



**A NEWSLETTER**  
*From*

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

**SPRING**  
**1998**

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**MINUTES OF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MAY 21, 1998 SHAWANO**

Directors present: Baumann, Fixmer, Lambrecht, Rohe, Sohasky and Theiler.

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** In the absence of treasurer Brisson, currently on vacation in France, his statistical report was presented by president Baumann and discussed at length. With no written commentary from the treasurer, numerous questions on various items went unanswered. On the condition that it be reviewed at the August meeting of the board, the report was approved. A tentative budget for 1998-99 was not submitted as part of the financial report, so the board discussed potential revenues and expenditures from comparison with current fiscal year results.

**ANNUAL MEETING.** Chairman Fixmer reported on the meeting of his committee on May 12. Progress has been made on details of a six hour bus tour on September 25, which will feature the multiple uses made of public and private forest lands in the Wausau area. So far, several speakers have committed to present papers during the full day program on September 26. Final arrangements are expected to be completed by August 15 for the mailing of announcements to members.

**AUCTION.** Chairman Sohasky displayed the flyer that will be sent to bidders at previous auctions, soliciting their donations of surplus artifacts and memorabilia. The suggestion was made to send such flyers to logging museums and antique sales outlets that may be able to help.

**PUBLICATIONS.** Museum Directory. Co-chairs Lambrecht and Fixmer reported on progress - of 80 plus letters sent to candidate logging museums for inclusion in the directory, about 35 of those responding have been selected. Preliminary estimates of publishing costs for various formats have been received, indicating that the cost may range from 85 cents to \$1.25 per copy. Cost will depend on the size, number of pages, photos, etc. Funding for 3000 copies will be decided at the next meeting of the board. Chips and Sawdust. A letter from the editor was read reporting on the lower cost of printing and expressed the need for more input from the general membership of articles and news items. He also recommended a greater use of the poster he has designed for promoting membership by having more copies made for wider distribution. Due to budget limitations, no action was taken.



Proceedings. The 1997 edition was mailed in early May, with complimentary copies going to all speakers. Printing costs were \$8.70 per copy, the highest cost of any edition to date. A letter from LaMont Engle, editor, repeated his previously stated desire to be replaced, in view of his two operations this past winter and continuing disability.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS.** After introductory remarks by chair Rohe, nominations for the individual award were requested; a voice vote for three nominees resulted in the 1998 awardee being Joyce Bant of Hazelhurst, past president of FHAW. A similar procedure resulted in the selection of the South Wood County Museum of Wisconsin Rapids as the organizational awardee.

**TRAVELING EXHIBITS.** Chair Fixmer announced that he wants to be relieved of this responsibility as soon as possible, citing physical limitations and an increasing work load as executive secretary. His tentative schedule for the display of several theme exhibits this year include: Wausau's 11th annual "Log Jam" festival in June, the North Lakeland Discovery Center's 2nd annual Local History Fair in July, the 53rd annual Lake States Logging Congress in Green Bay in early September, and the annual convention of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association in Platteville in late September. Also discussed was the need for the winter storage of all exhibit materials and photos because Fixmer's home office is unheated for six months each winter. Fixmer further reported that the exhibit on "Wisconsin's School Forests; Their Origins and Development" has now acquired enough materials to permit its construction.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Chair Fixmer distributed a list of 19 members who have been dropped from the roster for nonpayment of the 1997-98 dues. These have been partially replaced with the addition of 9 new members during the past fiscal year, up to May 1st, leaving only two months to recruit the 10 needed to maintain the status quo. The secretary stressed that this should be a matter of concern for everyone in the general membership and not just the directors of the board. At the suggestion of the secretary, a motion was approved to give non-member speakers at the annual meetings a free one year membership as an additional benefit for accepting their assignment of delivering their papers for publication.

**PUBLICITY.** In the absence of chair Carl Krog, president Baumann reported that press releases were distributed following the annual meeting last October about the recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards. There have been no additional publicity efforts since.

**WISCONSIN FORESTRY HALL OF FAME.** Chair Lambrecht reported that the meeting of the selection committee on May 14th had resulted in the election of George Blanchard (deceased) as the 1998 inductee. Mr. Blanchard was a senator and assemblyman in the state legislature during a seven year period when "he played a vital role" in the passage of most of the major forestry legislation of the twentieth century.

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP.** Co-chairs Sohasky and Saemann reported that 16 essays were submitted for the 1998 scholarship award, with the winner of the \$500 prize being Jedd Ungodt, a forest science major at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. His winning essay was titled "Chequamegon Forest Perspectives", a uniquely interesting narration of the changes seen by a crow perched on the top of a tall white pine tree over a period of a century and a half in the landscape below it. By appropriate motion, approval was voiced to give a free one year membership to the winners of future scholarship awards.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS.** At the suggestion of president Baumann, a motion approved the inclusion of a membership solicitation card from the State Historical Society in the mailing of the spring issue of Chips and Sawdust. FHAW receives a five dollar rebate for each new member received by the society. Director Rohe reported that Wayne Hollister of Green Bay has donated a number of photos of early day logging to FHAW's archives.

