



A Newsletter
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Editor's Notes

This issue of "Chips and Sawdust" marks the beginning of my second year as editor and I would be amiss if I didn't thank those members who have tried to help me improve our newsletter. I hope that this coming year even more of you will send in articles, newspaper clippings, news of your activities or those of other members, the activities of local historical societies related to forest history, etc.

The Peshtigo-Marinette area has been tentatively selected for the site of our next annual meeting. Anyone interested in helping with the local arrangements should contact Karl Baumann or Frank Fixmer. Those interested in presenting a paper please contact either of the above or Randall Rohe. Papers on any aspect of the forest history of Wisconsin are welcome, but those dealing with the Marinette-Peshtigo area are especially desired. Slide illustrated presentations are particularly encouraged. The editor would be glad to offer suggestions and assistance to perspective speakers. Members are also asked to send the names of potential speakers to the editor. Since our next annual meeting will be held in the Peshtigo-Marinette area, the upcoming issues of "Chips & Sawdust" will highlight selected aspects of the forest history of this area.

I hope that during the new year every member will make a determined effort to enroll a friend, colleague, relative or acquaintance as a member in FHAW. Unless our membership increases, the rising costs of printing, paper, postage, etc. will eventually force an increase in membership dues.

Randall Rohe, Editor

Tall Timber Falls Short

Wisconsin once contained over 100 billion board feet of white pine. Some trees reached heights of over 200 feet and had diameters in excess of six feet. The state became famous for the quality and quantity of pine it produced. As a recent article in the *Milwaukee Journal* (July 28, 1988) by Dennis McCann indicates, however, that has really changed.

Wool-clad lumberjacks from around the world will gather in Hayward this weekend to chop and saw and roll the great white pines of Wisconsin North Woods lore and legend.

Which this year, will come from Ohio.

Ohio? Sacre bleu! Say it ain't so, Paul Bunyan.

But it is so.

The Lumberjack World Championships will be waged Friday, Saturday and Sunday on wood imported from Ohio because Wisconsin's supply of suitable wood wasn't up to snuff.

For 28 years, competitors have used white pine for their championships. That was the main variety sought in the rough and tumble days of Wisconsin by the modern lumberjacks' forebears, or furbearers, whatever old lumberjacks were called.

"We've always had native white pine of Wisconsin, partly from nostalgia or history, because that's what the lumberjacks came to Wisconsin for," said Ron Hobart, marketing director and emcee for the championships.

But officials of the championships said the availability of suitable Wisconsin white pine had declined in recent years.

To get trees appropriate for competition, contest organizers need several trees that grew together in a small area. They favor trees with a lot of room between the whorls

of branches; trees not subjected to environmental stress; trees that are straight, tall and at least 24 inches in diameter.

For two or three years, the white pine grown in northern Wisconsin has been poor, said Rudy Dettmer, a veteran Ohio competitor. His job has been to debark and cut logs to exact thickness required for competition.

"You try to make the wood as fair as possible," Dettmer said. "You keep it consistent, but not everyone can chop the same piece of wood."

But those Ohio trees, now those are logs a lumberjack could sink saw teeth into.

Hobart said the Ohio trees came from a plantation that enjoyed nearly perfect growing conditions for more than 40 years. They are so uniform, so knot-free, so prime for cutting that lumberjacks drool at the thought of taking them on.

Trees from the same Ohio patch were used last week at the Minnesota state lumberjacking championships. They were so uniform that in the underhand chopping event, the top eight times were within 3 seconds of each other.

World records are almost certain, Hobart said, when the chips start falling where they may. More than 200 competitors, the largest number ever, are expected for the world championships in Hayward, in Sawyer County.

But unlike those baseball records set on synthetic turf or in the longer modern season, records set on Ohio trees won't go in the books with asterisks. White pine is white pine, Hobart said whether it comes from someplace in Wisconsin or someplace else.

"It's really not much different from getting it from other places in Wisconsin," he said. "It's just that this time, it's from Ohio."

Giants of the Pinery Era?

The following news item appeared in the Merrill, WI *Daily Herald* January 26, 1930:

"Although the pinery days are fast fading in Wisconsin, a few specimens are still found in the John Brandt & Schmidtke Bros. timber holdings near Mercer, where one pine tree was cut which measured 84 feet long with a 14-inch top, which scaled 3,680 (board) feet. Another pine tree was felled which cut 14 logs, although not quite as large. These logs will be shipped to the Merrill Lumber & Supply Co...."

