

Chips

and

Sawdust

A NEWSLETTER
From

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

WINTER
1999

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ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING PLANNING UNDERWAY

With the appointment of a committee chairman by president Baumann last November, the planning for the 1999 annual members meeting of FHAW is off to an early start.

Dean Einspahr of Appleton was selected to head a committee charged with developing the program and associated details for the event, to be held in Oshkosh on September 17 - 18, 1999.

This year's site was selected on the basis of a mail poll of a dozen association members living within a fifty mile radius from the perimeter of Lake Winnebago. With its legacy of having been a major lumbering town in the latter half of the nineteenth century, Oshkosh was known as the "Sawdust City." As such, it was deemed appropriate for FHAW's 24th annual meeting, and will provide an opportunity for members to learn first hand about the area's logging and lumbering history.

The opening day of the two day session will include visits to the Oshkosh Public Museum and homes of several of the prominent lumber tycoons of their era. The tour will also include the world famous museum of vintage airplanes, which annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from the US and many foreign countries.

The second day's program will include the usual presentations by speakers, distinguished service awards, auction of artifacts and memorabilia, and a business session. The meeting will be held at the Robbins Restaurant convention facilities, located near the intersection of US Highway 41 and State Highway 21. Robbins is within walking distance of the Holiday Inn, Howard Johnsons, and Budgetel Inn.

Submitted by Frank Fixmer.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF FHAW BECOME GOLDEN MEMBERS OF SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

The Society of American Foresters recently announced that Jay H. Cravens and Howard Lovestead, both charter members of FHAW, had achieved their fiftieth anniversary as members of the SAF. The distinction of having supported the national society for fifty years gave them the title of Golden Member. A special ceremony at the society's annual meeting will recognize their achievement later in 1999.

Cravens is a retired U.S. Forest Service forester, served on FHAW's board of directors some years ago and was the association's Distinguished Service awardee in 1990. Lovestead was an industrial forester prior to his retirement and was active in several other forestry and conservation oriented organizations. As charter members of FHAW, they will both celebrate their 25th anniversary of membership in 2001.

LIFE AND TIMES IN HONDURAS

(The following is a letter written by Cornelius Groothausen. Frank Fixmer had written Cornelius to inquire on his experiences from the hurricane last fall, and this letter is his reply. Cornelius is a native of Tony, WI, and a graduate of the forestry school at the University of Minnesota. He is a lifetime member of FHAW.)

Twenty five years ago I came to Honduras as a Peace Corps Volunteer and was assigned to COHDEFOR, the Honduran Forestry Corporation, as a forest economist. This was right after Hurricane "Pifi" in 1974 and there was extensive damage along the north coast. We could see the several landslides in the mountains along the coast ranges from the airplane. There was little damage in the central part of the country.

My work as a volunteer was in logging and sawmilling cost studies, and later I helped the FAO forestry expert install forest growth study plots. He transferred to Rome in 1980 and I've continued to manage the program ever since and monitor these plots, some of which have been measured continually for thirty years.

Ten years ago COHDEFOR transferred me to the National Forestry School at Siguatepeque and a few years later we bought a house near the forestry school. This has been our home ever since, although my employer is still the Honduran Forestry Corporation.

Late in October, Hurricane "Mitch" was rambling around in the Caribbean. Tropical storms usually go north or northwest, affecting the coasts of Mexico, the Yucatan peninsula or southern United States. After a zig zag, Mitch came south and stalled over Honduras, pouring down lots of water. It apparently rained over 40 inches in one week. This is the normal rainfall for a whole year.

Siguatepeque is in the central highlands in a mountain valley 1000 meters above sea level, the same elevation as much of Wisconsin. Although some families were flooded out of their homes because they lived along river banks, Siguatepeque was mostly unaffected by the storm. The electricity, telephone and TV did not fail and we could watch on TV what was happening around us. Here the rain was constant, day and night, and it reminded me of western Oregon winter storms that could rain continuously for weeks. Everyday I'd ride my bicycle to my office at the forestry school, where the lights and computers continued to function. It was damp and dreary, but not dangerous nor fearsome in this high mountain valley. The mail was interrupted, of course, because the highways north to San Pedro Sula and south to Tegucigalpa had mud slides and bridges washed away by the storm.

However, in lower areas and downstream of the rivers, enormous flooding was happening. The winds were not severe, still with so much moisture in the soil there was a lot of timber blown down in some places. The eye of the storm passed right over Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras and the most populous city. The river also gets a fifty mile start collecting water, so it has a head of steam before it gets downriver to Tegucigalpa. When the Choluteca River finally explodes into the Pacific, it is far out of its banks and washing away towns and villages built near the river. It is estimated that 6000 Hondurans died in the storm.

The mayor of Tegucigalpa was killed in a helicopter crash the last day of the storm. He was like a mother hen trying to get all of her chicks under his wings, and the water had reached the third floor of the Ministry of Education Building, near the river Choluteca that flows through the city. Cesar Castellanos was destined to become the next president of Honduras before fate intervened. Just as Robert Kennedy would most certainly have become president of the United States until history was changed.

