



A Newsletter
From
Forest History
Association of Wisconsin
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Two Scholarships Again Awarded By Association

For the second successive year, scholarships were awarded by F.H.A.W. to a forestry student at each of the two forestry schools in the state.

The 1981 recipients of the \$100 cash awards were Steve Ziobro, Brookfield, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Terry D. Droessler, Dickeyville, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Association's award to Ziobro was somewhat overshadowed several weeks later when he was awarded a fellowship for graduate work at the University of Michigan by the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation. The stipend is reported to be worth about \$12,000.

Ziobro had an accumulated grade point average of 3.92 on a 4.0 scale and ranked first in a class of 184. Droessler ranked second in his class, behind last year's scholarship winner, with a G.P.A. of 3.23. Both students have been active in extra-curricula programs and have served summer internships with forestry organizations.

Sylvester Honored By Society Of American Foresters

At a February, 1981 joint meeting of the Wisconsin and Michigan Sections of the Society of American Foresters, WILLIAM SYLVESTER of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was named to be the first recipient of the John Macon Award of Merit. The award was established by the family of the late John Macon to recognize annually a professional forester who has made outstanding contribution in the field of forest management in Wisconsin.

At the same session in Green Bay, Sylvester was also appointed as editor of the Wisconsin Society's newsletter which formerly was published by the two-state section before separation into individual operating units in 1980. Sylvester plans to have the first edition of the new publication ready by the end of July.

Call For Distinguished Service Award Nominations

With the approach of the 1981 annual members meeting, nominations for the Distinguished Service Awards are again being called for by the committee responsible for the selections. Since its inception, F.H.A.W. has annually honored one individual and one organization for noteworthy contributions made toward the preservation of Wisconsin's forest heritage.

Members are asked to submit their nominations not later than July 31st. Previous recipients of the distinction have been: L. G. SORDEN, GEORGE A. CORRIGAN, WALTER E. SCOTT and FRANK N. FIXMER. Organizational awards were made to Camp Five Logging Museum, (MRS. GORDON R. CONNOR), Menominee Logging Camp Museum (MR. & MRS. JACQUE D. VALLIER), Trees-for-Tomorrow (EARL PLOURDE, Exec. Dir.), and Rhinelander Logging Museum (Senior Citizens of Rhinelander).

Does Your Library Want Future F.H.A.W. Publications

For the past four years, the Association has distributed, free of charge, its PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING to most libraries and local historical societies throughout the state. Unfortunately, we had no idea to what extent this service was appreciated, or for that matter even used for the benefit of the library patrons. In those four years, only two or three institutions had even acknowledged receipt of the PROCEEDINGS.

Now, due to increasing costs of publication and handling, as well as limited funding, the Board of Directors has been forced to reconsider that policy. Accordingly, the 1980 PROCEEDINGS were sent, free of charge as usual, but with a letter explaining the situation and requesting that an accompanying form be returned which would retain the recipient on the mailing list to receive future issues. Only in this manner could we be assured that there is some degree of interest in F.H.A.W. and its publications.

Members can assist in promoting such interest by visiting their local libraries and local historical societies to urge the responsible individuals to return that form. Please remind them that failure to respond will automatically remove them from the mailing list to receive the 1981 PROCEEDINGS and other literature that may be published in the current year.

(Editors Note: See last page for follow-up story.)

Steam Hauler That Survived A Forest Fire

The March issue of the NICOLET NEWS, monthly newsletter published by the Nicolet National Forest supervisor's office in Rhinelander, reproduced a picture found hanging on the wall of the Long Lake (Forest County) Guard Station. The photograph showed a crawler-type steam hauler pulling a string of sleighs loaded with hardwood logs and was captioned: "Anderson & Bergland — Alvin, Wisconsin Camp at Siding 83".

"SYM" TERHUNE, editor of the NICOLET NEWS, wanted to hear from anyone who might have any knowledge of that logging operation. Subsequently he did get responses from a couple of Forest Service retirees, notably one from F.H.A.W.'s newest director, KEN ELLIOTT of Rhinelander. Ken's letter was printed in the April issue of the NICOLET NEWS and said in part:

"The steam hauler (in the picture) hauled logs...to the siding...of the Holt Lumber Company logging railroad...loaded and hauled to their sawmill at Oconto, Wisconsin (in the early 1920's). Don't know what happened to Mr. Bergland of Anderson & Bergland, but Siever Anderson continued to log in the area. He purchased stumpage...on the Nicolet National Forest until sometime in the 1940's. I scaled on one of his sales in 1942."