Intrigued by the exceptionally large volume for a tree with 5 logs (presumably 16.3 feet long) to a 14" top, Association Secretary Frank Fixmer checked with Technical Bulletin 39 of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, published in 1934. Table No. 115 for old growth white pine gave the Scribner Decimal C volume of a tree with a 42" diameter at breast height (largest in the table) and 5 logs high, based on normal taper curves, as 2,030 board feet. A cross-check was then made with Technical Bulletin 1104 of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Lake State Forest Experiment Station, which contains volume tables for timber and their application in the Lake States. Table 20 in this publication gives the top diameters of individual logs for a tree of various diameters breast height. For a 40" diameter tree, the top diameter of the butt log would average 32.4", the 2nd log 29.2", the 3rd log 25.6", the 4th log 21.6" and the 5th log 17.6". Such a tree would therefore be somewhat larger than the Mercer pine cited above, and whose 5th log had only a 14" top. Yet, when these logs are scaled, they add up to only 2,390 board feet, Scribner Decimal C scale.

These questions obviously arise: How could that Mercer pine scale the reported 3,680 board feet? Was it considerably greater in diameter at breast height than either 40 or 42 inches, but with such excessive taper that its 5th log had only a 14" top? Did the scaler just estimate the top diameter of each log because he couldn't get his scale stick into each cut and

perhaps had exaggerated those diameters? Or was it a typographical error that reported 3,680 instead of 2,680?

Regarding the 14-log tree (volume not stated) this figures out to a merchantable height of 224 feet, assuming all logs were 16.3 feet long, a majestic height indeed! By contrast, the tallest white pine now known in Wisconsin is 148 feet in total height, and the national champion near Marquette, Michigan is 201 feet high. So the question naturally is asked: What were the actual lengths of those 14 logs cut near Mercer in 1930?

Readers are invited to send their comments to the editor.

Lumber Company Farms

The logging camps and sawmill towns created an enormous demand for food and animals. Logging operations required many oxen and horses to do the skidding and sled hauling of the logs from the stump to the driving streams, and in later years to the railroad sidings. It took enormous amounts of hay and grain to feed these animals. The men in the logging camps, saw and shingle mills, and on the drives also had to be fed. Farms in the logging regions found a ready market for all they could produce. In some cases, in fact, they couldn't meet the demand and lumbermen found it necessary to engage in farming themselves. Farms were an integral part of the operations of a surprisingly large number of lumber companies. *The Eagle*, December 10, 1892 described one such operation on the Menominee River district under the headline Fine Farms.

Many people who read about the pine woods and country where the vast amount of logs is secured in Wisconsin imagine that all that is valuable is the pine tree and that the land when the trees have been cut off is of no value, but results of the yields of some of the farms owned and con-

ducted by the lumbermen on this river will show that there is no better soil in the country than here in northern Wisconsin upon the land where the hardwood has been cut off. The Hamilton & Merryman Co. have two of these farms and have kindly furnished THE EAGLE with a report of the crops raised by them the past year. Upon their Pine Creek farm, six miles north of Quinnesec, the following crop has been raised the present year: 1900 bushels of potatoes, 100 bushels of beets, 150 bushels of rutabagas, 125 bushels of onions, 25 bushels of carrots, 1200 heads of cabbage, 200 squash, 100 pumpkins, 50 bushels of corn, 480 bushels of oats, 75 tons of timothy hay, 40 tons of marsh hay. Upon their Pembine farm, near the same farm, was also raised this season, 25 bushels of apples, 18 bushels of crab apples, 2800 bushels of potatoes, 1000 bushels of rutabagas, 600 bushels of beets, 200 bushels of carrots, 300 bushels of onions, 2200 head of cabbage, 26 bushels of wheat, 28 bushels of barley, 30 bushels of buckwheat, 125 tons of timothy hay.

Such a report as the above will hardly be believed by those who look upon that portion of the country as unfruitful and only producing pine trees. There are reports of many other farms owned by the lumbermen on this river.

About two years later *The Eagle* (13 October, 1894) gave a description of one of these other lumber company farms, the "New York" Farm of the Menominee River Lumber Company.

