



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

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1979-80

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First Scholarship Awards Presented by F.H.A.W.

Two \$200 scholarship awards, the first ever made by the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, were presented earlier this spring at recognition events held at the two forestry schools in the state.

Recipients of the cash gifts were Susan K. Bulmer of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, and Debra L. Casucci of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Forestry.

Miss Bulmer, a junior from Schofield, WI., is majoring in forestry with a minor in outdoor education and has a 3.25 grade point average. Miss Casucci, from Beloit, WI., and also a junior, is a forest science major with a 3.31 average. Both young women have been active student members of the Society of American Foresters and both have worked part-time to help pay for their education.

Old-Time Logging Injuries Common, "Scrapbook" Tells

If workmen's compensation policies had been in effect during the heyday of logging in the Wisconsin pineries, logging contractors probably would have had to pay some horrendous rates because of the high frequency and severity of accidents.

The "Sawyer County Record", in its weekly "History's Scrapbook" column, provides an insight into that problem with this item, dated February 14, 1895.

"Patients admitted to the Dr. Cox Hospital this week. Andrew Anderson, Colbroth's Camp, fractured arm; Harry King, Pally's Camp, acute articular rheumatism; C. G. Bright, Stuckey & McPherson's Camp, hypochondriasis; John McGinnis, Chippewa River, varicose ulcer; John Stinson, England's Camp, severe internal injuries; George Brokaw, Springbrook, jammed leg; Joseph Chrystal, Colbroth's Camp, spinal injury."

* * * *

1837 — The first known permission was given by Indians to white men to cut timber and build sawmills on Chippewa Indian lands in the St. Croix River Valley.

Forest History Literature Bibliography Is Distributed

The long-awaited "Bibliography of Wisconsin Forest History Literature" finally went to press in April and distribution to members is in process, climaxing a two-year effort of compilation and editing by Association members. Free distribution will also be made to most libraries and local historical societies in the state.

The "Bibliography", a "first" in Wisconsin, provides a long-needed reference work for both the casual reader of forest history and the serious researcher. With a listing of over 1000 titles of books, articles, pamphlets and unpublished theses, it represents the most comprehensive compilation of such material currently available.

Credit for bringing the project to a successful conclusion goes to BONNIE LODUHA of Madison, who has been the Association's publications editor for the past year. She says, however, that her efforts could not have been sustained without the encouragement and assistance of RAMON HERNANDEZ, director of the McMillian Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, and L. G. SORDEN, author and professor emeritus, Madison.

1980-81 F.H.A.W. Budget Poses Possible Dilemma

With the current fiscal year rapidly coming to a close, (June 30th) F.H.A.W. directors and officers are again facing the recurring problem of financing operations for the following year. Balancing the budget while still maintaining a reasonable level of services is a perennial dilemma, as is well known through all levels of society and government.

Most members are aware that Association dues were raised last January. However, that modest increase — the first since the original dues schedule was adopted over four years ago — will be inadequate to cover normal operating costs as tentatively projected. Association services have been quite dependent on cash gifts, grants and donations in the past. We have been fortunate

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1883 — The first veneer plant in Wisconsin was established by the Frost Veneer Company in Antigo.

nate to have had sufficient supplemental financial support from a number of corporations, foundations and even some individual members. Without that additional income, it would not have been possible to publish and distribute "Chips and Sawdust", the annual "Proceedings" and more recently, the "Bibliography".

Now, under current economic conditions, potential donors are becoming scarcer and increasingly difficult to reach. Time and travel costs often preclude the personal contact necessary for successful solicitations. Obviously, our officers and directors can't do the job alone. Therefore, they appeal to all members at large to approach prospective donors in their local spheres of influence, and try to convince them that the Association's objectives and action programs are worthy of their financial support. Please remember to stress that F.H.A.W. is classified as a non-profit educational organization, contributions to which are tax deductible.

