Chips and Sawdust

A Newsletter

From

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

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Editor's Note

Our 1992 annual meeting is fast approaching and we still need items for our fifth annual auction. 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 and other logging and lumbering memorabilia are needed. Other antiques are also acceptable. Please contact Mike Weckwerth, 110 S. Prospect St., Merrill, WI 54452 Phone 715-536-1342 [home] or 715-596-2522 [work] as soon as possible. Donations, of course, are tax deductible.

Randall Rohe, Editor

Up in the North Woods

Glimpses of Life in a Lumber Camp

This continues our series of period accounts of logging camps and life in them. This one appeared in the *Waupaca County Republican* (January 2, 1891).

> For those who have never tasted life in the great lumber woods, I can imagine nothing more delightful than to leave all "shop" behind and set face toward the pine forests of the North and penetrate their depths until reaching a large logging camp in full operation, and there tarry until the new phases of life that will surely disclose themselves in such a place are exhausted.

Not all who are breathing city smoke are circumstanced to leave it at will for the woods of Michigan and Wisconsin. Therefore I will divide with such unfortunates, so far as I am able, the pleasures of a journey which I have taken into the woods of Wisconsin.

My first glimpse of lumbering life was had before I was fairly settled down in my seat in the Wisconsin Central train, on which I had shipped from Chicago to Ashland, Wis.

The car began to fill rapidly with a set of hale and hearty young men in "store clothes," who dropped into the first seats which they came to, and made themselves comfortable and at home in a twinkling.

From their talk, which was by no means conducted in an undertone, I learned that there were about forty men on board bound for the lumber woods. Some were new hands going to take their first lessons in logging, but the most of them had seen more than one season in camp.

"I'll tell you, boys, we missed our opportunity today! We ought to have got roarin' drunk" said one of them. This sentiment over a lost opportunity to make a full day of it in Chicago was heartily echoed by the remainder of the group.

When the cross-fire of stories and banter began to lag one of the leaders drew forth from the depths of a black satchel a " collection of popular songs." The first selection was "Little Annie Rooney," and the clear, strong tenor in which it was rendered made me almost forgive him.

As he warmed to his work a change seemed to come over the spirit of his dreams and the "popular airs" of

the street gave place to the dear old tunes that have thrilled hearts from the days of yore.

It was with regret that I saw him close the book and put it away, taking from his satchel instead a flask of liquor, which he passed to his companions and sampled himself.

Still another plunge into the satchel brought forth an elaborate night-shirt, which was greeted with more cheers than even the bottle. It was very evident that he was determined to make it known that he indulged in the embellishments of civilization at least once a year. After ceremoniously wrapping his bottle in the garment he subsided for the night, until a fat little boy in a red flannel waist came along to play with the faucet of the drinking water tank.

"Here, sonny! Looking for a bunk? Just you camp right down there, soon's I move my feet. Come, don't be bashful. You've got to look out for No. 1 or they won't no one look out for you. Mebbe you're cold? Just let me spread my coat over you."

When he had made the child comfortable he quickly dropped into slumber.

In the morning, when we had passed through the burned district and were well into the Bad River country, the saw mills began to appear. At one of these mill stations our forty lumbermen left the train, being met by a company of old companions, who were clad in striped, checked and variegated mackinaw jackets, with dangling belts that combined in each garment the most positive shades of every color.

But to the woods.

To see them at their grandest one should visit them in October, when the wonderful autumn colors are at

their full, and remain until the deep northern snows have come.

Nowhere does autumn foliage take on the delicate and facile tints and display them to such conspicuous advantage as in these Northern woods, where the comparatively few hard-wood trees - mainly maple, birch, beech, mountain ash and ironwood - always have the dark background of the evergreens to set off and enhance their beauty.

As you enter one of these great forests of towering pines, the resinous aroma that greets you on every breeze, and rises, from the yielding carpet of pine needles beneath your feet, is grateful and refreshing beyond expression; but it is not until you have reached the place where the sawyers are waking the echoes of the wood with the "ching! ching! ching! ching!" of their crosscut saw, as it slips backward and forward through the fragrant wood, that you catch the first odor of "forests primeval."

Strange that no chemist has sought to reproduce it in a "perfume," for society would quickly make it a fashionable fad.

