

Chips and **Sawdust**



A Newsletter

From

Forest History

Association of Wisconsin

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Fourth Annual Meeting Set for September 28, 29

Mark your calendars now! September 28 and 29, 1979 are the dates for the Fourth Annual Meeting of Members. Two half-day sessions, beginning with dinner on Friday evening and concluding with lunch on Saturday, will be complemented at the member's option, by a self-guided tour of the area surrounding the meeting site, both before and after the formal gatherings.

Site of this year's program will be the Wausau School Forest, on the banks of the historic Wisconsin River, between Big Bull Falls (Wausau) and Little Bull Falls (Mosinee).

Details of the program, available accommodations, map guide, costs and registration forms will be mailed to members later in August.

Strack's "Witnesses In Green" Printed in State Magazine

The June issue of the WISCONSIN ACADEMY REVIEW, quarterly magazine of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, features an article by AL STRACK, one of our Association's author-members. Titled "Witnesses in Green", Strack describes a number of trees still existing in Wisconsin today which have witnessed many of "the political, socioeconomic and ecological changes" that have occurred since even before early pioneer days.

Strack is a teacher at Manawa's high school, with a special interest in tree farming on his 20 acres surrounding his home near Iola.

It is also noteworthy in this same issue of the Academy's quarterly that a full column (on page 34) is devoted to a description of our Association's activities and objectives. F.H.A.W. is one of 22 affiliates of the Academy.

F.H.A.W. Reference Library Service Is Now Available

One of the several services that the Association can perform for members is to provide a temporary depository for memoirs, manuscripts, photos, reports and other records related to forest history.

A recent example occurred when WILLIAM YOST, Park Falls, retired from the Flambeau Paper Company. In the process of cleaning out his files of extraneous material of no value to his successor, Bill found that he had accumulated, as an officer of the long-defunct Lake States Council of Industrial Foresters, a substantial file of that organization's meetings, field trips and other activities. He thought that perhaps some future researcher might find those records of considerable value in documenting any account of forestry progress made by Wisconsin forest industry. We couldn't agree more. Accordingly, Bill donated those files to the Association with the hope that eventually they will find a permanent home in a centralized reference library devoted exclusively to Wisconsin forest history.

Perhaps, some day, the Association may grow influential enough in both numbers and financing to develop just such a facility!

F.H.A.W. Scholarship Fund Is Established

The Board of Directors has given final approval to the establishment of a scholarship fund to encourage study and research in the field of forest history.

The opportunity to win two \$200 awards annually is available to students majoring in forestry at either of the University of Wisconsin's two schools of natural resources, located at Madison and Stevens Point.

Details of eligibility and the basis for selection of the winners can be obtained by writing to the secretary of F.H.A.W., or to the respective deans of the two schools.

Our Annual Public Service To Wisconsin Readers

Perhaps many members are not aware that their dues help to provide copies of our PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING to every public library, many institutional libraries and most historical societies throughout the state every year. The free distribution is made to approximately 520 such organizations as a public service and educational effort.

According to a directory of Wisconsin libraries, the population served by them numbers 3,150,883 (1978). On that basis, the potential number of readers that would have an opportunity to learn about our Association and its program could approach one million. We don't expect to be overwhelmed with membership applications as a result of such possible exposure, but at least 370 librarians should know that we exist and will be in a position to refer scholars and researchers to us as another source of information they may be seeking.

Wisconsin Area Railroad Forestry Programs Detailed

The promotion of forestry and reforestation by American railroads since the early 1870's is detailed in the April 1979 issue of the JOURNAL OF FOREST HISTORY, quarterly journal of the national Forest History Society. Of special interest to Wisconsinites are several brief references to programs of the 3 principal railroads presently operating within the state.

Author of the illustrated article, Roy V. Scott, has documented his facts with extensive citations. He cites, for example, a 1954 annual report of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company, wherein it was claimed that railroad had planted, over a six-year period, more than 2.5 million seedlings on its own property as well as on privately-owned lands.

Scott also stated "in 1947, it (Chicago and Northwestern) planted twelve acres of jack pine on railroad land near Spooner, Wisconsin, hoping to encourage small landowners in the area to devote more attention to reforestation". (Editor's note:

Not mentioned in this regard was the fact that this was done cooperatively with planting machines furnished by the industrial forestry department of the Mosinee Paper Mills Company which was then engaged in a large-scale reforestation program of its own in northwestern Wisconsin.)

A Voice From the Past

Many of our readers will recall that D. C. Everest, president of Marathon Corporation at Rothschild, was one of Wisconsin's foremost industrialists and a leader in the pulp and paper industry during the first half of this century. Recently, we received from W. ROY WELCH of Winnetka, Ill., a former employee and good friend of Everest's, a booklet which was a reprint of a speech given by Everest in Chicago on June 18, 1945.

In prefacing his remarks on that occasion, Everest said, "perhaps one sticks his neck out in predicting the future, but that has been done before by many people and . . . I am about to do it again".

It should be remembered that this was five weeks after V-E Day and two months before V-J Day.

Everest then went on to say: "If we are to accept the estimates of (paper) consumption in the postwar years as reported by several well-known students of the subject, we would be dealing with figures ranging from 20 to 25 million tons annually. Personally, I cannot agree that we will reach these levels for some time to come The first thing that must be considered is pulpwood supply We are faced with great competition for the available supply of men who will go into the forests and produce sawlogs and pulpwood. There has been some mechanization in the industry which may help but there are also millions of young men who have been out of the logging locations for several years. They have seen a lot of country and it is questionable whether they will be content to engage in that kind of work.

They have probably seen all the camps they care to . . . for awhile The small portable sawmill, of which there are 15,000 to 18,000 in the southern states, will be a constant menace to pulpwood production On the west coast the timber is pretty well allocated (to sawmills) and the only way I can see

to increase the supply (of pulpwood) is by the utilization of small timber which will be logged in advance of the regular operations in big timber The supply in the Northeast and in the Lake States region is diminishing and even with the efforts being made in reforestation and approved forestry practices there is bound to be a gap in the production of pulpwood before the productivity of these regions can be built up. With an estimated demand for 17 million cords of pulpwood this year (1945), the minimum rate at which I believe the demand will continue for a number of years, you can readily realize that the production of wood becomes our most important job and on it depends the success of the industry and its ability to meet the demand for pulp, paper and paperboard."

Clark Everest was foresighted in many respects in his time, but he could hardly be faulted for failing to predict the truly phenomenal growth that took place in the 30 years following that speech in Chicago. By 1974, pulpwood consumption increased almost five-fold to 82.2 million cords, including 27 million cords of chips and sawdust that were obtained from slabs, edgings and veneer cores. During the same period, paper consumption nearly tripled to 65.5 million tons, or 618 pounds per capita in 1974.

Early and Late Forest History

What has happened to Wisconsin's forest land wealth in the past half century?

In 1930, there were 16,200,000 acres classified as forest land, or 5.5 acres per capita, according to a special land use report made to Governor LaFollette in 1932. At that time, Norway had a per capita forest acreage of 6.5 acres, France 0.6 acre, Germany 0.5 acre and Europe as a whole, 4.4 acres per capita.

A 1979 report by the Wisconsin Committee on Forest Productivity stated that there are now only 14,479,000 acres of commercial forest land. The reduction due to urbanization, highway and power-line clearing, recreational development and other conversions has resulted in there being only 3.3 acres per capita at this time.

It seems apparent that if such a trend continues, it bodes ill for the state's wood-using industries, particularly since the demand for wood and wood products is projected to double in the next 50 years.



