



**A Newsletter**

From

**Forest History  
Association of Wisconsin**

403 McIndoe Street Wausau, WI 54401

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# Officers & Directors

## 1979-80

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# **F.H.A.W. Annual Meeting Termed A Success**

The fourth Annual Meeting of Members, held in the Wausau School Forest on the banks of the historic Wisconsin River, attracted an enthusiastic audience whose consensus of the event was "a fine program in a beautiful setting".

Highlights of the two half-day sessions included the presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to WALTER E. SCOTT of Madison and TREES-for-TOMORROW of Eagle River, and the presentation of papers on a number of historically significant subjects.

Members approved proposed affiliation with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The Board of Directors formally accepted the invitation of the Chippewa Valley Historical Society to hold the 1980 meeting at Eau Claire.

Re-elected to the Board for two-year terms were L. G. SORDEN of Madison and F. N. FIXMER of Mosinee, who was subsequently also re-elected as secretary-treasurer. Succeeding WALTER MAYO of Eagle River on the Board is WILLIAM P. YOST of Butternut, retired wood procurement department head for the Flambeau Paper Company.

Official proceedings of this year's meeting will be published in the near future and will be made available, as usual, to all members, as well as libraries and local historical societies throughout the state.

## **Two New Books Published For Railroad Logging Buffs**

An intriguing account of a logging railroad is contained in a recently published book titled "The Stanley, Merrill and Phillips Railway." As a subsidiary of the Northwestern Lumber Company of Eau Claire and Stanley, WI., this railroad served primarily to transport timber from the wilderness north of Stanley beginning in the late 1800's and lasting into the 1930's. Included are histories of the villages of Mitterhoffer, Polley, Gilman, Hannibal, Jump River and Walrath, several of which, like the railroad, no longer exist. The book may be purchased at a price of \$5.50, postpaid, from the author, Paul Nagel, 722 E. Fillmore Avenue, Eau Claire, WI. 54701.

Another new book, "The Wisconsin Valley Line",

chronicles the early construction and development of a railroad that eventually became the Milwaukee Road. The Wisconsin Valley Line was built in 1873 to move logs and lumber from central and northern Wisconsin, becoming part of the Milwaukee Road system in 1880. The profusely illustrated book, which took five years to research and three years to write, was co-authored by John Cline, of Ringle, retired employee of the Milwaukee Road, and Ray Specht, associate professor at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. "The Wisconsin Valley Line" is published by the Antiquarian Press at Stevens Point and is available at \$9.50 per copy.

## **Reference Library Growing Through Gifts of Members**

The Association gratefully acknowledges the donation of a copy of "The Wisconsin Warden — 100 Years of Conservation Law Enforcement", from *Walter E. Scott* of Madison. This is a welcome addition to a growing collection of works being accumulated for eventual organizing into a formal Association library.

Members who may be considering disposing of books, pamphlets, etc., from their personal collections are encouraged to donate them to F.H.A.W.

It is also appropriate at this time to acknowledge the receipt of a number of manuscripts from members who hope that their efforts at authorship will some day benefit other members and scholars looking for original source material. We sincerely thank those donors who have taken the time and made the considerable effort to record memoirs and events that may not otherwise be available to future generations of readers.

## **Historical Vignettes Booklet Written By Member-Author**

Sawyer County historian, **ELDON MARPLE**, has written many articles in recent years for *THE VISITOR*, a guide to the Hayward area. He has now assembled these historical vignettes into an intriguing 100-page booklet titled "The Hayward Lakes Region - A Century of History for the Visitor".

Marple's sketches center principally around the loggers, lumbermen and early settlers of the period from 1880 to 1920, but also has many stories of the Indians, resorters, schoolmasters and others who left their marks on the area around Hayward.

# Early Lumbering and Lumber Kings of Wisconsin

Almost 60 years ago, a resident of Idaho wanted to know more about early logging operations in Wisconsin. He particularly wanted to know the names of the early timber "kings", and the names of rivers that were famous for their log drives. He addressed his inquiry to the "Question Box" section of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, which obliged with the following reply in its September, 1920 issue:

"The information you request is too vast. . . to be contained in a single letter; the history of the lumber industry in Wisconsin would require much research and several volumes to elucidate. However, we can furnish you with a few suggestions, taken mainly from Frederick Merk's *Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade* (Madison, 1916).

