

Chips

and

Sawdust

**A NEWSLETTER
From**

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

**FALL
1996**

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1996-1997

Thomas R. Albrecht
304 W. Richmond Street
Shawano, WI 54166

Karl Baumann - Vice 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
25793 Co Hwy S
Cadott, WI 54727

Don Lambrecht - President
1665 Patton Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

Randall Rohe
UWW 1500 University Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Michael Sohasky
1435 Neva Road
Antigo, WI 54409

Mike Weckwerth
110 S. Prospect Street
Merrill, WI 54452

MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING September 28th, 1996

President Lambrecht delivered his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, detailing the activities and accomplishments of the association. Secretary Fixmer reported on the status of the association's financial condition and membership. Copies of the detailed financial report are available upon request from Fixmer.

Secretary Fixmer presented a resolution eulogizing life member Jacque D. Vallier, who passed away September 11, 1996. The resolution was unanimously adopted and made part of the official records of the association.

The nominating committee chairman, Randall Rohe, presented the slate of nominees for those directorships whose terms of office expired with this meeting. By unanimous voice vote, directors Albrecht, Baumann, Harm and Sohasky were elected to succeed themselves for two year terms and Robert Brisson was elected to succeed Lamont Engle, who had resigned earlier this summer.

Appreciation of the entire membership was expressed for the services rendered by retiring director Lamont Engle during the past two years.

FROM THE EDITOR

I wish to thank all FHAW members who have submitted materials for inclusion in the FHAW newsletters. The quantity of materials submitted in the last year has increased. However, I do encourage our members to continue looking for and sending in items for the newsletters. These items may be of statewide or local interest. Information on activities of other historical or local organizations, old or new magazine articles, newspaper clippings, news on activities of our members, or simply handwritten notes on forest history memories, are all appreciated. I have a large collection of printed matter relating to the forest history of Wisconsin, and therefore do not have a problem finding enough material to fill each issue of C & S. But I hope that this newsletter could be a better reflection of all of our members' interests. With this new year, I encourage all FHAW members to resolve to be more actively involved in the organization. Let's all try to participate more in the association's publications, meetings, programs, displays, and especially new member recruitment. It will take all of our help to keep FHAW a living, growing organization.

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF JACQUE D. VALLIER

WHEREAS our esteemed director- emeritus and life member, Jacque D. Vallier, passed away on September 11, 1996 at age 84, and

WHEREAS Jacque D. Vallier was widely known for his intense interest in, and dedication to, the collection and preservation of early day logging and lumbering memorabilia, and

WHEREAS his interest in that aspect of forest history motivated him to assemble and construct a nationally famous logging camp museum, which he then donated to the Menominee Indian Tribe at Keshena, WI, for the education of the public, and

WHEREAS his many other philanthropic actions included the donation of 960 acres of forest land to the College of Natural Resources of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, which subsequently became a world class natural resource laboratory known as "Treehaven", and

WHEREAS his concern for the education of potential natural resource managers led him to contribute funds for the construction of adequate facilities at "Treehaven", and

WHEREAS he had collected several thousands of photographs representing a pictorial history of logging and lumbering activities throughout the lake states prior to 1910, and made a gift of that collection to UW Stevens Point, and

WHEREAS Jacque D. Vallier's other contributions to the preservation of forest history included the donation of many logging artifacts to the fund raising auctions of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, now be it

RESOLVED that the Forest History Association of Wisconsin hereby formally express its appreciation and utmost thanks for the many additions Jacque D. Vallier made to the enhancement of Wisconsin's forest heritage, and in testimony of that recognition, this resolution is made a part of the official records of FHAW.

(Adopted the 28th day of September, 1996, by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors and the general membership on the occasion of the 21st annual member meeting in Ladysmith, Wisconsin.)

(After receiving a copy of the resolution honoring Jacque D. Vallier, Mrs. Vallier sent a letter of thanks to Don Lambrecht, president of FHAW. That letter is printed below.)

Dear Don:

On behalf of our family I would like to thank you, the Board of Directors of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, and the general membership in attendance at the 21st annual member meeting, for adopting that wonderful resolution in memory of Jacque D. Vallier. I know that my Jacque would be deeply honored and so thrilled to know that you deemed him worthy of this resolution.

I have plans to frame the resolution and to place it in a conspicuous spot where all can see it. Thank all of you again for your kind remembrance of my Jacque. He enjoyed all Forest History meetings - they meant so much to him.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jacque Vallier

Each year FHAW presents Distinguished Service Awards to one individual and one organization. The awards are in the form of a plaque with an engraved plate. Following are abbreviated citations for the 1996 awards.