The storm has passed and we in Siguatepeque were mostly unaffected. But there are thousands who have lost their homes, their properties and many also their lives. Many families have become broken and there are now new groups of orphans. For many it was not like the 100 year flood but the 1000 year flood; Genesis: Chapter 7, verse 12, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. In Honduras the rain was only for 6 days and seven nights, and so not every living thing was destroyed. Thanks be to God that Siguatepeque and other areas were spared the fury of the storm.

Although now more than ever there is a need for forestry and reforestation in the country to counterbalance the destructive forces of Mitch. There is a need to invest not only in new roads and bridges, but also in more forest cover; deforestation has been a factor in those extreme damages from the storm. In 1974 all forest was nationalized by law and in 1992 another law reversed this error by making private the forests growing on private lands. There is hope of course by us survivors for a better tomorrow. Still this society does not have enough confidence to invest in its tomorrow by planting trees. Why? Because it is not the custom, the culture, or is it because there is no confidence that the planter will be the one to harvest those trees he plants. Tenure is a hallmark of American capitalism and confidence in tenure is a problem in all lesser developed countries.

Still it is easy to philosophize, look back on history and wonder why did this happen or why didn't this happen. A storm like Mitch is so extreme that forest plans and policies have little effect on preventing a disaster, that is to say, man's efforts to control and direct nature. Nature is more powerful when climate is that extreme. Wisconsin is fortunate in that there are no volcanoes nor earthquakes; the floods of 1993 were along the Mississippi and some distance removed, just as Siguatepeque is 75 miles from Tegucigalpa. So why would anyone move to Naples, Florida - it is a mystery. I came to Honduras to have a chance at forest economics and to remain in forestry - and I still am in forestry. Mitch was just one of those things that happen along life's road.

From "Woods Words", by Walter F. McCulloch, 1958:

PEASOUPER: A Frenchman or Quebecker working in the woods; from their fondness for pea soup. Ted Flynn tells of one peasouper cook who prepared a huge pot of the soup and let it stand outside so it would freeze in order to keep. Ted's father, the camp boss, cut a square chunk out of the frozen soup, poked a hole in it, threaded it on an ax handle, and said "come on, boy we're off for work. This is lunch."

BARN REFLECTS FAMILY'S HISTORY

(From the "Post-Crescent", (Appleton), Nov. 1, 1998. Sent in by Randy Rohe.)

Town of Winchester. Somewhere in the virgin pine forests of Shawano County in 1889, a lumber company "timber cruiser" doing his job climbed up a selected tree and swung his ax to inflict two "X" marks and a single "I" on the tree's trunk. Sawyers followed to bring the tree crashing to earth. A few nights later a lumber company watchman hired to prevent the theft of stray logs being floated down the Wolf River would meet in the dark of night with a Winchester farmer, Thomas Olson-Omness. The young farmer paid the watchman for the log bearing the "XXI" mark of a now unknown lumber company. He would pay the watchman for other logs; enough, in fact, to build a 40 by 60 foot barn that still stands today. "My grandfather always said he bought the lumber to frame his barn for \$90 from the fellow hired to watch the lumber. I guess the watchman got a little beer money," said Joe Olson, who recently turned operation of the family farm over to his sons. The log clearly bearing the "XXI" mark is visible to visitors Olson takes through the basement of the old barn. "The timber cruisers would figure which side of the log would float upright and make their marks," Olson said, pointing to the deeply cut grooves in a timber spanning the width of the barn's floor. Olson uses the barn to explain much of the family's history on the land, which was homesteaded in 1848 by his great grandfather, Ole Jorbjenson.

EVIL INVENTIONS *(From "Paul Bunyan", by James Stevens, 1925.)*

Paul Bunyan knew nothing about women, but he had heard of them with little liking for the stories he heard. History, industry, invention and oratory were, to his mind, the four grand elements of human life. And women, as they were revealed in the logger's stories, cared little about these elements. Women seemed to lack inventiveness especially, and this was man's greatest quality. Women, the great logger had heard, were often marvelous cooks; but men had invented both can openers and doughnuts. Women were excellent makers of garments; but men had invented calked boots, mackinaws and stagged pants. Women were assiduous readers of poetry; but men had invented most of the poetry that these creatures cared about. Paul Bunyan, in the early days of his camp, often marveled when he heard his loggers hurrahing and stamping as they talked about the people called pretty women. He himself could not see their use in the grand parts of life. But when he knew his men better he decided that women were creations of the loggers' fancies, that they were incredible and fabulous.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

(The following are from a "Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region," J. H. Beers & Co., 1905.)