"After the steam hauler (or "snow snake," as it was sometimes called) was taken out of use, it was stored at Tipler, Wis. There it went through the forest wildfire that destroyed the village of Tipler in 1931. It is believed that this is the same steam hauler that was refurbished and placed on display in the Logging Museum at Rhinelander, where it still is. The picture, 30" long by 8" high, has been reprinted and will be sold this summer for \$1.00 each at the Logging Museum."

This series of events is another good example of how history may be kept alive through the efforts of F.H.A.W. members and others interested enough to help preserve our forest heritage.

Contemporary History Being Made By Wis. Paper Industry

According to the Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin's paper industry is still flourishing and continuing to grow. To quote from a lead article in its quarterly newsletter WISCONSIN

PAPER NEWS, "for the past 20 years, Wisconsin papermakers have consistently produced about 11 percent of the total American production."

"Currently, there are 47 pulp and paper mills within the state's borders providing jobs for an estimated 48,000 employees. Their annual salary exceeds \$900 million."

"Two major expansion projects during the past year —one in the Fox River Valley and one in the Wisconsin River Valley— helped expand Wisconsin's papermaking capacity to an estimated 3.85 million tons per year, a record high."

"More paper products are manufactured in Wisconsin than in any other state, and these expansions and at least a half dozen other machine rebuilds and modifications during 1980 are expected to insure the state's position as a national leader."

"Combined with sawmills and other forest products industries, this manufacturing sector is the leading employer in 24 Wisconsin counties and is second or third largest in another 22."

Executive Director of the Wisconsin Paper Council is F.H.A.W. member THOMAS H. SCHMIDT, Neenah; he is also editor of the PAPER NEWS.

Ashland County's Timber Resource In 1893 Listed

The ASHLAND DAILY PRESS in 1893 printed an annual edition which summarized the log cut for that year with a listing of the various lumber companies' production. It also provided a "conservative estimate" of the timber volume believed to exist in Ashland County. This was given as 10 billion board feet, of which almost 4½ billion was pine and 3 billion hemlock. Stumpage prices at the time averaged \$4.00 for pine and \$1.00 for hemlock.

The log cut in the Ashland Lumber District, which consisted of present-day Ashland and Bayfield counties as well as portions of Douglas and Iron counties, was reported to be 500,000,000 board feet, of which 300 million were sawed in the mills on Chequamegon Bay.

The ASHLAND DAILY PRESS also said: "What cotton is to the South, what corn is to Illinois, what silver is to Colorado, lumber is to the New Wisconsin. The city of Ashland will be the great lumber center of this vast region for the next twenty years at least. Chicago buyers are swarming north, for the reason that the southern land craze is dying out, and eastern buyers are picking up all the uppers and better grades of lumber through the old pineries. Ashland has more lumber inspectors and lumber merchants than any other city on Lake Superior."

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Do Libraries Appreciate Receiving F.H.A.W.'s Annual Proceedings?

Last February, all libraries and local historical societies on F.H.A.W.'s mailing lists were asked to return a form requesting that they be retained on that list to receive future editions of the ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS OF MEMBERS MEETING. At press-time, we have had only 90-odd responses from about 650 such organizations that have been receiving this publication free of charge for the past four years.

We are at a loss to explain this apparent lack of interest. It is understandable, perhaps, that libraries in counties in the southeastern portion of the state, which have no special history of logging and lumbering, do not have many patrons interested in forest history and therefore have not wanted to accumulate such publications. What is not understandable is the disinterest of hundreds in the still forested areas of the state with a rich heritage of pioneer lumbering days. F.H.A.W. members are again urged to contact their local librarians and officers of their local historical societies to make sure that they have not overlooked the need to have their units continued on our mailing list.

Some of those that did respond also added some comments that indicated their appreciation of our Association's free service, viz.:

"...our patrons do use this material...the papers usually cover unusual aspects of logging (history) which add to the regular information found in books."

"...extremely helpful in Wisconsin history questions...."