**1996 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Presented to EUGENE HARM by
FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN**

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY'S AND WISCONSIN'S FOREST HERITAGE THROUGH ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THREE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND AS A COLLECTOR AND EXHIBITOR OF ARTIFACTS AND PHOTOS OF THE EARLY DAY LOGGING ERA.

1996 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Presented to
CONSOLIDATED PAPERS, INC.
by FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

IN RECOGNITION OF ITS DEDICATION OVER THE PAST 65 YEARS TO THE RENEWAL OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF ITS TIMBERLANDS AND ITS PROGRAMS OF EDUCATING THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE VALUES OF MULTIPLE USE FOREST MANAGEMENT, THEREBY ADDING SIGNIFICANTLY TO WISCONSIN'S FOREST HISTORY.

CONSOLIDATED WINS FOREST HISTORY AWARD

(The following is reprinted from Consolidated News Chips, Oct 24, 96. This is a newsletter of Consolidated Papers for its employees.

The Forest History Association of Wisconsin (FHAW) recently recognized Consolidated Papers for its contributions to Wisconsin's forest heritage.

"It can truly be said that Consolidated Papers ranks at the top of those forest products companies that have made major and significant contributions to Wisconsin's forest history" Frank Fixmer, FHAW secretary said, in presenting the award. "The company's determination to being a role model as a practitioner of the best forest management procedures is evidenced by its dedication to proving that the good stewardship of all natural resources can be profitable, as well as providing for the wide variety of interests that attract the general public to its forest lands."

Consolidated Papers became a charter corporate member of the FHAW in 1976. A number of CPI foresters, both retirees and current employees, are also members and are active in association programs. "It was an honor to accept the award on behalf of the people of Consolidated Papers," said Miles Benson, director of timberlands. "While the award was presented to the company as the first industrial awardee, it is people who make any industrial organization a success. Many Consolidated employees, both past and present, have contributed their efforts toward good conservation."

1996 AUCTION SALES REACH NEW HIGH

Thanks to a major donation of artifacts by FHAW member Ralph Swanson of Winchester, WI, auction sales at this year's annual members meeting were an outstanding success. Of the 97 items comprising the total sales of \$976, forty of those items were contributed by Swanson after he had cleaned out his garage, attic and basement of memorabilia collected during a long period of active life as a forester.

Twenty bidders competed enthusiastically for a wide variety of articles dating back to the early part of this century. Some got bargains and some paid unheard of prices for particularly desirable pieces. One example of the latter was a \$75 price paid for a \$5 textbook on logging and lumbering techniques, used in forestry schools in the 1920s and 30s, long out of print and now a collector's item. Saws, filing gauges, logging camp kitchenware and miscellaneous publications brought bids considerably higher than their original cost in most cases.

FHAW members are again urged to follow Swanson's example and help this kind of fund raiser to allow FHAW to meet its operating costs without the necessity of a membership dues increase.

OUT OF STATE MEMBERS ATTRACTED TO FHAW ANNUAL MEETING

It was a pleasant surprise to note that a number of out of state members traveled considerable distances to attend the 1996 annual meeting in Ladysmith. The convention's program apparently had enough interest to attract Merrill Hyde of Downers Grove, IL, Jerry Poprawski of Howard City, MI, and Larry Groothausen of Duluth, MN.

But the distinction of having come the longest distance went to Cornelio Groothausen, who has lived and worked as a forester in the area of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America, for the past twenty years. Cornelio was born and grew up in Tony, WI, just five miles east of Ladysmith. The occasion of the annual meeting was an opportunity to visit relatives and friends he hadn't seen for a number of years. Cornelio became a member of FHAW in 1978 and decided to become a life member the following year.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GEORGE KOSHAK, Park Falls, was the subject of a special article in the October issue of the "Timber Producer" magazine, which was reprinted from an earlier edition of the Park Falls Herald. George tells a fascinating story of logging with his brothers as contractor for the Edward Hines Lumber Company, starting in 1937. In the thirteen years with that association, they produced about 50 million board feet of timber in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. His account of that period is a vivid re-creation of logging camp life during the Great Depression and the World War II days.

TOM ALBRECHT, Shawano, recently received the Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector Award for Wisconsin. He is one of over 200 inspecting foresters who provide forest management services to forest landowners in the American Tree Farm System in Wisconsin, a program begun in 1954 and now includes over 4,000 tree farms state wide. Tom is currently a director of FHAW and a past president.

RUSSELL ROBERTS, Wisconsin Rapids, recently retired as Area Procurement Manager for Georgia Pacific at Port Edwards. Russ plans to move to Hayward, WI, in the near future so he can be close to the northwoods. He has been a member of FHAW since 1983.