AMIAL ELLIS PHILBROOK

Amial Ellis Philbrook, a well known lumberman of Superior, was born at Sebec, Piscataquis Co., Maine, Oct. 11, 1835. His parents were John and Delia (Farris) Philbrook, also natives of Maine. Andrew Philbrook, his grandfather, was an Englishman, a millwright and carpenter by trade, and in early life came to Maine. Until he was thirteen Amial Philbrook attended school regularly, but soon after the death of his parents he went to Springfield, Maine, where he found employment in the lumber woods. In 1856 he went to Minnesota, and lived for a number of years at Monticello, engaged chiefly in lumbering. He enlisted in the service in 1862, and served through the Sioux war in 1863, later joining Sherman's army and taking part in the battle with Forrest's calvary, in which the 8th Minnesota lost nearly 100 men.

After the war Mr. Philbrook again engaged in lumbering, in 1869 locating at Duluth, where he filled contracts for furnishing the timber for the first docks and breakwater in the place, and from that time on he has been in the lumber business. In 1882 he began the manufacture of lumber, operating a sawmill at Connor's Point, and later one at Allouez Bay; he now owns a portable steam sawmill, and buys and clears timber lands, employing a number of men. About 1882 Mr. Philbrook built his present residence in Superior, which he has rebuilt since its partial destruction by fire in 1901.

CAPTAIN BERNARD DOHERTY

Capt. Doherty was an extensive landowner and lumberman of Ashland, Wis., where he was engaged in the lumber business from 1889 until his death in 1903. He was born in 1834 in Toronto. His father William, an Irish farmer, emigrated to Canada when a young man. Bernard first attended school in Toronto, but in 1841 came with his parents to Milwaukee, and in 1849 the family moved to Fon du Lac. When quite young he started out in life as a sailor on the great lakes, and he rose from the place of man before the mast to the position of sailing master.

In 1857 he built his first boat, a schooner, which he named the "Eleanor" after his girl bride. In 1867 he removed to Oshkosh, where he built the steamer "Lumberman" in partnership with the late Hon. Philetus Sawyer, and ran her until 1871 on the Fox river. He then took her into the Mississippi river, where he sold her, and returning to Oshkosh built the government steamer "Neenah," in 1872, running her until 1880. He then removed to South Kaukauna, where he constructed the large government waterpower. After building this work he removed to Ashland and began the boating business in 1882. He built the steamer "City of Ashland," the first steamer ever built in Ashland, and ran her until 1887, when she was lost by fire, and the captain was compelled to swim for over an hour in the icy waters of Lake Superior. Chilled and saddened by the loss of one of his brave crew, he abandoned the water forever.

He bought the Sheffield sawmill, taking up the milling business with the same zest that characterized every enterprise of his life. Until two years before his death he held an interest in the Murray mill, built on the site of his own mill, which burned in 1886. After that he gave his entire attention to his lumber interests. He was the owner of considerable land, owning a farm of 160 acres in Ashland county, and another 430 acres on the Brule river. From 1882 he was the principal owner and general manager of the Brule River Improvement Co., having secured a charter on that river. In the same year he built two large dams on the Brule.

HON. ROBERT LAIRD McCORMICK

Mr. McCormick, now of Tacoma, Wash., retired banker and lumberman of Hayward, is of Scotch-Irish descent. He was born in Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school, studied at a military institute, and also studied law. In 1868 he became cashier of the Laird, Norton Co., lumber manufacturers, of Winona, Minn., with which he has ever since been intimately associated. Losing his health from confinement in the office, he opened a retail lumber yard at Waseca, Minn., which, proving profitable, he continued until 1882. While residing at Waseca, he entered politics, and was state senator during the 1880-82 term.

While in St. Paul, Mr. McCormick became acquainted with H. H. Porter, then president of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad. Through him he became interested in the immense tracts of pine timber along the line of that road in northern Wisconsin. As a result the North Wisconsin Lumber Company was organized, of which he became secretary and treasurer. Associated with them in the enterprise were F. Weyerhaeuser, W. H. Laird, M. G. and James L. Norton, A. J. Hayward,

and others. The company purchased fifteen townships of heavily timbered land in what is now Sawyer county (named after the Hon. Philetas Sawyer, who was then vice-president of the Omaha railroad), and on this tract of land built a large sawmill, and laid out a town which was named in honor of one of its stockholders, A. J. Hayward. In 1883 the sawmill was completed and operations began which continued uninterruptedly until 1902, when it was sold to the North Wisconsin Lumber & Manufacturing Company.

Among many offices held, Mr. McCormick is among the organizers of the Sawyer County Bank; the organizer, secretary, and treasurer of the Northern Grain & Flour Mill Co., Ashland; president of the Mississippi & Rum River Boom Co., Minneapolis; secretary and treasurer of the Mississippi Lumber Co., Clinton, Iowa; treasurer of the New Richmond Roller Mills Co.; president of the Northern Boom Co., Brainerd, Minn.; president of the Mississippi Valley Lumber Association, Minneapolis; vice-president of the St. Paul Boom Co., St. Paul; president of the Mississippi Land Co., Minneapolis; president of the Duluth Universal Mill Company; secretary and active manager of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., Tacoma, perhaps the largest organization of its kind in the world; and has served as president of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

MEASUREMENTS OF A NORWAY

(Sent in by Paul Brenner, Boulder Junction, Dec. 1998)

There is a small tract of virgin timber in our area between a small lake and a river. About 90% is mature hemlock, the rest being some white pine and a few scattered norways. This spring a windstorm snapped off one of the norway pine at the ground level. This past week I walked in and did some measuring in 16 foot log lengths. The total length of the tree was about 110 feet. (A nearby norway with an eagle's nest in it had a circumference of 98" at 4 1/2 feet.)

