

**A Newsletter**  
From  
**Forest History**  
**Association of Wisconsin**  
403 McIndoe Street Wausau, WI 54401

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# Officers & Directors

## 1980-81

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Wausau, WI. 54401

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Route 1, Box 303  
Florence, WI 54121

Frank N. Fixmer, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
604 9th Street  
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William D. Johnson  
Johnson Timber Company  
Hayward, WI. 54843

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7817 N. Club Circle  
Milwaukee, WI. 53217

Kennell M. Elliott  
Route 6 — Box 265  
Ehinelander, WI. 54501

L. G. Sorden  
430 South Segoe Road  
Madison, WI 53711

# Mrs. Gordon R. Connor Chosen As New President

At the January 30th meeting of F.H.A.W.'s Board of Directors, MRS. GORDON R. CONNOR of Wausau was selected to replace Howard Lovestead, who had resigned for personal reasons. Mrs. Connor had been newly elected to the Board at the annual meeting of members last September. She is a charter member of the Association and, as an officer of the Connor Foundation which owns and manages the Camp Five Logging Museum at Laona, was a recipient of the Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1978.

The resignation of Lovestead created a vacancy on the Board which was filled by the appointment of WILLIAM D. JOHNSON, SR., of Hayward. Johnson is a Life Member of the Association and is president of the Johnson Timber Company, a timber producing and processing firm which specializes in wood chip production for a major paper mill.

In another action by the Board, KENNEL M. ELLIOTT of Rhinelander was appointed as a director to replace WILLIAM YOST of Butternut. Yost is leaving Wisconsin permanently in favor of Florida's attractions. Elliott is well-known as a retired U. S. Forest Service ranger who authored the "History of the Nicolet National Forest" and was instrumental in organizing a Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni.

## Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee Set

The appointment of WALTER NAAB of Oshkosh as chairman of the Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee was announced by President MARY R. CONNOR at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. Assisting him will be TOM ALBRECHT, Shawano, JOHN SAEMANN, Florence, and KARL BAUMANN, Peshtigo.

The Board has decided to hold the 1981 meeting in Green Bay in conjunction with the Logging Congress which is scheduled for September 10 - 12. This will permit Association members to participate in two of the more important forest-related events of the year. More specific details concerning time, place and program will be determined by the planning committee and will be

announced in the May issue of "C & S".

Members are urged to send their suggestions for a meeting theme, speakers, etc., to Walter Naab, at 1359 Mariposa Drive, Oshkosh, WI. 54901.

## Two New Books Published By F.H.A.W. Members

The growing ranks of authors among our Association members have been joined by R. C. (DOC) BROWN of Eau Claire and HOWARD PEDDLE of Iron River.

Brown's "Rails Into The Pines, 1883-1910" provides logging railroad buffs with the most detailed story yet written about the Chippewa River and Menomonie Railway, which had its beginnings in 1882 when a series of related events led to its organization and construction in the rich pinery of the Weyerhaeuser — Bruce — Weirgor — Exeland area. Before its sale in 1902 to become the Chippewa River and Northern, the CR & M helped to deliver a major share of the 600 million board feet of pine logs that were produced in that area for the sawmills at Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire.

"Doc's" research has corrected many previous inaccuracies in the saga of what was one of the earliest attempts at railroad logging in Wisconsin. This 66-page, soft-cover booklet is well illustrated with numerous full-page photos. Copies may be ordered direct from R. C. Brown, P. O. Box 515, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

Another interesting facet of Wisconsin logging history, the identification of logs prior to being driven down rivers and streams to sawmills, has never had the attention its significance deserved. HOWARD PEDDLE has now filled the void in the record of that aspect of the early logging days with his "Wisconsin Log Marks". He reviews the origin of log marks and their purpose, and has reproduced several hundred examples of registered brands in the St. Croix River, Chippewa River, Ashland and Duluth Lumber Districts. While Peddle disclaims that his 37-page, soft-cover, 8½ x 11" booklet constitutes an exhaustive treatment of the subject, readers will find his treatise a compact summary of most known facts about stamping hammers and log marks. Copies are available at \$4.00 each, postpaid, from Howard Peddle, Box 132, Iron River, WI. 54847.

## Other Member-Authors In The News

Subscribers to the AMERICAN FORESTS magazine will have noted an article in the January, 1981 issue titled "Kindling", written by W. G. YOUNGQUIST of Madison. He is the co-author of the book "Wood in American Life" and gave a paper on that subject at the fourth annual meeting of the Association in September, 1979.

