



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

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1984-85

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Capital Fund Campaign Drawing to a Close; Success Uncertain

The Association's capital fund drive, initiated in September, 1984 with a first-phase goal of \$4,000.00 by November 15th, was a resounding success, and the "incentive grant" of \$2,000.00 was subsequently received from an anonymous foundation.

However, the second phase of the campaign, with a goal of \$12,000.00 by May 15th, 1985, shows little sign of being equally successful. At press time, only \$4,637.00 had been received, with no pledges of future donations to indicate a possibility that this second objective might be achieved by the deadline date. Failure to meet that goal will cause a second foundation to withdraw its offer of a \$6,000.00 grant.

Your Board of Directors once again urges all members who have not already responded to previous appeals to do so now, with a one-time-only, fully tax-deductible contribution of any amount they consider to be within their means. Additionally, members who may have some degree of personal rapport with forest products companies in their areas should consider approaching those prospects and convince them to participate in the common goal of preserving Wisconsin's forest heritage.

Remember, the primary purpose of this capital fund drive is to accumulate a large enough capital reserve which will generate sufficient investment income to assure that the Association's overall program of forest history preservation and education will be able to continue independent of membership dues revenues which currently are unable to adequately sustain those efforts.

The challenge is clear, but a successful conclusion to the campaign will depend not just on the Association's nine directors and officers but on all 260-plus members.

Please act NOW, before that May 15th deadline!

Nagel Resigns; Albrecht Succeeds as President

By letter of March 8th, 1985 to the Association secretary, President Edwin Nagel, Land o' Lakes, announced his resignation. Citing business problems that required his constant attention to the exclusion of other interests, Nagel stated that his absence from most meetings of the Board of Directors was not due to any lack of interest in, or enthusiasm for, Association affairs. However, he said, not being able to devote the time

and effort needed to be an active president was not fair to the Association, so he is turning over the duties of the office to Vice-President Tom Albrecht.

Albrecht, currently serving his second 2-year term as a director, is a Department of Natural Resources forester at Shawano. His special interests in forest history center around the Shawano county area, particularly the historically significant Wolf River and the Menominee Indian Reservation. He is a regular contributor to an outdoor column in the Shawano Evening Leader, often concerning some historic event, site or personage.

James G. Newman; 1925 - 1985

It is with deep regret that we note the passing away of Dr. JAMES G. NEWMAN on January 20th, 1985 at his home in Stevens Point. Jim was one of our Association's charter members and staunchest supporter. His intense interest in forest history was especially manifested by his early advocacy of a Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame and he was happy to see that become a reality last October.

Newman was a native of Akron, Ohio, and a graduate of Michigan State University, where he also earned his Ph.D. degree. His association with the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point spanned 25 years. During that period he was instrumental in developing the forestry major in the College of Natural Resources, which today ranks number one in the nation in the size of its undergraduate program on that subject with more than 500 students enrolled.

Newman was president of the Wisconsin Section of the Society of American Foresters in 1983 and in that same year was appointed as chairman of Governor Earl's Council on Forest Productivity.

A memorial fund has been established in the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Foundation for the College of Natural Resources.

Recent Retirements of Industrial Foresters Announced

Among recent retirements in the forest products industry of Wisconsin were two involving charter members of the Association.

RALPH SWANSON, manager of Consolidated Papers' timberlands, retired as of February 28th, 1985. During his 11 years

in that capacity and over 39 years with the company, Swanson became widely known in the paper industry and professional forestry circles. His tenure as timberlands manager was distinguished for several innovative projects including the expansion of Consolidated's tree farm family program and the development of the company's containerized tree seedling nursery at Monico.

Swanson, a native of Iron Mountain, MI, earned his B.S. degree at Michigan Technological University and joined Consolidated in 1946 as a logging camp clerk at Loretta. He then became supervisor of the Ashland area with a primary responsibility for the company's rafting and loading operations; in 1968 he moved to Wisconsin Rapids as district superintendent, becoming timberlands manager in 1974 following the death of John Macon.

TERRY MICHAL, district forest manager for Mosinee Papers at Solon Springs, retired on March 29th, 1985, after 39 years of service. His well-known expertise in all aspects of pine forest management resulted in Mosinee's industrial forest becoming recognized as one of the most intensely managed and productive privately owned forest tracts in the Lake States.