Annual Meeting Program Set for Sept. 27, Finalized

The agenda for the 1980 annual members meeting has been decided upon and most arrangements made, according to recent word from the chairman of the planning committee, DR. RICHARD BROWN of Eau Claire. The all-day event is scheduled for September 27, 1980 at the Chippewa Valley Museum in Carson Park, Eau Claire.

Dr. Brown and his committee have put together an outstanding program centered around the theme of "Pine Logging in Northwest Wisconsin". Innovative features include a videotape presentation titled "Queen of the Pineries" and entertainment by the Voyageurs of Northland College, Ashland.

Full details will be mailed later this summer, but members are forewarned that advance registrations will be required in order to assure that adequate provisions are made for the expected large attendance.

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1887 — The first integrated pulp and paper mill on the Wisconsin River was built by the Centralia Pulp and Water Power Company near Wisconsin Rapids by converting a saw-mill already on the site.

Lumber Production Costs 100 Years Ago Were "High"

Sawmill operators and lumber haulers need no reminder these days of the prevailing high costs of production and transportation. But perhaps they can get a wry chuckle or two from similar complaints that were made nearly 100 years ago (1882), as recounted by member CHARLES TWINING in his book "Downriver". In this biography of the pioneer lumberman Orrin H. Ingram and his Empire Lumber Company, Twining documents how the sawmills of that day in the Eau Claire area were plagued by costs such as these:

Stumpage	\$3.00/M Bd. Ft.
Logging, including hauling from stump to stream bank	4.00
Scaling, driving, sorting, booming ...	1.47
Delay in delivery (interest costs) ...	0.19
Log losses en route to mill	0.80
Sawmilling	3.00
Crib construction and rafting to Mississippi River	0.75
Additional rafting downriver and breakage of lumber	1.75
TOTAL	\$14.96/M Bd. Ft.

The downriver town of Hannibal, Missouri, was then a principal lumber market for the rapidly expanding farm lands of the Great Plains. Lumber prices that year ranged from \$11.00/M bd. ft. for "culls" to \$17.00 for boards and "strips". Four years later (1886) production and milling costs, from stump to retail lumber yard averaged only \$12.09, with the average lumber sale price, however, being \$15.20/M bd. ft.

Dates to Remember...

July 25-27: World Lumberjack Championship, Hayward

August 22-23: Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Annual meeting, Port Edwards, Y.M.C.A.

September 4-6: Logging Congress — Timber Producers Association of Wisconsin-Michigan, Chippewa Falls

September 27: Forest History Association of Wisconsin Annual Meeting, Eau Claire

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1872 — The first groundwood pulp mill in Wisconsin was built by Colonel Frambach at Kaukauna.

Tall Timber Tale Told By An Old Lumberjack

We are indebted to member BILL O'GARA of Wisconsin Rapids for the following contribution. An old lumberjack friend of his, Jim Clark, now in his late eighties and living in Maple Plain, Minnesota, wrote this whimsical summary of his life as a logger and railroader in west central Wisconsin. It is a nostalgic reminder of the hardships those early-day pioneers of the pineries had to endure, yet for the most part, did so with fortitude and pride in their accomplishments:

TOTE ROADS & TALL TIMBER TALES

I have swamped out trails for ox teams, horse teams and go-devils. I have cut out roads for the sleigh haul; I rode the water tank to the landing and back to ice the roads; I hitched the old mule to the pung to haul out picnic dinners to the crew when it was 40 below zero. I have cooked, bullcooked and barnbossed; I have towed the hill, doubled the hill, hayed the hill, and sanded the rut; I have cat-hauled, bull-hauled and cross-hauled; I have loaded logs with a single line, a jammer and a gin pole; I have unloaded logs from cars, sleighs, and go devils. I have pulled enough slack to break a mule's back. I have worked the dry role, broke jams and rode through wildcat rapids on a two-part raft on the Flambeau River. There were Big Falls, Little Falls, Beaver Dam Falls, Slough Gundy, and Josie Island. I have braked on passenger, local and log trains and knew all the cross ties to the end of the line. This sawlog saga is from the lower bunk behind the heating stove in the men's sleeping shanty. But with all this, I don't meet all the requirements of the forgotten man.