Log	Circumference	Diameter	Board Feet	Total Board Feet
1	78"	24.8"	330'	330'
2	74"	23.5"	315'	645'
3	69"	21.9"	290'	935'
4	64"	20.4"	270'	1205'
5	39"	12.4"	165'	1370'
6	8"	2.5"	35'	1405'

Ford Historic Sawmill Alberta, Michigan

(The following is from a informational flyer sent to me by our treasurer, Bob Brisson. Bob says that the Ford Sawmill was dedicated in August of last year.)

Built in 1935 by Henry Ford, Alberta provides an interesting example of sawmill technology, community planning, and the power of one man's vision to create a better environment for his employees.

The sawmill at Alberta, Michigan and the surrounding community are examples of Henry Ford's vision of community building.

Named for Alberta Johnson, daughter of Henry Ford's Upper Peninsula operations superintendent, Alberta is located in the middle of hardwood forests that belonged to the Ford Motor Company, and was close to the other Ford sawmills in L'Anse and Pequaming.

The townsite was built in 1935 to provide lumber for use in the production of Ford Motor Company vehicles, but its real purpose in Henry Ford's eyes was to be a model for self-sufficient village industries.

Henry Ford acquired timberlands in the Upper Peninsula in order to have a secure, low cost supply of lumber for use in producing automobiles. Wood was once an extensive component of the bodies of Model T's, and lent itself to the nickname for Ford station wagons, "woodies." Lumber was also required for construction, crating, and pattern work.

The sawmill employed around twenty-five men. Originally steam-powered, the sawmill features a band saw, log carriage, edger, trimmer, and green chain. After acquisition of the sawmill by Michigan Technological University in 1954, power was switched to electricity and the carriage was modified. Overall, much of the original technology is still in place. The sawmill presents an excellent opportunity to examine the physical processes of timber production as they occurred in the first half of the twentieth century.

Visitors can enjoy a tour that follows the path of the lumber through the mill, from rough log to finished boards. Signs explaining how the machinery worked help the visitor imagine the mill as a busy workplace. Interpretive panels discuss the history of Alberta and the role of Henry Ford in the economy of the Upper Peninsula.

Because of factors such as the reduction of lumber used in car manufacturing and the distance traveled to obtain the type of timber necessary, Alberta was closed in 1954. Soon after, the entire site was donated to Michigan Technological University.

Today, the Ford Center and the School Forest serve as teaching and research facilities for Michigan Tech's School of Forestry and Wood Products.

Alberta is located nine miles south of L'Anse, MI, on Highway US 41. Guided tours are available Monday, Tuesday and Friday. For more information, you can write to: Ford Historic Sawmill, Rt 2, Box 736, L'Anse, MI 49946, or call 906-524-6181 or 906-353-8444.

DEADHEADS IN LAKE WINNEBAGO

(The following is from the "American Lumberman", April 6, 1907, and was sent in by Robert Duerwachter of Waukesha.)

An effort is soon to be made to raise the deadhead logs in Lake Winnebago. For over fifty years the lake has been the scene of logging operations, the logs having been guided or propelled by tugs. Many millions of feet of fine timber are known to have sunk in the lake, which is thirty miles long and ten miles wide. The logs will be raised with a hoisting engine placed on a flat boat and placed on the banks, where they will be dried and inspected by a government scaler, who will record the marks.

When the original owner is found he will be recompensed at the rate of \$8 a thousand feet. This leaves just so much clear profit to the owners and a good margin for the hoisters, who can find a ready market for the logs at \$14 a thousand feet. In addition there will also be many logs without claimants, the owners having died or the companies having disbanded. These will, of course, become the property of the hoisters.