The pinery districts that were earliest operated were those of the Wisconsin, Black, Chippewa, and St. Croix rivers in western Wisconsin; and the Wolf, Menominee, and shore lines of Green Bay in eastern Wisconsin. Upon the Wisconsin River, the longest in the state, lumbering began very early. Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy, when stationed at Fort Winnebago took a squad of men up the river about 1830 to cut timber for the fort. Rafting began about 1839. You will find an excellent account of Wisconsin River rafting in *Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, 1910, 171-89. The big sawmills on the Wisconsin River were built at the several rapids where have sprung up the present cities of Grand Rapids, Stevens Point, Wausau, and Merrill. One of the earliest lumbermen on the Wisconsin was Daniel Whitney of Green Bay, an enterprising Yankee who did much to develop the resources of Wisconsin before it became a territory in 1836.

In western Wisconsin the Black River pineries were the earliest to be opened. Parties from St. Louis and Prairie du Chien went up the Black as early as 1818. The first extensive operations were by a group of Mormons who in 1841 began taking out timber for the temple at Nauvoo, Illinois. When they left, after the expulsion of the sect from Illinois, logging was begun by Jacob Spanding at Black River Falls in the early forties. The Chippewa River region was opened in the fifties by John H. Knapp and his partners, who organized the Knapp, Stout Com-

pany of Menomonie, Dunn County, Wisconsin. During the decade of the Civil War the product of the Chippewa leaped from 60,000,000 feet in 1860-61 to 436,000,000 feet in 1871-72.

In the St. Croix region the first logs were cut in the winter of 1836-37. In 1838 a company was formed to open the lumber trade of that river, which in 1843 sent two rafts of 500,000 feet from Stillwater to St. Louis. By 1864 the rafts were towed for the first time by a steamboat.

In eastern Wisconsin methods were different. Sawmills were built on the lake and bay shore, and timber was shipped by sailing and steam craft to the great lake ports. Oshkosh was built up by the Wolf River output and became in the sixties the "Sawdust City." Its output was chiefly shipped by railroad.

Among the "lumber kings" who have been prominent in Wisconsin political history are Isaac Stephenson, Nelson Ludington, Daniel Wells, Philetus Sawyer of eastern Wisconsin; Cadwallader C. Washburn, Thaddeus Pound, J. G. Thorpe, J. H. Knapp, A. L. Stout, and Alexander Stewart of western Wisconsin. Frederick Weyerhaeuser began exploiting Chippewa pine lands in the Civil War decade. In 1871 he organized the Mississippi River logging Company, the greatest lumber syndicate of its time.

## Some Success Reported In 1977 Windstorm Clean-Up

The devastating windstorm of July 4, 1977 which roared across a 170-mile strip from Grantsburg to Rhine'ander will be long-remembered by residents of the areas that were hit. It was reported by DNR foresters that some 75 million board feet of sawlogs and 1.1 million cords of pulpwood were flattened over an area of about 850,000 acres by winds estimated to have exceeded 150 miles per hour at times.

In the two years since, salvage operations have cleaned up only a small fraction of the total volume involved. Inaccessibility, poor quality and other uneconomic factors precluded logging in many of the affected areas. However, one of the more successful of the salvaging efforts was accomplished on the Flambeau River State Forest, which along with the city of Phillips and adjoining areas, were among the hardest hit. State Forest Superintendent Charles Erickson reported in July that timber sales on the Flambeau had salvaged more than 15 million board feet of sawlogs and 75,000 cords of pulpwood on 10,500 acres of the 18,000 acres affected.

# 100 Lumberjacks Compete In World Championships

Last July, at Hayward, WI., we were most happy to have been able to see, for the first time, the annual Lumberjack World Championship competitions. The three-day event attracted nearly 15,000 people and included contests in log-rolling (birling), chopping, sawing (both cross-cut and chain saws), and pole-climbing. Some 100 lumberjacks and log-rollers competed for over \$20,000 in cash prizes and trophies.

This was the twentieth year that these events have been held in Hayward, a town rich in logging lore and history since before the turn of the century.

Television's ABC Wide World of Sports filmed the activities and televised them to an audience of millions several weeks later.

Star of the show proved to be Ron Hartill, a giant Australian now living in British Columbia, who again won the title of Champion All-Around Lumberjack. His performance was particularly thrilling in the springboard chop event, involving the placement of two springboards to a height of nine feet and then chopping through a 14-inch diameter log, all with a five-pound single-bitted axe.