The farm of the M.R.L. Co. near Norway is known as a very extensive one. Hon. Jesse Spalding takes particular pride in it and is constantly adding new features. He has recently fitted it up with all the adjuncts of a modern creamery and the demand for the golden product exceeds the supply. Here is what a writer in the *Norway Currant* says of the farm:

It is a model farm with a fifty roomed farm house and sixteen or seventeen farm buildings of the most modern make and equipment. There is a complete system of water

and sewage pipes, a powerful pump with the Menominee river as a supply, provides immunity from serious loss by fire, and a steam cooker with a capacity of about fifteen barrels is attached to the boiler house. The farm has been improved this year by the clearing of forty acres of new land and the stumping of forty acres more. There is now 800 acres under fence and 600 of this can be worked by machinery, the working force runs from about 20 men in winter to 26 to 28 in summer. Notwithstanding the very dry summer and the fact that not a gallon of water was put on from the water system, the crops are fairly satisfactory, although not as good as in some previous years.

The editor has been gathering information for an article on the agricultural activities of lumber companies in the Great Lakes states. If any member has any material on lumber company farms, especially photos, I'd appreciate it greatly if you'd contact me.

More paper mills needed

In an article on the 43rd annual Lake States Logging Congress, the *Appleton Post Crescent* (9 September, 1988) noted the following:

More paper mills are needed in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to absorb excess timber available after two companies ended pulping operations, the co-chairman of the 43rd annual Lake States Logging Congress says.

George Brunette, a representative for American State Equipment Co., said decisions by Procter & Gamble Paper Products and James River Corp. to end pulpwood processing would cost the logging market about 2,400 cords per day.

Procter & Gamble switched to purchased market pulp more than a year ago and James River is phasing out its woodchip operation in favor of recycled fiber.

"I understand Procter was using about 1,200 cords per day and James River, although all chips, I guess they would be about the same," Brunette said.

Gov. Tommy Thompson "is trying to get other pulp mills in the state of Wisconsin. We have only two pulp mills now," Brunette said.

Subsequently an article in the *Milwaukee Journal* (1 January, 1989) stated:

The possibility that Wisconsin could gain its first new paper-industry mill in more than a generation is among the signs of strength in the state's forest-products sector as 1988 ends and 1989 begins....

Gov. Tommy Thompson has appointed a committee to locate by May 1 spots in Wisconsin that could accommodate a new pulp mill within pollution regulations. Med-tec Paper Corp., Kimberly, and Green Bay Packaging, Green Bay, are among companies that have expressed interest in building or expanding pulp mills.

A Letter to FHAW

F.H.A.W. members are often unaware of how successful the association is in promoting and disseminating forest history. The following letter is typical of those received by Frank Fixmer from time to time.

Dear Forest History Association of Wisconsin:

I wanted to thank you for sending us a copy of the Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Lumbering in the Chippewa Valley.

Our patrons really enjoy reading Wisconsin History. Adults, as well as junior high and high school students, seems to be increasingly interested in the development of the lumber industry and the settlement of Wisconsin.

We also have copies of the Fifth, Tenth, and Eleventh Annual Meetings, but I am wondering if you have any additional copies available of the others. They would certainly be useful to us if you have any available.

Your organization is providing a fine service to the people of Wisconsin by publishing these proceedings. They contain many fine articles with the kind of historical information that isn't readily available anywhere else.

Please keep us on your mailing list for future years, and if copies are available of the issues we are missing, please send them and be assured they will be well used!

Thank you again.

(signed) Susan Johnson, Director

Tice Public Library,

Village Hall

Winter, WI 54896

Members are reminded that copies of most of our annual proceedings are still available. Write Frank Fixmer for information.

The Saga of Spirit Valley

In a recent issue of the Wisconsin Magazine insert of the *Milwaukee Journal* (November 10, 1988) Dennis McCann detailed the writing efforts of FHAW member Carl Rhody. McCann wrote in part:

Upon his retirement in 1974, Rhody and wife, Elizabeth, enrolled in creative writing and history courses at the University of Wisconsin Center at Medford. They also enrolled each year at the School of the Arts in

Rhineland, where Carl studied writing and Elizabeth studied art. And when he went home, Carl Rhody wrote.

What it led to was a remarkable series of books, five volumes entitled the *Saga of Spirit Valley*. They tell the story of the settlement of one tiny part of Wisconsin, the forested region of Price County near the little community of Spirit, northwest of Wausau.

By writing the story of his own family, among the earliest settlers there, Rhody tells the larger tale of the loggers and immigrants, the farmers and everyday folks who put the spirit in Spirit Valley and, by extension, in Wisconsin.