"...the issues are used by students doing research in Wisconsin history...."

Surprisingly, a number accompanied their responses with cash contributions toward publication costs. The Board of Directors at its May meeting, gratefully acknowledged these donations and hoped that a trend was being set as adequate funding for publishing venture is becoming an increasing problem.

History of Forest Fire Protection In Wisconsin

As we go to press, forest rangers are gradually relaxing after the usual spate of spring forest fires. Fortunately, for many owners of timberlands and rural properties, no really serious fires occurred of the magnitude of those in 1977 and 1980. But even those were relatively small compared to the catastrophies of 1871, 1891, 1894 and several in the early 1900's.

Among F.H.A.W.'s increasing collection of reference works is a booklet titled FOREST FIRES AND FOREST FIRE CONTROL IN WISCONSIN. It was co-authored in 1952 by Association member NEIL LEMAY of Tomahawk, former chief forest ranger in the old Wisconsin Conservation Department, and by J.A. Mitchell of the then Lake States Forest Experiment Station. This historical record of forest protection activities is a storehouse of information about the development of the forest fire protection effort in Wisconsin and relates the gradual expansion and improvement of equipment, facilities, personnel and funding that eventually led to the efficient organization of today.

Beginning with this issue, CHIPS AND SAWDUST will include a series of excerpts from FOREST FIRES AND FOREST FIRE CONTROL IN WISCONSIN because, along with logging, lumbering, early land use and forestry, forest fires have played an important part in the history and development of Wisconsin.

from:

"Forest Fire & Forest Fire Control in Wisconsin"

(A historical record of forest protection activities in Wisconsin)

J. A. Mitchell, Lake States Forest Experiment Station
and Neil LeMay, Wisconsin Conservation Department. 1952.

Development of Protection Effort

Organized forest fire control was slow in getting under way in Wisconsin. Early protection effort was confined to legislation outlawing unauthorized fires, providing a penalty for willfully or carelessly allowing fire to escape, and restricting the use of fire in dry times. Not until 1895, when town chairmen and road superintendents were made ex officio fire wardens with authority to take action on fires and the chief clerk of the Land Commission was designated state forest warden, was public responsibility for fire control recognized. While a semblance of a protection organization