DODGEVILLE TREE FARM WINS NATIONAL HONORS

A national tree farm organization has granted an annual award to a Wisconsin woodland for the first time, an honor that a state spokesman said was long overdue. "We have 4,000 certified tree farms," said Joel Aanensen, chairman of the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee. The citation for the national tree farmer of the year went to Don and Rachel Jordan, whose 733 acre operation is called "The Woods." The award says the American Tree Farm System feels the Jordans are the best among the 70,000 registered tree farmers nationwide. The Jordan farm is a source of oak, walnut, ash, hickory, cherry and other deciduous trees used for various products from railroad ties to furniture. Rachel's parents, Elmer and Ada Biddick, first logged the area with horses in the 1940s.

CHEQUAMEGON REBUILDS PIECE OF HISTORY

(Written by Dean Granholm, in the Chequamegon - Nicolet News - Connections, Sept 96.)

More than 200 people, including Wisconsin Congressman Dave Obey, celebrated the completion and dedication of the historic Round Lake Logging Dam August 21, 1996. Restoration of this National Register of Historic Places structure was carried out through a cost sharing partnership between the USDA Forest Service, Friends of the Round Lake Logging Dam, and Price County Historical Society. "The remarkable achievement at Round Lake is a significant contribution to the area and will be a very popular and educational destination for generations to come," said District Ranger Bob Hennes.

The 19th century dam is located at the outlet of Round Lake and along the South Fork of the Flambeau River, halfway between Filfield and Minoqua. Spring log drives on the Flambeau once originated there. The dam harnessed the force of the river, providing power to drive rafts of logs to sawmills downstream. The restored dam is a legacy of this bygone era, and will now serve as a focal point for historic interpretation. "The dam gives us a chance to inform visitors not only about the logging era, but also the long lasting effects these activities had on the land and streams," said Pat Schroeder, President of the Price County Historical Society. Every effort was made to retain as much of the dam's original timber and iron as possible to preserve its historic character.

LOGGING CAMP GETS RESTORED

(From the Green Bay Press Gazette, Dec 4, 96.)

Five Wisconsin Conservation Corps members recently lent a helping hand to the Lakewood Lions Club in their quest to restore the Holt and Balcolm Logging Camp at McCaslin Brook Golf Course. The WCC members - two young men and three young women - refaced 11 seriously weather damaged logs that, if they were lost, would have threatened the complete loss of the building.

The WCC members, Kelly Baecher, Jason Stoffregon, Wendy King, and team leaders Jody Saunders and David Boyd, are part of a state sponsored program for high school graduates. WCC youths have a one year obligation and are paid by the state.

INQUIRY FROM THREE LAKES

Walt Goldsworthy, FHAW member and administrator of the Three Lakes Historical Museum, forwarded an inquiry from one of the museum's recent visitors:

Seeking information on Patrick Hoben (or Hoban). Hoben died "in the pineries" between Rhinelander and Crandon. He was buried in Ripon.

Anyone with information on Hoben should write to Mary Ann Jensen, 117 N. Bench St., Galena, IL 61036.

In his letter, Mr. Goldsworthy also provided some information about himself and the Three Lakes Museum:

Settlement of the Three Lakes area dates back to 1881, with the coming of the railroad. Walt Goldsworthy came to the area in 1947 with his older brother to build commercial cranberry marshes. Walt states that he is "one of the originals" of FHAW. He is now "on the threshold of 80" and says "there just are not many left of the original natives to really claim any actual experience of life in the pineries of old."

The Three Lakes Historical Museum is open daily from 10 to 4, Memorial Day through September. Admission is free. The museum includes: Sam Campbell memorabilia, Civilian Conservation Corps era, pioneer logging, farming, hand tools, clothing, maps, musical instruments, grand piano of Civil War vintage, dolls, toys, genealogy files, Indian and natural history, a flower garden of pioneer varieties, and much more.

MORE INQUIRIES

The Museum of Transport, 3015 Barrett Station Road, St. Louis, MO 63122, ATTN: Ron Goldfeder, is interested in locating pictures of Forney locomotives 0-4-4 used on many logging roads in WI and MN. They came from transit lines in Chicago and New York prior to electrification. The museum has restored one of these locomotives and wants to build a display. The writer then lists the firms of Ruby and Southern, Nekoosa Paper, Farnsworth Logging, Oconto Iron, Pound Construction, Paine Lumber, and Rogers Lumber, although I am not sure of these firms' relation to this locomotive.

FHAW members John Cline, 1201 Plumer St., Wausau, WI 54403 and Merrill Hyde, 4802 Saratoga Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515 are researching Ringle, WI and are looking for any information on Ringle Brick or its predecessor company, Clay Lumber.