**NEXT MEETING.** At the invitation of member Earl St. John, the board will hold its summer meeting at his "back woods" retreat near Whitney, Michigan some time in August.

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### **ADDITION NOTES ON PLANNING FOR FHAW's ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**

With the appointment of a committee to decide on a program for the 1998 annual meeting of FHAW members, details of that meeting will be decided in the coming months. Committee members include: Frank Fixmer, chairman; John Cline, Wausau; Phil Carspecken, Wausau; Darrell Javorek, Mosinee; Carl Theiler, Tomahawk; Mike Weckworth, Merrill; and Fred Ziemann, Wausau. The board of directors gave approval last fall to having the annual meeting in Wausau and had also approved a suggested program theme of "Sawmills of the Central Wisconsin River Valley in the Mid Nineteenth Century Era", in observance of the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood. A contract has been entered into with the Ramada Inn of Wausau as the official meeting site.

## **SOUBA TO SUCCEED BENSON AS CONSOLIDATED PAPERS' DIRECTOR OF TIMBERLANDS**

*(From a press release by the public affairs department of Consolidated Papers, Wisconsin Rapids, May 8, 1998.)*

Frederic Souba Jr. has been appointed director of timberlands at Consolidated Papers, Inc., effective May 11, 1998. Souba will succeed Miles K. Benson, who will be retiring on July 8. Over the next two months, Benson will assist Souba in the transition to his new post. Souba joined Consolidated Papers as assistant director of timberlands in January of this year. Prior to joining the company, he was employed for seven years by Johnson Timber Corp. in Hayward, Wisconsin. His most recent position there was as vice president, operations. From 1973 until 1990, Souba was employed by Nekoosa Papers, Inc., now Georgia - Pacific. There, he worked as a tree farm forester; assistant district forester; manager, forest management and planning; district forester; and operations manager.

Benson's retirement follows more than 38 years in the forest industry and forest management research. He has been with Consolidated Papers for more than 20 years, serving as director of timberlands since 1990. During his career with Consolidated Papers, Benson has actively served the company and the forest products industry through his many affiliations with state and national forest industry organizations. Both he and Consolidated Papers have been active members of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin for the past 15 years. Consolidated received FHAW's Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

## **GREAT WISCONSIN RIVER LOG JAM - 1998**

Although you may receive this issue of C&S after this event has taken place, I thought I would mention it anyway. This event is one of the larger events in the state that includes activities that help to preserve our lumbering heritage. This year's event takes place from Friday, June 26 through Sunday, June 28. The show is organized by the Marathon County Historical Society. Scheer's Lumberjack Show is presented on each day of the event. The Log Jam has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors in its eleven year history. It is a weekend filled with music, dance, food, crafts, historic encampments and displays.

## LUMBERING FILM FEST

*From the editor.* On May 21st I was able to attend a very well presented and worthwhile film festival and "lecture" concerning Wisconsin's lumbering history. The film show was held in Shawano. I would have liked to have told readers about this event beforehand, but I didn't find out about it until after the last issue of C&S was mailed.

The event was titled "Wisconsin History Film Fest; Early Logging and Lumbering, 1836 - 1939. It was put on by the "From the Pineries to the Present Heritage Tourism Project", of Shawano. The project was also funded in part by the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission with funds from individual and corporate contributions and the State of Wisconsin.

The event featured the short films *King of the Woods* and *Rivers and Raftsmen*. The films depicted logging lore from the northern forests of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Included was live footage of horse drawn logging, recreated, as practiced into the 1930s. These films were put together by Malcolm Rosholt and Craig Anderson. I was told that there is a third film in the series, and I highly recommend the films to anyone interested in this portion of our history.

After the films, Professor Randy Rohe presented and discussed some slides of his own. Randy is a professor of geography at U W Waukesha and a long time member of FHAW. Among the many topics that Randy covered was the particularly interesting point that the existence of women in the logging camps occurred much more frequently and much earlier than is most commonly believed. We must remember that a large part of historical research involves "debunking", or the separating fact from the great deal of legend and folklore that develops with the passage of time.

I would guess that there were over 100 attendees at the show, a number I was surprised at, but very glad to see. It was good to talk with Frank Fixmer and Eugene Harm before the show, as I seldom get the chance to see them. My thanks and congratulations go out to James Resick, master of ceremonies for the show and part of the planning committee. Jim dressed as a lumberjack for the show and, with his outgoing personality, added a good deal of excitement to the event.

Speaking of Shawano, I would like to take this chance to recommend to anyone to visit the Menominee Logging Camp Museum near there. I believe it to be the finest logging museum I have ever visited.

