



Chips

and

Sawdust

**A NEWSLETTER
From**

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

**FALL
1999**

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1999 - 2000

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**MINUTES OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

October 12, 1999

UW Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources

(Editor's note: These are abbreviated meeting notes, focusing on items that may be of interest to our members. If you desire copies of complete Board of Directors meeting minutes, you may contact the FHAW secretary.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Nominations and approval were obtained for the following: President - John Cline; Vice-President - Jim Adamson; Treasurer - Tom Albrecht; Secretary - Bob Brisson. President Cline assumed chairmanship of this meeting and reported on a plan to create membership districts for directors to help with recruiting and retaining members.

TREASURER'S REPORT. The mileage provision approved on August 17 was reviewed. This provision was revised to have FHAW only pay for mileage to move our exhibits and for the secretary for special duties requiring travel.

MEMBERSHIP. It was proposed to have a special dues offering during 2000 of \$200 for a life membership and a two year membership for \$20. It was approved to have the life membership for \$200 and a two year membership for \$25.

PUBLICATIONS. Director Benson reported a need for pictures of the 1999 annual meeting and tour.

SCHOLARSHIP. New guidelines for the FHAW scholarship were established, rules for which can be seen in this issue of C & S.

PUBLICITY: Discussion suggested supplying membership applications to all museums listed in "Logging and Lumbering Museums in Wisconsin."

FHAW COLLECTION & ARCHIVES. The board toured the UWSP Regional Research Center and inspected the FHAW collection and archives.

NEXT MEETING. Don Lambrecht will make arrangements for the next board meeting to meet in Antigo at Kretz Lumber Company during May 2000.

FHAW 24TH ANNUAL MEETING

(Notes provided by Dean Einspahr)

The FHAW 24th Annual meeting was held on September 17th and 18th at the Robbins Restaurant in Oshkosh. The Friday tour ran from 9 AM to 4 PM and included visits to the EAA "Air Adventure" Museum, the Granary Restaurant, the Oshkosh Tool Company, and the Oshkosh Public Museum. There were 24 individuals who took part in the tour.

The Saturday meeting, which included speakers Randy Rohe, Kitty Hobsin, Dr. Virginia Crane and Karl Baumann, started at 9 AM. After lunch, the business meeting was held, followed by the auction of logging artifacts. The auction, which included a total of 148 items, resulted in a net gain for the association of \$1700.

The "Lumber Jack Dinner" was held from 6 to 7:30 PM. The after dinner speaker was Jerry Poprawski, who presented his famous "Shanty Boys" discussion of Lake States' logging, loggers, and logging camps.

The meeting went off on schedule, the speakers were very good, the facilities were good, and the auction was a great success. Overall, the meeting turned out to be very worthwhile. Our biggest problem was the low attendance - only 32 people attended the evening banquet.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF MEMBERS September 18, 1999 OSHKOSH

EXHIBITS. Chair Jim Adamson reported that exhibits were presented at the Wausau Log Jam, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association annual meeting, and Three Lakes Pioneer Days. John Cline suggested that since the FHAW address is at the Wausau Museum, we should have a FHAW exhibit at that site. A motion was approved to have the President appoint a committee to prepare an exhibit.

FORESTRY HALL OF FAME. Chair Don Lambrecht reported that Fred Braun and Aldo Leopold had been elected in 1999. FHAW will nominate Forest Stearns in 2000.

MEMBERSHIP. Frank Fixmer reported there was a gain of 23 members last year, but that a high proportion of members have not renewed for the current year.

PUBLICATIONS. Chair Miles Benson reported that preparation of the 1998 "Proceedings" went well, although the cost was nearly \$10 per copy.

SCHOLARSHIP. Chair John Saemann reported that plagiarism has been a problem with papers submitted. Future papers will be reviewed by Randy Rohe, Carl Krog and others.

ANNUAL MEETINGS. 1999. Brisson requested that everyone thank chair Dean Einspahr for preparing and hosting a wonderful meeting.

2000. Annual Meeting #25. Frank Fixmer reported that Terry Moore has made reservations at Holiday Acres Resort in Rhinelander for September 22 & 23, 2000. The program will include recognition of the 25 charter members of FHAW.

2001. Accepted proposals by host members. One possibility is the Wade House Historical Site area, where a new water powered sawmill will be operating.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Nominating committee chair Tom Albrecht presented a slate of James Adamson, Karl Baumann, Don Lambrecht, Randy Rohe, and Miles Benson for a two year term. With no further nominations, the motion was carried.

OTHER BUSINESS. Bob Walkner suggested having a "show and tell" table at the annual meeting where members could display forest history collections or artifacts.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING August 17, 1999 SHAWANO

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS. Director Rohe recommended that the FY 1999-2000 awards be given to Paul Brenner (individual) and the Langlade County Historical Society (organization). The recommendation was approved.

PUBLICITY. Discussion suggested including the following in release distribution: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Nicolet News, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Trees For Tomorrow, The Timber Producer, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association. Frank Fixmer suggested developing a web site; Albrecht will contact WDNR for assistance.