In "Kindling", Youngquist recalls his early years on a northern Wisconsin farm in the "cutover", when white pine stumps provided kindling chips for the kitchen stove fire. His humorous account of the technique used in producing those chips provides interesting and nostalgic reading for those familiar with that aspect of pioneer life.

The Forest History Society (Santa Cruz, CA.) has announced that CHARLES E. TWINING, professor of history at Northland College, Ashland, has been appointed as a research associate and has begun work on a biographical study of John Philip Weyerhaeuser, Jr. Twining won the first Forest History Society Book Award in 1977 for his "Downriver: Orrin H. Graham and the Empire Lumber Company."

## Members In The News

At a January meeting of the Merrill Historical Society, recognition was given to M. N. "Mully" TAYLOR and his wife, Billie, for their dedication, leadership and contributions to that organization's accomplishments and progress since its founding. Taylor was a founder and served as the society's president for three years.

On the same occasion, MARY LAGERBLOOM, librarian at the T. B. Scott Library, presented another segment of a series of slide programs on the "History of Merrill and Lincoln County". The slides were reproduced from old photographs by her, and included a number of references to local sawmills and lumber enterprises during the early 1920's.

## Two Donations Fund Association Publications

It should not be news to anybody that associations of all kinds have been facing financial problems during the past year as the result of rising costs of operation and decreasing revenues. So it is a pleasure to report that two recent donations to F.H.A.W.

have helped it to fund its two most important publications.

This issue of "Chips and Sawdust" was made possible through the generosity of OWENS-ILLINOIS, Forest Products Division at Tomahawk. Similarly, an even more generous donation from the CONNOR FOUNDATION of Wausau has helped to pay a major share of the cost of the 1980 PROCEEDINGS. The Board of Directors is most appreciative of this financial support.

As has been pointed out on other occasions, membership dues alone are inadequate to fund all of the operating and publishing costs of the Association. Additional income must be generated from contributions by individual members and corporations within the forest products industry in order to continue an active program of disseminating knowledge of the state's forest heritage.

## **A Giant Tree Falls In The Woods**

The above captioned headlined a story that appeared in the February 4, 1981 issue of the Sawyer County (WI) Record. No, it did not recount an occurrence in the 1880's. Rather, it was the story of the demise of a giant elm near Seeley which first had died from Dutch Elm disease, then was cut down because it was judged to be a safety threat to snowmobilers passing by on the trail that ran along side of it.

The veteran elm measured 16 feet 5 inches in circumference at the butt end, with a 5-foot 9-inch diameter at its widest point; its height, however, was only 80 feet. Because the butt end was hollow for some distance and rotted beyond, a ring count was made at a height of 34 feet, which indicated an age of 327 years at that point.

To quote reporter Rick Olivo: "Thus ends the tale of a mighty giant of the forest. A tree that had its beginnings at about the time when intrepid French explorers Pierre Esprit Radisson and Medard Chouart Des Groseillers first began the French fur trade in 1658-9. A tree that was growing when Father Rene Menard visited Lac Courte Oreilles in 1661, only to vanish into the mists of time as he travelled down the Chippewa River. It lived when Father Claude Jean Allouez came to La Pointe in 1665. It was already a century old when Jonathan Carver sojourned through the area in 1767. In 1866, when John Corbine, the first white man to permanently reside in what was to become Sawyer County, died, it was already over 200 years old."

Of further interest is the fact that F.H.A.W.'s life member and director, W. D. "BILL" JOHNSON, SR., participated in the salvaging of a portion of the tree's main trunk for display at the Johnson Timber Company's headquarters near Hayward.

# **New Members Department**

**BIERLICH, RICHARD F.**  
625 W. Somo Avenue  
Tomahawk, Wisconsin 54477

**CORRIGAN, CLAYTON H.**  
2301 S. Hiwassee Road  
Choctaw, OK. 73020

**JACKSON, WILLARD M.**  
901 S. Farwell Street — No. 138  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

**LADD, DAVID A.**  
Route 2  
Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

**LODUHA, GREGORY G.**  
Whitecap Mountain Ski Resort  
Montreal, Wisconsin 54550

**PETERSON, ROBERT C.**  
500 Valley Drive  
Barron, Wisconsin 54812

**VALLIER, MRS. JACQUE D.**  
7817 N. Club Circle  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217

**WESTGATE, RONALD A.**  
929 McIndoe Street  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

All members are encouraged to assist the **Membership Committee** in soliciting new members. If you need copies of application forms, brochures describing our objectives or even samples of our publications to help in such promotional efforts, just write to the Secretary for those materials.