But the odor of pine and tamarack is not the only subtle and pleasing perfume that you meet in the lumber woods. At every open space, especially in the "burning," where a forest fire has swept through the standing timber, you will find the ground thickly covered with the dark leaves of the wintergreen, the berries of which grow to surprising size and perfection, and have a flavor as aromatic and delicious as their coloring is delicate.

But on to camp! And for the sake of haste we will step out of the thick woods onto the "siding" or railway switch, which invariably penetrates to a camp of any

size, excepting where the logs are floated down a stream to some saw-mill or shipping point.

As a camp presents the most interesting scene in winter, I have chosen that season for illustration.

With the possible exception of the foreman, the cook is by far the most important and highly esteemed personage in camp. His favor is courted and curried to a flattering extent. But that is not the only way in which his importance is attested. His name leads the pay-roll, and well it may, for the leading question which loggers raise, in deciding with what camp they will cast their lot is, Which has the best cook? The extent to which this consideration outweighs all others was emphasized to me when the news came in one day that the entire crew of a neighboring camp had "struck" because a cook whose services commanded $75 a month had been discharged to give place for one who could command but $50. The cook's assistant is called the "cookee."

The other principal employes of a camp are the foreman, sawyers, teamsters, skidders and the "road-monkeys," and, in camps where logs are floated, the drivers. The wages of loggers range from $25 to $40, and sometimes even $50 a month.

It is quite a common idea that trees are felled with an axe, but that is not the case. That is done with a cross-cut saw, operated by two sawyers, who accomplish the down fall of a big pine in an incredibly short time.

The tree is then cut into logs of proper length and turned over to the skidders, who elevate them by can-thooks, chains and ox-teams onto skids, from which they are finally loaded for shipment.

In the illustration may be seen sawyers at work, logs on skid, and a hauling team just loaded by the skidders and ox-team. The man standing in front of the horses by the sawyers, with a wooden mallet over his shoulder, is a wedge man, whose duty it is to insert the wedged-shaped axehead into the cut made by the saw as soon as the blade of the latter has penetrated beyond its depths. As fast as the saw begins to bend the axe-head is driven in with the maul behind the saw blade to relieve the pressure on the blade.

The road monkeys are stationed at the steep inclines along the winter roadways over which the heavy loads of logs are hauled. When a load approaches going down the incline, these road monkeys scatter wisps of hay in front of the sled runners, to act as brakes upon the smooth sled shoes, and prevent the load from plunging down upon the rear of the horses. The hay is of course removed when a team is sighted going up the grade. It may be imagined that the duties of the road monkey are extremely "soft"-- all play and no work -- but when the thermometer touches "thirty-below," as it frequently does, a more active employment can scarcely be imagined.

While there is more or less liability to accident in felling, skidding, and hauling, the most perilous part of logging falls to the "drivers," who are required to steer the logs down streams, which they do by means of long pike poles. It is an interesting scene to see an expert driver skipping over the floating logs, darting his pike here and there to keep the whole mass moving, and when, in shooting the rapids of some turbulent stream, the logs get in a "jam" and the driver must venture out upon the struggling mass and liberate it, taking his chances for keeping his poise upon some rolling log

when the break comes, the scene is one of intense excitement and peril.

Many of the drivers in the Bad River Country were Chippewa Indians, or half-breeds, who find this sort of life much to their liking.

Much of the labor of lumbering takes the crews too far from camp to return for the mid-day meal. In that case dinner is brought them by the "cookee" or the tote sled-the latter being the name by which the sled used for hauling supplies is designated - and eaten "on the spot." Such a dinner in the woods is too cheerful and picturesque a scene to be passed without illustrations.

But the most cheerful occasion of all is the hearty supper, to the enjoyment of which they bring large appetites and the weariness of the day's labor, knowing that they are at liberty to linger over it as long as they choose.

This meal is spread within the warm log shanty, upon a table of plain pine boards. An oil-cloth usually does duty for a table-cloth.

After supper they gather about the long box stove and pass the evening hours in recounting the experiences of other days; and as these crews are made up of "all sorts and conditions of men," who from causes as varied as their faces have drifted together from the four corners of the earth, their adventures and memories take in the whole range of human experience, " From grave to gay, from lively to severe."

