



A Newsletter
From
Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
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August 1991

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From the President's Desk

Almost a year has passed since I became President of AFHAW, an organization I loved from the first time that I discovered it. I feel so fortunate that I can do my part, along with many others, to help preserve our forest history and thereby remind our citizens of the importance of forests in Wisconsin's past and present. The forest industry has sustained my family for generations--both my grandfathers worked at various jobs in it, my father was a logger and a dealer in forest products, my husband has worked in the woods and now hauls forest products as Jim Bant & Sons. Our three sons are all loggers, although one has left the business after eleven years for better pay and shorter hours. Quite naturally our entire family has interest in forest history as we've been helping create it.

Knowing how thrilled we were to find out about this unique organization, we know others would be too. We need to find ways to inform people who are interested in the forest industry about FHAW. One way might be to contribute to newspapers or other media when they run features on local history or special forestry events or to participate in such events with our display that was developed just for that purpose. If any FHAW member knows of any events in their area related to forest history in any way or if your newspaper runs a feature on the forest industry, let us know about it by calling me at 715-356-1807 or writing to me at 6937 Hwy 51, Hazelhurst, WI 54531.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at this year's annual meeting at Medford. Hope to see you all there.

Joyce Bant, President

New Hall Of Fame

The *Milwaukee Journal* (April 12, 1991) contained the following article on the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

Bill Horvath sees the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame as more than just a place to hang plaques.

A new building for the Hall of Fame is under construction in the Schmeckle Reserve on the north campus at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. It is scheduled for substantial completion by June.

Horvath, executive secretary of the Hall of Fame, wants it to be entertaining but he also wants it to be educational. Yes, there'll be plaques honoring those who have fought for the state's environment.

But he wants to give visitors "a historical feeling of resource management in Wisconsin."

That feeling is something he believes is lacking in environmental education. So besides the plaques, there are to be exhibits, some of them offering sight, sound and motion.

'EPCOT CENTER APPROACH'

An example may be a multiscreen presentation giving viewers the sensation of being on a lumber raft on the Wisconsin River and telling the history of forest management in the state.

Horvath calls it "an Epcot Center approach," referring to the tourist attraction at Walt Disney World in Florida.

He thinks the Hall of Fame will attract university students, school groups, convention-goers, history buffs and tourists.

Although the building is new, the Hall of Fame concept is not. Horvath says Dan Trainer, dean-emeritus of UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, suggested it, although Trainer denies it.

A couple of years later, in 1982, Horvath picked up on the idea and invited conservation organizations to a meeting in Stevens Point to discuss it.

THE 1ST MEMBERS

The discussions turned in to reality and in 1985 the Hall of Fame directors named the first members, John Muir and Aldo Leopold.

Muir spent his boyhood in central Wisconsin and later gained fame as a naturalist in California, as an early fan of the Yosemite Valley and as a founder of the Sierra Club. Leopold came to Wisconsin as an adult and became a pioneer in the science of wildlife management, as well as a thinker who promulgated a land ethic philosophy.

Horvath is north central representative for the National Association of Conservation Districts when he isn't working for the Hall of Fame. Chairman of the Hall's board of directors is Earl Spangenberg of Stevens Point and vice chairman is Francis (Bill) Murphy of Portage, chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

The only other state with a conservation Hall of Fame is Ohio, Horvath said. So far 16 people have been inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall, including three this spring-David Clark Everest of Wausau, Richard Hemp of Mosinee and Pearl Pohl of Milwaukee.

There's something else Horvath would like to see happen. He'd like to see someone write a book on the history of conservation in Wisconsin.

He believes there is all sorts of material.

Paul Brenner

Paul Brenner of Boulder Junction, a life member of PFHAW, was featured in the April 5th issue of the *Lakeland Times* of Minocqua, Wisconsin. Written by Alan Barbian, a *Lakeland Times* reporter, the two-page article began with "When Paul Brenner talks about logging there's a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face that would make a lumberjack proud. Brenner is a walking encyclopedia when it comes to discussing an era in the Northwoods that saw oxen and horses dragging sleds of white pine across a frozen forest lane. He can chug through logging history like a Phoenix steam hauler dragging a dozen sleds of timber."