## WISCONSIN LAND AND LIFE

From the editor. A book with the above title was published July 3, 1997, and may be of interest to our readers. The book, published by The University of Wisconsin Press, was edited by Robert Ostergren and Thomas Vale. It consists of 26 articles, written by different authors, and calls itself "a celebration of the land and life of Wisconsin." Our own Randy Rohe authored one of the articles - "Lumbering, Wisconsin's Northern Urban Frontier." Randy's article discusses the origin and development of towns in the state, as spurred on by logging and sawmill operations. The book may be obtained by writing to: The University of Wisconsin Press, 114 North Murray St., Madison, WI 53715. Cost of the book is \$27.95 for the paperback edition, although I don't know what the shipping charges would be. The following description of the book is taken from its back cover:

These are images of Wisconsin's land and life, images that evoke a strong sense of place. This book, *Wisconsin Land and Life*, is an exploration of place, a series of essays by Wisconsin geographers that offers an introduction to the state's natural environment, the historical process of its human habitation, and the ways that nature and people interact to create distinct regional landscapes. To read it is to come away with a sweeping view of Wisconsin geography and history: the glaciers that carved lakes and moraines; the soils and climate that fostered the prairies and great northern pine forests; the early Native Americans who began to shape the landscape and who established forest trails and river portages; the successive waves of Europeans who came to trade in furs, mine for lead and iron, cut the white pines, establish farms, work in the lumber and paper mills, and transform spent wheatfields into pasture for dairy cattle.

Readers will learn, too, about the platting and naming of Wisconsin's towns, the establishment of county and township governments, the growth of urban neighborhoods and parishes, the role of rivers, railroads, and religion in shaping the state's growth, and the controversial reforestation of the cutover lands that eventually transformed hardscrabble farms and swamps into a sportsman's paradise.

Abundantly illustrated with photos and maps, this book will reward anyone who wishes to learn more about the land and life of the place we know as Wisconsin.



## BOHEMIA THE LIVES AND TIMES OF AN OREGON TIMBER VENTURE

From the editor. I recently received some promotional material for another new book that was due for publication in April 1998. Although it is a history of an Oregon lumber firm, it may also be of interest to our readers. Remember that Wisconsin and the Midwest were the training grounds for many of the men who later traveled on to log the West and the Northwest. The following is taken from some of the promotional materials for the book:

In the early 1900s, nothing distinguished the Bohemia Lumber Company from hundreds of other shaky, short-lived lumber operations that peppered the Northwest, almost as common as family farms. But, steered for most of its history by the energetic and sometimes fractious Stewart clan, the outfit from the picturesque Row Valley in Western Oregon survived to run through mid century and beyond. Then, as Bohemia Incorporated, it confronted the business, political and environmental challenges of the 1980s and 1990s.

Stretching across the twentieth century, *Bohemia* is an emblematic Pacific Northwest lumber history, with flesh and blood characters who battle crises such as the Great Depression and World War II, squabble in the boardroom, spread their philanthropy across hospitals and universities, embark on risky ventures that do not always succeed, and sometimes meet death in the forest.

*Bohemia's* story spans the decades that see a way of life begin to change. The Northwest timber industry encounters the environmental movement, and its image slides from vaunted poster child of the Oregon economy to questioned stepchild as it confronts shifts in public attitude and political decision making. The brothers Stub and Faye Stewart feud, split and then are reunited during that difficult era. Though the company's reins are handed to others, the ties of family are still strong as Bohemia faces its final challenge.

*An excerpt from the book:*

Despite the war, the life of the Culp Creek mill camp went on. Families came and went in the weatherworn houses, the OP&E engine chugged in and out of the camp more or less predictably, and the Bucket of Blood, even with a slightly older crowd, was the venue for bruising Saturday nights.

## AREA STUDENTS DISCOVER THEIR ROOTS AT OLD LOGGING CAMPS

*This article, sent to me by Don Lambrecht, is from the June 98 issue of the "Timber Producer" magazine.*

Laona area students have helped uncover original turn of the century logging camps and an old town while on archeologist led visits. As part of Camp Five Museum's Sesquicentennial activities, some logging artifacts discovered by the students, such as log chains, cable and log tongs, will be put on display in a free exhibit at Camp Five Museum in Laona.

The new exhibit, "Finding Clues to Paul Bunyan in the Forest," will be open to the public Wednesday, May 13, 1998, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Lumberjack Special steam train will leave the depot at 5 p.m. for the viewing at the museum complex. "It's been exciting to see the students discover how people lived and worked at the old logging camps," said Don Kircher, manager of Camp Five Museum, who joined the students on the site visits.

Laona students from grades seven, nine and eleven have visited nine old logging camps since last fall. Cindy Stiles, an archeologist with the U.S. Forest Service, led the visits and taught students how to map an area to scale and identify many logging tools. The students also learned about building location and human activity by studying the vegetation and topography.