It is not an infrequent circumstance to find within such a circle men of fine learning and polite birth, and although their presence may sometimes be accounted for by misfortune, it is almost universally the result of dissipation, and many a pitiful tale is locked within their

lips, which even the rude cheer of an evening's "recollections" around the fire at camp will never draw forth.

But whatever their faults or follies, as they break up that social circle about the fire, to turn into their rough bunks or do a bit of rude patching, let us wish them a hearty good night, and bear them a kindly thought when we look upon our own comfortable homes, made possible by their hard labor.

Dobbston Sawmill

The earliest sawmill on the upper Wolf River (above the Menominee Indian Reservation) was erected at Dobbston in 1876. It took a considerable amount of effort to get it there, especially considering the transportation technology of the period.

> The portable steam saw - mill formally owned and run by Dobbs Brothers & Co. at Reed's Gap, Pa., for sawing white oak car stuff, was moved last July to Oconto county, Wis., about 30 miles north of Shawano on the Wolf river, where it is now sawing for a local trade. It was moved 1,000 miles by rail and 60 by wagon which the present operator, Mr. T. Miller Dobbs, regards as quite an undertaking. *Northwestern Lumberman,* February 3, 1877.

Very few other sawmills were constructed on the upper Wolf until railroads penetrated the region in the late 1870's and early 1880's.

A Black Logging Crew

While logging camps were known for their ethnic diversity, one seldom hears of Blacks being among the ethnic groups so employed. In 1880, however, a camp of Blacks operated on the Chippewa River in Michigan. The *Northwestern Lumberman* (March 27, 1880) said of the crew:

> These men are represented as large strapping fellows, full of work and chuck full of fun. They rise early, work hard in the woods all day, and have fun and frolic at night. Every man is a singer, dancer and musician of some kind, and those who pass by their quarters in the evening can testify that there's music in the air around that shanty. There are several fiddles in camp, tambourines, bones and banjos till you can't rest, and when the boys get on a regular tare, the way the darky music flies is a caution to wildcats and other denizens of the forest. The performances given here nightly by the unsophisticated sable sons of toil, would put to shame the grandest efforts of the Georgia minstrels, or any other traveling troupe. Here you find genuine negro wit and music unadulterated, and lots of it. These people are said to be very hospitable, and the traveler and stranger is ever welcome to their board. The women are said to be excellent cooks, which, together with the musical powers of the men, induces many teamsters to stop there for meals. Taken in a clear, still evening, when their united voices are all engaged in singing some old plantation melody, the effect in the surrounding woods is said to be grand and beautiful.

Tale of a Lumber Company Token

In my research of lumbering ghost towns, the most intriguing story that I've uncovered was about a token from the town of Wildwood. The story appeared in the *Woodville Leader* of November 22, 1963 under the byline, "Tiny Coin Sparks Memories of Long-Dead "Wildwood."

> A strange discovery in the state of Washington has started inquiry in Pierce County about the long-forgotten ghost town of Wildwood, six miles south of here.
>
> Last week, David Hope, St. Croix County Register of Deeds, received a letter from Mrs. John E. Middleton of Ione, Washington, asking for information about Wildwood. Her interest arose from a discovery by her husband while digging in their backyard to repair a broken water pipe. Under approximately three feet of earth he found a metal disk the size of a dollar. On one face was the imprint, "D. G. McKay, Wildwood, Wis." The reverse side bore the legend, "Good for $1.00 in Merchandise."
>
> Wrote Mrs. Middleton, "I am quite curious as to how this thinly worn coin could have gotten so far from your state and so far down in the ground. Who was this D. G. McKay and does the family still have the old store?"
>
> Hope turned a copy of the letter over to Ted Larson, a member of the county board of supervisors and chairman of the town of Eau Galle, where the old village of

Wildwood was located. The site is on County Road B, about midway between Woodville and Spring Valley. There, on the edge of a dry run on the William Powers farm, formerly Jim Plahn, stand two sections of a crumbling brick and stone wall, the remnants of a three-story factory which operated there before the turn of the century and around which Wildwood had a mushroom growth.

Few people living today can remember Wildwood when it was something, and the *History of the St. Croix Valley* is mute regarding the town. Successive owners of the site have plowed up its baseball diamond and unearthed tools and other relics of Wildwood's heyday in working the land, but it has remained a phantom place of a few fugitive memories to this generation. Larson made inquiries but found no one who could provide any substantial information about the town.