FOREST PLANTING IN THE LAKE STATES

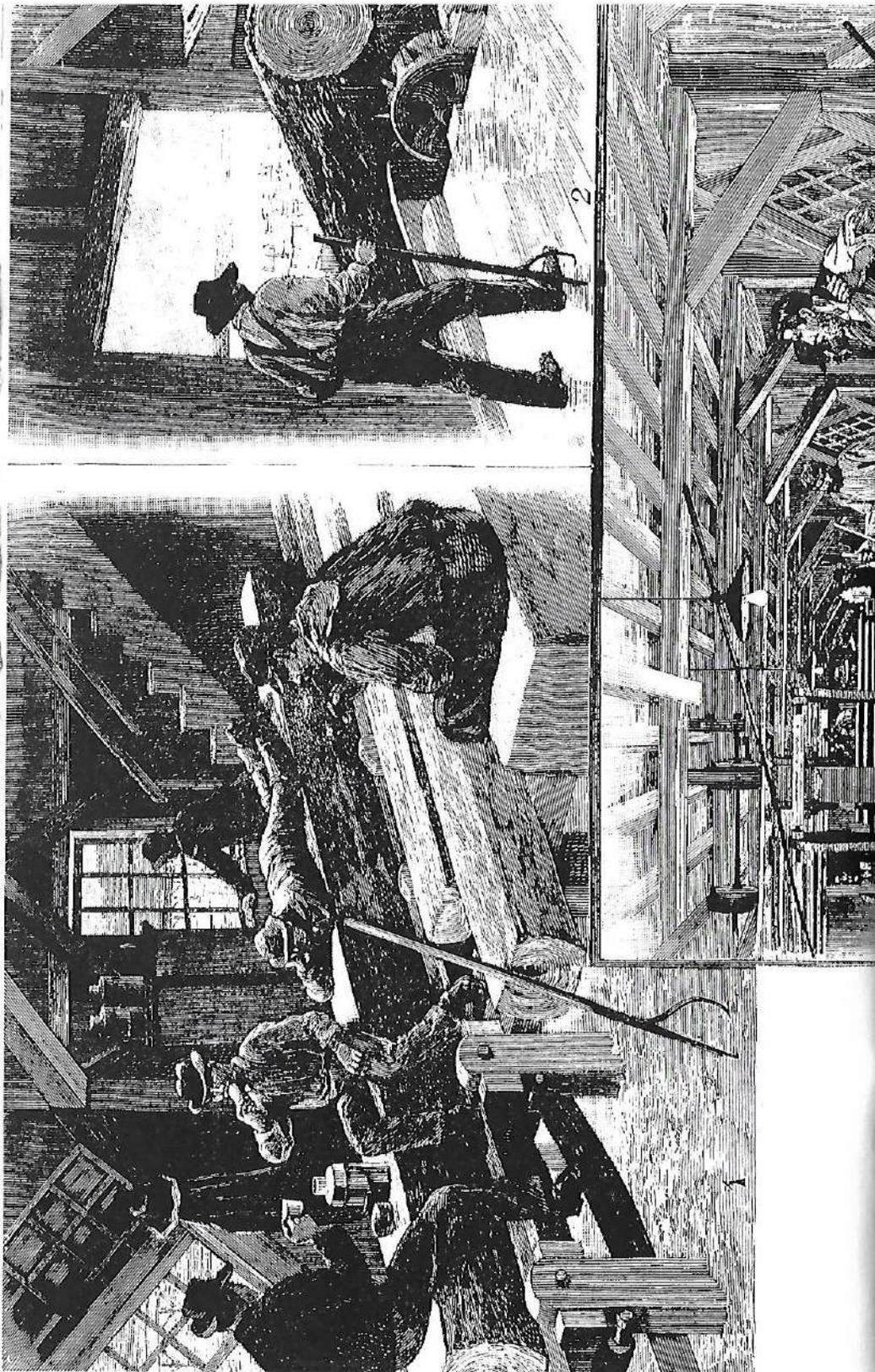
(From "United States Department of Agriculture, Department Bulletin No. 1497, Washington, D.C., June, 1929, by Joseph Kitteridge, Jr.)

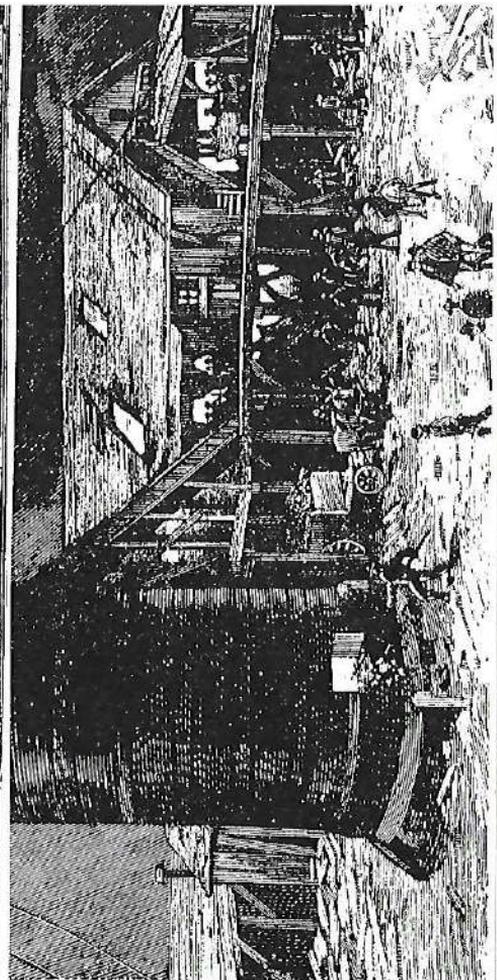
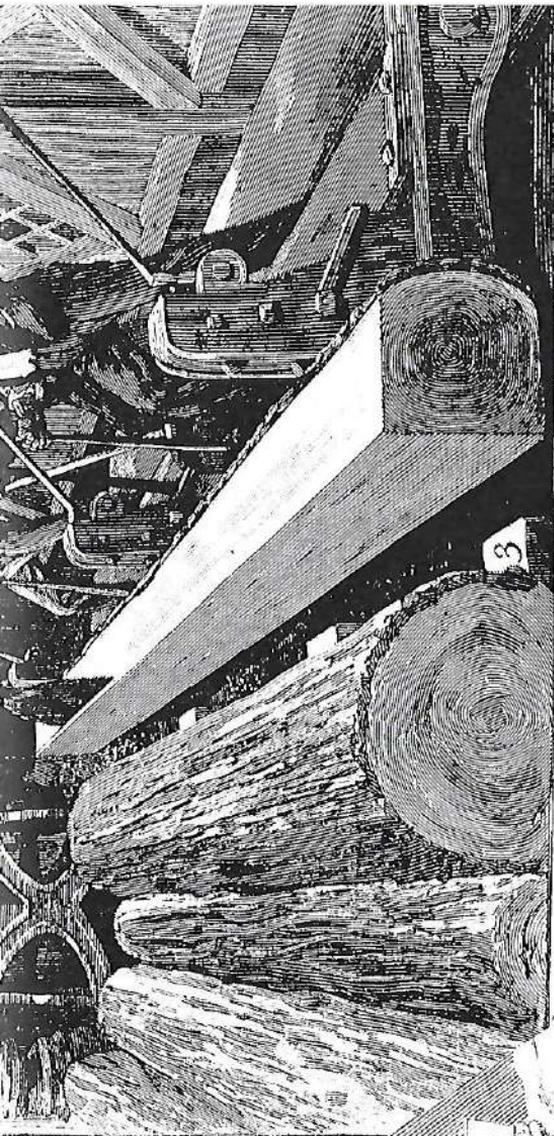
Importance of Forest Planting in the Lake States

