



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

**Vol. V No. 3**

**August 1980**

# Officers & Directors

## 1979-80

John H. Saemann, *President*

Retired U. W. Ext. Forester  
Florence, WI 54121

Howard S. Lovestead, *Vice-President*

Forest Manager, Consolidated Papers  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Frank N. Fixmer, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Retired Industrial Forester  
Mosinee, WI 54455

Jay H. Cravens

Professor — U. W.-Stevens Point  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

George A. Corrigan

Retired Logger — Author  
Saxon, WI 54559

William P. Yost

Retired Industrial Forester  
Butternut, WI 54514

L. G. Sorden

Professor Emeritus, U.W.-Madison  
Madison, WI 53711

# **"Pulling Deadheads"**

## **With President Saemann**

Our newsletter editor has requested that I start a "message-from-the-president" column. I'm willing to give it a try, but I'm not much of an historian, having done very little research and written only a few columns for the "Marinette County Historian". I would like to see other officers and members of the Board of Directors share responsibility for this column in future issues of "Chips and Sawdust".

I've always been interested in pulling deadheads — those relics of the long-gone river drives — hence the above caption. I've never actually done any on my own; just helped friends a few times along the Menominee and Peshtigo rivers, but I sure would like to learn more about this little known activity. We have one member from Marinette County — PETER WEBBER — who is a prolific writer and a real authority on the Menominee River and the logs that were lost during the drives on that watershed; he ought to do a paper on this subject.

Some of you readers may know that I now live in the Town of Fern, Florence County. Recently, our town clerk looked into the history of our town and the origin of its name. Founded in 1917, the town fathers wanted to name their community "Washburn" after its first settler. However, they were admonished by postal authorities that there already was a Washburn in Wisconsin, so another name had to be chosen. Which leads me on to the story I really wanted to tell:

A year ago or so, our Association's Project Planning Committee met with HOWARD LOVESTREAD, chairman, at Rhineland. One of the things we tried to do was to list all forest and forest-related industries of the past. I want to notify those committee members now that we missed one. At an old-timers picnic recently, I learned of a fern picking business that flourished here in my township many years ago. Large ferns growing in the hardwood timber hereabouts were gathered and brought to a buyer who packed them into 100-pound bales and sold them to the meat-packing industry. Meat was wrapped in the fronds — these were the days before modern refrigeration — to discourage insects and mold by keeping the quarters and halves cool. Some of us still

\* \* \* \*

**1841 — First law was enacted by the Wisconsin legislature regulating the construction of dams on navigable rivers for log-driving purposes.**



place ferns in our trout creels for the same reason.

I'm not sure what varieties of fern were used, but it's said that the buyer would carefully sort out the particular kinds he wanted. Obviously, he wouldn't take bracken fern — it's far too common. According to my field guide of flora, I suspect that he wanted ostrich and interrupted ferns since they still grow fairly profusely around these parts. And that's how our township got its name. Incidentally, we no longer have a post office and our population is now up to 111.

John Saemann, President

## Logging Congress Sept. 4-6

We're not sure this announcement will reach all our members in time, the vagaries of third-class mail deliveries being what they are, but we do recommend your attendance at the 35th annual Logging Congress being held in Fairgrounds at Chippewa Falls September 4, 5, 6, 1980.

Sponsored by the Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin, the exhibits will feature conservation, forestry, and timber harvesting and hauling equipment of all kinds and sizes. It's claimed that there will be over \$20 million dollars worth of logging equipment on display and actually demonstrating their various capabilities. The three-day program will also feature several types of contests, including one billed as the National Chain Saw Championship.

Incidentally, F.H.A.W. will have a small exhibit in the exhibition building at the fairgrounds. Stop in at our booth and say "hello"!

## C.C.C. Alumni to Meet

A highly successful June meeting of Wisconsin C.C.C. alumni has generated enthusiasm for a fall meeting of the group, now planned for October 3-4 at the Wausau School Forest, almost in the shadow of Rib Mountain State Park. Appropriately, the gathering will be held in a building which was formerly a barracks of the state-operated Rib Mountain C.C.C. Camp. The program will include a tour of the park to view past accomplishments of the 3-C's in recreational development, and visits to the nearby county and industrial forests as well as the Mosinee Paper Corporation's pulp and paper mills.