In his letter, Mr. Cline also mentions that he is the author of "Wisconsin Valley Line", a book with many accounts of the Milwaukee Road and logging in northern Wisconsin. Mr. Cline states that he has the original contracts of rail building north of Tomahawk, totaling some 500 miles of lines all over the north central parts of the state. He is willing to share this information with interested parties. Mr. Cline also states that he will write for us an article on the Salsich & Wilson at Star Lake. I'll hold you to this, John.

Another writer seeks any information relating to farming or logging sleighs. Information can be sent to Kent Finger, C/O Mel Hanneman, N5203 Bagley Rd, Marinette, WI 54143.

NEWS FROM PESHTIGO

(from The Peshtigo Argus, Nov 8, 1889)

The camps of the Peshtigo Company will be run by the following foremen this winter:

Camp 1, Thos. Waddell; camp 2, Hank Woodward; camp 3, A.J. Wood; camp 4, Chris Heidenworth; camp 5, Al. Brown; camp 6, Lewis Curry; camp 7, Jas. Campbell; camp 8, Chas. Brouette; camp 9, Jack MacGregor; camp 10, Art Scott; camp 11, Geo. Baikie; camp 12, Dougald Thompson; camp 13, Joe Scott; camp 15, Eben Haley; camp 16, Jerre Richard. The supply camp at Armstrong Creek will be in the competent charge of L.D. Lovell.

For the season up to Nov 2, the Peshtigo Company's mills have cut 395,089 logs and 55 million feet of lumber. Of this amount, the water mill at Peshtigo has cut about forty percent of this total, and the steam mill at Peshtigo Harbor the other sixty percent. Last year up to the same time the same mills cut a total of 327,427 logs and 46 million feet. This is a good showing for this season's work.

SUPERIOR'S ICY DEPTHS YIELD RARE LOGS

(By Peter Maller, from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Sept 28, 96)

Bayfield, WI. With air bubbling from his diver's mask and a hammer gripped in his hand, Scott Mitchen, a professional treasure hunter, worked amid a tangle of logs at the bottom of Lake Superior. He pounded steel hooks into several massive timbers, waterlogged giants that lumberjacks cut from Wisconsin's virgin forests more than a century ago.

So abundant was the resource then that nobody paid much attention while thousands of logs sank every year. Until Mitchen spotted some during a dive in 1990, the logs remained forgotten alongside a 30 mile stretch of northern Wisconsin shoreline that once bustled with sawmills.

Mitchen, 38, is founder and president of Superior Lumber, a tightly held company that recently began salvaging the timber to sell to buyers wanting an exotic resource with a romantic past. Ashland, a community of 8,700 with a strong determination to promote industrial development, recently sold Mitchen a vacant sawmill for \$1. The opening ceremony for the 150,000 square foot facility, once owned by Louisiana Pacific Corp., will be Oct. 4.

Mitchen has promised to invest \$850,000 to renovate the building. In the coming year, he said he would hire 130 workers and process 30,000 logs.

"This is pretty much the last virgin timber left in North America," said Mitchen, after climbing aboard his 27 foot dive vessel, Island Explorer. "Trees don't grow like this anymore."

While he supervised, two deck hands operated an air compressor that pumped 1,000 pounds of air into a plastic bag Mitchen had hooked earlier onto a log. Like a missile, the log bolted loose from the pile, soared to the surface and then floated alongside the boat. "Red oak," pronounced Mitchen.

Lake Superior's low oxygen content and cool temperatures have kept most logs in perfect condition. When sawed into boards, the grain displays an array of stunning patterns, a natural byproduct of slow growth in the shade of towering white pines.

Many of Mitchen's logs were young trees in the 15th century. When lumberjacks finally toppled them, they were 300 to 400 years old.

"Trees in those days laid down maybe 20 to 30 annual growth rings for every inch of growth," Mitchen said. "Now trees mature much faster. The stuff being cut today has three to four rings to the inch."

Besides red oak, the Lake Superior find contains maple, birch, cedar, hemlock, cherry and elm. Customers for the wood include an architect who is building a mansion for computer software billionaire Bill Gates and a contractor who is overseeing a \$50 million renovation of the Saddledome, home of the Calgary Flames ice hockey team.

European violin makers are also interested. A buyer representing 110 violin companies in France recently spent a day in Wisconsin viewing Mitchen's samples. Other buyers include furniture factories, bowl makers and veneer mills.

Meanwhile, orders from J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, Calif., and Boeing Co., in Seattle, have been put on a waiting list, while Mitchen pushes to meet the demand. "It's very difficult to put a price on this wood," Mitchen said. "People seem willing to pay four to five times what they'd expect to pay at a lumberyard for new boards."