It is estimated that there is in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan a total area of about 20 million acres of land better suited to the growing of forests than to any other purpose and which because of repeated logging, burning, or both now bears no valuable forest growth. Most of it must be planted before forests will grow upon it. The enormous size of this denuded area, about one third of the total forest land of the region, is the strongest evidence of the necessity for reforestation.

What reforestation has as yet been done represents only a start in the right direction. Up to and including 1926, only 0.33 per cent of the area had been planted. Even at the rate of 15,000 acres a year, the area planted in 1926, more than 1,300 years would be required to reforest the 20 million acres. No region can afford to have so large an area of land lying idle for centuries. But to remedy this situation a large and continued expansion of forest planting by all agencies in each of the states is essential.

The area in need of reforestation undoubtedly includes some lands on which more or less natural tree growth has already started. As the fire protection work of the states and other organizations becomes more effective, the scattered seedling trees escape destruction and live, grow, and increase in number. If these lands were to be protected for a sufficient period, a large part of them undoubtedly would restock with trees naturally, although chiefly with inferior kinds and those of low value. Here better fire protection will help and is essential, but it can not be said to offer a solution for all these idle lands. The process of natural restocking would be so slow that the owners, whether public or private, could better afford to plant the lands than suffer the loss from holding them unproductive for so many years. Under present conditions any decrease in the area in need of planting as a result of natural reforestation tends to be equaled or exceeded by the areas cut over and burned annually.





History of Forest Planting in the Region

Forest planting is ordinarily for the purpose of producing timber crops. In the Lake States the State and Federal Forest Services have planted with this purpose. Most of the plantations have been made on public lands set apart as state or national forests for the primary purpose of growing timber. Considerable areas have been planted in solid blocks, and there is every evidence that they will provide a substantial supply of timber products for local or general industries when the trees reach merchantable size. In addition to planting state owned lands, the states have raised forest planting stock in large quantities for distribution at cost to companies and individuals for planting on private lands.

Planting by private owners, whether companies or individuals, has usually been on a small scale, however, and in the nature of trials of feasibility rather than of serious attempts to provide a future supply of timber. There is each year an increasing demand for forest planting stock, but it comes chiefly from farmers and small landowners who plant only a few hundred trees or at most a few acres. These small plantings are desirable and should be encouraged, but with a few exceptions they have been not been continued long enough or developed on a large enough scale to provide for future timber supplies in workable units or to maintain a supply of raw material for woodworking plants. Even companies with large investments in wood using plants, like the pulp and paper mills which require a continued supply of timber for a long period of years to justify their investment, have not yet undertaken forest planting operations for timber production.

The Essentials of a Planting Policy

The fact that the present reforestation programs are inadequate to make productive in any reasonable period of time the 20 million acres of denuded forest land in the Lake States is sufficient evidence of the need of planting and of a reforestation policy for these lands. The area as a whole, or even the area in each state, is so large that no one agency, be it state, federal, or private, can solve the problem alone. Any successful policy must provide for action individually and cooperatively by all three agencies.