In a unique discovery, students identified an old logging town, called Minor, abandoned in 1922. The small town had between 20 and 25 buildings and a sawmill. Now, nothing is left of the town except for marks showing where the buildings once stood. "While we identified many items on these visits, we also uncovered a mystery," said Kircher. "We cannot determine the reason for a round hole found at each site that is six feet deep and measures about 8 to 10 feet in diameter."

At one time there were as many as 45 logging camps within 20 to 30 miles of Laona. While few signs exist now that show where a logging camp once stood, these sites are still very open, due to the hundreds of horses that once worked at the camps. The combination of the horse urine and compacted soil have contributed to keeping the areas very grassy and free of large trees and brush.

Students have called their experiences at the logging camps "great adventures." Some said that they did not realize there were so many railroad lines and tracks in the area. Others said they learned how different logging was long ago compared to today's logging methods. Overall, students said visiting the former logging camps taught them about how their grandparents and great-grandparents once worked and lived.

"After they visited these sites and discovered how people lived 80 to 100 years ago, many students developed a connection with their family heritage that they probably did not have before," said Sara Connor, a Laona High School science teacher who organized the archeological project for Camp Five Museum.

The U.S. Forest Service owns many of the former camps and, therefore, artifacts were not removed from those sites. The group visited a few sites now owned by Consolidated Paper Corp. and some artifacts for the exhibit were retrieved from those sites with the permission of Dan Bobbe of Consolidated Paper. The archeology project is part of Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial and received funding from the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission. Camp Five Museum conducted the project in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Consolidated Paper, Nicolet Hardwoods, and the Hamilton Roddis Foundation.

Additional Sesquicentennial year activities at Camp Five will include the Lumberjack Reunion on June 28. Students will participate at the reunion by collecting oral histories from former lumberjacks and workers in the lumber industry.

Two other new exhibits will also open May 13: "People and Products," which looks at Camp Five Museum's 30th anniversary and collection from its Lumberjack Reunion event, and "Birds of the Northwoods." For more information about the exhibits or Camp Five Museum, please call (715) 674-3414. The museum opens for its 30th season on June 15.

*A similar article on Camp Five appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on May 30, 1998. That article disclosed that Camp Five Museum's 30th birthday party is set for July 13 to 18 and the 5th Annual Heritage Celebration, an 1800s style rendezvous, takes place on August 7 through 9. The article also revealed that the Camp Five Museum complex rests on the site of what was first a lumber camp, then a Connor Lumber and Land Company farm that raised meat, produce and draft horses for lumberjack camps.*

## MAKING HISTORY A PART OF PRESENT AT PHILLIPS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*From the newsletter of the Price County Historical Society, March, 1998.*

A group of eighth grade students at Phillips Middle School now know what hard work a logger did in the late 1800s. They tried their hand at crosscut sawing, among other things this past semester, during a unit of study called Wisconsin Wood Products. Teachers introduced this unit last fall as part of a class called Skills Building. In the unit on wood products, the activities and materials covered all kinds of abilities: mechanical, physical, academic and technical. Price County Historical Society was fortunate enough to be part of the planning. Ron Cerveny, school to work coordinator for Phillips Schools, asked for ideas, photos, and a field trip to go with logging. The students were taken to the Round Lake Dam, which fit right into their curriculum.

Rick Holan made slides of PCHS logging photos and began the logging portion with these. Russell Kirchmeyer brought in logging tools and discussed their use. A logger of today, Ron Simerdiak, told the class about his job. The group read about logging from original stories, studied lumberjack lingo and wrote their own logging camp journals. Pete Bartelt, Price County Forester, explained his job and other careers in forestry. The students made leaf collections and learned to judge whether a tree was large enough to cut using prisms. They cored a tree to learn its age and mastered the Biltmore scale to figure out how many board feet trees could produce. A video called "From a Crosscut saw to Computer Cutting" bridged the old and new for them.

A visit from Jeff Kempkes, a custom woodworker, touched on another career in wood and coincided with a project for each to make a tool box. The class also learned to weave baskets with wood, and recycled paper. They learned about the J. R. Davis Co. and how it helped to rebuild Phillips after the fire. They also covered the Phillips Tannery business. Turning to present day industries, the class visited Blount, producers of logging equipment in Prentice. Dean Grube talked to them before a field trip through the Lionite factory, where paneling is made in Phillips.

The class even got to taste some of the food that kept the loggers happy: camp cookies and prune pie, baked by the teachers. Old logging songs were also part of the curriculum. The team had received funding for this particular unit, and would have to find sources for next year. Since it incorporates so many aspects of employment in the county, it is certainly a valuable career teaching tool and an interesting and fun way to learn about the history of this area.