The sky's the limit, agreed timber engineer David Kretschmann, of the US Forest Products Laboratory in Madison. "The price is whatever the market will bear," he said. "I hate to be so blunt about it. But it's such a unique resource, that's the way it is."

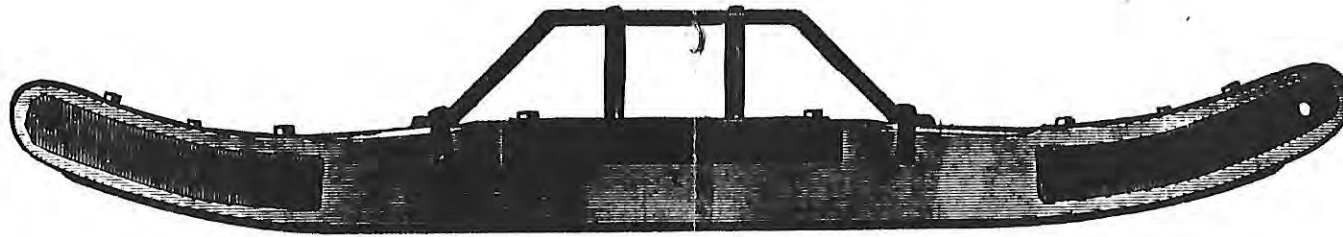
A large red oak cut from today's forests might be worth \$400. Sawed into lumber, it could fetch twice that. And peeled for veneer, the price could increase another 500%.

Mitchen does not ignore the added value his logs gain as relics of American history. "When I'm in the water, I see the ax marks of the guys who cut these things, and I think about... those guys," Mitchen said. "It's kind of eerie. It's almost like those lumberjacks are looking down on me."

A Milwaukee native who grew up wanting to be a treasure hunter, Mitchen persuaded the State Legislature to allow him to gather the lost logs. He agreed to pay the state 30% of each log's value.

Nobody knows the exact number of logs in the lake, because many are buried in muck and sawdust. But Mitchen is confident that the supply can last 20 to 30 years. "There are definitely hundreds of thousands of logs down there," he said. "There could be millions."

THIS IS IT.



OUR NEW DOUBLE END LOGGING SLED.

Write for Full Particulars.

This is the best and most practical sled ever put into the woods for logging purposes. If you are interested in the subject, your request for particulars will receive immediate and careful attention. From now on we are going to show you some of our late specialties in this space. We manufacture the largest line of labor-saving devices for loggers of any concern in the country. Our Catalog and Circulars illustrate and describe our full line. Send to us for any or all of your logging outfit, and save money.

Eau Claire Mill Supply Co.,

Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

PESHTIGO FIRE REMEMBERED

(October 8, 1996, marked the 125th anniversary of the infamous fire at Peshtigo. The following excerpts are taken from *The Great Conflagration*, by James W. Sheahan and George P. Upton, 1871. The book details events of the Chicago fire, but includes a chapter on the fire at Peshtigo and the other fires in the region during the same time period.)

The appearance of Peshtigo after the fire, and the effects of the flames is well told in a letter to the *Milwaukee Wisconsin*. The writer says:

"Yesterday afternoon I rode out several miles from Menominee to the opening in the woods, where Peshtigo was. It is a level and sandy road, bordered mainly by blackened stumps and pine. We came to the Peshtigo opening. Fox river, where so many had been saved or drowned, was flowing placidly over the half burnt dam; heaps of mortar, brick and iron, showed where the factory, dry house, mills, foundry and machine works stood, - all else was a naked waste of drifted ashes and sand. Forging the river with our team, we continued our drive for a few miles westward into the Sugar Bush settlements. The trees had been cut and pulled aside from the road. Burned culverts and small bridges filled up with logs. Outside the road on either hand, was seen the work of the tornado. Great forests of maple, oak, beach, hemlock and pine were torn as by the power of a hundred whirlwinds, and hurled length wise and cross wise on the ground. The whole forest had been mowed down like grass; not one tree in twenty was standing. Mingled with the work of the winds, is seen the black wrath of the flames. Green maples and oaks, three feet in diameter, went down in a whirl, and were eaten up by the red flames in an hour. It was this double rage of tornado and flame that burst in upon the ill fated village of Peshtigo. Not all the fire steamers in the world could have stayed its destruction."