Michal's forestry education at the University of Michigan was interrupted by service in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, but subsequently earned his degree in 1946. He then joined Mosinee Paper's forestry staff at Solon Springs to inventory its forest lands and to develop a sustained yield program. He assumed full management duties in 1953 and subsequently greatly expanded all phases of the company's forestry program from reforestation through harvesting.

Forest Products Laboratory to Observe 75th Anniversary

"WALLY" YOUNGQUIST of Madison informs us of a special event that will take place June 3 and 4 in Madison commemorating the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Forest Products Laboratory.

The two-day program will begin with an "open house" on Monday, June 3rd, at which exhibits, displays and handout information will detail 75 years of wood products research and potential programs for the future. On Tuesday, June 4th, a tree-planting and commemorative plaque dedication will precede the general assembly where five prominent speakers will address major fields of resource use and management.

Youngquist reminisces about the situation that led to the founding of the Forest Products Laboratory: "In 1910 the prime

timber in the East had been harvested and the magnificent stands of white pine in the Lake States had largely been cut. Some of our predecessors, including some within the fledgling Forest Service, political leaders, educators and forward looking industrial leaders viewed the situation with alarm. They realized that if the wasteful practices being used in harvesting, processing and using the wood resource were to continue the Nation would soon exhaust a resource needed for continual growth and be the poorer for it. Included among the industrial associations strongly supporting the establishment of a centralized wood research laboratory were; the National Wagon Manufacturers Association, the Western Wheel Manufacturers and the National Association of Carriage Builders.

Two of those early conservation-oriented leaders merit special recognition; Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the Forest Service and Charles Van Hise, President of the University of Wisconsin in 1910. Their contributions in the founding of the Forest Products Laboratory will be recognized at this 75th anniversary and properly so.

Great progress has been made in the more efficient utilization of wood as can readily be attested to by both users and producers of wood products. The progress is, perhaps, far greater than could have been foreseen by the Laboratory founders. Many members of our Forest History Association of Wisconsin have been a part of that progress."

A Farmer-Logger's Letter of 100 Years Ago

EUGENE HARM is one of our members who has regularly attended the Association's annual meetings since he joined in 1978. He is also a dedicated local historian of his home area, between Cadott and Cornell in central Chippewa County, a region noted for its early-day logging history.

Harm sent us copies of two letters from his collection of memorabilia, both written by old-time loggers. One was from a father, apparently a farmer-lumberjack, to his son who was away at school. The place of origin, Drywood, no longer exists, but was a sawmill town on a creek with the same name and had a post office which was established in 1875. We believe that our readers will enjoy reading this letter, written over 100 years ago!

Drywood July 15 1883

Dear Son

Yours of the 3rd was duly received found me well and hearty glad to hear you was prospering so well with your

school. I have not cut a great deal of hay this season hay is very plenty and cheap. so I have cut only 3 or 4 tons. am digging my potatoes and mowing brush now The bugs eats the tops all off them. will have a light crop of them by the , The weather is fair now and cool nights. Drywood Lumber Co. is building dam up on the creek below Bates somewhere on Conels place I believe. they are building a wagon shop and another blacksmith shop have their lumber all sawed out In regard to the Pine speculation if you find a good thing up their I may take a notion to come up and preempt You don't want to fool yourself on the quality of pine when timber is very thick it is apt to be ringroot punky a midling growth of Pine is a thousand to a tree Johny Howland talks some of coming up there to get some Pine land I was up to Pike Lake last week got 3 or 4 sun fish only. going up to Fisher in a few days with Miron Martin fishing. Parsons says it is a great place for fish, catfish, pickerel. Our bees swarmed three times the first two went off the other I put in the old hive .I kild the queen hiveing them, had one swarm come to me which I hived and doing well. Therefore have two swarms. I think I can find two or three swarms this fall Nothing new in the neighborhood except Blondins baby. Rasberys are plenty but no bluberys nor will be many Blackberys my squash and mellons cucumbers look well have a fine bunch of strawberys.

Resp yours

R Dickinson

History of Three Lakes Region Published

Many Wisconsin communities observed the nation's bicentennial year (1976) with the preparation and publishing of various works that recorded their beginnings, growth and development. Others have done likewise on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their founding. All were most commendable efforts to preserve their heritage for future generations.

One of the more recent of these efforts was the publishing of a 132-page history of the Three Lakes area titled "The Pine, The Plow and The Pioneer". Sponsored by the Three Lakes Historical Society, the book is more than a review of the area's development since it was first settled; it is also replete with many early day photos of the families, buildings and special events that formed its colorful past.