PUBLICATIONS. Director Benson presented FHAW materials he developed, including: "Consent to Publish," "Publication Policy," and "Biographical Information Sheet for Speakers." Discussion suggested taping all presentations at the annual meeting. Frank Fixmer reported on the publications storage problem and a need for storage space.

FHAW EQUIPMENT. Director Albrecht recommended that the copy machine and typewriter be given to Frank Fixmer. This was approved.

FHAW ARCHIVIST. Fixmer reported on the amount of work and correspondence required to respond to requests for information and to support the FHAW archives. He suggested creating the position of FHAW Archivist. It was approved to establish the position, with Fixmer to serve for its initial term.

DIRECTOR EMERITUS. Directors discussed the efforts of Frank Fixmer for FHAW over many years. It was approved to award the position of Director Emeritus to Frank, along with a FHAW life membership.

FHAW HONORARIA. Approved was a revised schedule of honoraria for FHAW officers: Executive Secretary - \$400; Treasurer - \$200; "Proceedings" Editor - \$100; Newsletter Editor - \$50 per issue; and Annual Meeting Chair - \$100.

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME

(From the editor: I recently picked up a flyer describing the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Although I didn't visit the facility, I wanted to make our readers aware of it. It is located in Stevens Point. The following information is taken from the flyer.)

When you step through the door of the Conservation Hall of Fame, you become a part of Wisconsin's environmental history. Discover how resource management has shaped our environment and our lives. Exciting exhibits bring the past to life for visitors of all ages. Through their action, philosophies, and legislative involvement, people like Aldo Leopold, Ernie Swift, Wilhelmine LaBudde, and Gaylord Nelson have helped shape our relationship with the land. They worked to protect the environment and our quality of life in Wisconsin. UW Stevens Point is the home of the nation's largest College of Natural Resources. Schmeckle Reserve, which is owned by the University, surrounds the Hall of Fame and provides hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

FOREST HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

A Forest History Scholarship in the amount of \$500 is awarded annually to a student at a Wisconsin college or university by the Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

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

The paper should be prepared as follows:

- *An original essay authored by the person submitting it
- * Manuscript should be no longer than 1000 words.
- *Double spaced, typed on 8 1/2 x 11 white bond paper.
- *Number all pages and use generous margins.
- *Title page should list author's name, school, class and major.
- *Excerpts from the works of others must be properly cited
- *Should it be determined that any part of the winning essay was plagiarized, FHAW will require the author to return in full the monetary award
- *FHAW gains the right to publish winning essays
- *Submission of a paper represents express agreement to the conditions listed above

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS IS
FEBRUARY 10, 2000.**

Winner announced in April.

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

IN PASSING

FOREST STEARNS. Having lost Forest, FHAW has lost a long time member and a man who has done much for our association. Before his death, our board of directors selected Forest for our nominee for the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame; the board has since decided not to change that nomination. The following obituary is from the Milwaukee Journal - Sentinel.

Forest W. Stearns, an internationally known ecologist who taught at UW Milwaukee for two decades, died of natural causes September 8 in St. Germain. He was 80.

Among his research interests were urban ecology, marshes and aquatic plants. He was past president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Ecological Society of America and had been botanical editor for the official publication of the Ecological Society and for the Journal of Ecology. He was also past chairman of the Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council, which advised the Department of Natural Resources.

Stearns was born in Shorewood, the son of a lawyer. He got his undergraduate education at Harvard and received a master's and doctorate from UW Madison, writing his thesis on the hardwood forests of northern Wisconsin. After ten years on the faculty of Purdue University, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Mississippi and at its North Central Forest Experiment Station in Rhinelander. He joined UW Milwaukee in 1968 and was chairman of the botany department in the mid 70s. After he retired in 1987, he was made an emeritus professor.

LEO L. HEIKKINEN, Prentice, passed away on September 10, 1999 in Marshfield, at the age of 82. Leo is well known for his inventing of the Prentice Loader, which continues to be manufactured today by Blount, Inc. He received many awards over the years, among them a Merit Award Winner for the Timber Producers Association of Michigan-Wisconsin in 1979, the Suomi College Distinguished Finnish-American award in 1987, the Outstanding Service to the Forest Industry award from the Northeastern Loggers Assoc., Bangor, Maine in 1997, and induction into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame in 1999. In addition, Leo was well respected locally for the numerous community improvements he was responsible for. (*The Winter 1997 issue of C&S featured an article about Leo Heikkinen and the Prentice Loader.*)

LIGHTFUSS TREE FARM IS WISCONSIN AWARD WINNER

(From a news release from the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee.)

Dale and Fay Lightfuss have been named the 1999 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year for their management efforts on their 294 acre tree farm near Ogdensburg in Waupaca County. The award is sponsored jointly by the American Tree Farm System and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. The presentation was made to the Lightfusses at the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) annual meeting in Oshkosh on September 11.