"Out among the clearings of the Sugar Bush, not a trace of fence or farm buildings is seen, but a few black embers by the road side and the relics of stoves and kettles by the chimney pile. There were two hundred and twenty families burned out in the Sugar Bush, two hundred and fifty in Peshtigo, and a full hundred elsewhere in the track of the tornado. Nothing was saved among the farmers, except now and then a stray horse or cow and a few scanty rags that hung to their bodies. The villages fared no better. A few attempted flight with bundles and carpet bags, but they were snatched up and devoured by the flames."

No one as yet can sum up the number of the dead. One hundred and forty dead bodies have been found and identified in the lower Sugar Bush, fifty in the middle, and seventy-seven in the upper. It is thought that nearly all the farm settlers have been discovered. It is difficult to get at the number of the Peshtigo dead. There were many woodsmen, railroad men, and others, strangers in town. Up to Saturday eighty-eight bodies had been found and registered, while fully as many more were mixed with charred bones and indistinguishable remains. There were twenty-two corpses among the fifteen families at Birch Creek, and half as many up the Menominee."

A civil engineer doing business in Peshtigo, in a letter describing his escape, says:

"I went to bed about 9 o'clock, but did not go to sleep, as there was considerable noise in the house (the Peshtigo Hotel). Before long the bells rang and the whistles blew for fire, but this had happened almost every night for a fortnight. I looked out of my window, but as the sky was black, I went to bed again. Before long I looked again, and the sky was red. I then threw open the window, and the loud roar which I heard warned me of approaching danger." The writer dressed and looked out into the street, and though he saw no flames then, he had only time to assist two friends to carry out their trunks before the sparks flew in clouds and the smoke became suffocating. He immediately started for the bridge, and when he reached it the fire had not extended to the river. Before he could cross, a mill at the other end was in flames, presenting a fiery blockade. "I turned back," he says, "and for the first time the horror of the situation burst upon me. Fire on all sides; the bridge I stood on afire; the air hot and full of flame; crowds of people screeching, cattle bellowing, horses dashing through the crowds and the wind blowing a hurricane. A wooden ware factory blew in before the fire touched it." He struggled back to the other end of the bridge, though knocked down once by cattle, threw himself into the water and made the best of his way up stream, sometimes swimming and then wading, as the depth allowed, to get as far from the burning buildings as possible. "The heat increased so rapidly," he continues, "as things got well afire, that, when about 400 feet from the bridge and the nearest building, I was obliged to lie down behind a log that was aground in about two feet of water, and by going under water now and then, and holding my head close to the water behind the log, I managed to breathe. There was a dozen others behind the same log. If I had succeeded in crossing the river and gone among the buildings on the other side, I probably should have been lost, as many were. It was thought at first that the fire would not cross the river, as it is here four or five hundred feet wide; but it proved to be no obstacle at all, and those who crossed were glad enough to get back into the water.

For about an hour I lay and gasped for breath, but after that the worst was over and I crawled upon the log to get out of the water, for it was very cold and I was chilled through. I lay there an hour and a half, and then was able to go ashore. It was so smoky we could not go near the burning ruins, so we built a rousing fire on the shore and tried to get dry and keep warm until morning. My watch ran through it all, and therefore I knew the length of time I was in the water. Had it not been for the watch I would have thought I was there four hours at least."

Another statement will be all that is necessary to give the reader an idea of this terrible scene. Mr. James B. Clark, of Detroit, who was at Uniontown, Wisconsin, writes:

"Fires were blazing through the forests and along the prairies in every direction. At sundown there was a strong breeze, which at 9 o'clock increased to a furious gale, blowing toward the lake. The whole surface of the country to the westward, eastward and southward seemed to be one mass of flame, which almost reached to the lowering clouds, and raced along at racehorse speed. Beyond, toward the lake, was the settlement of Williamson's Mills, comprising about fourteen families. The fire suddenly made a rush like the flash of a train of gunpowder, and swept in the shape of a crescent around the settlement. It is almost impossible to conceive the frightful rapidity of the advance of the flames. The rushing fire seemed to eat up and annihilate the trees." He says the roar of the blast was as loud as the whirl of a great mill. "As we stood looking on, say at about 10 o'clock, we heard another strange sound. Straining our eyes toward the fire - about seven miles distant - we could just discern something moving; now it would appear like a black mass, then it would separate into fragments, swaying to and fro, and bobbing up and down. It came toward us directly from the lurid wall of flame. At last we made out by sight and sound that the moving mass was a stampede of cattle and horses thundering toward us from the flames, bellowing, neighing and moaning as they galloped on. Following considerably behind came a solitary horse, panting and snorting and nearly exhausted. He was saddled and bridled, and, as we first thought, had a bag lashed to his back. As he came up we were startled at the sight of a young lad lying fallen over the animal's neck, the bridle wound around his hands, and the mane being clinched by his fingers. Little effort was needed to stop the jaded horse, and at once release the helpless boy. He was taken into the house, and all that we could do was done; but he had inhaled the smoke, and was seemingly dying. Some time elapsed and he revived enough to speak. He told his name - Patrick Byrnes - and said: 'Father and mother and the children got into the wagon. I don't know what became of them. Everything is burned up. I am dying. Oh, is hell any worse than this?'"