The article goes on to describe the Milwaukee native's move to the Northwoods in 1947 to work for the state forest nursery at the present Department of Natural Resource's Trout Lake headquarters. When the nursery folded, he joined the forest survey crew. He became interested in logging history while surveying land for timber sales and began pursuing that interest after he retired in 1974. Since then he had acquired a large collection of old pictures, stories from talking to relatives of old loggers, and logging memorabilia which include more than 100 cast iron logging hammer heads used to mark the end of each log shipped by water. All of this he shares with young school children, nursing home residents,

community and library groups, and "anyone who will listen." When interviewed, Paul requested that the newspaper article be not about him, but on the logging history of the Lakeland area and the reporter obliged him with the following article of information Paul gave him:

The Chippewa Indians ceded the land to the United States in 1847. By 1860 the federal government surveyed the exterior lines of the townships in this area and within a few years all the interior lines were done. By 1871 the land was put up for sale.

There is some evidence of logging in the Rest Lake area as early as 1875. A log building southwest of the Rest Lake dam was torn down a number of years ago. It had the names of two men from Hurley and the date, Aug. 1875, penciled between the logs.

The first Wisconsin legislation authorizing logging dams in this area was passed on April 27, 1887. A low dam at the present Rest Lake site was built shortly afterward. A higher dam, holding back 9.5 feet of water, was built in 1892 at the same site. Most likely the Boulder and Fishtrap lake dams near Boulder Junction were built at about the same time. The steamboat to haul the log rafts through the Rest Lake Flowage was also built in 1892.

The logging that took place between 1893 and 1902 was mostly, if not all, white pine because it made the best lumber and floated better than other trees. Before the railroad reached the Lakeland area, all logs were floated down the rivers to Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and even as far south as Iowa.

Most of the land within three miles of the Manitowish River and its tributaries was owned by the Mississippi River Logging Company from 1892 to 1902. It was then sold to the Chippewa Lumber & Boom [Co.], but both companies were owned in part by lumber baron Frederick Weyerhaeuser. Other white pine logging companies in the area

were Laird Norton, Chippewa Logging Company and the Dells Lumber Company.

Marking logs

All of the companies in Wisconsin who logged before the railroads got to their area used the same water to transport their logs. With so many different logs in the water at the same time, there had to be a way for each company to get their own logs back. So a system was developed to put a mark on the end of each log with a hammer called an "end" or "stamp" mark and either the same or a different mark on the round side of a log put in with an axe called a "bark" mark. These marks were registered with a lumber inspector hired by the state. In 1861 the state was divided into four lumber districts but by 1895 there were 16 districts, all based on river drainage systems. The Manitowish River was originally part of the third district, but by the time the logging actually reached this area it was in the sixth district.

The marks could be anything: letters, numbers, figures, or symbols. Some large companies, like the John Paul Lumber Company of LaCrosse, had only a few end marks but many bark marks. Since they had many camps working at the same time the different bark marks told them from which camps the logs came.

Other lumber companies had many different end and bark marks. Both the Mississippi River Logging Company and the Chippewa Logging Company had more than 100. Some smaller jobbers had only one; Jim Plunkett from Manitowish used YPJ and O.J. Bolger from Minocqua used AB.

There are more than 3,700 different end and bark marks recorded in a sixth lumber district index. However, Brenner says the list is not complete because he has both a marking hammer and separate marked log end found in this area that are not listed in the records.

The earliest hammers were usually cast at a foundry and weighed from three to five pounds. In later years many were smaller, some as light as one pound with the marks welded or brazed on the hammer head.

Railroad era

By 1905 the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad put tracks into the area. The land owned by the Chippewa Lumber & Boom [Co.] was then sold to Yawkey Bissell Lumber Company, a few other lumber companies, some land companies, and individuals. These companies then cleaned up the rest of the white pine and also cut the red pine, hemlock, cedar, tamarack and hardwoods.

Some of the major downstate logging companies that logged here were Stang from Tomah; Wright from Merrill; Brooks and Ross from Schofield; the Land, Log & Lumber Company and the Goodyear Lumber Company.

The companies that had mills in this area logged not only the land that they had bought from the Chippewa Lumber & Boom [Co.], but also land they owned further away from the Manitowish River and was now accessible by rail.