Prior to winning the state award, the Lightfusses had been named Tree Farmers of the Year for the Lake Winnebago Area of the American Tree Farm System in Wisconsin. Dale Lightfuss is presently on the executive board of WWOA as treasurer. The Lightfuss property has been a certified Tree Farm in the American Tree Farm System since 1976. The Lightfusses are also members of Consolidated Papers Tree Farm Family. In accomplishing their objectives, the Lightfusses have worked with resource professionals from the Wisconsin DNR, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the forest products industry, and the University of Wisconsin.

The American Tree Farm System is a privately funded, national tree growing effort encouraging excellent forestry on private lands. The American Tree Farm System is sponsored nationally by the American Forest Foundation. In Wisconsin, the Tree Farm System is operated by the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee. Certified American Tree Farms are easily identified by the diamond shaped green and white Tree Farm sign. There are more than 70,000 members nationwide, who own over 85 million acres, including 3,840 landowners with over 1.75 million acres in Wisconsin. The tree farm program goes back to 1944 nationally and to 1954 in our own state.

MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Mountain Historical Society, newly formed, held a program in August 1999 on the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). A long time FHW member, Bill Wolff of Lakewood, spoke at the program, describing his experiences in the 1930s living in the CCC camp in the Mountain area and working at forestry projects. Bill is a retired Forest Service employee. The Mountain Historical Society may be contacted at PO Box 198, Mountain, WI 54149.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

(Following are several notices, sent to me by our members, of new books relating to forest history.)

BLACK MAGIC AND STOLEN TIMBER

This book, written by Yvonne M. Madden, is a historical novel from 1828 - 1929, during the logging era. Truth, hearsay, historical happenings and Indian folklore are combined to make an exciting story. A Canadian Frenchman comes to the Wisconsin territory and becomes friends with the Chippewa. He marries a Chippewa Indian woman, and so the one hundred years of timber and tears begins. During this time, life changes for the people of all nationalities who came to this land searching for a new way of life. The brotherhood that developed between the lumbermen and the lumberjacks brought these people through this time frame to make the country what it is today.

To order "Black Magic and Stolen Timber," contact Vonnie Publishing Books, H13431 School Rd., Wausau WI 54403. PH: 715-842-7082

THE GREAT PESHTIGO FIRE

The Society Press - Wisconsin's oldest book publisher - took its book on the Peshtigo fire, considered the best resource on the horrific fire, and added a foreword by Stephen J. Pyne, the world's foremost historian of fire. Also new in this second edition are several illustrations and full color maps. *(I believe this book may be obtained through the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St., Madison WI 53706.)*

CUTTING ACROSS TIME - LOGGING, RAFTING AND MILLING THE FORESTS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

(Notice sent in by Don Peotter, Appleton) This book is written by Mary Bell and published by The Schroeder Area Historical Society, Schroeder, MN, 1999. From the introduction: "Telling how John Schroeder logged pine, softwoods and hardwoods in northeastern Minnesota and the Apostle Islands lends color and vitality to the past. Towering white pine were cut, rafted and pulled by tugs across Lake Superior to Schroeder's lumber mill in Ashland, Wisconsin. In addition, pine, hardwood and pulpwood from the Apostle Islands - Oak, Michigan, Outer and Stockton - buoyed Ashland's economy for more than 30 years." Don relates that the book tells a complete story, from buying of richly timbered sections along the Cross River, timber cruising, logging, life in logging camps, floating logs on the Cross River, log rafting on Lake Superior, and the milling process at Ashland.

AND MORE BOOKS
**VILLAGE LEADER'S STATE-THEMED
BOOKS FIND A HOME**

(The following, written by Dennis McCann, is from an article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Oct 10, 1999. Jim Coughlin has long been a member of FHAW, and I'm told he attends all of our annual meetings. Both Joyce Bant and Don Lambrecht sent the article to me. Joyce says that another well known FHAW member, Michael Goc, has written a book about Jim titled "One Man, One Village.")

Winneconne. James Coughlin spent 50 years in one village office or another, including 36 as president, and 22 years in county office, including eight as executive, which explains the Winnebago County office building that bears his name. But Coughlin said none of that would have happened but for the influence of his mother, which explains the presence in the new Winneconne community building of a small room that bears her name.

Small but significant. The Rose M. Coughlin Room, donated and paid for by a grateful son, houses Coughlin's 25 year collection of books about Wisconsin, about Wisconsin communities, about Wisconsinites, by Wisconsinites - some 2,500 titles in all.

"I started collecting books on Winnebago County, and it grew from there," said Coughlin, 81. "Then I started collecting Wisconsin books and authors." And then he was an easy touch. When he traveled to other communities for state or county meetings, his souvenir would be a local history. More books arrived in the mail when other officials learned of his interest. Retirement freed Coughlin to prowl bookstores near and far. Eventually he was collecting church histories, books about local organizations, state Blue Books, and anything about or by Wisconsin figures.

Some of his titles include an early "History of Winnebago County," filled with pen and ink illustrations because photography wasn't yet available. He has a territorial history of Wisconsin authorized by one of the first state Legislatures, and an 1881 "History of Northern Wisconsin" that covers - in 1200 pages of small print - the development, early settlers and government organization of every northern town.