But history, like murder, will out. Down at Stockholm, on the Mississippi River, lives Jack Buskirk, 90. His parents settled in Eau Galle township in the 1870s and in his youth he worked in the booming town of Wildwood.

On the north side of the dry run, across from the remains of the old factory, is a red brick house, the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Powers. E. J. Austin first manager of the Wildwood operation built this house for his own use. Buskirk said in a telephone conversation with the *Pioneer Press*. The building also served as company headquarters.

From this point, Wildwood climbed the hill to the south, along the main road, for better than a quarter of a mile. At the top of the hill was a schoolhouse. It is often observed that children come home from school faster

than they go. In Wildwood, this was dramatically demonstrated by children who, after school was dismissed, piled on sleds and went whizzing down the street, scattering pedestrians on the way.

The street was lined with company houses, all built from the same plan, and the story is that menfolk, coming home late and fuddled, identified their homes by the cows pastured on the front lawn. Some of the town also extended north of the company houses, Buskirk said.

Other sources reveal that Wildwood, an offspring of the hardwood harvest, was born full-fledged in 1877, the enterprise of Stillwater, Minn., business interests which later founded the iron mining industry at Spring Valley. The industrial center of Wildwood comprised a sawmill, a shingle mill, and a brick yard, dominated by the factory, the remnants of which still stand.

This was three stories high. The ground floor was used for storing supplies. The second floor where sleigh bobs and wagon wheels were made. On the third floor was a broom handle factory. The business section consisted of a general store, barber and blacksmith shops, livery barns, and a hotel.

The store which issued the trade coin which had turned up in Washington was the company store, and D. G. McKay was a manager who followed Austin, Buskirk said. "Before that McKay operated a lumber yard and brick yard about three miles southwest of Wildwood," he added.

Buskirk remembers the store well because he worked there in 1880. "It was a big frame store, provided with everything that people in those days needed. This included a harness shop, groceries, dry goods, a meat

market and Malt whisky in quarts done up in straw jackets, which could be sold without a license."

When the local barber was unable to be on the job, Buskirk worked there, learning the trade which he followed as a licensed barber from 1906 to April of this year when he retired after 56 years in the trade.

There are a few other fragments of Wildwood history. The late Otis Olson recalled that the coming of the fish wagon from Lake Pepin was a much-awaited event, rivaled only by the occasional appearance of the tin peddler with his utensils and cheap jewelry.

Wildwood flourished for 20 years and then it stopped, just like grandfather's clock. When the choice hardwood timber was cut the mills and brick yard closed and the people moved away. It flourished and died within the last quarter of the 19th century. But none of this explains how a trade coin from Wildwood got three feet under ground in far-off Washington state.--Earl Chapin in the St. Paul *Sunday Pioneer Press*

The article, though interesting, does contain several errors. The most glaring one concerns the founding of Wildwood. Period newspapers and trade journals state unequivocally that the town was established by E. E. Austin in the spring of 1882. In July Austin sold an interest in his operation to D. M. Sabin of Stillwater and formed E. S. Austin & Co. In the fall of '83, Austin and others incorporated the St. Croix Land and Lumber Co. The failure of D. M. Sabin in 1884 sent the company into receivership. The Wisconsin Lumber Company succeeded the St. Croix Land & Lumber Co. in 1890 and shortly thereafter Austin tendered his resignation. In 1892 D. G. McKay, W.Gilbert and Thomas Luxmore organized the Wisconsin Iron and Lumber Company.

Wildwood's population peaked at this date at 400. In 1896 the North Wisconsin Land Co. acquired the Wildwood operations. By that date the town was already well on its way to extinction. The mill apparently finally closed down for good in 1897.

Dilemma In "The Big Swamp"

by Ralph Eswein

While researching the histories of the towns of Goodyear, Zeda and McKenna in Jackson County, I came across an unusual form of log transportation--canals. While canals were used extensively for log transportation in parts of the South, I had never heard of them being used for that purpose in Wisconsin. Subsequently, I made the acquaintance of Ralph Eswein of Black River Falls, who has researched the history of these canals. Ralph kindly permitted me to include the following excerpt from his manuscript on logging in Jackson County.