F.H.A.W. members who have never seen this show of logger skills would be well-advised to plan on a trip to Hayward the last weekend in July next year.

## News Clippings Wanted To Initiate Reference File

Not all of Wisconsin's forest history is recorded in books and other reference works of libraries throughout the state. A wealth of such history is often contained in feature articles, interviews and news stories of many local weekly or daily newspapers. The accumulation of a file of clippings, classified by subject matter, could well be an on-going project of the Association. Such a permanent reference file would provide a valuable source material for historians interested in researching specific aspects of forest history.

Unfortunately, the cost of a clipping service, such as provided by the Wisconsin Press Association, is somewhat beyond

our financial means at this time. However, a project of this nature need not be indefinitely deferred. F.H.A.W. members can help begin such a collection by sending us pertinent clippings from their local newspapers. Here is your opportunity to become a more active participant in the Association's program of preserving our forest heritage.

## Unusual Special Interests Expressed By New Members

What is the relationship of the dominance of hemlock in prehistoric Wisconsin to the present-day ecological balance in the state's northern forest timber type? One of our recent new members, *Thompson Webb III*, at Brown University, Providence, R.I., did the research and authored a technical paper which explored that question.

Another new member, *Kathleen Heide*, also at Brown University, lists her special interest as "post-glacial vegetation and climate".

Both serve to emphasize the wide diversity of interests among our members, interests that go far beyond the days of Wisconsin's early explorers and settlers.

## Address Changes Needed Before Members Move

From time to time, the Association's communications with members are returned with the post office's notation "Not deliverable as addressed — no forwarding order on file".

We can only assume that the addressee forgot to notify us of his/her change of address and really did not want to discontinue hearing from us.

So that there will be no interruption in the delivery of our publications and correspondence, please be sure to let us know of your address change before you make the move to a new location.

We would appreciate learning of the whereabouts of Gerald Thiede, formerly of East Lansing, MI., Robert Birkholtz-Lambrecht, formerly of Salem, OR, and Carl J. Markon, formerly of Anchorage, Alaska



# **Wisconsin Woodlands Owners Association Formed**

F.H.A.W. members who own woodlands will be interested to know that a private, non-stock, non-profit organization has been formed "to advance the interests of woodland owners and the cause of forestry and to develop public appreciation for the value of Wisconsin woodlands and their importance in the economy and overall welfare of the state; to foster and to encourage the wise use and management of the woodlands and all related resources . . . . ."

Membership in the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association is also open to anyone interested in sharing those goals. Both voting and non-voting memberships are \$10.00 annually. For further information on the Association's program, write to Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, P. O. Box 188, Madison, WI., 53701

# **Two Members Honored By National Foresters Society**

The honorary title of Fellow was recently conferred by the Society of American Foresters on HERBERT O. FLEISCHER and FRED G. WILSON in recognition of their outstanding service to forestry and to the Society.

Fleischer served as director of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison until his retirement in 1975 and was co-author of "Wood in American Life, 1776-2076", in collaboration with Walter G. Youngquist.

Wilson was one of the first foresters employed by the Wisconsin Conservation Department in 1911. During the period 1911-1923, he established the first state forestry headquarters, the first state tree nursery and the first system of state fire lookout towers.

# **Valliers Donate Forest Tract To UW-Stevens Point**

In an exceptional act of philanthropy, JACQUE and DOROTHY VALLIER of Milwaukee recently donated 960 acres of land they owned east of Tomahawk to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Foundation.

It is expected that the tract will be used by students of the College of Natural Resources in its summer camp program involving forestry and conservation training. Treehaven, as the tract had been named by the donors, will also be maintained as a scientific preservation area. Development plans call for the construction of facilities to house, feed and teach about 144 students at a time, with additional buildings for faculty and some recreational activity.

## **It Was Bound To Happen!**

In the past year or two, many organizations of all kinds have increased their membership dues as a result of inflationary pressures on their cost of operation. Our Association also has had to deal with those harsh realities.

Consequently, the Board of Directors has authorized an increase in our annual dues from \$5.00 to \$7.00 beginning January 1, 1980. A proportionate increase in corporate and life memberships is also slated to go into effect on the same date.

Current members of F.H.A.W. who are reluctant to recruit new members in mid-year are reminded that all the benefits of a full year's membership will accrue to those enrolled at any time during the fiscal year. Our policy is to provide new members with all of the Association's publications that may have been issued during the year of enrollment.



