

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

Vol. VI No. 3 - August, 1983

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1982-83

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Platteville, WI 53818

Walter E. Scott, 1911 - 1983

Walter Scott, 72, of Madison, died last June 25th, after a long illness. He was a recipient of the Forest History Association's distinguished service award in 1979 and well-known throughout the state and nation as an ardent conservationist, historian and author.

Scott was employed by the former Wisconsin Conservation Department in various capacities, beginning as a seasonal game warden in 1934 and until his retirement from the post of Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources in 1975. During his tenure, he served progressively as a game manager, editor, public administrator and assistant director. As a W.C.D. representative, he served on many inter-agency projects, notably the Outdoor Recreation Act Program, and various water resource programs. He was the first editor of the WISCONSIN ACADEMY REVIEW, quarterly magazine of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, and served in that capacity for ten years.

Scott was a trained biologist; he received his BA and MA degrees from Kalamazoo College, Michigan and an MS in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served as an officer with both the Midwest and International Fish and Game Associations.

Scott's hobby of keeping records of Wisconsin's largest trees eventually led to the adoption of a more formal system by the D N R. He personally located, measured and recorded more than 500 oak trees over 10 feet in circumference within 8 miles of Madison's state capitol. Another hobby of collecting published works on Wisconsin history resulted in a personal library of several thousand publications. In recent years, he had been donating most of these to various libraries and educational organizations, including the Forest History Association.

Merrill to Celebrate "Heritage Days"

The Merrill Historical Society is spearheading an area-wide celebration of Merrill's pioneer days on August 20-21, 1983. Once known as Jenny Bull Falls after the first sawmill

was built in 1847 at the junction of the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers, Merrill's "Heritage Days" will highlight numerous activities related to its logging and lumbering origins.

According to M.N. "MULLY" TAYLOR, founder and past president of the Merrill Historical Society, the two day celebration will feature a miniature sawmill in operation, a shingle mill in actual production, a working span of oxen, several steam engines and a 75 year old logging tractor. Four champions from Hayward's annual World Lumberjack Champions competition will demonstrate their skills with axe and crosscut saw. Antique cars and other exhibits, as well as a real old-style "medicine show", will also vie for the attention of spectators.

For further details, contact the Merrill Historical Society, P. O. Box 64, Merrill, WI 54452.

Discarded Files Provide Historic Information

Our regular correspondent JIM KAYSEN, Cedarburg, recently informed us that JOE FOLLMAR, Neenah, "presented me with two fair-sized cardboard cartons full of correspondence between the Antigo office of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and on-line lumber companies These were salvaged from the attic of the abandoned division office in Antigo. The stuff is begrimed with 50 to 60 years of dust and corruption. One of the first files I started to study related to the Wisconsin - Michigan (Lumber) Company. There are numerous maps and lots of correspondence to establish dates. Also a fine bunch of lumber company letterheads It was Joe's idea that these files didn't belong with other C & NW historic papers at Naperville, Illinois."

Kaysen has offered to turn over those files to F.H.A.W. after they have served his purpose. This is a good example of what the Association's mission is all about: to preserve such documents by getting them to the proper depositories for the benefit of future historians and researchers.
Thank you, Jim and Joe.

Hard-Hats Resisted Forty Years Ago

Hard-hats, now the common headgear of loggers, truckers, foresters, miners and most public works employees, were stiffly resisted when first introduced to woods workers during the World War II era. So states Mrs. GORDON R. CONNOR, past president of the Association, and author of "A Century With Connor Timber". She says further that the first such protective hats were metal (aluminum), were heavy, uncomfortable, unlined. Lumberjacks preferred their soft, warm, dark woolen caps — more traditional headgear.

The timber industry and Employers Mutual Insurance Company (now Wausau Insurance Companies) waged a long campaign, Mrs. Connor recalls, of stressing the life-saving protection afforded by hard-hats from "widow-makers". General acceptance was eventually achieved when numerous case histories proved their worth in preventing or minimizing serious injuries from falling branches, tops or snags. Modern hard-hats are now made of light-weights plastic and are almost universally accepted as a condition of employment through out the forest products industry.