## **TREE - DIMENSIONAL**

**SCHOOL FORESTS, LIKE THE ONE IN CADOTT, GIVE STUDENTS A CHANCE TO EXPLORE SUBJECTS IN WAYS THAT MAKE LESSONS REAL.**

*The following is from an article in the Leader - Telegram, March 22, 1998. The article was provided to me by member Eugene Harm. These past three articles are very uplifting, as they show that much is being done to introduce the state's youth to forestry knowledge and our state's forest history. I applaud all three of these efforts.*

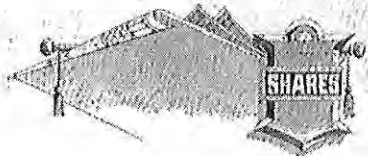
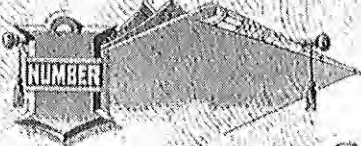
Jay Kenealy, a senior at Cadott High School, joined nine other members of his forestry class last week learning how to safely and efficiently operate a chain saw. And as the wood chips in his hair demonstrate, this was not strictly book learning. "This was hands on; you could actually see what he was talking about," Kenealy said. The class was "hands on" because teacher Glenn Webb took advantage of what he considers a valuable resource: the Cadott High School Forest, 160 acres of wooded, living classroom. It makes a huge difference for the students when you can get them out here," said Webb, Cadott's agriculture teacher. "They pay attention more, they actually get to feel and touch things. They just learn more and they learn better."

School forests have been around since 1927, and about 410 school and community forests still encompass nearly 68,000 acres across Wisconsin. Michael Katlenberg, who teaches environmental education classes in the plant and earth science department at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, said the degree of usage for each forest varies greatly. "From my experience, there are some that are well and heavily used and some that are not used at all anymore," Katlenberg said. "It depends on so many things, on what kind of resources there are and if any members of the faculty take an interest in it." He said school forests can offer opportunities to enrich classes not only in the natural sciences but across the curriculum.

The Cadott school forest was donated to the school in 1974 by Earl and Eunice Liddell. Further financial donations by Eunice Liddell and timber sales have allowed the school to create a learning center that includes a year-round access road and a modern, attractive classroom building.

The Lumberjack Resources Conservation and Development Council in Tomahawk puts out a newsletter dedicated to sharing information on how various school and community forests are utilized. Additionally, Trees For Tomorrow in Eagle River is gathering data on the number of school forests and what programs others are putting together.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



Capital Stock \$500,000



# Oshkosh Log and Lumber Company,

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN.

*This Certifies that*

*is the owner of*

*Shares of One Hundred Dollars each of the Capital Stock of*

*The Oshkosh Log and Lumber Company,*

*transferable only on the Books of the Corporation in person or by Attorney in and holder of this Certificate.*

*In WITNESS WHEREOF the President and Secretary have hereto subscribed their names and caused its corporate Seal to be hereto affixed at Oshkosh, Wis., this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 189\_\_*

Stock full paid.

Non-assessable.



*Secretary*

*President*

## THE FIRST DRIVE ON THE POPPLE RIVER

*The following is from "A History of Fence, Wisconsin", published in 1996 on the occasion of its 75th Jubilee. John Saemann has donated a copy of this book to FHAW and it will go into our reference library collection at U.W. Stevens Point.*

On September 18th, 1879, Halvor Anunson with a crew of men left his farm home at Winchester, Wisconsin and started the great venture of a pioneer lumberman in a region of northern Wisconsin, then a part of Marinette County, now known as Fence in Florence County. The crew consisted of nine men, the youngest his son, Ed Anunson, then a boy of sixteen.

They arrived at the end of the Northwestern railroad at Quinnesec, Michigan late on that same day. The following morning they walked the road then cut through to LePage's Halfway House, about 10 or 12 miles from Quinnesec; then to Commonwealth, an exploring camp; and from there to the Pine River just below the point where "the Popple joins the Pine." They arrived here on the evening of the 19th. There was no bridge across the Pine, so the team that hauled their supplies forded the river, the water just touching the bottom of the wagon box. Charles LaSalle, an old trapper, lived in a little shack across the Pine River on the upper side of the junction. Mr. Anunson hailed him, and he came across in his birch bark canoe to take the men over in two trips. The tents were pitched on the opposite side of the Popple from LaSalle's cabin, and preparations were made to camp there that night. Supper was cooked and eaten which consisted of pork and beans and crackers, tea and coffee with plenty of sugar.

The next morning the team pulled back to Quinnesec, leaving the crew and all their supplies. The road extended one mile farther to Jennings' Camp, later known as Hall's or K.C. Camp. It was now up to Mr. Anunson to get through to their destination six miles farther on by section line to the point on the Popple River now known as Little Bull Falls. Primitive methods were resorted to and two days were spent in packing their goods from the Pine River to the Little Bull Falls.