Sincerely, Jim Clark

P.S. Has anyone seen the road monkey?

Tanning Industry Photos, Information Wanted

ROBERT RUSCH of Rib Lake, WI, has a special interest in the Union Tanning Company and the U. S. Leather Company, firms that were predecessors of the Rib Lake Lumber Company. He will welcome any information about those tanneries, and will particularly appreciate the loan of photographs of their operations.

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1841 — The first law was enacted regulating the construction of dams on navigable rivers for log driving purposes.

“The Saga of New Wood Country” Now Available

The Association has received a number of requests in recent months for copies of M. N. TAYLOR's history of the New Wood area of southwestern Lincoln County. This account originally appeared as a special feature in the March, 1979 issue of the WISCONSIN ACADEMY REVIEW, quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. That organization provided F.H.A.W. with reprints which were sent to all members at the time. Unfortunately, the supply of reprints has been exhausted.

However, diligent effort by JIM BATT, executive director of WASAL and also a member of our Association resulted in turning up some extra copies of the WISCONSIN ACADEMY REVIEW. These are now available to F.H.A.W. members at \$1.00 per copy to cover postage and handling costs. First come, first served!

C.C.C. Alumni To Meet In Eagle River June 6 & 7

Undoubtedly a number of F.H.A.W. members participated, in one way or another, in the Civilian Conservation Corps program of the Depression Years. A special invitation is extended to them by KEN ELLIOTT and BILL WOLFF, president and vice-president of the Wisconsin Chapter No. 23 of the National Association of C.C.C. Alumni, to attend the first annual spring meeting of that group, to be held on June 6-7, 1980 at the Trees-for-Tomorrow Environmental Center in Eagle River.

The first day's evening program will include two films of particular interest to F.H.A.W. members: "The Thunder Lake Narrow Gauge Logging Railroad" and "Wisconsin's Forests". A bus tour on the second day will visit a number of C.C.C. projects that are still evident in the nearby Nicolet National Forest.

Additional information can be obtained by writing to Trees-for-Tomorrow, or by phoning 715-479-6456.

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1850 — The first railroad was built (Milwaukee and Mississippi) which became the base line for branches that depended on timber resources for a major portion of their freight revenues.

Emmett B. Hurst

One of Wisconsin's foremost forestry pioneers, Emmett B. Hurst, 80, died March 4, 1980 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Hurst was one of the first professional foresters employed by a wood-using industry in the Lake States. A graduate of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, he was hired in 1930 by the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company to inaugurate its industrial forestry program. This he did by starting its first tree nursery at Biron, WI., as a preliminary to an extensive reforestation program. During Hurst's tenure of 37 years with Consolidated, the company acquired 230,000 acres of forest land in Wisconsin. He retired in 1968.

Hurst served as president of Trees-for-Tomorrow and was a director and subsequent officer of the American Pulpwood Association. He was also a 50-year member of the Society of American Foresters.

Friends and former associates may send memorials to the First Congregational Church, or the Opportunity Development Center, both at Wisconsin Rapids.

1867 — The first forestry commission in Wisconsin was authorized by the state legislature, to study forest destruction in the state.

Secretary - Treasurer
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Please send me the following publications as indicated:

1979 Proceedings of Annual Meeting	copies @ \$3.50/copy
1977 and 1978 Proceeding of Annual Meetings	sets @ \$2.50 / set
1976, 1977 and 1978 Proceeding of Annual Meetings	sets @ \$3.50 / set
Bibliography of Wisconsin Forest History	copies @ \$3.75/copy
History of Nicolet National Forest	copies @ \$3.75/copy
Total Amount Enclosed	

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