They were the Flambeau Lumber Company at Lac du Flambeau on the west; Salsich and Wilson at Star Lake on the east; Brooks Lumber Company and Yawkey Bissell at Arbor Vitae and Hazelburst on the south; the Turtle Lake Lumber Company at Winchester; the Vilas County Lumber Company at Fosterville (now Presque Isle); and the Buswell Lumber & Manufacturing Company at Buswell, which was on the southwest corner of Papoose Lake and is now a ghost town.

Anyone with logging information on his area, or who would like help identifying log marks can contact Paul at P. O. Box 108, Boulder Junction, WI 54512.

The editor of "Chips and Sawdust" is interested in what other FHW members are doing. If you've seen a newspaper article please send it to Dr. Randall Rohe, UW-Waukesha Center, 1500 University Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188, and we'll be glad to publish it.

The Memorial Grove

There are great hemlocks in Memorial Grove. Many are at least a century old, some are 300 years old and although the grove is sprinkled with other big trees -- birches, maples, basswoods -- the dominant species is hemlock.

That makes Memorial Grove a special place. Although it's only a small corner of the sprawling Chequamegon National Forest in northern Wisconsin, the grove is a rare remnant of innumerable stands of old-growth hemlock once found from Maine to Minnesota. Most of those stands were logged, and the remaining hemlocks are having problems regenerating their species.

"We're losing our hemlock stands in this region, but we don't know all the reasons why," said Tom Crow, a U.S. Forest Service scientist.

"That's one of the reasons we're studying Memorial Grove. This stand holds some secrets. It can help tell us what constitutes a healthy, productive, old-growth forest system."

The Forest Service protects the 50-acre grove as a research and natural area, which means it's off-limits to loggers. It's a tranquil place.

But Memorial Grove also is illustrative of a hot dispute with nationwide implications.

A coalition of environmentalists and University of Wisconsin biologists is suing the Forest Service to try to change how it manages the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forest, which together cover 1.5 million acres of northern Wisconsin.

The coalition contends that the Forest Service is violating federal law by not taking greater steps to preserve and enhance the forests' biological diversity. Protecting small parcels such as memorial Grove just isn't enough, the coalition says.

Members in the News

- **John Wernham**, Palm Harbor, Florida and Ironwood, Michigan, renewed "old acquaintanceships" with other U.S. Forest Service retirees at an annual picnic/reunion in Venice, Florida, this spring. Among those also attending that event, were Frank Fixmer, FHAW secretary, who was a Forest Service employee in the 1930s.
- **Pat Crawford**, Shawano, was described as "a logger turned inventor" in an article in a recent newsletter of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. Crawford's innovative designs and a timber feller-buncher have been widely accepted by the logging industry, resulting in a thriving manufacturing business that produces an average of one machine per week.
- **James R. Miller**, formerly of Rhinelander, has been promoted and reassigned to the headquarters staff of the Department of Natural Resources in Madison.

- **Jacque and Dorothy Vallier**, Mequon, have again donated land to UW-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources, for the expansion of the Treehaven field station near Tomahawk. The 160-acre tract, valued at \$50,000, supplements their previous land gift which led to the establishment of the outdoor environmental laboratory in 1979.
- **Richard Bierlich**, Tomahawk, was a speaker at a three-day conference in June on the management of the oak resource in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Bierlich, forester for Georgia-Pacific Corp. spoke on "Merchandizing Hardwood Logs for Highest Value Products."

Auction Items Desperately Needed

Our 1991 annual meeting is fast approaching and we have received very few items for our fourth annual auction (Saturday afternoon, October 5). This is one of the few ways that we can add some much needed money to our capital fund. Relics, artifacts, books, photos, lumber company tokens, post cards, and other logging and lumbering memorabilia are needed. Donations, of course, are tax deductible. Please contact Frank Fixmer or a board member near you if have anything at all to contribute as soon as possible. We'd like to include a list of auction items with the annual meeting materials which are mailed in early September.

Lumbertowns Along the Wisconsin Central

The *Jefferson Banner* of July 10, 1879 carried a letter from a correspondent traveling the Wisconsin Central Railroad. It contained the following description of lumbertowns along the line.