> Southeastern Jackson County is part of a very large swamp, referred to by old timers as "The Big Swamp." In the late 1800s this swampland witnessed a feverish effort to harvest the last and best virgin white and red pine stands in the county. While it may have seemed like an inaccessible forest and therefore inexhaustible, it was totally exhausted between the mid-1870s and the mid-1890s. Until that time, lumbermen's efforts in the area were literally bogged down by the swampland that surrounded islands of dense pine. Therein lies the dilemma: How to pursue a logging operation in a swampland that lacked any major flowing streams?

By the 1880s lumbermen had harvested the "easy" pine within skidding distance of the county's main streams. Hungry for new timber, they must have been perplexed if they climbed to the top of Saddle Mound and gazed to the south on a seemingly endless sea of virgin pine. While the area was full of water, the sphagnum moss swamps made the water more of a liability than an asset. Looking south, they could have seen a column of sawmill smoke rising from the Stoddard Mill, which had a dam across the small stream formed by Hawkins and McKenna Creeks. While the Stoddard Mill was producing some lumber, the area was capable of producing tremendous amounts of pine lumber. From the top of Saddle Mound, on a clear day, those lumbermen also may have been able to see another wisp of sawmill smoke rising from the horizon some fourteen miles to the southeast. It would prove to be that of a sawmill at Chaplin owned by Darius Goodyear, who would solve the dilemma created by "The Big Swamp."

In 1876, Goodyear purchased the timber holdings of J. L. Mather, moved to the area, and started a lumber business in southeastern Jackson County and northwestern Juneau County. While some records suggest a total purchase from Mather, a large 1876 plat map in the Jackson County Courthouse, indicates Goodyear and Mather owned some tracts of land in that area in partnership. In 1876, Darius A. Goodyear in partnership with his son, Charles A., put together their first portable sawmill near the small town of Mather Station, situated on the recently built Wisconsin Valley Division Railroad.

After logging off their property near Mather Station in 1881, the Goodyears moved to the edge of "The Big Swamp," some 3 1/2 miles northwest of Mather Station.

There they constructed their first permanent sawmill at a site called Chaplin.

Much of Goodyear's timber holdings were located some five to ten miles in a northerly direction across "The Big Swamp," around Bear Bluff, Drescher Island, and the peninsula of land just north of Drescher Island. Goodyear apparently started lumbering using the same method as the other lumbermen of his day, depending on water to transport his logs to the sawmill. Yet, his approach was somewhat unique, in that he used a network of more than twenty miles of canals. These were hand dug through the sphagnam and Tamarack swamps of "The Big Swamp." The canals followed straight lines with gradual sweeping corners as they worked their way north around the upland islands. In the straight stretches the canals were about three or four feet wide, while on the corners they were about twice that width. The wider sweeping corners made it possible to float long logs down the narrow canal system. The many 20 foot logs that still lay mostly submerged in the canals show that long logs moved through the system.

Since the logs were pulled down the canal system by horses or oxen, at least one side of the canal needed to be built up into a pathway. In most areas this pathway is very hard to locate, as is the canal itself in a few sections. After more than one hundred and ten years, the swamp has eliminated much evidence. Four small, low profile dams have been located on the canals and were apparently developed to keep water levels in the canal system deep enough to float the logs through the swamps. The dams were made with a wooden water level control structure in the canal and in some cases they were flanked by low earthen dikes. The wooden control structures, approximately six feet wide and four

feet deep, were made of 4x4s, 1x6s, 1x8s, and 1x10s. How the logs were pulled past these dams, isn't known now. The best preserved dam, however, seems to have a lower section in the center, and log skidways may have been built up to this central section from both sides, allowing the logs to be pulled up and over the dam and back down into the canal.

According to old surveyor's maps, the area was first surveyed in the early 1850s, and it is obvious from looking at a current topographic map of the area that lumbermen of that period knew very accurately where their boundaries were. While easements might have been used to cross other's land, Goodyear's canal system usually stayed within his land holdings. In one case when the canal crossed into a new section of his holdings, his canal builders built a small dam and dug feeder ditches to it at right angles. This dam and its smaller feeder ditches are still visible. Over twenty logs abandoned in the canals suggest an abrupt end to the use of the canal system. Most of the logs and two of the dams are located in the canal system just southeast Goodyear Lake. The other two dams are located in the canal that dead ends at the small island just west of Hunter's Peak.