LANGLADE COUNTY TIMBER IS BIG BUSINESS

(The following article, written by Jim Lee, is taken from the Wausau Daily Herald, Oct 24, 96. Mike Sohasky is a past president of FHAW and has been a member since 1982.)

Antigo. Pity the poor deer hunter who discovers a splash of orange paint on the trunk of the tree that holds his favorite stand. It's not the mark of Zorro, but it's a sure sign of destiny. The tree is targeted to be toppled. "We try not to take trees with tree stands in them... but it happens," said Mike Sohasky, Langlade County forest administrator. Sohasky recently led a contingent of about 30 personnel on a two day "tree marking camp" in that county's 126,000 acre county forest property. By the time they were through, the participants had sprayed their way through 900 acres. Maybe a few tree stands were assigned to the logger's ax... maybe not.

But each year, Langlade County conducts logging operations on about 3,500 acres and its not unusual to bring down a tree for profit that a hunter has been eyeing for other purposes. Timber management is big business in county forests. In 1995, 53,445 cords of pulpwood and 874,000 board feet of saw logs were removed from the Langlade County Forest, generating \$912,823 in revenue to the county. Income to the county from timber sales has nearly tripled over the past ten years and that upward spiral is expected to continue, aided by Sohasky's forest management philosophy.

"Most of the time, when private land is logged, the logger takes the best trees and leaves the worst," Sohasky said. "We generally cut smaller trees with market value to allow prime trees more room to grow and reseed the area. Larger trees are cut if they are near or past their prime." The plan encourages growth of sugar maple and basswood. Conifer and oak trees are spared because they add welcome diversity to the county's hardwood stands in addition to providing wildlife benefits. "We expect to come back and cut these tracts at 15 year intervals," Sohasky explained. "So one of the questions our foresters asks is, 'Will this tree be here in 15 years.' If not, it comes down."

After several improvement cut cycles, a timber stand should consist of prime trees, which bring top dollar in the marketplace. Pulpwood, such as popple, usually ends up at area paper mills, as does some of the hardwood. But the majority of the hardwood is turned into lumber at local mills or converted to furniture, bowling pins, pallets, door panels or hardwood floors... all industries that flourish in the Antigo area. After county foresters mark trees and the boundaries for a timber sale, logging companies survey the cut and bid for the job.

CYRUS C. YAWKEY

(From American Lumbermen, The Personal History and Public Business Achievements of One Hundred Eminent Lumbermen of the United States, published in Chicago, 1905.)

The faithful performance of every promise he makes has caused to be applied to Cyrus Carpenter Yawkey, of Wausau and Hazelhurst, Wisconsin, the good old phrase, "His word is as good as his bond." He is a son of Samuel W. Yawkey, one of the pioneer lumbermen of the Saginaw valley. The senior Yawkey moved to Chicago in 1858, where he engaged in the lumber business with Thomas M. Avery. He returned to East Saginaw in 1864. C.C. Yawkey was born in Chicago, August 29, 1862, while his father was engaged in the lumber business there. Subsequent to his father's return to East Saginaw, the youth became a student in the common schools, in which he continued to study until about 1879, when he was sent to the Michigan Military Academy, at Orchard Lake. He graduated from that school in 1891, when eighteen years of age. Upon leaving school he went into a hardware store at East Saginaw as clerk, serving several years and learning the business thoroughly. When twenty-one years of age he entered the hardware business on his own account, the firm being Yawkey & Corbyn, and prospered for five years.

In 1888, in association with his uncle, W.C. Yawkey, he organized at Hazelhurst, Wisconsin, the Yawkey & Lee Lumber Company, Limited, which not long thereafter was reorganized as the Yawkey Lumber Company. At that point it now has a saw mill, a planing mill and a logging road. The railroad, which is twenty-five miles in length, is operated on a large scale and is incorporated as the Hazelhurst & Southeastern Railway Company, of which Mr. Yawkey is president. One of its branches connects Hazelhurst with the Chicago & North-Western railway at Tomahawk lake. The town of Hazelhurst has been built in the woods on the line of the St. Paul road on the shore of Lake Katherine, where the plant is located. The company has been adding to its original holdings ever since its organization and has manufactured over 300 million feet of lumber at that point. Besides the equipment mentioned, the Yawkey Lumber Company has a box factory which turns out about six million feet of box material each year. The company logs entirely by rail the year round.

