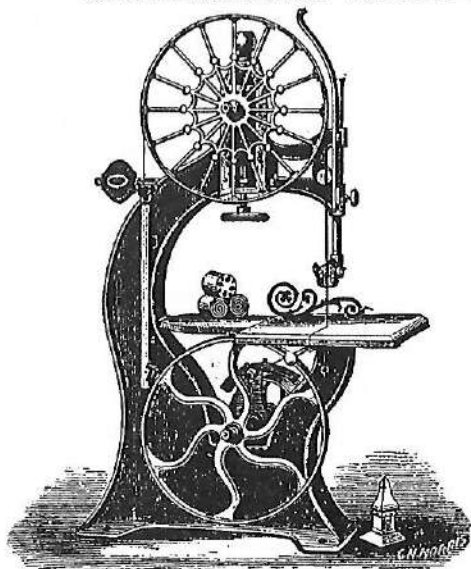
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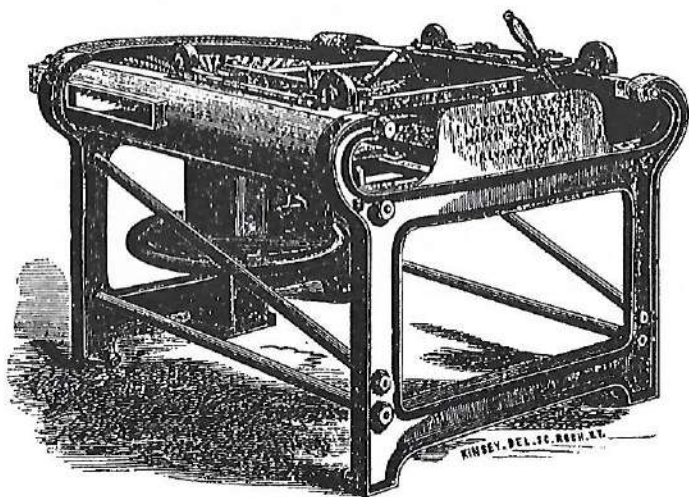
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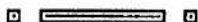
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