While the pine on some smaller islands, like Drescher Island, would have been easily harvested and skidded to the canals, the main upland stands of pine would require very long skids just to get to the canal system. The canal's most northern extension was over eight miles from the sawmill, so once the logs were skidded to the canal it would have taken a slow and laborious pull to the sawmill. Guessing the animals could pull the logs about two miles per hour, that would mean about a four hour trip to the mill from the canal's

northern end. Ingenious as the canals may have been, they were too slow and restricted.

Introducing A New Feature

When the Association began publishing this newsletter in 1977, it proclaimed its mission to be "by members, for members and about members". That goal was not always easy to attain. Contributions of newsworthy items from the general membership were scanty or non-existent and the activities of most members were not often mentioned in the news media.

Now we will attempt to revive interest in that objective with a series of brief sketches of the many diverse personalities that comprise our membership. Hopefully, these "minute-bios" will be as interesting to readers as they are informational and perhaps provide the basis for a closer relationship between members with similiar special interests in forest history.

With that introduction, let's now:

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Ray Clark is a civilian employee of the US Army, currently stationed in Germany. He is an avid collector of log stamping hammers, and books and pictures of the early logging era. His interest developed as a result of his grandfather and several other relatives having worked for the Holt Lumber Company in the Mountain-Lakewood area in the early part of this century.

William J. O'Gara of Wisconsin Rapids is one of our charter members. He retired from Consolidated Papers in 1967 and began to take an active interest in railroad logging history. His son is a teacher of history at Eau Claire Memorial High

School so it was only natural for them to collaborate in writing and publishing a book in 1988 about a north central Wisconsin lumberman and his railroad ventures. The book, *Foster's and Nobody Else's*, recounts NC Foster's lumber, land and railroad enterprises.

Mike Weckwerth of Merrill is a full-time fireman with his city's fire department, but still finds time to indulge his special interest in the logging and lumbering history of the Merrill area. Over the past several years he has transcribed and photocopied all articles in Merrill newspapers for the period 1886 to 1945 and donated copies of the complete set, that fill two 3-inch ring binders, to the Association for its reference library. He is also a very active member of the Merrill Historical Society and was largely responsible for the development of the logging exhibit part of its new museum.

Robert Becker, Spooner, is a retired DNR forester with a special talent for writing about various outdoor activities. He writes a regular column, "Boot Prints", for the *Spooner Advocate,* which is also carried by several other weeklies in northwestern Wisconsin. He is a frequent contributor to the monthly *Timber Producer* magazine with articles featuring loggers now active in northern Wisconsin, thereby adding to the record of contemporary logging history.

John D. Curran of Brookfield is one of our newer members of the Association. His great uncle, John C. Curran, was the first white settler in Rhinelander, Wisconsin and operated several logging camps in that area during the late 1860's and 1870's.

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

Recent Library Acquisitions

- Ila Hill Moede, *Grandma's Footprints : A History of Shawano, Wisconsin 1843-1918*, (Amherst: Palmer Publications, Inc., 1991).
- Carl Rhody, *Spirit Falls, Boom Logging Town*, (Ogema: Rhody Publishing Co., 1991).
- Carl Schels, *A Trapper's Legacy*, (Merrill: ICS Books, Inc., 1984)
- _____, *Reflections of the Past*, (Eagle River: Hahn Printing Inc., 1989)

Recent Publications

- Carl Krog, "Life and Leisure in a Nineteenth Century Lumber Town", *Marinette County Historian*, (July 1991) 16:1-3.
- _____, "Marinette Lumberman", *Marinette County Historian*, (December 1991) 16:1-2,7-9.

Round Lake Logging Dam

Reprint available of the *The Round Lake Logging Dam: A Survivor of Wisconsin's Log-Driving Days* by John N. Vogel, originally published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of His-*

tory, Vol. 66, No. 3, Spring 1983. This is a condensation of the book done by Mr. Vogel in 1980 for the U.S. Forest Service, titled *Folk Technology: History of the Round Lake Logging Dam.* The article covers the history of the Weyerhaeuser era of logging in the Chippewa River Valley in which this dam played a part, the construction of driving dams in general and this one in particular and role of Otto C. Doering in preserving it.