Further information can be obtained from F.H.A.W. Secretary Frank N. Fixmer at 604 9th St., Mosinee, WI 54455.

\* \* \* \*

1858 — First modern gang saws in Wisconsin were put into operation at the sawmill of Dole, Ingram & Kennedy near Eau Claire.

# Myron Smith Saves Two Canoeists on Moen Lake

Not many people have the opportunity in their lifetimes to save someone else's life, particularly people we happen to know. So it is worthy of note that MYRON SMITH of Rhinelander had that chance one night last June when he and his son helped to prevent a potential disaster when they pulled two teenage boys out of the chilly waters of Moen Lake.

According to the "Nicolet News", newsletter of the Nicolet National Forest, Myron and his wife had just gone to bed when he heard voices, apparently calling for help. After confirming that it really wasn't a joke, he and his son took off into the darkness and eventually located the two boys clinging to a capsized canoe.

"They were beginning to get very cold," said Smith, who confessed he was most worried about what hypothermia — below normal body temperature — could do. If we hadn't heard them it could have been a disaster."

Congratulations, Myron, for adding a happy footnote to history of events on the Nicolet!

## Why No Photos in "C & S"?

Occasionally, we hear a comment about the lack of picture in "Chips and Sawdust". If we really want to emphasize forest history, the remark goes, why not illustrate with pertinent photos?

Believe us, nothing would please us more than to be able to do just that. But, as always, the extra cost involved is the deciding factor.

We envy other publications which apparently can afford to reproduce for the enjoyment of their readers almost priceless photographs of historic events and personalities. We suspect, however, that their advertising revenues, plus a higher level of membership dues, permit them the luxury of a well-illustrated periodical. Unfortunately, "Chips and Sawdust" and F.H.A.W. are not in that category.

So, bear with us, dear readers, until such time as we become affluent enough to further upgrade our modest little newsletter.

\* \* \* \*

**1892 — First official observance of "Arbor Day" in Wisconsin was held following adoption of the custom that had been established in Nebraska twenty years earlier.**

## **New Members Department**

We have been taken to task on occasion for not acknowledging new members added to F.H.A.W.'s growing roster. With apologies to all of the 60-plus new members gained during the fiscal year 1979-80, 'cause we can't list them all at this time, these are our newest additions since July 1st:

TERRENCE L. PETERS, Mellen, WI

JULIUS RICHARD, Minong, WI

NORMAN S. STONE, Irma, WI

ARLAN L. WOODEN, Marinette, WI

In this regard, we have also been asked about a revision of the membership directory which was published over a year ago. Again, budgetary limitations dictate the deferrment of such a project. The first directory, you will recall, was provided free to all members at the time of issuance. The suggestion has been made that perhaps there would be enough members willing to pay for their copies and thereby fund the printing cost. Let the Board of Directors and/or officers know of your interest and they can be guided accordingly.

## **Evolution of Our Name, From W.F.H.C.A. to Present**

Many of our newer members may not be familiar with the facts concerning the birth and naming of our Association. As we approach the time of our fifth annual meeting, it seems appropriate to review that story.

The record shows that on October 29, 1975, a group of representatives of forest industry, resource management agencies and educational institutions met in Rhinelander to consider the possibilities of a project or program which would be a part of Wisconsin's celebration of the nation's bicentennial year. Of the numerous ideas suggested and discussed at length, the proposal of GEORGE CORRIGAN was accepted to develop a caravan which would tour northern Wisconsin communities showing pioneer logging, farming, mining and recreational equipment and artifacts. Out of this proposal was derived the name "Wisconsin Forest Historical Caravans Association".

Subsequent investigation revealed that the funding and logistical problems of such an undertaking were all but insur-

\* \* \* \*

**1848 — First paper mill in Wisconsin was built at Milwaukee by Ludington and Garland, to make newsprint from rag stock.**



mountable. Further discussion of alternative programs led to agreement that any change of orientation would require the group to change its name before final approval of the proposed articles of incorporation. Agreement was then reached to drop agriculture, mining and recreation history as their scope was much too broad to include a basic objective. On November 18, 1975, official action approved re-naming the group as the "Wisconsin Natural Resources Historical Association.