Marge Eid cataloged and arranged Coughlin's collection. She organized the collection by theme: Wisconsin industries; Wisconsin wars, soldiers and veterans; Wisconsin roadways, parks and guides; Wisconsin histories; Wisconsin cookbooks; even Wisconsin medicine and health.

PRISTINE LAND DONATED AS AN OASIS FOR SOLITUDE

(The following, written by Tom Vanden Brook, is from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Oct. 3, 1999. The article was sent in by member Mark Clark of Milwaukee.)

Mary Griggs Burke wrapped the multimillion dollar gift to the people and wildlife of Wisconsin with one unbreakable string. Her family's estate - three miles of untouched shoreline and a wild island, nearly 900 acres of maples and hemlocks and a cluster of historic log buildings - must forever act as an oasis for nature and solitude, beauty and contemplation. She'd have it no other way. "I love the forest - the trees and the moss," says Burke, 84, from her apartment in New York. "And I wanted to keep it all together. There is so little free land left. I wanted this area to remain intact." And so it will.

Forest Lodge, as her family has known it for 100 years, will remain a finely cut diamond amid the rolling emerald fabric of the Chequamegon - Nicolet National Forest. Griggs, through an arrangement worked out with the nonprofit Trust for Public Land, recently donated the estate and ensured that an endowment will allow the U.S. Forest Service to maintain it in perpetuity as a non-motorized, non-logged natural area and environmental education center. Hiking and canoeing would be permitted in certain areas.

"When people have to walk slowly through beautiful, natural woods into an area, whether to fish or camp, they are apt to appreciate," Burke once wrote in a letter to the forest service. A tour of the grounds reveals the remarkable nature of Burke's gift, which some say could fetch about \$20 million if it had been developed. The well maintained property also offers a glimpse of an earlier era of the spectacular wealth that created it.

Forest Lodge dates to about 1890. Burke's grandfather, Crawford Livingston, had moved west to Minnesota to seek his fortune. Originally, the family, under a grant from the English monarchy, had settled on the Hudson River in New York. Livingston did make his own fortune in wholesale foods. Eventually, he scouted northern Wisconsin for a family retreat and found a logging camp bunkhouse that topped a hill above Namekagon Lake. Few trees remained, but Livingston bought it anyway from the North Wisconsin Lumber Co. "It looked like a nuclear landscape at the time," says Shaun Hamilton of the Trust for Public Land. But, under the family's care, the land healed and the retreat flourished. A semicircle of 120 foot tall white pines and increasingly rare old growth hemlocks crowd behind the buildings.

It was during Burke's summers and occasional winters here she recalls forming her connection to the land. "...I have seen what happens to land that has been logged over, losing its virgin trees, and how, if untouched, it can renew itself," she wrote recently of the property. "I grew up with the second growth and feel a deep love for the trees and the land with its special places - tamarack swamps, mossy bogs and old stumps burned by forest fires and left by the loggers. The family added to the property over the years, and Burke's mother gave it to her in 1943.