The reprint can be obtained by writing to: Price County Historical Society W7213 Pine Street, Fifield, WI 54524 or by calling (715-762-4571). Cost is $2.75 ($1.50 plus $1.25 shipping and handling.) Make check payable to Price County Historical Society.

Association's Exhibit Attracts Thousands

Among the many attractions at Wausau's fourth annual "Log Jam" festival last June was the Forest History Association's travelling exhibit. The event was attended by upwards of 30,000 visitors and pronounced a huge success by both organizers and participants.

The Association's display featured photographs of actual log jams of historic proportions during the late nineteenth century when log drives by river were at their peak. Other photos depicted river crews in action, use of bateaus and the function of a "wanigan". Artifacts added to the interest of the exhibit, consisting of caulked boots, a peavey, stamping hammers and branded log ends.

The three-day event also provided lots of action related to logging and lumbering. A steam-powered sawmill produced lumber, a shingle mill turned out hundreds of samples, and there were competitions in log-birling, axe-throwing, chopping, sawing, and pole-climbing for both professionals and amateurs. Historic encampments included fur traders, Native Americans and military units from the colonial and Civil War periods. Other educational and entertainment attractions were over fifty different heritage and ethnic crafts demonstrations.

It was truly a weekend of living history for young and old!

Menominees Recognized for Their Forestry

The February issue of "Chips and Sawdust" mentioned some of the problems the Menominee Indian sawmill at Neopit had. In the long run, of course, the mill proved successful and it is still the major employer on the Menominee Reservation-County. Recently the tribe was recognized for its forestry efforts.

> For 140 years, the Menominee Tribe has cut timber from its forest without damaging fragile ecosystems and is now being recognized for that environmental achievement.
>
> The certification for sustaining its forest address a growing concern among consumers about forest depletion and could help the tribe's timber sales, tribal leaders predict.
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> "But it is still a very new concept. People are just starting to question where the wood from their desk is

coming from," Pam Wellner, a spokeswoman for the Rain Forest Action Network, an environmental group based in San Francisco, Calif., said Wednesday.

Kenneth Sloan, a forest supervisor for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the tribe's forest was the first that he knew of in the United States to receive the certification.

The citation tells consumers that the forest is not being exploited for profit, that it can sustain itself and that logging is being done with virtually no harm to the ecosystem, Sloan said.

Wellner said few commercial forests in the entire world could meet the certification standards. Most are no longer forests but tree farms, she said.

Scientific Certification Systems in Oakland, Calif., said it studied the tribe's timber-harvesting operations with on-site inspections by foresters, biologists and conservation specialists.

Marketing Tool

The certification was sought by The Knoll Group, an office furnishings company headquartered in New York, that wants to buy wood from forests that have sustainable management practices.

By maintaining the productivity of its reservation forest and harvesting wood without damaging the environment, the Menominee Tribe is setting an "important example for the world," Knoll Group Chairman Maurice Sardi said in a statement.

The company makes a bentwood chair from maple obtained from the Menominee forest and intends to market the product by informing buyers of the sustainable practices of the tribe, Sardi said.

Stanley Rhodes, founder of Scientific Certification Systems, said much attention is being focused on the preservation of forests and more sustainable claims are appearing in the marketplace.

"Yet only a tiny fraction of the world's forests are managed in a truly sustainable manner," he said.

Since 1854, the Menominee Tribe has cut timber for logs, planks, fuel, pickets, fence rails and other products from 220,000 acres of forest on its reservation located in northeastern Wisconsin, said Marshall Pecore, who manages the forest.

Over the years, the entire forest has been harvested two times, yielding more than 2 billion boardfeet of wood, yet today contains more timber than in the 19th century, he said.

Few trees are planted, he said. "We primarily use natural tree regeneration... We have proved that you can have your cake and eat it too."

A sawmill in town of Neopit is the tribe's major employer, hiring about 200 workers and logging contractors at peak time, said tribal Vice Chairperson Shirley Daly.

Decisions affecting the forest are based on the tribe's policy of "sustained yield management," which calls for restraint in harvesting decisions, Daly said.

"We don't maintain any particular species. We have a diversity in our forest," she said. "If the market was really hot for red oak, we would not go and cut all of the red oak to get the money. The only red oak cut would be in a designated section."

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