



A Newsletter

From

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin**

403 McIndoe Street Wausau, WI 54401

Vol. V No. 4

November 1980

Officers & Directors

1980-81

Howard Lovestead, *President*

115 N. Oneida Street
Rhinelander, WI 54501

John H. Saemann, *Vice President*

Route 1, Box 303
Florence, WI 54121

Frank N. Fixmer, *Secretary-Treasurer*

604 9th Street
Mosinee, WI 54455

Mrs. Gordon R. Connor

1011 8th Street
Wausau, WI. 54401

Jacque D. Vallier

7817 N. Club Circle
Milwaukee, WI. 53217

William P. Yost

Route 1, Box 167B
Butternut, WI 54514

L. G. Sorden

430 South Segoe Road
Madison, WI 53711

New Directors & Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

At the business session following the annual meeting in Eau Claire on September 27th, members elected **Mrs. Gordon R. Connor** of Wausau and **Jacque D. Vallier** of Milwaukee to succeed **Jay Cravens** and **George Corrigan**. Also elected for two-year terms, and succeeding themselves, were **Howard Lovestead** of Rhinelander and **John Saemann** of Florence.

Vallier is well-known in forest history circles as the former owner of the Menominee Logging Camp Museum near Keshena, WI., custodianship of which he recently turned over to the Menominee Indian Tribe. That museum won F.H.A.W.'s first organizational Distinguished Service Award in 1977, and contains what is reputed to be one of the world's largest collections of logging and lumbering artifacts.

Mrs. Connor also is widely known throughout Wisconsin and Michigan for her business association with Connor Forest Industries, for her active interest in conservation and forestry programs, and as the author of the corporate history "A Century With Connor Timber".

In a reversal of their roles during the past two years, the new Board of Directors elected Lovestead as president and Saemann as vice-president. Director Frank Fixmer continues as secretary-treasurer for 1980-81.

Eldon Marple to Receive Local History Award

It has been announced by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin that **ELDON MARPLE** of Hayward is to be the recipient of the Society's annual Local History Award of Merit at the annual convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History on November 15th, in Madison.

Marple, the author of several books on the history of the Hayward Lakes Area, has previously received the Wisconsin Writers' Award of Merit. He is president of the Sawyer County Historical Society and currently involved in the planning for Hayward's centennial observance in 1981.

How Threads of Forest History Intertwine!

A letter was received earlier this past summer from past-president TOM FULK, who was transferred from Wisconsin's Nicolet National Forest in 1977 to California. He mentioned that he has encountered several West Coast logging operations that had Lake States origins.

For example, he had recently served on a fire-fighting assignment on the Plumas National Forest, which involved land owned by the Soper-Wheeler Lumber Company in that area. Soper was originally a Wisconsin lumberman, with a sawmill at Soper-ton, WI. (near Wabeno), who came to California when his timber supply became depleted. Co-incidentally, Fulk also became acquainted with a Forest Service retiree who came west from Soper-ton when his father moved with that lumber company.

Tom says he likes to brag about his former association with F.H.A.W. in view of its five years of successful operation and sends his best regards to all members.

History of Wisconsin Tree Farm Program Researched

Acting on a suggestion advanced at a meeting of the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, initial research efforts have begun on the compilation of a history of the tree farm program, which was initiated over 25 yrs. ago. Michael Pagel, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point working toward his masters degree, is undertaking the study in collaboration with FRANK FIXMER, F.H.A.W.'s secretary-treasurer, who has been associated with the program since its inception.

The history is expected to include a review of the contribution of the Tree Farm System, a nation-wide program, to the state's wood-using industries and to the adoption of forestry practices by small, non-industrial forest landowners. Currently, there are over 1,600 certified tree farmers in Wisconsin, managing over a quarter million acres. In addition, 16 industrial forests, also registered as tree farms and totalling about one and one-third million acres, are also under intensive management.

Merrill Historical Society Addressed by Hernandez

The former director of the T. B. Scott Free Library in Merrill, RAMON HERNANDEZ, recently addressed that city's historical society and gave a detailed account of the early life of the lumberman after whom the library was named. Thomas B. Scott, according to Hernandez, left an estate of nearly one million dollars when he died in 1886, "all carved out of the pinery".

Hernandez now is director of the McMillian Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids and has done extensive research on the life of Scott, who was also Merrill's first mayor.

1980 Distinguished Service Awards Presented

Following its usual custom at the annual meeting of members, F.H.A.W.'s President John Saemann presented awards for distinguished service to the Rhinelander Logging Museum and to FRANK N. FIXMER, secretary-treasurer of the Association.

The Museum was recognized for being the first in Wisconsin to be built specifically for the preservation of relics of the pioneer logging era. Fixmer's citation referred to his services as a co-founder, officer and newsletter editor since the Association's beginnings in 1976.

The awards consist of hand-carved wood plaques decorated with historic log marks, and an engraved citation.