The essentials of a planting policy are: (1) A survey of lands in need of planting to determine area, location, ownership, condition, and value for planting; (2) effective fire protection for lands

to be planted; (3) the planting of publicly owned lands by public agencies; (4) the expansion of public planting programs, including the acquisition of additional lands to be planted; and (5) encouragement of counties, towns, and private agencies in forest planting by the federal and state governments, through advice to owners, the distribution of planting stock, possible modification of taxes on land devoted to the growing of forests, provision of cheap, long time credit, and cooperative arrangements between owners and the states.

For the formation of such a policy public interest in reforestation and timber growing is not lacking; it has, indeed, increased rapidly in the last few years. A widespread sentiment is favorable to reforestation, but it has not yet crystallized. Perhaps the principal need is for planting facts upon which to base a policy. This study of planting in the region has therefore been undertaken with the purpose of furnishing such information. An attempt will be made to answer such questions as these: What kinds of lands should be planted, and what kinds of lands, if any, should not be planted? What kinds of trees are most likely to succeed on the different soils? What sizes of trees should be used for planting? When should the trees be planted? How should they be planted? What kinds of trees are most profitable to plant? Does planting pay?

In an attempt to answer these questions, about 400 different plantations, most of them between 5 and 20 years old, were examined during 1924. Counts and measurements were made of their success and growth, and all available facts of their history and environment were gathered. Although the evidence from different plantations is sometimes conflicting, nevertheless the foregoing questions may be answered with some confidence.

Areas Planted

The first forest planting in the northern part of the Lake States was done on experimental plantations established in 1888 at Grayling and Oscoda, Michigan, by the Michigan Agricultural College, and at Grand Rapids, Minnesota, in 1898, by the Minnesota Agricultural College. A few private companies or individuals did a little forest planting in 1903, 1904, and 1905. A little planting was done on the Higgins Lake State Forest in Michigan as early as 1904. In 1910 and 1911 the State of Wisconsin began planting operations, and the federal government made a similar beginning on the national forests in Michigan and Minnesota. Up to and including 1926 in the three Lake States, the State of Michigan has planted nearly 34,000 acres on their state forests, while Wisconsin and Minnesota have planted 3,300 and 2,000 acres, respectively.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS - 1902

(From "Public Documents of the State of Wisconsin", Madison, Wis., 1903.)

The foregoing tables exhibit the operations of the office of the commissioners of the public lands for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1902.

By virtue of chapter 367 of the laws of 1897, as amended by chapter 345, laws of 1899, and chapter 458, laws of 1901, the commissioners, with the approval of the governor, have appointed competent men to examine the state lands withdrawn from market by chapter 345, laws of 1899. These men are now in the field and when their work will be finished the state will know the character of its unsold lands as to quality of soil, quantity and kind of lumber thereon and such other facts as will enable the commissioners to place a price upon them commensurate with their value.

Prior to 1897 no examination of state lands was ever made; the legislature arbitrarily fixed a minimum price on lands first offered for sale, and all not disposed of at public sale were afterward subject to purchase at private sale at the minimum price. The result of this policy was the enrichment of speculators who took advantage of the development of the state through the building of railroads and increase in population. The commissioners had no power to increase prices as values advanced in the localities where state lands were situated.

Lands in the State Park (consisting of town 40 and towns north to the state boundary, ranges 4 east to 8 east, inclusive,) that, prior to their withdrawal from market by virtue of chapter 324, laws of 1878, were for sale for \$1.25 an acre, have, since their examination and appraisal in 1897, sold from \$10 to \$40 per acre.

Had provision been earlier made for the examination and appraisal of state lands, the trust funds would be larger by some millions of dollars. Efforts to sell state lands at their intrinsic value were resisted on the ground that it would retard the settlement of the state, but the records show that the speculator rather than the actual settler has been the beneficiary of the policy which prevailed prior to 1897.

A part of our vacant state lands are wholly unsuited for the purposes of agriculture; we refer to the sand barrens bordering on the St. Croix river, and similar lands in other parts of the state. We would recommend that at least this class of lands be permanently withdrawn from market and constituted a forest reserve. If fires are kept from these lands, in the course of 30 to 50 years they will produce a crop of pine timber that will be of great value to the state.

A law should be enacted giving to the commissioners power to sell timber separate from the land where the principle value is in the standing timber. Cut over lands in the northern part of the state are selling for from \$5 to \$15 an acre, some of which were originally sold by the state when covered by a heavy forest growth for only \$1.25 an acre.

It sometimes happens that forest fires injure standing timber that could be sold for a fair price if a sale could be made soon after the fire, but the commissioners have no power under existing laws to sell timber separate from the land in such cases; we would recommend that provision be made for cases of this character.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioners of the Public Lands.

SUMMARY.

The following shows the aggregate sales of land during the fiscal term ending September 30, 1900, viz.:

Class of Lands.	No. acres sold.	Amount paid.
School	1,618 24	\$8,521 33
Normal School	532.84	2,803 18
Drainage	40.00	1,179 45
Indemnity	40.00	420 00
State Park	4,480 00	16,765 00
Marathon County Lands	320 03	245 19
Total	7,015.00	\$29,937 15

THE FESTIVE LUMBERJACK

(From "Ballads and Songs of the Shanty-Boy," collected and edited by Franz Rickaby, 1926.)