If they are not people we absolutely need to know, they are people who become fun to know. And if Rhody's matter of fact style does not always produce the finest literature, his work produces fine, fine stories.

Copies of Rhody's books are available for \$8.50 each and may be purchased by writing to Carl Rhody, Rt. 1, Ogema, WI 54459.

The Oldest Sawlog

The last issue of "Chips & Sawdust" described the raising of deadheads after the turn of the century. These operations sometimes turned up logs from the earliest days of logging still in excellent condition. The *Eagle Star* (23 August, 1904) described one such incident.

The oldest sawlog that has been seen on the Menominee river for many a day, perhaps the oldest ever seen in the history of the logging business here, was towed down to the Marinette Lumber Co. mill this morning, in a raft of deadhead logs. It was pulled from one of the slips of the old K.C. company Friday. It is a long pine log, and on the end of it is the mark of the K.C. company, and the year 1865 stamped plainly several times on the end.

The preservation of this log under the water for the past thirty-nine years is something truly remarkable, and it was shown to many wondering eyes this morning, as the oldest sawlog ever seen. It was solidly waterlogged, but not rotten in the least, and in a good state of preservation. It was placed with a number of deadheads and taken to the Marinette Lumber Co. mill for manufacture.

A Haunted Logging Camp

A lot of tall stories came out of the logging camps. Who hasn't heard of Paul Bunyan or Babe the Blue Ox? The Peshtigo logging district supposedly even had a haunted logging camp. The *Eagle* (28 October, 1902) wrote:

Haunted Camp Near Lake Noquebay

Part of Camp Crew Desert on Account of Form with Face of Fire That is Seen in the Woods There Peering in Camps Windows.

Eric Spearing, a Marinette man, arrived here Thursday evening. He came from Cook Bros. camp near Lake Noquebay and with others left the camp because he believes it is haunted. The jobber in charge of the camp is finding it very difficult to keep full crews on account of a specter that is seen in the brush thereabouts.

It is a figure of a man and he has a head of fire. The strange apparition has been seen frequently and two of the men came running breathlessly into the camp claiming that the man of fire had followed them. That night some of the men claimed to have seen the demoniacal face peering into the camp windows.

The specter is so real that most of the crew have deserted and refuse to remain any longer. It appears to have a rather indistinct body but the face seems to be a thing of

life. It is also claimed that it has been seen in years past there and that the camp has always been known as a haunted one. It is seldom that the woodsmen become startled over any such thing but fear seems to have taken hold of those who work in the camp on Lake Noquebay.

The Peshtigo Fire

Undoubtedly the best known event in the forest history of northeastern Wisconsin was the Peshtigo Fire, which in 1871 killed some 1500 people and destroyed hundreds of square miles of forest. During the centennial observance of the fire, the following article by Lillian Mackesy appeared in the *Appleton Post Crescent*, (3 October, 1971),

It was a holocaust, a tragedy acknowledged today as one of the worst fire disasters in history.

It happened in northeastern Wisconsin just a century ago during the driest season on record with only two good rainfalls for the summer. The widespread conflagration has taken the name of Peshtigo, the prosperous lumber town which tornadic fire swept into oblivion within the space of a few hours on Sunday night, Oct. 8, 1871. At that time there were more than 2,000 people living in Peshtigo and its neighboring Sugar Bush logging settlements; mostly only those people who managed to reach the waters of the Peshtigo River or nearby mud flats were saved. Even some of these died by drowning or suffocation -- most of the survivors were injured or burned, few coming through the sudden, flaming trap unharmed.

There has been many a story written about the Peshtigo fire, especially this centennial year, but few surpass in drama and stark horror the first hand accounts in newspapers of the time. Even in 1871, newspaper writers noted that the great Chicago fire of Oct. 8-11 was not so destructive of life as at Peshtigo.

The news of the Chicago disaster reached the world immediately by telegraph. Of Peshtigo the news came out more slowly; the community's one telegraph line had burned along with the rest of the town. Besides, as one recent writer put it, this was "backwoods" country hardly worth worldly consideration.

Even so, the news spread swiftly enough by way of fire-threatened Green Bay so that the Appleton Post published two extras during the week after the fire, at least one before its regular Thursday edition, and the Appleton Crescent published what it called "Supplement to the Crescent" with its Saturday edition of Oct. 14, 1871.

