



Chips

and

Sawdust

A Newsletter

From

Forest History

Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

403 McIndoe Street

Wausau, WI 54401

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1985-86

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President's Message

This fall has been a busy and productive one for our organization. A lot of important events have occurred.

The Forestry Hall of Fame inductions were held at the Lake States Logging Congress in Green Bay on September 5th. The late Gordon R. Connor, one of our organization's co-founders, was inducted along with Stanton Mead and George Banzhaf. Gordon Connor pioneered forestry practices on Connor Forest Industry's lands and contributed greatly in numerous other ways to our state's forest heritage. Stanton Mead was a moving force at Consolidated Papers, and donated the Mead Wildlife Area to the state. George Banzhaf was the first consulting forester in the Lake States, and a spokesman of proper forest management. The Forestry Hall of Fame is located at the College of Natural Resources Building at UW Stevens Point. It is certainly worth a visit.

Our annual meeting at Treehaven, October 3rd and 4th, was quite enjoyable. Presentations were made from "Tow Booms" to the "History of Logging on the Nicolet National Forest". Some particularly detailed and interesting accounts were given of ghost and old logging towns of Wisconsin, including Knox Mills (at one time near Prentice), Hiles and Elcho (both near Crandon). These were once bustling lumber towns that declined once the sawmills closed.

There were many other presentations including Doc Brown's tales of northern Wisconsin logging - all true; and Wally Youngquist's talk on John Muir. Again, I'd like to thank our planning committee of Walt Goldsworthy, Russ Roberts, and Frank Fixmer on a job well done. Next year's annual meeting has been slated to be in the Eau Claire area, and will be planned by Gene Harm and Doc Brown.

At our Board of Directors' meeting following the annual meeting, we discussed membership and the need to recruit and retain our members. A goal of increasing our membership by 40 new members was accepted. We will hold our dues at \$10 per year to encourage our membership, instead of raising it like other organizations have had to do. As of now we have gained about 20 new members but still have about 20 delinquents from last year, so our gain is minimal. We will need all of our members' help to recruit new members. Please feel free to enlist new supporters. If you don't have extra membership applications, just have them mail a check, (or better if you mail it for them) to Frank Fixmer, FHAW, 403 McIndoe St., Wausau, WI 54401. Please explain the benefits of membership: the publications, and the keener sense of our forests, their presence of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Tom Albrecht
President

Help The Newsletter

As a new and inexperienced editor I'd like to request your help in gathering news and articles for Chips and Sawdust. Anything that might be of interest to our members would be appreciated, including news of members' activities.

Contact me if you would like further information on articles published in "C & S", hopefully I'll be able to help or refer you to a source.

Your suggestions for improvement of "C & S" are always welcome. Many thanks to Frank Fixmer for a great job as editor from the Association's beginning, and for all his help in getting me started with this issue.

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How A Book Found A Home

Strange indeed are the quirks of fate! FBI agent Tom Burg of Wausau was browsing in Dean Hammons' Books & Things in Rhinelander when he noticed a slim black hard-cover book with the gold imprint on its edge: **CONNOR, G.R.P. - THESIS - 1929.** Closer examination indicated that it was a bound typewritten carbon copy of the thesis that the late Gordon R. Connor of Wausau had submitted for his BA degree at the University of Wisconsin. It was titled "Some Administrative Weaknesses In The National Lumber Industry, With Remedial Suggestions Based Upon The Wisconsin Situation".

Burg subsequently had occasion to mention his find to Dewey Pfister, reporter for the Wausau Daily Herald. Being acquainted with the Forest History Association of Wisconsin from previous coverage of its activities and objectives, Pfister offered to forward Connor's thesis to the FHAW reference library.

That is where it now rests, thanks to Burg and Pfister, and their interest in seeing that an historic work by a widely-known personality in the lumber industry, and recent inductee into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame, would be preserved for future historians and researchers.



Distinguished Service Awards

JOHN H. SAEMANN

The 1986 Distinguished Service Award to an individual goes to John H. Saemann whose record of service in public forestry and preservation of forest history is particularly outstanding. John's career began as a member of the Marinette County resurvey project in 1938 and with his subsequent appointment as assistant county agent for Marinette County in 1940. He became Marinette County Forest Administrator in 1946, a position he held until retiring on January 1, 1973. Concurrently, he was UW Extension Forestry Agent earning the rank of Associate Professor. He was cited for his extension forestry work by the National Association of Agricultural Agents and was named Wisconsin's Conservationist-of-the-Year in 1977. His interest and dedication to the preservation of forest history has been known to many by his active roles in the Marinette County Historical Society and FHAW, serving as director and president of each.

LAKWOOD LIONS CLUB

The 1986 organizational award for Distinguished Service was made to the Lakewood Lions Club whose members devoted uncounted man-days in restoration of the Holt & Balcom Logging Camp, reputedly the oldest in the United States on its original site. Renovation of the Camp began in 1977 with partial funding provided by the Oconto County Historical Society, three local towns and a Holt heir. The Lakewood Lions Club completed the project in 1983. Hundreds of antique furnishings and artifacts were acquired to restore the authenticity of the interior. Addition of displays of early logging tools and equipment made the camp a museum of local logging history.