French-Canadians and Swedes in Lumber Industry

We are informed that the national Forest History Society is interested in acquiring information on the role of French-Canadians and Swedish immigrants during the early logging and lumbering era in the United States. Anyone having such knowledge or documentation is asked to communicate with the Society at 109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

According to ELLEN SABETTA, Wisconsin Rapids, two pertinent booklets on that subject, as they pertain to Wood County WI. history, are available. Particulars may be obtained by writing to her at the South Wood County Historical Museum, 540 Third Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

100-Year Old Lumber Sale Agreement Retold

Anyone who has recently purchased any white pine lumber, and been appalled at its cost at the retail market level, will find the following document, quoted verbatim, of more than passing interest:

"Article of Agreement made and entered into this 1st day of Feb., A. D. 1881, by and between James Single of Wausau, Wis., and G. H. Boeckenkamp of Saint Louis, MO.,

Witnesseth: That for and in consideration of the payments and mutual promises hereinafter set forth, the said James Single hereby agrees to deliver to the said G. H. Boeckenkamp (sic) at the City of St. Louis, Mo., at the usual lumber landing, in the raft in the river, all of his lot of White pine sawed lumber now in pile at Rib Mills, in Marathon County, Wis., being about one million feet more or less, on the first water and with all conveyance (sic) speed, the same to be estimated by pulling and measuring five cribs to get an average & all oar-stems and blades, spring poles, head block and grub and binding plank thrown in to the purchaser, And in consideration of the premises (sic) the said G. H. Boeckenkamp hereby agrees to pay to said James Single for said lumber at the rate of fifteen dollars and seventy-five cents per thousand feet, payments to be made as follows: Three Thousand dollars in ten days after the date hereof. Seven Thousand dollars when said lumber is delivered as aforesaid and the balance in two equal installments at Sixty and Ninety days from the time of the delivery of the lumber as foresaid, secured by the promissory (sic) notes the said G. H. Boeckenkamp. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands the day and year above written."

In presence of
W. C. Silverthorn
E. J. Slosson

}
}

James Single

G. H. Boeckenkamp

37 Volume Book Collection Donated to F.H.A.W.

The Association has again become the recipient of a generous gift; 37 volumes of forest history works were recently received from the personal library of WALTER SCOTT of Madison. The collection includes a number of books which were printed well before the turn of the century, and which have a value consider-

ably more than their original cost.

Members who may be unable to find a particular work in their local libraries are encouraged to inquire as to its availability from F.H.A.W.'s reference library, which continues to expand and may soon require cataloguing by a professional librarian.

The Deserted Lumber Camp

By Joe A. Moran - Glidden, WI

A melancholic, lonesome site,
Sequestered in the view,
With moldered huts and rotting logs,
Deserted by its crew.

The Men's camp and the cooking shack,
The "ding dong" in between,
The absent song of shanty boy,
The missing pine woods green.

A barking axe on the frosty air
Is the summons fate decrees,
As the grinding saw cuts swift and deep,
Through the towering king of trees-

The timber cry of the warning Jack
Reverberates below,
And the monarch with resounding crash,
Thunders in the snow.

The rollways on the river bank
Gave way to the flooding roar,
When dams were loosed and the jam went out,
In the far flung drive of yore.

Hear the northern chant of the rivermen,
That poled the swift batteaux,
Where the drivers sprung and the peavies swung
In the Chippewa's bayous.

The logs were run, and the work was done,
By a rugged, calk-shod crew,
Men of might who would drink and fight
When the rear had all gone through.

Otto Steinbach, 91, Dies

One of Wisconsin's oldest pioneer loggers, OTTO STEINBACH of Manawa, WI. died last July 4th at age 91.

According to his daughter, Mrs. L. Paulson of Ogdensburg, WI., Mr. Steinbach worked in the woods of northern Wisconsin at a very early age, and became a sawyer when only 19 years old (1907).

Otto's lifelong love for the forest has been emulated by his daughter and her husband, as well as their children and grandchildren, who collectively have planted 40,000 pine trees on their property in the past 40 years. Great granddaughter Linda Steinbach is currently a forestry major at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Association's deepest sympathies are belatedly extended to all members of Otto Steinbach's family.

New Members Department

JOHN BERG

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
166 1st St. N.

Logging Railroads

JOSEPH FOLLMAR

P. O. Box 98
Bangor, WI. 54614

Logging Railroads

JOHN M. FORDE

1340 S. 5th Avenue
Wausau, WI. 54401

General

EDWIN J. GUDOWICZ

Route 2
Hayward, WI. 54847

Early logging and lumbering

CAROLYN KELLOGG

320 N. Durkee St.
Appleton, WI 54911

General

JOHN M. TONNE

Route 2, Box 11
Minocqua, WI. 54548

Logging camp life styles

Incidentally, John Tonne not only became a new member, but a LIFE member to boot. John is the owner-manager of the famous Paul Bunyan Logging Camp restaurants at Minocqua and Wisconsin Dells. For a hearty lumberjack meal, in logging camp surroundings and decor to match, you can't do better than to visit either of these eating spots when you've got that extra hungry feeling.

Members Want Information On Special Interests

A Wisconsin transplant to Minnesota, KEITH MATSON, P. O. Box 132, Deer River, MN. 56636, is interested in hearing from any members who may have records of log stamping hammer brands that were used anywhere in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, particularly in the Grand Rapids area. Matson also suggests that any member travelling through Grand Rapids will find a visit to the new Forest History Center there time well spent.

Former F.H.A.W. director WALTER MAYO, Eagle River, retired last year as Vilas County Forest Administrator, and has now developed a special interest in locating the sites of former logging camps in that county as well as adjoining Forest County. He would like to hear from members who may have maps or other records of such locations.

Last Reminder!

Some members will find a membership renewal card and a pink slip tucked into this last page of "C & S". Our treasurer hastens to assure them that this pink slip is not the traditional rejection notice. Rather he hopes it serves as a gentle, albeit a last, reminder of the fact that membership dues for 1980-81 are now four months overdue. Unless payment is received within 30 days, it will be assumed that delinquent members wish to be removed from the Association's rolls. That really would be too bad, because the 1980 PROCEEDINGS, which are mailed out to all members in good standing without cost, will include some particularly interesting papers that were presented at the highly successful annual meeting in Eau Claire last September.

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/set
1977 and 1978 Proceedings of Annual Meetings	sets @ \$2.50 / set
1976, 1977 and 1978 Proceedings 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: _____