The Crescent-Advocate reports gave background to the burning, showing that far more than Peshtigo went up in smoke or was threatened. Green Bay people were full of apprehension and worry over their own safety as the stories began to come in and the rumors arrived with survivors.

"Night after night the horizon all around has been lighted up by the conflagrations, and by day the streets have been filled with smoke, shuttling everything from sight," stated the Advocate. "From the country it has been extremely difficult to gather connected accounts of what is going on. The settlers in every direction are closely occupied at home fighting fire around their homesteads."

The newspaper noted that only those in desperate need of help came into Green Bay at all. They were too busy fighting fires -- they had been for days. The fire reached out from roughly a 30-mile corridor, "extending over all of Kewaunee County, part of Door, nearly all of Brown, that part of Oconto County lying south of the Menominee (River) and parts of Shawano and Outagamie." The report said that the Towns of Humboldt, Green Bay, Red River, Casco, Brussels "were scathed with whirlwinds of flame, devouring the woods and leaping across the clearings and lapping up everything in its path."

The entire settlement at Williamsville, five miles from Little Sturgeon Bay, burned Sunday night. Fifty-six persons in the settlement centered around the Williams brothers' mill perished. When a party of 25 men, including the Advocate reporter, went out under the guidance of F. B.

Gardner on Wednesday, Oct. 11, the group had to chop its way through the fallen and scorched timbers. They rescued three wounded men trying to crawl their way through the debris. Others had reached a clearing called Kent's place.

"Reaching the site of Williamsville, they found no living creature, save an ox," said the newspaper. "Twenty-nine bodies lay on a spot 10 feet square -- some with arms and legs burned off and all with their clothing gone. A few rods off a man and child were found dead in a well, drowned or suffocated." This was the story over and over again as the reports came in and were published.

Charles Woodward, who kept the Peshtigo House, reported that the loss of life out in the Sugar Bush was worse than in the village because the people here had no means of escape. They were trapped with no place to go. They had no river into which to plunge.

The Sugar Bush was a thrifty farming settlement 7 or 8 miles long and 4 or 5 miles wide, containing about 300 families. It was estimated that most of the inhabitants died in the blaze. It was reported that 20 teams went up from Green Bay on Tuesday to bury the dead.

A letter from Forrestville in Door County said that a settlement of six families on the west side of the Town of Brussels was wiped out, only one family escaping. All the buildings burned, along with most of the stock. "Thus far 34 bodies have been found and buried," the letter said. "The people perished from suffocation before the flames reached them, so dense was the smoke."

River Creek settlement, a station of changing horses on the stagecoach line, burned to the ground with 13 people reported dead. They probably were people who made their way to the station because normally there were not that many living there in the fall.

"At Menominee the flames leaped right across the river, burning their way over a large mill. The people fled to the waters of the Bay. The Steamer Union, lying offshore, took some 300 women and children aboard and steamed out into the safety of the harbor. Women and children of Menominee were placed aboard the steamers Favorite and Dunlap and several other vessels at anchor in the

roadstead. The male portion of the population stayed in the village and spent the whole night fighting the fire."

Under the heading "Great Fire of Peshtigo," "Only One Building in Village not Burned," the report was well-written and informative. "Amid all the disasters by the great fire which has swept over this region, perhaps the most terrible is that which has befallen the village of Peshtigo -- terrible from the great loss of life, the destruction of property, and the suddenness with which it came -- striking the ill-fated village without a moment's warning, and destroying not only the lives of so many of the inhabitants -- but the results of years of industry.

This story also described the village itself, a company town mainly, built around the all-important Peshtigo Company headed by William B. Odgen, of Chicago and railroad fame. W. A. Ellis was resident manager in the village. Completely built of wood, even with sawdust streets, Peshtigo was a boom town that had mushroomed with its fringe of settlements since the 1870 township census of 1,750.

Situated seven miles from the harbor, and connected by railway, Peshtigo was the central point of operation for the company. Here, close to the logging, were located the offices, stores and general headquarters. An immense tub and pail factory not quite a year old turned out pails, tubs, churns and other hollow woodenware ready to be shipped to the market. In full operation, the installation included dry kilns, side-tracks and other buildings. It was connected with a new steam sawmill where stock and lumber was manufactured. The company also ran a large sash, door, blind and woodwork factory.