Forest History Scholarship

A \$200 scholarship will be awarded to a Wisconsin resident junior or senior student majoring in forestry at either UW Stevens Point or UW Madison. Selection is based on a paper written by the student on any aspect of forest or conservation history of Wisconsin. Papers must be submitted to the advisor of the student chapter of Society of American Foresters by February 15, 1987. The winner will be announced in March by the Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

The Forest History Scholarship is provided by special donations to the Association Student Award Fund. Donations are tax-deductible and may be forwarded to the Treasurer, Forest History Association of Wisconsin, 403 McIndoe St., Wausau, WI 54401.

News of Members

Charles E. Twining asks from his new home in Federal Way, Washington, "Remember me to my good friends in the Association. And be assured that my interest in Wisconsin and the Forest History Association is as always. I guess I am just like some of the old loggers who jumped from those pineries to these northwestern opportunities. But I never ran across a one of them who believed that there was a tree the equal to the eastern white pine."

Gordon Sorenson was featured in a story on lost logging train engines in the Milwaukee Sentinel October 6, 1986. Gordon is now 80 and lives in Drumond where he continues to write logging history.

Jack J. Rusch was recently elected a director of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association. Jack lives in Antigo and joins FHAW members Gordon Cunningham and Jack Densmore on the Woodland Owners' Board of Directors.

The Forest History Society

The purpose of the Forest History Society is to assure that the history of the forest industry is safeguarded and fairly told. In 1964 Frederick K. Weyerhaeuser and Theodore Blegen, a historian, founded the Society in affiliation with the Minnesota Historical Society. FHS became affiliated with Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, and 1984.

FHS has 2,200 members and five major programs:

1. **Journal of Forest History.** An illustrated quarterly that carries articles on all aspects of forest history.
2. **Research.** The research program investigates major topics and produces book-length studies. Examples are histories of the U.S. Forest Service and St. Regis Paper Company; the "Encyclopedia of American Forest and Conservation History" and movies on the history of logging technology and fire control.
3. **Library and Archives.** FHS maintains a research library which includes a collection of forest history photographs, and an archive.
4. **Service.** A service program assists people across the country who need forest history information.
5. **Archival Collecting.** Maintaining archives and an index to all forest history collections which are held by nearly 400 universities and state historical societies. The major collections include the National Forest Products Association, American Forest Congress, American Forestry Association, Society of American Foresters, and the Western Timber Association.

Happy Holidays

Michigan Logging Railroads

Mr. Forrest Meek (White Pine Historical Society, Clare, Michigan, who is on the English Faculty, University of Wuhan, Hubei Province, Peoples Republic of China during the 1986-87 academic year) and Professor Carl Bajema (Department of Biology, Grand Valley State College, Allendale, MI 49401) have compiled an annotated bibliography of over 300 Michigan logging railroads by searching for news items published in Lumberman's Gazette (1872-1885), Northwestern Lumberman (1874-1889), and the annual reports of the Michigan Railroad Commission. They are searching for additional information - archival sources, maps, photos, news accounts, timetables, passes, diaries - concerning the operation of logging railroads in Michigan.

Individuals having information on Michigan logging railroads are asked to write Dr. Bajema. They hope to publish numerous articles and books on Michigan logging as well as an annotated bibliography of Michigan logging railroads that will contain numerous photographs and maps.

Logrolling

Logrolling was an entertaining sport in early-day logging and sawmill communities, particularly those located on the banks of rivers. Two contestants would tread on a floating log and try to dislodge and "dunk" one another. The modern term is now "birling".

Although the sport is now seen primarily in exhibitions, another activity bearing the same term is engaged in by many enterprising politicians. Legislative logrolling, according to the dictionary, is the trading of votes by legislators to secure favorable action on projects of interest to each other, usually of the "pork barrel" kind. Is your local representative a "logroller"?

Annual Meeting Sidelights

Cornelio Groothausen, again won the non-existent prize for having come the longest distance. He is a forester in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and has attended several times when his vacations coincided with annual meetings.

Don Anderson of Chicago was one out-of-stater present. There are a total of 25 such members in the Association, representing 13 states.

"Bull of the Woods" **Jay Cravens** roused up the sleepyheads who stayed in Treehaven's dormitory with his raucous "there will be no daylight in the swamp" shouts at 6:00 each morning! It was raining again.

Charter members, those who joined the Association during the first year of its existence, were well represented by **Albrecht, Andreas, Brisson, Cravens, Fixmer, Groothausen, LeMay, Saemann, Vallier, Wolff, and Youngquist.**

John Walters set up an extremely interesting display to illustrate his presentation "Tow Booms". The exhibit included models, photographs and actual blocks, hardware and rigging used in creating tow booms. John had supervised rafting operations for Consolidated Paper Company at Ashland for 25 years.

The U.S. Forest Service brought their display "**Lake States National Forests**" featuring dioramas of "Yesteryear Logging" with oxen and horse skidding, steam engine loading and steam mill sawing.

1986 Committee Chairmen

1986 Annual Meeting

Frank N. Fixmer
Walt Goldsworthy
Russ Roberts

Student Awards

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Distinguished Service Award

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