Here they settled down to real work. The river was full of rocks, which had to be removed before logs could be floated down to the mouth of the Popple. The timber which Halvor Anunson and his brother John intended to bank was located along the stream about two miles running through sections 23, 24 and 27, Township 38, Range 16. The stream from here and through to the Pine had to be cleared of rocks and obstructions so that the logs could be floated and run through.



Pat Fitzgerald, a miner, came up from Quinnesec in a few days and took charge of the blasting. One man in Mr. Anunson's crew deserves special mention. This man was William Thompson, whom the boys called the Big Moose and story teller. Mr. Anunson would have had still harder sledding but for Thompson. He was a man that could not be blocked; never lost his courage, though occasionally his temper. Bill contrived a jack to pull rocks ashore. Pat soon quit and Bill took charge of the blasting; the drill sharpener was taken sick and Bill took charge of the drills. When the cook failed, he helped with the meals and also taught the younger ones how to cook. The Washburns and Barnes came in at this time. They were cutting a road from Jennings Camp to their place, now called Washburn Falls. Mr. Anunson joined them, and did his share of the road work as far as Washburn Falls.

In October four extra men came up from Winchester. Cold weather was coming on and the river work must be done, or the whole enterprise would fail. A road had to be cut from Washburn Falls to Section 24, 38-16 where John Anunson was to build his camp. The crew was small, but had to be divided for river work, for road cutting, and for the building of the first camp. Then John Anunson came up with another crew and Halvor Anunson's camp was built. Cold weather and heavy snow came on before they could finish.

Halvor Anunson was then a man 55 years of age. Until he was joined by his brother late in the fall, he took all the worry and trouble and the lion's share of the work. But he had learned to conquer worry; he never lost his sleep; he kept up his courage and cheerfulness, although his all was at stake, and he was under a tremendous strain. The roads were cut, the river cleared, and the camp built. Now the cutting of the timber began in earnest. Halvor was under contract for three million feet of pine and John for two million at the big price of \$7.50 per thousand of the best pine timber that grew. They skidded with oxen, hauled with horses, and their estimate of a good days work was a thousand feet per man.

Late in the winter or early in the spring, the problem of building a dam was before them. The site selected was on Section 15, 38-15, and the dam, when built, was named Podunk, a name it still retains. Ed Mitchell, of Oconto now, superintended the work.

Over five million feet of logs had been landed and the drive was now in order. A new stream, a new dam, a new enterprise for both the leader and for some of the crew. They had heavy rains and a great flow of water, but after the third head, the dam went out and the big drive was stranded flat and dry. About one half of the logs had gone through; the



remaining half was strung along nine miles of a rocky stream and on its banks. Then in June the rains came, and it came in cloudbursts. Ed Mitchell quickly organized his crew and did the most remarkable piece of river driving that was ever accomplished. As the water receded, the logs slowly jammed above the Little Bull Falls, and for two miles or more the river and banks were lined with logs. It kept on raining. Then Mitchell worked the logs into a heavy jam at the foot of Long Rapids, banking up the water, and in nine days cleared the rapids. This is the origin of the name "The Nine Day Rapids." From there the work went smoothly and rapidly on and Mitchell soon had the Popple cleared of every log. This was the first drive on the Popple River and was accomplished in the spring of 1880.

Other dams were built in the given order: the Podunk Dam, as has been mentioned, in 1880. Then Anunson Dam in the fall of 1880. The Dam on Simpson's Creek in 1882. The South Branch Dam was built in 1880 and was rebuilt later in the 80s. The Podunk Dam was rebuilt in the 90s.

Halvor Anunson obtained a charter from the State of Wisconsin for the improvements of the Popple River to collect tollage. It was later sold to P.C. Peterson and Ed Anunson, and his brother Olous Anunson was given charge of the work. Finally the improvements were sold to Isaac Stephenson.

Only two men are still living who, with Halvor Anunson and his crew of nine, crossed the Pine River on the 19th of September, 1879, nearly 54 years ago. They are S.K. Harrison of Fence and Ed Anunson of Duluth.

This information was written up in 1933 by Elwyn Steel, whose grandfather was Halvor Anunson and mother was Hannah (Anunson) Steel. Ed Anunson and Hannah supplied the story. The article was submitted by Robert Anunson, great grandson of Olous and son of Reuben Anunson.

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## NEW BOOK ON OCONTO COUNTY LUMBERING

*From the editor.* I had been told that a new book was in the works concerning the lumbering history of Oconto County. Through several inquiries, I found out that the book is being written by Della Rucker, a historical researcher from Green Bay. Della told me that the book will be an overview of Oconto County's lumbering history, and will also contain personal recollections of "old-timers" and a good number of photos. This is another of the special sesquicentennial projects. I believe the book is due to go to the printers toward the end of this summer.