## **Members Advance Interests of Other Members**

From time to time, we have publicized the requests of members seeking further information on some aspect of their special interests in a particular subject. We are not always informed on the responses that result from such requests but we are hopeful that most meet with some success. Copies of several communications were recently received which illustrate the value

of such a service.

For example, when it was announced that member WALTER MAYO was looking for maps and records of logging camp sites in Vilas County, member ALICE M. KMIOTEK responded from Greenwich, Connecticut with a suggestion to contact a certain person in Presque Isle. Another example was the request of TOM FULK in California for information on log end marks used by the Nahma Lumber Company of Nahma, Michigan. Stamping hammer collectors KARL BAUMAN of Peshtigo, JACQUE VALLIER of Milwaukee and HOWARD PEDDLE of Iron River were all able to recommend potential sources of such knowledge. There seems to be little question that this type of service can be one of the Association's most important endeavors.

Here's a request that should be of interest to logging railroad buffs; HOWARD PEDDLE, Box 132, Iron River, WI. 54847 would like to hear from any members who have old photos or other information regarding the Jump River Lumber Company logging railroad which ran out of Prentice, WI. in the 1890's. Howard says that he just recently learned that it was one of a very small number of narrow-gauge logging railroads that operated in Wisconsin. He claims that there were at least six of them in Bayfield County and only 3 to 4 others in the whole state. Anybody know differently?

## **“Whatever Happened to..”?**

The Association recently acquired another bit of memorabilia and a valuable addition to its reference library when the TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION contributed a copy of the first edition of its Lumber and Forest Products Industry Directory, published in 1955. This was the very first publication of its kind to have been compiled, and covered the three Lake States of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. It listed all the known sawmills, pulp and paper mills, veneer and plywood mills, wholesale and retail lumber dealers, many kinds of equipment manufacturers, and a number of other categories that served the forest products industry.

Browsing through portions of this work, we were struck by the fact that, in the relatively short span of years since its



publication 25 years ago, many familiar industry personalities have either died or retired from active participation in industry affairs. In the case of corporations, many have become defunct or changed names as the result of ownership changes or mergers.

Although this directory is just that — strictly a listing of names and locations — it does comprise a part of forest history in its most basic form. Researchers and historians should find this compilation of that era's forest-oriented men and companies a most valuable reference.

## **W. Sylvester**

### **New Publications Editor**

W. "BILL" SYLVESTER, forestry professor at the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, has accepted his appointment by the Board of Directors as Publications Editor.

He succeeds BONNIE LODUHA of Madison, who resigned last fall to accept full-time employment in a teaching capacity at a day-care center.

Sylvester has had wide experience with various editing and publishing activities, in his current capacity as a teacher and in his prior association with Trees-for-Tomorrow. He has also authored numerous articles, including a monograph on Wisconsin's school and community forests.

## **1980 Proceedings Published**

By the time this issue of "Chips and Sawdust" is received, every member in good standing should have received his/her copy of the PROCEEDINGS of the FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING. If not, there may have been an addressing error, resulting in non-delivery (3rd and 4th class mail is not forwarded). Please be sure to notify the Association secretary whenever your address changes.

Additional copies of the PROCEEDINGS are available at \$3.75 per copy, postpaid.

# “Retrospection”

By Joe A. Moran

Glidden, Wisconsin

**Clam** Lake's shimmering mirror smiles,  
Her bosky shorelines frown,  
We're far away from town today,  
Out where the pine went down.

Huge crumbling stumps stand fraught with proof  
Of man's commercial greed,  
Pathetic symbols down the years  
Which all may see and read.

We rest our oars in reverie  
As plaintive snipes flit low,  
To muse and dream in solitude  
Of drama long ago.

In fancy rollways break and roar  
And drivers wildly shout;  
The blood is stirred as if by wine,  
Again the jam goes out.