At the very next meeting of the fledgling organization, January 22, 1976, in Wausau, L. G. SORDEN "related his dream of forming an association to preserve and promote the history of forestry in Wisconsin and suggested the name 'Wisconsin Forest History Society'." However, his motion to that effect was amended by THOMAS FULK and approval was then given to the adoption of our present name of Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

Of the three founding fathers cited above, Corrigan and Sorden still serve on the Association's board of directors. Fulk became our first president but had to relinquish his office upon his transfer to California before the expiration of his term.

## Spring Floods of 1880 Brought Peace on Chippewa

This year is an anniversary year of note for descendants of loggers and lumbermen along the Chippewa River in 1880. For it was one hundred years ago this past spring that one of the most disastrous floods in the history of the Valley then occurred, resulting in the loss of between 150 and 200 million board feet of logs — an entire season's supply for the lumbermen of Eau Claire.

That disaster, however, had its happier aftermath in that it led to a peaceful settlement of many differences between Weyerhaeuser's Mississippi River Logging Company and the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire lumbermen.

The highly interesting details of these events are chronicled in CHARLES E. TWINING's "Downriver", the detailed story of pioneer lumbermen Orrin H. Ingram and the Empire Lumber Company. This book was published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1975 and subsequently was awarded the first annual prize given by the national Forest History Society for being "the finest book in the field of forest and conservation history" for 1977.

\* \* \* \*

1898 — First man from Wisconsin to win the men's world log-rolling championship was Tom Fleming of Eau Claire.

## Dates to Remember . . .

### September 4 to 6;

Lake States Logging Congress — Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin - Chippewa Falls

### September 27

Fifth Annual Members Meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin — Eau Claire

### October 3 & 4

First Annual Members Meeting of Wisconsin Chapter No. 23 of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) — Wausau

### October 4

Wisconsin Council for Local History — Northeastern Regional Convention — Wittenberg

### November 14 & 15

Annual Convention of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin — Madison

## It's Nice to Know . . .

When membership renewal notices were sent out early in July, we asked for comments on how the Association might improve its program.

We were not looking for accolades, but merely some constructive suggestions for giving our members a better service or product in keeping with our objectives. Though the response was limited, we do admit to a feeling of satisfaction when we received expressions of appreciation for past efforts such as these:

“ . . . . . doing a fine job . . . . . ”

“ . . . . . keep the good work going . . . . . ”

“ . . . . . the BIBLIOGRAPHY is outstanding . . . . . ”

“ . . . . . the Board is doing all it can to make a success of the Association, (but) what we need is more members ”

“ . . . . . pleased with the Association . . . . . ”

We don't have a “Letters-to-the-Editor” column, but don't let that deter you from voicing your opinions about how the Association is being operated; let's hear from you, complimentary or critically!

\* \* \* \* \*

**1910 — First wood products research institution in Wisconsin and in the nation was established by the U. S. Forest Service at Madison.**



# Last Word On F.H.A.W. Annual Meeting, Sept. 27

All Association members will find in the packet containing this issue of "Chips and Sawdust" a separate announcement and program details of the Fifth Annual Members Meeting at Eau Claire on September 27th. Dr. Richard Brown, chairman of the planning committee, and his committee members, have done an outstanding job of making arrangements for what promises to be a history-making event in all respects.

Again, members are urged to mail their advance reservations as soon as possible. Pre-registrations are a **must** for adequate planning, especially for the lumberjack luncheon — we would hate to have to turn away late-comers without reservations because of insufficient notice to the food sub-committee.

While you are at it, why not also provide us with the names and addresses of people you think might like to learn more about our Association? Just fill out the referral form below and enclose with reservations.

## PROSPECTIVE F.H.A.W. MEMBERS REFERRAL FORM

To: Secretary  
Forest History Association of Wisconsin  
403 McIndoe Street  
Wausau, Wis. 54401

**Please send details about F.H.A.W. membership and the annual meeting to the following:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary - Treasurer  
 Forest History Association of Wisconsin  
 403 McIndoe Street  
 Wausau, WI 54401

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 .....
<sup>139</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_