As the **Vilas County News-Review** editorialized: "Anyone

who has lived, vacationed, or just visited in that area will appreciate this book"

Association member WALT GOLDSWORTHY was a prime mover in the dedicated efforts that were put into the collection of the material that comprise this history. The sales response has been so enthusiastic that the book committee is already considering a sequel that will chronicle the more recent history of the area.

Wisconsin's First Sawmill and Early Lumbering History

The following article is from the **Milwaukee Sentinel** of July 14, 1937 was provided in the form of a photocopy of the original edition by member LARRY HATHAWAY of Green Bay. It is a capsule summary of the state's early lumbering industry that may give many of our members some new information on the subject:

"The first sawmill in Wisconsin, according to the most authentic records, was built on the Black river in 1819 by Col. John Shaw. The colonel, who came to Prairie du Chien in 1815, is quoted as saying of the venture:

"In 1819 I proceeded up Black river to the first fall, about six feet descent, and erected a sawmill on the southeastern bank of the stream. I had barely got it fairly going when hundreds of Winnebagoes came there, in starving condition, and importuned me incessantly for everything I had for eating and wearing purposes, and I was thus left without supplies and returned to Prairie du Chien. The next spring I went up there again, and found the Indians had burned the mill. I then rafted down a quantity of pine logs I had cut the previous year."

There is mention of a sawmill having been built for Frank Jacobs at De Pere in 1809, but historians doubt the correctness of this date.

BEGINNINGS WERE SLOW.

Due to difficulties of transportation and a lack of any large population centers near the Wisconsin lumber supply, the beginnings of the industry were slow. It was not until the 70s and 80s that the heyday of lumbering operations in the state was reached.

Sparsity of the population in this region at the time of the building of Shaw's mill is indicated in the observations of Col-

onel Childs, who relates that Detroit, in 1820, was inhabited by French and halfbreeds and that there was but one brick house in the place, and by Capt. Thomas G. Anderson, who wrote:

"I found one framed house in Prairie du Chien in 1800, and Prairie du Chien was more of a settlement than Miniawack or Millwackie, where in 1805 I pitched a tent, or Chicago, which then had no buildings except a few dilapidated huts."

FIRST SAWMILLS IN WISCONSIN

Black River Falls	1819
Menomonie	1824
La Crosse	1852
Onalaska	1856
Chippewa Falls	1837
Eau Claire	1843
Hudson	1840
New Richmond	1854
Port Edwards	1831
New Lisbon	1843
Necedah	1849
Wisconsin Rapids (then Grand Rapids)	1836
Stevens Point	1838
Mosinee (then Little Bull Falls)	1839
Wausau	1839
Merrill (then Jenny Bull Falls)	1849
Neenah	1832
Oshkosh	1847
Shawano	1843
Weyauwega	1848
Fond du Lac	1846
Sheboygan	1835
Green Bay	1825
Marinette	1841

PINE LOGS IN DEMAND.

Pine logs from northern Wisconsin had come in demand a number of years prior to the operation of sawmills in this state, logs being cut on the Black river and other tributaries of the Mississippi and floated down to the mills in St. Louis as far back as 125 years ago.

Active lumbering in Wisconsin had its beginning on the Black river mainly because the Black river forest was nearest

to the lower Mississippi, easiest to reach, and less difficult to navigate by keel boat or with logs and lumber, than either the Wisconsin or Chippewa. In that early day there was more demand for lumber on the Mississippi than on Lake Michigan.

Between 1830 and 1850 a number of mills had sprung into existence on the Black, Chippewa, St. Croix and Wisconsin rivers. Those on the Black river were mainly in and near Black River Falls, Onalaska and La Crosse. The United States census of 1840 records 124 sawmills in the territory.

EARLY ONE SWEEP AWAY.

The first mill on the Chippewa river and its tributaries is recorded as having been built on the Menomonie, about 1822; it was swept away by a flood soon after being finished. The second mill, said to have been at the site of the present city of Menomonie, started operation in 1831. In 1837 the first mill was built at Chippewa Falls, which had been known as a "jack-knife trading post" since 1834.