At Manville [Mannville], Medford, Chelsea, Westboro, and other points we had a fine opportunity to observe the great lumbering interests that have grown up along the line of the Wisconsin Central railway since its construction, it having been completed less than five years ago. At these points extensive steam saw mills have been built, and around them little settlements began by hardy pioneers. The piles of pine saw logs and of lumber about these mills is a wonder to behold. On one side acres are covered with logs, piled from ten to twenty feet high, while on the other side vast areas of manufactured lumber greet the eye. The scenes of activity at these settlements are all the more remarkable in that for miles on either hand there is not a house, or a clearing, or a single sign of human habitation. From the mills stretch away out into the woods tramways for bringing in logs. The rails of these ways, instead of being of iron as an ordinary railway, are made of eight to ten inch logs, the gauge being a little less than four feet. The cars are not more than half as long as a railway platform car; instead of being flanged, the wheels are grooved so that the groove just fits on the log rail of the track. On these cars large cargos of logs are brought from the woods to the mills.

The End of Mannville

Some of the towns mentioned in the preceding note failed to survive the end of the lumber era. Mannville was one. The *Marshfield News*, August 17, 1893, described its demise.

EXIT MANNVILLE BY FIRE

Everything of Value in Ashes

Where Millions of Feet of Lumber Have Been Sawed—The Stripped Lands will Make Good Farms

Fire last week done the work of completely obliterating from the map all that remained of the once promising mill town of Mannville, a few miles north of here on the Central, and now nothing remains to recall the prosperous times of days gone by, except the charred and blackened remains of what had been, a dilapidated store building, two or three vacant houses and a depot building with windows boarded shut. Where once all was activity now all is silence. Fire last week licked up everything that remained of value. The machinery had been removed from the mills, but about 800,000 feet of lumber was still kept there. This was all destroyed together with the mill buildings, the school house and a number of residence buildings. The lumber and mill property was owned by Henry Sherry and is a total loss. The residence and barns owned by Mrs. Farrow, of this city, are a total loss without any insurance; the school house is no more, and the best of the remaining residences which were all vacant were devoured by the flames.

Mannville was founded soon after the Wisconsin Central road built its line through this section. Mann Bros. first started a sawmill at this point. They operated the plant for a number of years but failed to make any money there. Next in possession of the mill plant was C.J. Kershaw. Then

came Tyson & Pierce and they were succeeded by Henry Hewitt. His possession and operation of the plant recalls endless troubles with his employees, and the highly sensational event at the time, of his being hanged in effigy. Henry Sherry next became the owner of the plant and operated it until the supply of timber gave out. During the town's most prosperous days, Buckstaff & Edwards operated a shingle mill there, but that plant was given up some years ago. Millions upon millions of feet of lumber have been cut out at this point and yet it is claimed that none of the operators ever made any money on the plant there. It is said that Henry Sherry has lost \$100,000 during his operation of the mills. All the available timber has been cut out around the town and the future of the land is to be converted into farms with a likelihood that the town site itself will within a few years be under the plow.

I've tried to locate a photo or two of Mannville but haven't been successful. Have any members ever seen one?

Canadian Loggers in Wisconsin

One of the foreign groups that played an important role in lumbering in the Lake States was Canadians. Hundreds of them came each fall, worked in the woods all winter, and then returned home in spring. Sometimes they were specially recruited for a particular skill they possessed. The *Farm Journal* (Antigo) of January 30, 1912 mentioned one such case in the Wolf River Valley.

A large Canadian Company is doing extensive logging in the vicinity of Kempster. This company recently purchased a large amount of pine timber from the Paine Lumber Company and are this year getting the timber out. The

company gets out what is called ship timber which is square hewed by experienced Canadian hewers who have been brought from Montreal to this county for this one job. The men are experienced in the use of the broad axe and their hewing is said to be remarkable for accuracy and smoothness. The men are high priced and the handling of the timber is costly as it has to be moved without marring. This means additional care in loading.

The timber is sent to Montreal where it is finished and is then exported to Liverpool where it brings over \$100 per thousand feet.

This is the first year that this company has operated in Langlade county.

Pevy Handspikes

Joseph Peavey, a Maine blacksmith, supposedly invented the peavey (or pevy cant dog or pevy handspike) in 1858. Apparently they were not used in Wisconsin until 1868. The earliest mention of them in the Wolf River district was in the following article, which appeared in the *Shawano Journal*, August 3, 1872.