As further evidence of the progress that has been made in this regard, a Rhode Island manufacturer recently announced the availability of a new design for such head protection. The unit consists of a combination hard-hat, hearing protector, face shield and neck rain shield. Which leads one to wonder if a built-in air conditioner will be next!

Commentaries Invited For Publication

One of our corresponding members has suggested that comments be solicited from the general membership on any aspect of forest history, and that we print them as a feature in CHIPS & SAWDUST. We agree that some pretty interesting reading could result if we hear from enough members often enough to sustain a regular page. The drawback does exist, however, of whether every commentator would want his views on a particular subject published. This could then require considerable additional correspondence, which your

editor is not able to become involved with any more than he already is. Accordingly, we suggest that contributors to such "letters-to-the-editor" indicate whether they care to have their remarks printed, if found suitable and of general interest.

To start this new section of "C & S", we have the following items:

JIM KAYSEN, Cedarburg, writes: "I was glad to get the new 1983 Directory of Members. As I skimmed through the pages, I got the impression that the logging railroad buffs were going into a decline, but by the time I got nearer to the end, business picked up some."

HOWARD PEDDLE, Iron River, wants to know when will an annual meeting of members be held in north central Wisconsin; Ladysmith, Hayward, Ashland, etc. (Editor's note: **Patience, Howard; we will have had only eight such meetings since our birth and the geographic distribution of the membership is an important consideration for the encouragement of a maximum attendance.**)

BILL BRENER, Eau Claire, was the only member to respond to our request for more information about the tie-cut industry. He said that "in 1924 I was briefly connected with a logging operation in the vicinity of Marenisco, Michigan . . . and cross-ties were one of the products. They were all hand-hewn with the use of the broad-axe and were sold directly to the railroads without treating. The principal species were hemlock and white cedar; no hardwoods were utilized. The sawing of ties was rarely done, if at all, at that time in that area."

Did Milwaukee Fire Department Save Rhinelander?

A non-member of the Association recently wrote for more information about an occurrence of 75 years ago involving the Milwaukee Fire Department and the city of Rhinelander. To quote from his letter: "Chief Thomas A. Clancy of the Milwaukee Fire Dept. stated in his annual report for the year 1908 that . . . one steam fire engine and two hose wagons were sent to Rhinelander, Wisconsin, in order to give that city more protection against destruction by surrounding forest fires. Chief Clancy did not state how many Milwaukee firemen, or how many department horses, were shipped by rail-

road with those three pieces of apparatus. Nor did he state where the engine and hose wagons were quartered while in Rhinelanders."

Can any of our members provide the details? Making that information available to the inquirer might induce him to become a member of the Association!

Volunteers Needed to Tend Association Exhibit

As previously announced, F.H.A.W. will sponsor an exhibit at the national convention of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni in Eagle River September 20 through 24, 1983.

The Association's secretary-treasurer, FRANK FIXMER, plans to man the booth for a major portion of the time the exhibit will be on display, but as one of the C.C.C. alumni he would like to be relieved of that duty periodically in order to participate in some of the other activities that will be going on. Accordingly, volunteers are needed to help out. If you will be attending the convention, or visiting in Eagle River on that occasion, and can spare a couple of hours on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of that week, please contact Fixmer at his home address of 604 - 9th St., Mosinee, WI 54455 or phone him at 715/693-2995.

Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee To Meet in Appleton

The Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, which administers the national tree farm program within the state, has decided to hold its Fall meeting in Appleton on September 16th, just prior to the beginning of the Association's annual members meeting. The 20-man committee includes a number of Association members. Timing of their meeting will provide an opportunity for them to participate in the Association's program on the evening of the 16th AND THE morning of the 17th without incurring additional travel time and expense.