Since the death of W.C. Yawkey in 1903, C.C. Yawkey has been president of the company. W.H. Yawkey, of Detroit, son of W.C.

Yawkey, is vice president. Thus the only remaining members of a distinguished lumber family of several generations are associated in the Hazelhurst enterprise. The company is now getting out between 30 and 35 million feet a year.

The president of this company is the only one who has built it up, for he is the only one of the proprietary members who has lived in Wisconsin, where the operations have been conducted; and his initiative, backed by indomitable energy, has culminated in splendid results during the last fifteen years. This company was one of the first in Wisconsin to log with horses exclusively, and its members were among the first saw mill people of the North to put in band mills, to run a logging railroad and to operate their mill winters as well as summers and to keep an open pond the year around. Their concern was one of the first in the valley to establish box factories in connection with mills, and every one of these innovations has been a success.

None of Mr. Yawkey's associates has been active with him at the mill and, aside from the initial purchase which was made before the plant was established, C.C. Yawkey has bought all of the timber. He has looked after the logging and manufacturing and sold the products of the mills for the last fifteen years. He has outside relationships of a commercial character; he is vice president of the Wisconsin & Arkansas Lumber Company, which has vast interests at and near Malvern, Arkansas; he is president of the Yawkey - Crowley Lumber Company, a line yard concern operating retail yards in southern Wisconsin, and he owns considerable stock in several other lumber and land companies. He is vice president of the Wausau Quartz Company of Wausau; a director of the First National Bank of Rhinelander, and a director of the Comptograph Company, manufacturer of adding machines, at Chicago. Mr. Yawkey is also president of the Globe Mining Company, which owns valuable iron lands near Birmingham, Alabama.

The Yawkey Lumber Company, through Mr. Yawkey, has been a liberal purchaser of yellow pine timber in Florida and has added to its holdings considerable quantities of Pacific Coast stumpage within the last few years. Mr. Yawkey spent part of 1903 on the Coast, adding materially to the timber possessions of the company.

In addition to the substantial work of building up so great an industry at Hazelhurst, and incidentally purchasing timber lands all over the country on behalf of his associates and himself, Mr. Yawkey has devoted much time to association work for the general good of the lumber industry. He was elected president of the Wisconsin Valley Lumbermen's Association in 1904.



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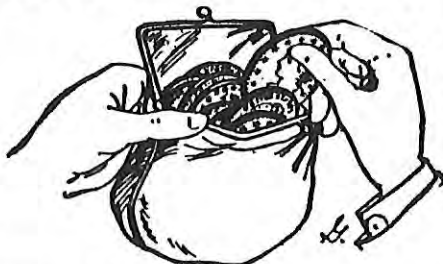
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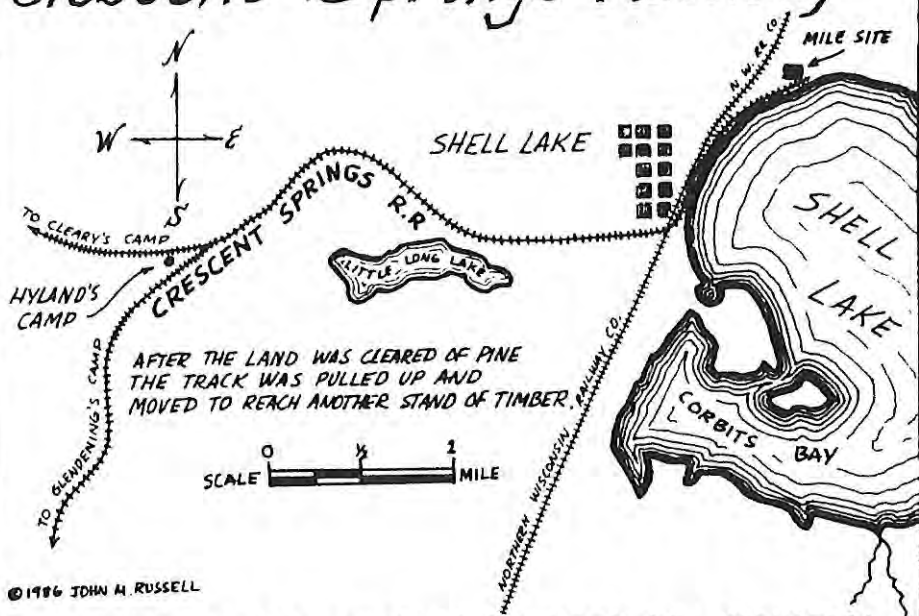
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