If there is any lumbering implement used on the "drive" more than any other it is what is called a "pevy." and to get them up in a shape combining convenience and proper strength has been the aim of the blacksmiths of this section for years, the large number used making it quite an object for any one shop to hit upon just the right way to make them. Every spring a batch of pevys would be sent up here from Oshkosh, "made to order and warranted," only to be found defective in some important particular, which made them expensive. At last one of our village blacksmiths, Mr. Harvey Field, tired of reconstructing the "warranted" pevys

from other localities, concluded to get up one that would give satisfaction, and after considerable experimenting the foreman of his shop, Mr. A. W. Gaucher, an ingenious mechanic, has succeeded in making a pevy which the river-drivers pronounce all right in every point, and the only reliable pevy which has ever been used on the drive. We congratulate friend Field on his success, and inform the blacksmiths of Oshkosh and elsewhere that they need make no more pevys for this market.

Perhaps the increasing study of logging sites by archaeologists will allow us to date more precisely the introduction of the pevy into the Wolf River district as well as into other parts of Wisconsin.

Paul Bunyan still camps in the woods

by Patrick Slattery

(from the Milwaukee Journal, May 5, 1991)

Eau Claire, Wis. -- With about 20 lumber mills furiously at work, this was Sawdust City for about 40 years at the end of the last century. The mills were fed by one of the world's most magnificent stands of trees, the white pines of Wisconsin's North Woods.

The mills transformed 16-foot pine logs, which were floated here by river, into usable lumber. Much of the lumber would go into the towns and cities rapidly developing west of the nearby Mississippi River.

The towering stands of virgin pines in northern Wisconsin are long gone, and so is the high-pitched scream of Sawdust City's mills. But the spirit of the North Woods lives on at the Paul Bunyan Logging Camp and Museum, in

Carson Park just off Interstate 94, in this city of 50,000 people.

The Eau Claire Kiwanis Club opened the complex in 1934. Several years later, the club presented it to the city. But to this day Kiwanians take a deep interest in the project.

Workers Poured In

A visit to the re-created lumber camp is always educational, but for many visitors it also provides a look at the lives of direct ancestors, said Hand Strand, a retired insurance salesman and stalwart Kiwanian. Strand is the camp's guiding light and chief administrator.

"So many people in the Upper Midwest had forebears who worked in lumber camps. Visiting here gives them a better understanding of what it took to make a living in the North Woods a century ago," Strand said.

The big photographs on display quickly dispel any romantic notions of lumberjacking. The slim young men in the old photos look bone-tired.

Roused out of bed by the traditional call, "DAYLIGHT IN THE SWAMP," lumberjacks worked from sunup to sundown six days a week. The work was exhausting and extremely dangerous.

Yet the dollar-a-day wages kept the men coming. They were risking their lives to save up to realize dreams, perhaps of bringing over a sweetheart from the old country or buying land for a farm.

Eau Claire's position at the confluence of the Chipewewa and Eau Claire Rivers made it a natural center of the logging industry. It was these rivers and their tributaries that were the key to moving logs in the days before the railroad reached here.

Trees felled during the winter were skidded to the rivers' banks. Then they would move down river when the high waters of spring came along. With each log branded

with a sign of its owner the sawmills were able to keep track of whose logs they were turning into lumber.

Camps Keeps Improving

Eau Claire's Carson Park -- named after a lumber baron, William Carson -- is in the middle of Half Moon Lake, which served as a log holding pond in times past. The re-created logging camp was moved from its original site in the park to its present place eight years ago. Since then more than \$500,000 has been raised and spent on improvements.

The camp's newest building, opened in 1988, is the Visitor/Interpretive Center. Here visitors may see an eight-minute video introduction to Wisconsin's historic lumbering industry.

The rest of Paul Bunyan Camp is arranged in a layout typical of the camps of the late 1890s. The log buildings, constructed by Kiwanians in the 1930s, include a cook shanty, a bunkhouse, a blacksmith shop, barn and equipment shed. All of the buildings are furnished as authentically as possible with tools from the 1890s, many of them gifts to the museum.

Strand said the camp always is on the lookout for other authentic period pieces. For example, Strand would be delighted if he could secure an original Phoenix, one of those steam-powered 1890s log skidders [haulers] that were manufactured in Eau Claire. The Phoenix was a forerunner of the many kinds of track-powered machinery made famous by Caterpillar Inc., Strand said.