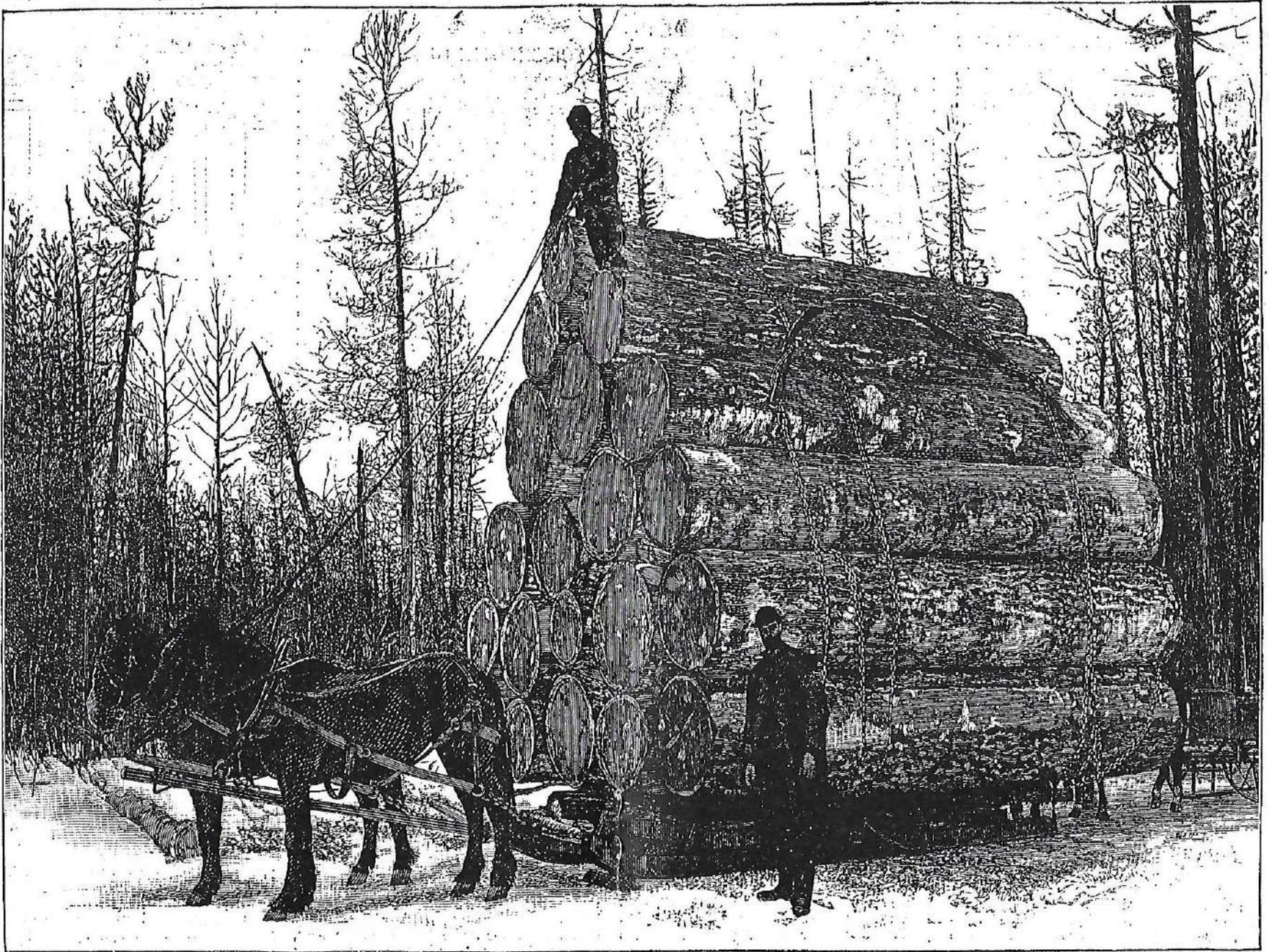
When she began considering its long term preservation, Burke discussed her options with the Trust for Public Land, Hamilton says. Preserving the forested uplands, sensitive wetlands and shore for nature study and contemplation was important to Burke. She also wanted to retain the buildings and grounds, about 125 acres, for her private use for the near future, eventually turning them over to house a museum and hold environmental conferences. The trust accomplished those goals by accepting Burke's land donation and negotiating its future use with the U.S. Forest Service. The trust sold the property to the service for \$4 million, money that has been set aside in an endowment to maintain the property, Hamilton says. An advisory council, including members from the Wisconsin DNR, the Trust for Public Land and the Burke family, will ensure the land is used according to her wishes.

There's little doubt that the shoreline would otherwise have been seen as ripe for development. The DNR, for instance, notes that in the last 30 years, the number of private dwellings on northern Wisconsin lakes has doubled. At that rate, the lakes could be fully developed by 2015. Burke's gift offers permanent protection for the shoreline - a critical consideration, since Namekagon Lake also serves as the headwaters for the S. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

ASHLAND FIRM ALLOWED TO RECOVER SUNKEN LOGS IN THE SEAWAY

(This is also from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Aug. 18, 1999. The Superior Water-Logged Lumber Co. is a member of FHAW.)

Ashland based Superior Water-Logged Lumber Co., the main subsidiary of Enviro-Recovery Inc., has received a license to extract underwater logs in the St. Lawrence Seaway and Lake Ontario region of New York, the company announced. It is the first license issued by New York for salvaging underwater logs that sank in the waterways during the logging era of the 1800s. The logs, typically pine, oak, maple and birch, will be shipped to the company's mill in Ashland for processing.



LOGGING IN MICHIGAN—A BIG LOAD.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY ISH, GAYLORD, MICHIGAN.

DEER FOOT LODGE

(Following are some excerpts from an article written by Mary Jane Hettinga and printed in the Wausau Daily Herald, Oct. 26, 1999. The article discusses a lot about early deer hunting; I have omitted those parts. Ms. Hettinga draws her historical information on the lodge from a book written by Judge Marvin Rosenberry of Wausau, "Memories of Happy Hunting," 1941. Deer Foot Lodge, along with the Burke property in the previous article, show some examples of "recycled" lumber camps.)

A local businessman, Benjamin F. Wilson, had moved to Wausau in 1901 and started the Wilson Mercantile Co. He had been in partnership with a man named Salsich in northern Wisconsin, where they had a lumber operation at Camp 28, near Star Lake. Their company had cut and marketed 800 million board feet of timber before the pine was gone. At the end of the last century, after the white pine had been cut, there were many deserted lumber camps in the north woods. These abandoned camps made great fishing and hunting camps. In 1905 Wilson took his Wausau friend, Neal Brown, to hunt the company land. There were herds of deer living on the cut over land, so their hunt was very successful. As the news traveled about the good hunting, more men from Wausau joined the hunt.

In 1909 when some property on the shores of Laura Lake became available, "Captain" Wilson suggested that the hunting group form a corporation to purchase the property. The men loved the idea because not only could the camp be used for hunting, it could also be used for fishing. The property that was for sale had originally been used as a saloon. Because the lumberjacks had left the area, the saloon keeper, Pete Tein, had sold it to a man from Indiana for a resort. Evidently that did not work out, so it was up for sale again. The property included 1,500 feet of lakeshore frontage and more than 35 acres of land.