There is some disagreement as to when and where the first sawmill on the Wisconsin river was erected. Daniel Whitney, a native of New Hampshire who moved to Green Bay and laid out a town there, is given credit for being the builder. In Draper's history appears the following reference to Whitney:

"Between 1825 and 1830 he explored the upper Wisconsin and built a mill at Plover portage. For 15 years thereafter he logged at that point, sawed his lumber at the portage and rafted it down to St. Louis, being presumably the first regular lumberman on the Wisconsin."

MET WHITNEY AT FORT.

Joseph Dessert, whose name was connected for 69 years with lumbering activities at Little Bull Falls — later known as Mosinee — told of meeting Whitney at Fort Winnebago and described him as building the first sawmill on the Wisconsin river at "Pointe Bois," now Port Edwards.

It was necessary to run the lumber down to Dubuque, Ia., Galena, Ill., and St. Louis in cribs, because of the various swift rapids and the dangerous Dells. When the Mississippi river was reached the cribs were assembled into rafts for the rest of the journey. The loggers who ran the cribs to market had to walk back in the early days.

RAILROAD CHANGED WAYS.

In 1844 every one regarded the Wisconsin river region as an uninhabitable wilderness. No one expected to see it permanently settled. In common with every one else, Dessert thought

of it only as a place to remain a few years, endeavor to make some money, and return to his native Canada. As he put it, he would not have promised to become a permanent settler at that time if he "had been offered the whole country as a gift." He later became several times a millionaire, and in 1902 moved to Milwaukee, where he died in 1910.

ORIGINAL STAND OF PINE

Name of river.	Stand of Pine
Chippewa	43,000,000,000 feet
Wisconsin	30,000,000,000 feet
St. Croix	12,000,000,000 feet
Black	9,000,000,000 feet
All Others	35,400,000,000 feet

Coming of the Wisconsin Valley railroad, now the Valley division of the Milwaukee road, revolutionized logging operations in the Wisconsin valley and soon after in all other parts of the state. Logging by rail, at first derided by the old timers, displaced the old method of running the logs down river to the mills and rafting the lumber to the markets farther south. Use of railroads in hauling the logs also opened up hitherto neglected timber districts, as formerly only those areas were logged that were close to the rivers.

When the Wisconsin Valley railroad reached Grand Rapids, now Wisconsin Rapids, the people of Wausau, Mosinee and points farther up the river sought immediately to have it extended. They met the promoters at Stevens Point, and endeavored to persuade them to build further. The railroad men, not very strong financially, objected to extending the line into a wilderness where they felt it would not pay. The lumbermen and pine land owners all along the upper river then subscribed for stock and induced their respective towns to subscribe, and in 1873 the road was extended.

Aside from the Wisconsin, Black and Chippewa river valleys, the other most important sources of pine lumber in Wisconsin were the Wolf river-Lake Winnebago region, where the industry boomed for 50 years; the Marinette-Peshtigo region in the northeastern part of the state, and the Green Bay district.

The lumber business in Wisconsin was comparatively small until 1870. The federal census of that year lists 704 sawmills in the state, employing 7,748 men, and turning out a product of about \$18,500,000 a year. During the next two decades the industry mounted to \$58,000,000 a year, giving jobs to nearly 40,000 men. In 1899 Wisconsin ranked as the leading lumber producing state, but the output has declined rapidly since then.

LUMBER BARONS LISTED.

Linked closely with the romance of the industry are the names of the so-called lumber barons, men who attained riches—some to the extent of many millions—in harvesting the virgin forests.

Some of the more familiar of these names are: Frederick Weyerhauser, Philetus Sawyer, Alexander Stewart, Issac Stephenson, Cadwallader C. Washburn, H. L. Stout, Thaddeus C. and Albert E. Pound, Nathan Myrick, H. S. Aleen, Whitney and Dessert, Capt. Andrew Tainter, John H. Knapp Jr., J. H. H. Alexander, William Irwine, Edward Rutledge, O. H. Ingram, Joseph G. Thorpe, W. H. Upham, J. H. Knight, Webb Brown, William Bradley, Cyrus Yawkey, W. D. Connor and August H. Stange."

Welcome To Our New Members!

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1985 - Annual Meeting

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Distinguished Service Awards

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Annual Proceedings

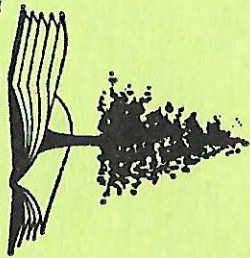
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