I've been around the world a bit, an' seen beasts both
 great an' small.
The one I mean to tell about for darin' beats 'em all.
He leaves the woods with his bristles raised the full
 length of his back.
He's known by men of science as the festive lumberjack.

Chorus

He's a rip-snortin' devil ever' time he comes to town.
He's a porky, he's a moose-cat, too busy to set down.
But when his silver's registered and his drinks is comin' few,
He's then as tame as other jacks that's met their Waterloo.

While out in camp he's very wise, he'll tell you of his plans.
He's figgered out an' knows he'll beat the long white aproned man.
He means to cut out drinkin' booze an' climb right up in fame,
And within a year of time will own a handsome little claim.

He'll go down to the city with his time-check in his hand.
He's as busy as a bedbug, for an instant couldn't stand
Until he gets his pile o' silver, which will vanish soon from sight,
For he intends to log a bit, an' he will do it right.

One dozen drinks o' whiskey straight an' the jack feels pretty fair.
The heavy loggin' then begins, but he's loggin' with hot air.
His peakers rise above the clouds; the cross-haul man below
Works by a code, for they couldn't hear his "Whoa!"

Every jack's a cant-hook man; no others can be found.
They do some heavy loggin', but they do it best in town.
They're loved by all the pretty girls, who at their feet would kneel
If they could win that darlin' chap that birls the crooked steel.

But here's a proposition, boys; when next we meet in town,
We'll form a combination and we'll mow the forest down.
We then will cash our handsome checks, we'll neither
eat nor sleep,
Nor will we buy a stitch o' clothes while whiskey is so cheap.

Porky: porcupine.

Moose-cat: a slang expression, applied to anyone possessing great strength or ability.

The long white-aproned man: the bar-keep.

Peakers: top logs on sled loads.

Every jack's a cant-hook man: men skilled in the use of the cant-hook were valuable and highly paid.

That birls the crooked steel: "the crooked steel" was a fancy name for the cant-hook. To "birl" the cant hook was to twirl it in the hands before taking hold of the log with it - an added mark of skill.

This song was reportedly written by Ed Springstad, of Bemidji, Minnesota, and a negro called Bill. They made the song about 1900, one day during a harvest near Crystal, North Dakota. A group of lumberjacks had gone out there from the camps of Minnesota to work in the fields. The song was very well known, at least throughout Minnesota.

R. M. Norton Esq
Oconto

1 box Saws
Adv. chgs.
our
2 boxes Soap

W. Boswell
Menomonie

2 Bbls. Flour
1 bag Corn
1 " Meal
2 Hams

Geo. E. Hart Esq
Pensaukee

9 coils Rope
1 ps. Chain
1 Anchor
1 Bbl. Tar
1 Bale Mize
3 pkgs.

GREEN BAY, *May 14*..... 1857.

Shipped, In good order and condition by **DAY & THOMAS,**
as Agents and Forwarders, for account, and at the risk of whom it may concern,
on board the *Persea*..... whereof *William*
is Master, now lying in the port of Green Bay, and bound for *Rock*.....
the following articles, as here marked and described, to be delivered in like good order
and condition, as addressed on the margin, or to his or their Assigns or Consignees,
upon payment of the freight and charges, as noted below, (the dangers of navigation excepted.)

An witness toheret, The said Master of said Vessel hath affirmed to two Bills of Lading, of this
and of which being accomplished, the above stands void.



J. I. BOVHEE, *Proprietor*

DEALER IN

**GENERAL MERCHANDISE
AND CEDAR POSTS.**

Wm. C. C. C.
Milwaukee, Wis. Oct 27 1881
(1881)

W. C. C.

Dear Sir

*Please Requite
for the balance
for the balance for
Letter L
Barred O*

marks for the saw log on the Coasts
line and its landmarks.

The said marks to be found by us, for
our own use, and all logs having been
burnt away, of said marks will be cleared
by us. The said marks are described
as follows, to wit:

U.B. J.B. T.B. D.B. M.B.

Stamped on the end with an iron
stamp, also U cut in the side
with us etc.

And King's witness of each affixed and
signed word seals this 20th day of
February 1865.

Walter Bullis (Seal)
by Wm. Calson
(1865)

J. Hansen.

B. Hansen.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Lot A = 5.64

E. T. Wieckert.
Lot B = 2.17

Lot C = 1.43
Herskovitz

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

J. H. Frank.

ST. 3

PO & Store. Saloon.

5

4

3

2

1

Saloon & Hotel.

Saw Mill.

Mill Yard

Planting Mill.

Depot.

NORTH WESTERN

H. H. Berr.

2 = 35.25

C. Nass.

RIVER

CHICAGO

UNDERHILL
1912

E. F. Wieckert.

5 = 53.60

14 = 31.12

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ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

Ray Clark, 1004 Eagle Drive
Sobieski, WI 54171
Phone: 920-822-2004

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