The men who bought the property and incorporated in 1910 were Walter Alexander, Walter Bissel, Andrew Kreutzer, Neal Brown, Cyrus Yawkey, D.C. Everest, G.D. Jones, Mark Ewing and of course Marvin Rosenberry. It was like a "Who's Who of Wausau."

After assuming ownership, the men had the buildings modified to accommodate their needs. The saloon building was converted to a living room; the stock room became the kitchen, and every other space in the building became bedrooms. Sixteen men could sleep in the building if they shared a bed. An interesting building on the saloon property was a

building called the "snake house." It was where the saloon keeper put the drunks to sleep it off.

After Charles Anderson died in 1931, things changed drastically for the hunters. Also by this time several key members had died and the remaining members were getting too old to hunt. The younger generation had formed a new club, so no one was ready to take over. With great sadness, the remaining members finally sold the club in 1935.

Ms. Hettinga also relates:

I had read about Deer Foot Lodge for several years and had always wanted to find it. We knew that it was located on Laura Lake, a small lake quite near the better known Star Lake. One day last August, my husband, Allen, and I were traveling up north when we drove past a sign that read Laura Lake. That triggered my memory, remembering about Deer Foot Lodge. So with the help of a local merchant in the town of Star Lake, we were able to find the property. Some of the roads are unpaved and it is tucked away off the beaten track, but we were able to locate it. The amazing thing is that all of the buildings are still extant.

They are being used today as a resort, and even though they have been modified and remodeled, it is still possible to recognize the buildings from photos in the book. One of the most impressive things on the property is an enormous white pine tree in the middle of the yard. It is probably the closest thing in size to what the lumberjacks were cutting well over a century ago. The resort owner told me that it was one of the largest pine trees in the state.

HISTORICAL LOGGING CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2000

Jeff Peters, a photographer from Mellen, has published a historical logging calendar. The calendar features Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota historic logging scenes, logging tools, and lumberjack language. Five generations of Peter's family have worked in the logging industry in Wisconsin and in Michigan's U.P. Jeff currently lives in a log cabin built on land homesteaded by his great-grandparents, who worked in the woods.

The cost for the calendar is \$12.00 plus \$3.00 shipping plus 5.5% sales tax for WI residents. Order from: Jeff Peters, PO Box 132, Mellen, WI 54546 or call 715-274-5200.

EARLY LUMBERMEN OF WAUSAU

(The following, also written by Mary Jane Hettinga, is from a supplement to the Wausau Daily Herald, Oct. 24, 1999.)

WALTER ALEXANDER and WALTER MCINDOE

Walter Alexander first came to Wausau in 1859, when he was only ten years old, to visit his maternal uncle, Walter McIndoe. The McIndoes were leading citizens in Wausau. They moved here in 1846 and McIndoe purchased George Steven's first mill. McIndoe became known as "the father of Wausau," and was responsible for major changes. It was McIndoe who changed the name from Big Bull Falls to Wausau. When he became a representative in the newly formed state legislature, he helped to form the county in 1850 and named it Marathon. He was also instrumental in bringing the railroad to the area. McIndoe felt the potential for the Wausau area was limitless and he passed his enthusiasm on to his nephew, Walter Alexander. He proved to be an excellent mentor for young Walter, his namesake.

Alexander's parents had come to Portage County to farm in 1859, but Walter decided not to follow in their footsteps. Instead he moved to Wausau and joined his uncle in the his business. Walter Alexander learned the lumber business quickly, soon taking over responsibilities from his uncle. After McIndoe died in 1872, he managed his uncle's affairs until he joined Alexander Stewart in business. Brothers John and Alexander Stewart had formed the J&A Stewart Company, and in 1872 they bought the George Stevens/McIndoe Mill and asked Walter Alexander to stay on. At the age of 23, Walter became a partner with Alexander Stewart and the company was incorporated as the Alexander Stewart Lumber Company. From 1896 to 1900, Stewart served in the U.S. Congress and Alexander was left in Wausau to manage the entire business. Both Stewart and Alexander were brilliant businessmen and it wasn't long before their company grew to become the largest lumber company in the Wisconsin River Valley, as well as one of the largest in the state. Eventually, their business expanded nationwide. Walter was commonly called "the best lumberman in the north." He was a key player in the development of Wausau. He died in 1926.

CYRUS CARPENTER YAWKEY

Yawkey was born in Chicago in 1862 and was raised in Michigan in a lumbering family. He moved to Hazelhurst in 1889 to join his uncle, W.C. Yawkey, and George Lee in the Yawkey and Lee Lumber Company. By 1899, Cyrus had built the firm into a large operation, with

a sawmill, planing mill, box factory and a 25 mile logging railroad. Cyrus moved to Wausau in 1899, partly because he had worked with so many of the lumbermen in Wausau. It was fortunate for Wausau, because Yawkey's careful attention to detail and his fine business skills pushed him to the forefront of the Wausau Group - the name given to the loosely knit group of wealthy men who were successful in diversifying the economy of Wausau. They pooled their resources and started utility companies as well as paper mills, insurance companies and countless other businesses. Without the leadership of this group, Wausau could have become an abandoned lumber town like many other towns did.