New Members Department

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our ranks:

WILLIAM H. BANZHAF (9)
% GEORGE BANZHAF & Co.
225 E. Michigan St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

MILES K. BENSON (8c, 9, 30)
Route 5 - Box 2155
Rhinelander, WI 54501

RICHARD W. HUGHES (12, 19)
Route 2 - Box 123
Thorp, WI 54771

MRS. DONNA JOHNSTON (8a, 9)
Route 2 - Box 353
Lena, WI 54139

DON G. LAMBRECHT (9, 12, 22)
1665 Patton St.
Green Bay, WI 54301

DUANE SADER (9)
Box 218
Florence, WI 54121

FRED J. SOUBA (8c, 8f, 9, 12)
1120 N. Deer Ridge Drive
Port Edwards, WI 54469

EDWARD STEIGERWALDT (3, 8f, 12c, 27)
Route 5 - Box 673
Tomahawk, WI 54487

WILLIAM STEIGERWALDT (3, 8f, 12c, 27)
Route 5 - Box 673
Tomahawk, WI 54487

GLEN WIEGENSTEIN (8a, 8f, 8g, 9)
113 Park Blvd.
Wausau, WI 54401

We are especially delighted to add to our roster of LIFE MEMBERS, the name of **JOHN H. SAEMANN**, Florence, WI. John is a charter member, and served as a director from 1978 to 1982 and as president 1978-1980.

“Red-Face” Department

The new edition of the DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS, issued earlier this summer, failed to include the names of three members. We accept full responsibility for these inadvertent omissions — no hired typist or computer errors in this case — and can only apologize for those oversights with the hope that we will be able to avoid them when the next revision is made.

Members may wish to add the following to their copies of the Directory:

RALPH HOVIND (9)

Route 3 - Box 245
Yuba, WI 54672

HAROLD SCHOLZ (9)

117 N. Humphrey Circle
Shawano, WI 54166

HAROLD F. SCHREFFLER (19)

Route 5 - Box 683
Tomahawk, WI 54487

For Absent-Minded Professors And Others Needing Reminders

Association membership dues for fiscal 1983-84 became due July 1st. Have you sent yours in?

The **ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING** at Appleton will be **September 16-17**. Details will be in the mail soon, mark your calendar. Especially note the savings of \$2.00 per person for making advance reservations!



Located: Wis. 54 and 73 -
Riverside Park, in Nekoosa.

OFFICIAL STATE MAP: 7-F
WOOD COUNTY



POINT BASSE

Five rapids covering a distance of about three miles in this area were referred to as Nekoosa (swift water) by the Chippewa Indians, who made their campground on high Swallow Rock overlooking these rapids. At the lower end of the rapids, Wakeley's tavern served as a rendezvous and resting place for the river traveler and lumber raftsmen. Wakeley's was the nucleus for the development of a settlement named Point Basse (low point). The name was later changed to Nekoosa.

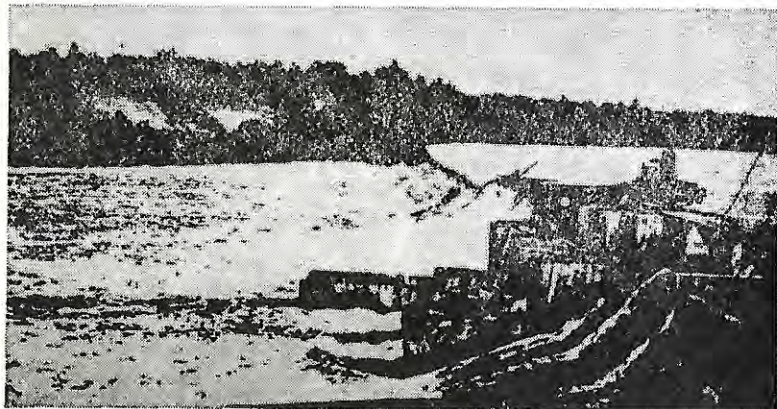
The settlement became a key town during the colorful era when lumber was rafted down the river from the pineries of the North to Mississippi River markets.

Daniel Whitney built the first sawmill on the Wisconsin River here at Whitney's rapids in 1831, making Nekoosa the birthplace of Wood County. From this first harnessing of the river's power developed scores of power facilities making the Wisconsin River the hardest-worked river in the world.

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Swallow Rock across from Nekoosa Paper Co. Dam

State Historical Society of Wisconsin



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