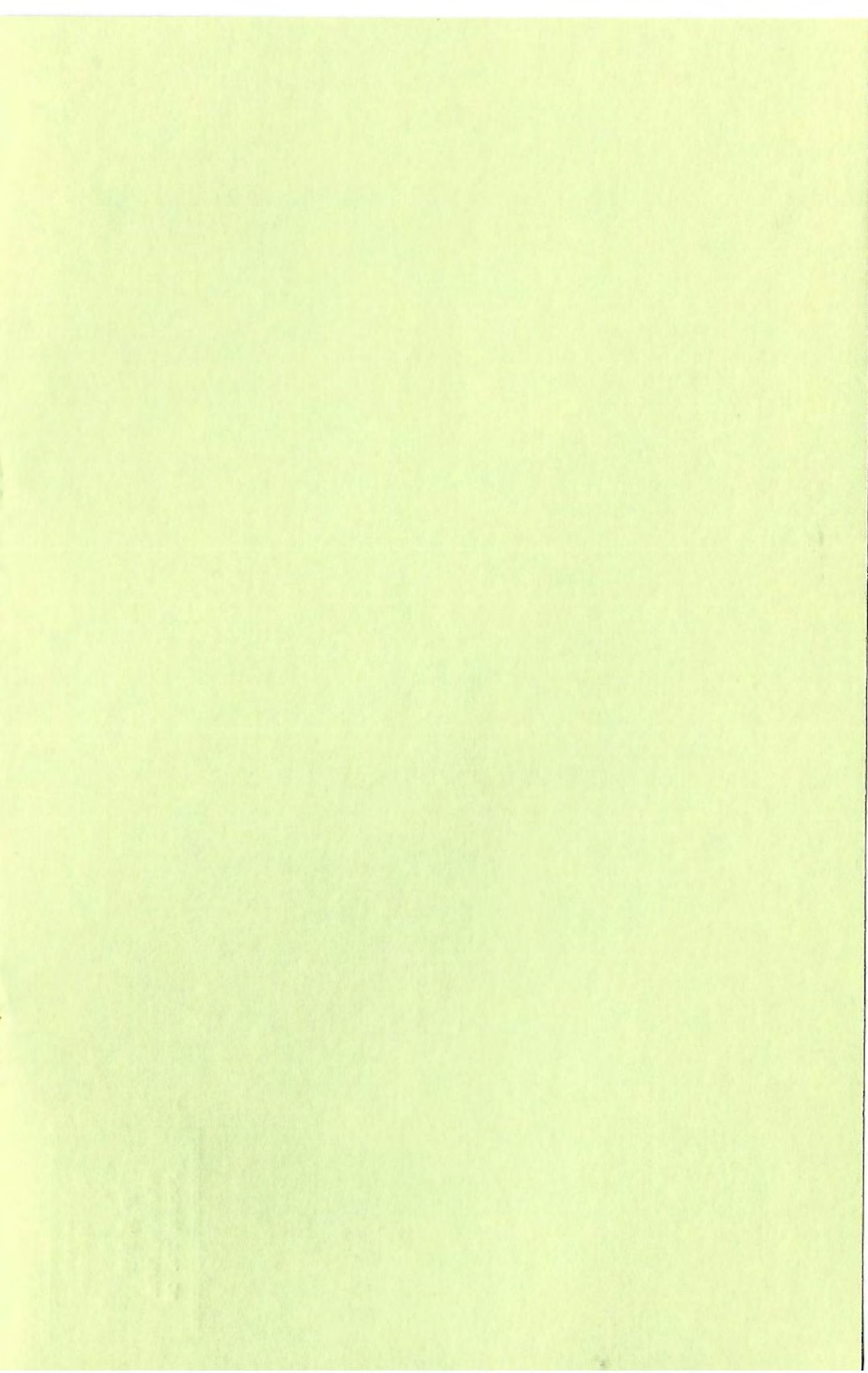
Here once the far-flung drive passed on,  
The Chippewa darkly rolled,  
Entangled thousands, thudding logs  
And batteaux stoutly poled.

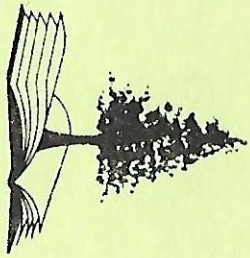
A ruined capstan holds the strand  
To tell of long-drawn booms,  
There rivermen were wont to strain,  
Below the sluice gate looms.

Anon the shifting scene we gaze,  
Charmed by true waves of gold —  
A thorofare for savage men  
In view is now unrolled.

A sachem stands in haughty mien  
And scouts from yonder hill,  
A blasted pine-stub crowns the height  
Where all is peace and still.

The spell of retrospection breaks,  
As evening clouds arch low,  
A whippoorwill calls dulcet notes,  
We rouse at this and row.





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