Money made in the lumber business by these early lumbermen, in the last century, has been returned to Wausau. Their legacy still lives on today through their foundations. Wausau is what it is today because of their hard work and interest in making Wausau a thriving community.

THE FIRE-SWEPT WEST

(From "Leslie's Weekly", Aug 1894. Sent in by member Dick Doeren.)

Few persons in the East have any conception of the enormous losses which are sustained almost every summer by prairie and forest fires in the West. The present season has been one of exceptional disaster. In Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, and South Dakota the protracted drought had dried everything to the condition of tinder, and the furnace-like southwest winds fanned any chance blaze into a fiery tornado. While other states have suffered largely in the destruction of timber and crops, the visitation has been most severe in Wisconsin, the whole northwestern part of the State having been covered for weeks by clouds of smoke from burning towns and forests. Phillips, one of the most thriving lumbering cities in Wisconsin, and the county seat of Price County, is a blackened waste, but 27 out of 700 buildings remaining. Twelve persons lost their lives in the burning of this town. The White River Lumber Company's plant at Mason, 18 miles southwest of Ashland, was destroyed, entailing a loss of over \$700,000, and the village of Shores Crossing, across Chequamegon Bay from Ashland, was totally "wiped out," as the phrase is in the West. It was near here that a freight train of sixteen cars went through a burning bridge and was destroyed, the train crew escaping by taking refuge upon logs in the bay. The operation of the railroads in this fire-swept country was extremely hazardous. The lines often stretch for 50 or 100 miles or more through swamp and forest or unbroken prairie, with the tall trees meeting overhead, or the long grass sweeping up to the single thread of track. The engineer, blinded by smoke and scorched by heat, is obliged to trust to his own judgment.

LAST OF ITS KIND THE CORNELL PULPWOOD STACKER

(The following is from a pamphlet put out by the Greater Cornell Area Community Development Association. It is not dated. This was sent in by member Al Guertner of Colby.)

Cornell is situated in the midst of what was formerly and to a great extent still is, a major logging area. Claimed for Cornell University by its founder, Ezra Cornell, as prime logging land, the community later became a trading crossroads established by French trader Jean Brunet in 1845. Coinciding with the construction of a permanent dam on the Chippewa River at Cornell (then Brunet Falls) in 1911, was the formation of the Cornell Wood Products Company (for a short time called Brunet Mfg. Co.) manufacturers of paper products, cardboard and wallboard. With the establishment of this mill, steady employment for the area was guaranteed.

The Stacker itself was designed and constructed in 1911-12 by the Joors Manufacturing Company of England. The pulpwood stacker is the only example left in the United States, where it was once commonly employed in the handling and preparation of pulpwood used in the manufacture of paper and paper products. The site, at the time it was in use, consisted of a log pond, pumphouse, slasher building, stacker, stacker pit building, sluice, locker/tool building, office and garage. All but two of these buildings burned in a fire in 1989. The stacker itself was tested for structural damage after the fire by a firm of engineers and found not to be damaged.

Cornell's pulpwood stacker dominates the view of visitors entering the city. The stacker, which was used from 1912 to 1971, was a mechanical conveyor that stacked logs in piles. The logs were then placed in waterways and floated to a nearby paper mill. The stats of the stacker are as follows: height 175 feet, width 36 feet at the base, 10 feet at the tip, angle 45 degrees, power: 35 horsepower electric motor, located at the tip of the stacker. The conveyor uses one inch wire cable that has iron discs attached. Logs were carried up the chutes into piles. Workers made repairs by using a catwalk on the upper side of the frame.

The stacker operation continued year around. Pulpwood came in on box cars and gondolas and was unloaded into the mill pond, which was kept from freezing by steam pipes coming in under the water. Certain types of wood were kept in separate piles because they were used for a different grade of paper.

Production of the pulpwood started with eight foot logs that were cut into four lengths, each two feet long. They floated down a sluice (a ditch with water force behind it) to the grinder room, where the two foot lengths were reduced to pulp. Two men with pike poles would walk along the sluice way to be sure the two foot logs would not jam or pile up. The stacker represented, at the time, the switch from the storage of pulpwood in log booms in water to massive piles on the land. This was due to an increasing labor shortage and a growing mechanization of the papermaking process. The peculiarities of handling hardwood and the desirability of stockpiling large supplies of pulpwood to avert shortages and guarantee steady operation of the mill also contributed to the development of more sophisticated techniques as realized in the mechanical stacker.

The Cornell stacker ceased operations in 1971, a victim of obsolescence brought on by modern hydraulics and hastened by an economic slump in the paper industry. When this happened, the pond beneath was filled in, though portions of its concrete walls are still visible. As a symbol of the logging history in Wisconsin, the stacker rumbles and clanks no more, its motor silent. The great wood piles at its base are memories. The sawmill was burnt to the ground. The wood yard is a park and ball fields.