## A FUNERAL, ALMOST RUINED!

*The following was sent to me by Dick Doeren, owner of the Lumber Mill Gallery in Oconto.*

Sometime during the winter of 1887, a man named Frank Burns of Oconto broke his leg while working for the Mann Brothers on the Escanaba River. The company had two of his camp mates take him to Oconto for medical treatment. One of these men was Richard Doyle, who was one of our best foremen in later years, and who was popularly known as "The Scout." Doyle and the other fellow brought Burns in on the train and then took him up to the doctor's office to be examined. Having completed the performance of his duty, Doyle promptly went out and got drunk. The doctor looked Burns over, and found him in such a bad condition that he found it necessary to amputate the limb. He did so and Burns died as a result of the operation. He was prepared for burial, but the amputated limb was inadvertently left in the doctor's office. It was not until the final services were almost begun that the omission was discovered.

Doyle, who was in attendance at the funeral, was dispatched to the doctor's office to get the limb. He hadn't, however, wholly recovered from his state of inebriation. He found the limb all right, but he wasn't in quite the proper mental state to consider the niceties of funeral etiquette. He threw the amputated leg over his shoulder without thinking twice, and without covering it in any manner. He carried it into the house as if he would a shank of deer or mutton. Everyone was shocked beyond expression and it just about ruined the funeral.

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In many camps, the men at first kicked mightily on the use of power saws, but they became so widely used that many fellers quickly forgot how to put a tree down by hand. One story is told about a logger who used a power saw for the first time, and felled so much timber with it on the first day that he went to town and got drunk. He decided to go see his girl and tell her about this wonderful saw. Seeing his condition, she warily barred the door, whereupon he went out and got his saw, sawed the door down, and threatened to cut her legs off. When she ran out of the house, he proceeded to cut the legs off all of the furniture.

## CHARLES "BULL" ROSS FOREST COUNTY PIONEER

*The following is from the Pioneer Express, Crandon, May 11, 1998, and was sent in by member George Akin of Green Bay.*

Finding out all of the details of the life of Charles Ross is probably impossible at this late date, but we do know some of the facts. Some of the history of Ross is passed on through oral histories, and while not as concise and accurate as written record, is likely close to fact.

Charles Ross was called "Bull" because of his size. He tipped the scales at over 300 pounds, according to his descendants. The family history says that Ross came from Texas to the iron range around Florence and Iron Mountain, Michigan in the late 1880s. The mix of loggers and miners in the area made law enforcement a big problem. From all accounts he was the man for the job. Ross had served as a Texas Ranger on the western frontier, and later became a U.S. Marshall. He was a crack shot, and for a few years earned his living performing shooting exhibitions in the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show.

Evidently, Ross bought some land near Cavour, and did some logging, eventually building a farm three miles north of the present village of Cavour. Presumably, he was anticipating the development of the area after the construction of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault St. Marie Railroad that crossed Forest County in 1887. (Now the Wisconsin Central) Much of this early history has been passed on by Francis Cleereman. Francis married the granddaughter of Bull Ross, and he picked up some of the stories concerning Ross from Tom Kleve, a worker at the Cleereman-Jauquet Lumber Company in Newald.

Kleve told Francis that he had run away from home at age 13. He had ridden the rails from Green Bay, and found himself penniless in the town of Cavour. Ross had a reputation as having a big, soft heart, and proved it when he saw Tom staring at food items through the window of the grocery store. Judging him for a runaway, Ross asked Tom if he was hungry, to which he was given a prompt "yes." He took the lad home and filled his belly. Tom started to help around the farm to earn his keep, developing a fast friendship with his benefactor as the time passed. He became a part of the family, and moved out 14 years later, when he was 27 years old.

Tom told Francis some of the wild and wooly stories about Ross fighting gun battles with outlaws in the West as well as a fight in Florence

County, with the bad guy laying dead after the gun smoke cleared. According to Tom, when Ross took off his shirt, his upper body was scarred and marked from various battles, including some gunfights.

Ross had a farm three miles north of Cavour. From his obituary in the "Northern Wisconsin Advertiser," we know that Ross was instrumental in promoting the construction of the Forest County Courthouse that is still in use today. He was on the county board, and had also served as chairman of the county board. From old papers it is apparent that there was a controversy over whether or not the county seat should remain in Crandon. In spite of considerable pressure, Ross voted to build on the same site and leave the county seat in Crandon. He lived to see the building constructed, but didn't get to attend many meetings in the new structure. He would meet his end only a couple years afterward.

One of the family legends passed down is that Bull was trapping bear in the fall of 1910. He shot a trapped bear, set his rifle down, and proceeded to remove the bruin from the trap. The bear wasn't dead, and he wasn't happy either. Bull and the bear had a difference of opinion over who was going to be dead that day, and Bull Ross won. He didn't come away unscathed though. He collected numerous claw and bite marks before he was able to get back to his rifle, and they were festering for some time. Bob Ross, grandson of Bull Ross, says that some time after the bear incident, Bull was unloading a barrel of apples from a buckboard. He grabbed the barrel and set it off. No small feat, and Bull was big enough and strong enough, but he also ruptured himself. He came down with blood poisoning, and from the stories passed down from Tom Kleve, the wounds from the bear fight contributed to the poisoning. Bull went to Green Bay seeking medical help and died in the hospital in December of 1910. He had been born in Kentucky just 53 years before.