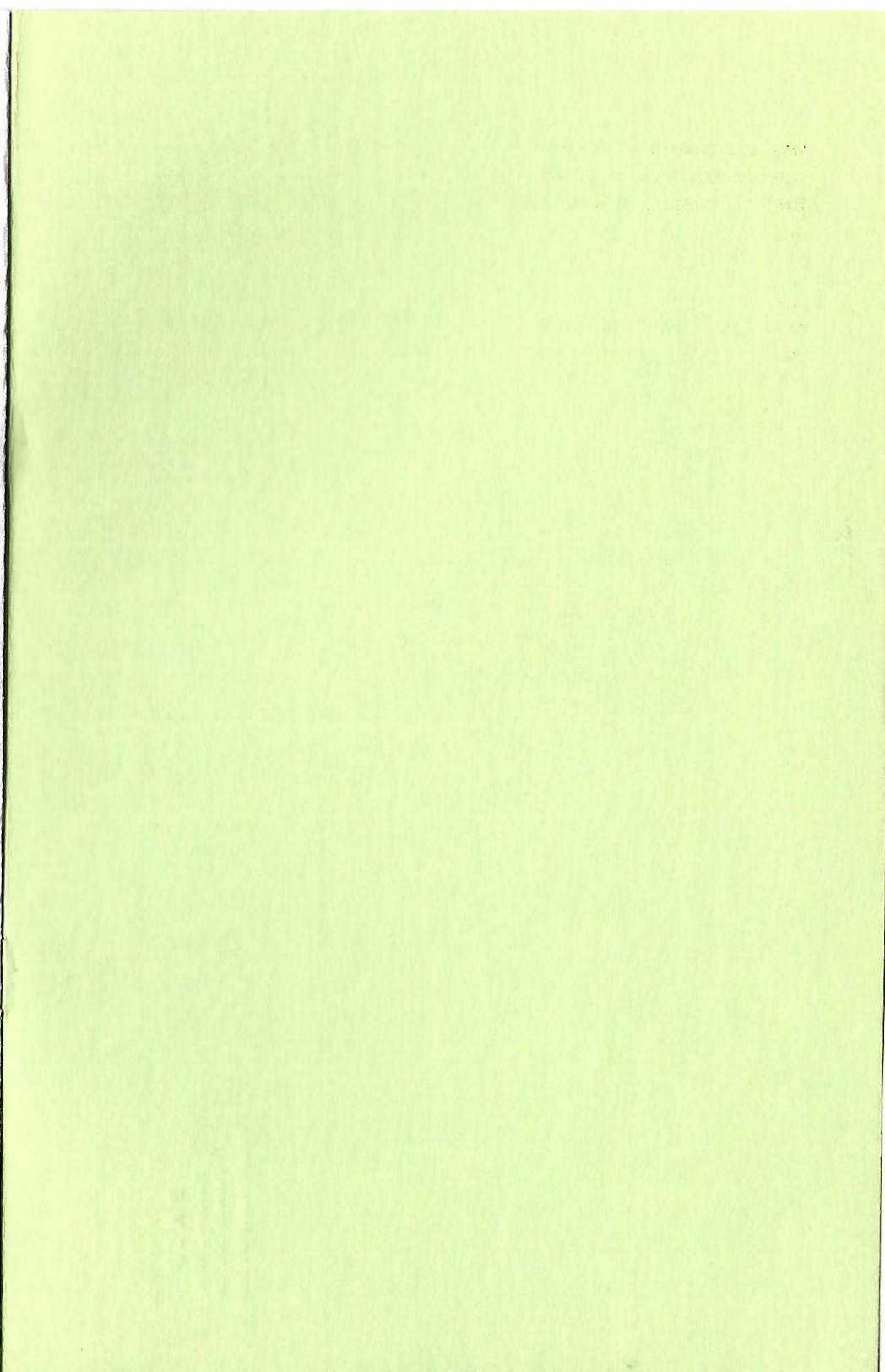
was thus provided for, little was accomplished due to public indifference and lack of funds. The usual practise at the time when fires threatened was to backfire around farms and settlements and let the fires burn themselves out.

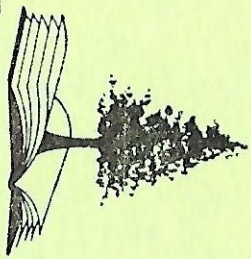
Active participation by the State in forest fire control began in 1904 with the establishment of a State Forestry Department, and the appointment of E. M. Griffith, a technically-trained forester, as superintendent of forests (later state forester) with authority to appoint the town fire wardens. Some 249 fire wardens were appointed with instructions to post fire warnings, enforce the fire laws, urge care in the use of fire, report fires that occurred, and organize local protection effort. While these men had authority to hire fire fighters, they had no equipment and expenditures were limited to \$100 per year per township, payable by the town boards on the certification of the state forester. Reluctance of the town boards to pay for fire fighting and public apathy in regard to the enforcement of the fire laws also limited their effectiveness. Attention was called, however, to the need for forest protection and reports were made of the fires on which action was taken. By 1908 over 300 fire wardens were functioning in 33 counties and approximately 15 million acres were under nominal protection. (See figure 5A). In 1908, also, an inspector was employed by the State to check the condition of locomotives and railroad right-of-ways in an effort to secure compliance with the railroad fire laws and to reduce the number of railroad fires.

The bad fires in 1908 and 1910 demonstrated the total inadequacy of the effort being made to control forest fires. The action of the 1911 legislature in taking the appointment of local fire wardens out of the hands of state foresters and again making town chairmen and road supervisors ex officio fire wardens only made matters worse, since few town officials were interested and the state forester had little authority over them. As a result forest protection became more or less a dead letter.

Starting in 1903, the State had set aside, or acquired by gift, purchase, or exchange, over a quarter of a million acres of wild land, mostly cut-over, in Vilas and adjoining counties as a nucleus for a forest reserve. In March 1911 a ranger examination was held at Rhinelander and 11 rangers were appointed. E. M. Weaver was made head manager and a headquarters camp established on Trout Lake in Vilas County. In addition, federal cooperation under Section 2 of the Weeks Law made possible the employment of 11 seasonal fire patrolmen. This marked the beginning of a state protection organization.

(Continued in August Edition)





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