But the history is there; it is all over the place. It marches along in its husky rolling gait right into the present. On the spot, in the same buildings, with much of the same machinery, Globe Industries carries on in the tradition of the old Cornell Wood Products and St. Regis Paper Company. Wood still arrives but now the trucks are enclosed and the wood is in chips, ground up in the woods by a colossal chipping machine, to go directly to the pulping machines.

Almost 100 years of history is still visible, still standing stately on the bank of the Chippewa River. The newest addition to the Millyard Park is the Visitor's Center and Museum built during the summer of 1997. The Stacker Fund, that was organized to match a grant from Jeffris Family Foundation, has been completed. However, funds are still needed to complete restroom facilities and generally set up the center. Please contact the City Office if you would still like to be a part of this project.

Note to our members: Over the past year I have received many items sent in by you for this newsletter. Thank you very much and keep them coming. There have been items that I haven't been able to fit in yet that I will try to get in in future issues.

WHEN TORNADO SWEEP PENSUKEE

(The following was sent in by member Dick Doeren. The exact source isn't given, although it appears to be from the "Green Bay Press Gazette" in more recent times.)

In the glory days of Wisconsin's lumber empire three quarters of a century ago, fire was the great scourge and destroyer. Every forest mill and lumber town lived in constant dread of fire, and all too often their fears were realized. But fire wasn't Nature's only way of playing footsie with the plans of lumber barons and their hard-bitten logging crews. There were also tornadoes - like the one that wrecked Pensaukee on July 7, 1877. Pensaukee, today a drowsy little village on the west shore of Green Bay a few miles south of Oconto, was a booming lumber town in 1877. It was typical of its time and the center of operations of the F. B. Gardner Lumber Co. of Chicago. As usual, all its principal industries were company owned, including a huge sawmill, planing mill, grist mill, machine shops and company store.

The sawing season was at its height, and more than 370,00 board feet of cut lumber were stacked in great piles around the mills. Additional thousands of logs floated in the river and log pond awaiting their call to face the whining saws. Those were the days before kiln drying. Lumber was seasoned in the open, stacked in towering piles with air space between the layers. Anyone familiar with that type of piling can imagine what fire or a strong wind could do to them.

July 7, 1877, was a stifling hot Saturday. As the mills shut down at 6 p.m., however, a mass of black thunderheads was roiling up in the west. If the mill hands gave it a thought it was probably one of relief that the heat was about to break. Certainly nobody expected what was to come within the hour. About 6:45 a funnel-like cloud of murky black tinged with red and tapering off toward the north swooped down on the unsuspecting community. One observer said that when it touched the ground it seemed to explode and spread, spewing destruction in every direction as it hit the town head-on.

Survivors tried to describe its fury but weren't very successful. They didn't have to be - results spoke for themselves. The sprawling mills were crushed like cardboard toys, immense saw logs were flipped out of the water and thrown all over the place and the carefully stacked lumber piles were tossed about like toothpicks. Although the two bridges over the Pensaukee River were blown away the stream was so cluttered with jumbled boards that it could be crossed almost anywhere. The marsh fairly bristled with boards and shattered timbers.

DEAR MOTHER & FATHER - CONTINUED

(Editor's note: A year or two ago I printed in C&S a group of letters from a young man in the logging camps of northern Wisconsin to his parents on a farm near Kunesch, a small town west of Green Bay. These letters should be published in the upcoming issue of "Voyager" magazine, a publication of the Brown County Historical Society. I recently found an additional letter from this same boy, and have printed that below. I transcribed the letter as closely as possible, spelling mistakes and all.)

July 28th, 1901 Commonwealth Wis

Dear Parants

I recieved your kind and welcome letter with good health and am very glad to hear from you. I have not worked theas last few days - it rained every day and I only worked three days. You remember last spring you spoke about taking up timber lands - here is a chance for you. Gothe is got 8igth fortys on hand and on acount of him being sick he can not handle it all. There three fortys that I looked at. On theas 8 fortys is supposd to be 60000 feet of standing Whit pine and it is timbered heavy an places. His time on this land is expired next spring.

Thacr is heavy Hamlock and Cedar, baswood and berteh, and so forth. If you entend to take it take a trip up here and see how you like this world. This is great soil for grain and hay, potatos are in good shape. The timber that I was taking about. Pine is \$12. a thousand on the bangs of the river. Hamlock cut in logs for lumber is \$6. a thousand. Hamlock cut in logs for polpwood is scaled in cords. Baswood is \$9. a thousand on the bangs. Cedar is \$13. a pole 70 feet long.

Now pa think this over take no advice but your own. If you don't think that you don't want it why tell Henry Reimer about it. He wants \$700. a forty and you don't the money till in spring. or elas job it. We can our choice about this worth wiell looking at it. The camp is built big enought for 60 men and the barn is big enought fore six team. Think it over just as I say take now advice but your own it is just as I say.

I'll close for this time with all my best regards to you and Grandma so goodby.

J. Zeibarh, Comenwealth Floramete Wis Care of Fred Gothe





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