A visit to the Paul Bunyan Camp just may add to your vocabulary. You'll come away knowing that a bateau is the special kind of boat used by loggers, a cookce was a cook's helper, and dingle was the covered area between the cook's shanty and bunkhouse. Food supplies and other provisions were stored there.

After seeing pictures of the mess that a real logjam was, you may not use that word loosely again.

Aside from the foreman, the cook was the logging camp's most important person. If his grub wasn't up to snuff, the cook soon was sent packing, and somebody else was recruited. During meals, incidentally, talking wasn't allowed, and no one left the table until the last lumberjack has finished.

About 20,000 visitors come here annually to see the camp, Strand said. It's open from April 15 until Sept. 30, with guided tours during the summer months from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For visitors arriving from the southeast along I-94, leave at the Highway 37 exit and follow 37 toward Eau Claire. Take a left at Clairmont Ave. (US 12), and continue for about a half-mile to Menomonie St. Turn right on Menomonie St. Turn right on Menomonie to Carson Park Dr., which leads to the camp.

Admission prices are 75 cents for ages 5 through 17; \$2 for ages 18 through 59; \$1.50 for those 60 and over; and \$5.50 for families (two adults and two or more children). Children under 5 are admitted free.

Boot Prints

by Bob Becker

Logging camps...river drives...narrow gauge railroads...all pages in the history of our forests here in northern Wisconsin. A little magazine came in the mail the other day; my copy of "Chips and Sawdust," a publication put out by the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. The group is comprised of people in the forestry, logging, and timber manufacturing fields; folks who are dedicated to preserving some of our colorful lumbering past, an era that goes back to the virgin

timber days at the turn of the century. It's an effort that I applaud. For the words that appear each week in this column are written in a mini-forest history atmosphere; here in my basement "wreck" room, which I decided years ago would have an old logging camp decor--rough-sawn hemlock panelling on the walls and time-worn crosscut saws, cant hooks, peavies, and double-bitted axes hanging there from. Not that I'm an authority on Wisconsin forest history. But with almost forty years of ramming around in the far corners of our backwoods, I've had fair opportunity to see some of the remains of the early logging days. The traces are there if you have an eye for them, written on the land in old railroad grades, splash dams and camp sites.

But time is slowly taking its toll on the old evidence.

Back in the 1950's, when most of my workdays were spent in the woods cruising and mapping timber, recognizing the old relics was relatively easy. And I came upon many long-abandoned logging campsites. What a thrill it was to poke around in the ruins and ponder how the lumberjacks lived and worked in those places.

And over time, I've had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know some of those old-time lumberjacks. Nels Olson of Mason, for example. In his book, *Time in Many Places*, Olson describes in authentic detail, life in the old camps and sawmills where he worked as a young man. Another lumberjack who turned author was George Corrigan of Saxon who, in his book *Calked Boots and Cant Hooks*, tells of the early-century logging days in the Mellen area. Long ago, I once had the privilege of spending a day in the woods George. And later we corresponded about a second book he was contemplating.

Then there's Esther Gibbs, of Spooner, a lumberjill. Esther also wrote a book, *We Went A Loggin'*. And in it she tells of times after World War I when she and her husband worked as cooks for a large logging camp in the Chippewa River country south of Ladysmith. Her accounts of camp life are some of the most descriptive I've read.

There were others, men who didn't write books, but still could tell the stories. Like Leo Gould, the old forest ranger at Tomahawk, who told me about log drives on the Prairie River into Merrill. How, on the spring mornings, the jacks would be a bit slow getting into the cold water. And the boss in his thick Irish brogue would yell, "Get in there! It won't bu-r-r-rn ya!"

And some of the old-timers that I worked with in the 60's on the Menominee Indian forest east of Antigo! Like Alex Waupoose. Alex was the logging superintendent, responsible for all the cutting in the woods. He and I worked closely. A wonderful gentlemen, I enjoyed his accounts of the old days.

Then Bogue Dickie, a Menominee logger. I got to know Bogue well in my visits to his jobs. And I cherish the moments we spent together, sitting on big yellow birch logs, visiting. He'd tell about the old camps; of the narrow-gauge railroads that hauled the logs before trucks came to the woods. Of the log drives down the Wolf and Oconto rivers that he took part in, and the dangerous log jams he witnessed.