Bob Ross tells of Bull's excellent marksmanship. One of the family stories is that he did shooting exhibitions for the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. (Unfortunately, the records of the Winchester exhibition shooters have been lost, according to the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum in Wyoming, so this cannot be confirmed.) Bull used to have what he called "picnics in the grove," which consisted of food, beer, and shooting in a grove of white pines that he had left standing behind the farm house just for these purposes.

The Town of Ross, in Forest County, is named after Bull Ross, and he is buried in the Cavour cemetery. He was a pioneer in every sense of the word, coming to Forest County when it was raw wilderness, in 1894.



## **MAKE EARLY RESERVATIONS FOR ATTENDING ANNUAL MEETING**

Secretary Fixmer advises that members of FHAW who plan to attend the association's annual meeting should make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. The convention will take place September 25 -26, 1998, at the Ramada Inn, 201 N. 17th Ave., Wausau. Ramada's phone is 1-800-754-9728. A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees at a flat rate of \$65. per room (plus tax) with a maximum occupancy of four persons. In making your reservation, be sure to mention your affiliation with FHAW and group block #5456.

Full details of this 23rd Annual Members Meeting of FHAW have not been fully finalized yet, but are expected to be mailed in July. A full day bus trip on Friday, September 25th, will start at 9:00 AM and take participants to the Rib Mountain State Park, Nine Mile County Forest, Shooting Range County Park, a ginseng harvesting operation, the Wausau High School Forest and the Javorek Wood Processor in action on the Mosinee Paper Industrial Forest.

The program on Saturday, September 26th, will have for its theme "Sawmills of the Central Wisconsin River Valley in the Nineteenth Century" and will feature speakers narrating the beginnings of Stevens Point, Mosinee, Wausau, Merrill and Tomahawk. The presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to one individual and one organization will also be made for their contributions to the preservation of significant aspects of Wisconsin forest history.

Also as a reminder, anyone who wishes to donate items for the auction held during the annual meeting may contact Mike Sohasky, whose address is given at the front of this newsletter. This auction is one of our better fund raising opportunities each year.

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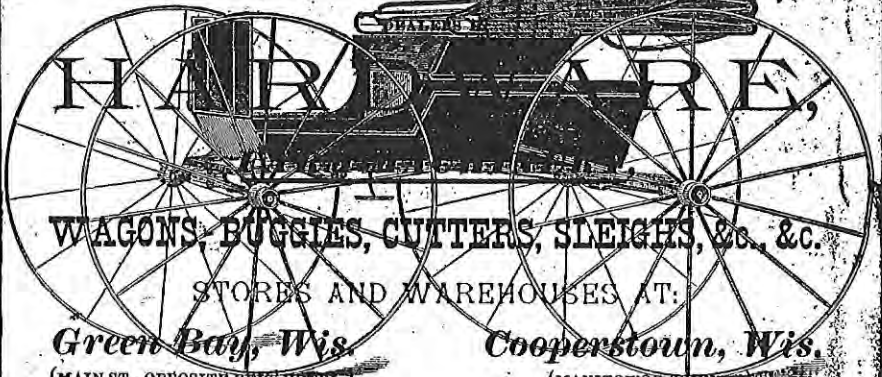
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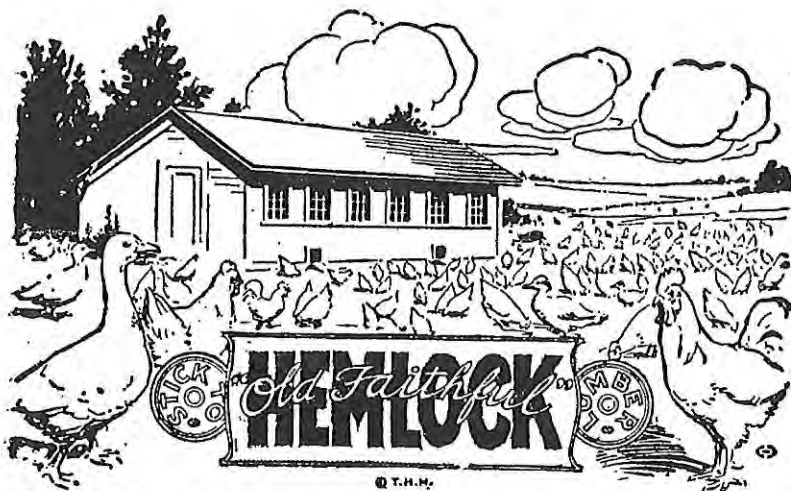
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## Poultry Deserves Your Thought

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Ray Clark

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**FHAW MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT  
ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

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

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