There's a home-made coffee table here, standing nearby as I write. It's one that I made many years ago from an ancient rusty circular saw, a blade that came from an old sawmill. Gordon Fleming, a logger I knew in the 50's over at Park Falls, gave it to me. The old saw reposes quietly now. Yet, I find myself looking at it and wondering how many big white pine

logs it sawed into lumber; how many long-gone woodsmen listened to its whine.

It's a genuine piece of Wisconsin's forest history, a gift from a genuine Wisconsin lumberjack.

New Book

Midwestern Folk Humor: Jokes on Farming, Logging, Religion and Traditional Ways by James P. Leary is a compendium of the folk humor indigenous to this region, where everyone is very much aware of their own and everybody else's nationality.

Leary's book embraces all and spares none: native Americans, the French, the Cornish, Germans, the Irish, Scandinavians, Finns, and Poles. Occupational groups--loggers, miners, farmers--as well as the townsfolk, hunters, and fishers are also included.

Leary gathered nearly all the narratives in taped interviews, and for each one included information about its teller, succinct explanatory commentary, and comparative references. An extensive bibliography is also included in this eleventh volume of August House's American Folklore Series.

Available from August House, P. O. Box 3223, Little Rock, AK 72203, hardcover \$24.95, paperback \$11.95.

Slabs and Edgings

by W.G. Youngquist

In the May, 1991 issue of "Chips and Sawdust" we learned about the salvage of sawmill waste in the form of baled sawdust. For many years prior to World War I, Dad had a contract with the Westboro Lumber Company in Taylor County, Wisconsin for the salvage of fuelwood from the conveyor chain which carried waste from the mill to the ever burning waste burner.

The chain moved in a plank lined, U-shaped structure built on top of a high trestle between the mill and the burner. The waste consisted of four foot long slabs and edgings and short pieces suitable for local use as stovewood. The small pieces were thrown down a slide into a large bin below. This stovewood was loaded into a horsedrawn dumpbox holding about 20 cubic feet. The cost of a load delivered anywhere in town was one dollar.

The slabs were thrown down a slide onto a flatcar on the railroad siding below. The slabs were piled in rows on each edge of the car. Edgings were piled on a large rack and then tied into bundles, each having a diameter of about 12 inches. The bundles were also thrown down the slide and piled with the slabs.

Each fully loaded car was pushed by the dinky railroad engine to the Sooline Railroad siding uptown. Dad told my brother Erik and me that the slabs and edgings were shipped

to a far away place called the Fox River Valley, where they were used in factories for fuel.

Erik and I talked of building a slab house on one of the cars and going along to see the world. We agreed to have openings on all four walls so we could see everything. Fortunately this idea remained only a dream.

Don was always informed when the mill sawed building lath. The lath also came out on the waste conveyor. The lath were placed on a rack and later tied into bundles with fifty lath to the bundle. The workers counted in Swedish, Finnish, Polish and English but there were always fifty lath to the bundle. The bundles were shipped in closed boxcars with other finished millwork. Erik and I received one cent for each bundle that we completed.

Only once in my memory did the fire in the waste burner die out. One Sunday evening, Dad, Erik and I went to the burner and started a new fire. I had the honor of putting the torch to the kindling. All week long I pointed to the smoke and called it mine. We did not think of this as pollution. I now recognize that the Westboro salvage was based on economic and not environmental considerations.

Recent Publications

Thomas, Christine L. "One Hundred Twenty Years of Citizen Involvement with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board." *Environmental History Review*, vol. 15 no. 1 (Spring, 1991), pp. 61-81.

Johns, Larry. "One Hundred Years on the Flambeau." *Northern Logger and Timber Processor* 39 (September 1990): 16-17, 48-49. The timber industry on a river in northern Wisconsin since the nineteenth century. Includes Weyerhaeuser and Hines operations.

Information Wanted

Christine L. Thomas is doing a research project on the life and contributions of Margaret March-Mount, a public information officer in the U.S. Forest Service, Region 9, during the 1930's and 1940's. She was known as the "Tree Lady." She probably started her career with the Forest Service in Wyoming in the early 1900's.

Anyone having any information about Ms. March-Mount, please contact Dr. Thomas as the College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

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

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