There were company shops for the building of cars, logging sleds and other implements used in the operation. The firm maintained a large hotel and boarding house for its bachelor workers. It also owned a great number of houses for its families whose livelihood came from the logging, processing and manufacture of lumber. In addition, the many stores that lined the business section serviced adjacent farming areas as a center of trade.

All of this was swept away, "the whole town in ashes in less than two hours. Large numbers were reported as

having been burned to death in the Peshtigo Company's boarding house."

An account written by one of the survivors, G. J. Tisdale, Esq., tells the story. Writing at the request of the Advocate, he made clear that his experience was completely personal as one person among 1,200, completely bent on self-preservation and survival. This is his story, retold in selected parts:

"During the day -- Sabbath -- the air was filled with smoke, which grew more dense toward evening, and it was noticed that the air was quite chilly during the day, grew quite warm, and hot puffs were frequent in the evening."

"About half past eight o'clock at night we could see there was a heavy fire to the southwest of town and a dull, moaning sound like a heavy wind came up from that quarter."

"At nine o'clock the wind was blowing very fresh, and by half-past nine, a perfect gale. The roar of the approaching tornado grew more terrible at ten. When the fire struck the town, it seemed to swallow up and literally drown everything. The fire came on swifter than a race-horse, and within twenty minutes of the time it struck the outskirts of the town, every thing was in flames."

"What follows beggars all description. About the time the fire reached the Peshtigo House, I ran out the east door and, as I stepped on the platform, the wind caught me and hurled me some distance on my head and shoulders and blew me onto my face several times on going to the river. Then came a fierce, devouring, pittiless (sic) rain of fire and sand, so hot as to ignite everything it touched."

"I ran into the water, prostrating myself, and put my face in the water and threw water over my back and head. The heat was so intense that I could not keep my head of water for but a few seconds at a time, for the space of nearly an hour."

"Saw-logs in the river caught fire and burned. A cow came and rubbed her neck against me, and bawled most pitteously (sic). I heard men, women and children crying for help, but I was utterly powerless to help any one. What was my experience was the experience of others."

"Within hours of the time the fire struck, the site of Peshtigo was literally mud desert. Not a hencoop or even a dry goods box was left."

When the fire was at its height, a tornado arose over the blazing forests, sucked up flames, and became a whirlwind of fire. Today Tornado Memorial Park occupies the site of Williamsonville (not Williamsville) along State Hwy 57 and commemorates those who died there in the Peshtigo Fire.

The Cedar Industry

Most works on the history of lumbering in Wisconsin focus on the great white pine era and the later period of hardwood lumbering. Still lacking adequate documentation are the hemlock-tan bark industry and the cedar pole and tie industry. Many people are unaware of how important these activities became during the nadir of lumbering in Wisconsin. In 1904 (June 10) the *Weekly Eagle Star* described the growing significance of the cedar industry in Marinette-Menominee.

The Cedar Industry of the Twin Cities

There will be more cedar stored in the yards of the cedar and lumber companies this year than ever was known before in the twin cities, and it has been truthfully remarked many times this spring that the cedar yards are filling the places of the lumber yards which have closed in the twin cities during the last few years.

It is only within the last few years that cedar poles and posts in any great amount have been brought to the twin cities. When all the mills were running here, the cedar piece stuff that was cut by them was shipped direct from the woods to the dealers to whom it was sold. The change from

this system has been very apparent during the last few years. Now there is an immense amount of cedar coming into Marinette and Menominee and it is being sorted and piled here, and the local yards used as distributing points.

At the present time there are six large cedar yards operating in the twin cities, and they are all well stocked with timber which is constantly coming in both by rail and water.

Much of it comes from the shores of Green Bay, while of course the greater amount comes down the Menominee river and is rafted at the rafting gaps and taken to the different yards. There is a large supply of posts and poles at all of the yards at present.

The following companies are operating yards here at present: The Raber & Watson Co. have the largest yard in the district on the bay shore in Menominee; the C. J. Huebel Co. have a well stocked yard on the east side of the old L. W. & V. S. Co. yard, while the David & Stitt Co. yard is just west of that on the old mill site; the Wm. Mueller Co. are constantly increasing their stock in a large yard on the old mill site of the M. R. L. Co. on the lower island in the river; the Wm. Beidler Lumber Co. have a great lot of cedar piled on the docks just above the warehouses of the C. C. Co., Wright Bros. are operating a larger yard than ever at their same old place near Colter's slough on the Marinette side of the third dam.

Star Loads of Cedar

Just as in the earlier pine-hardwood era, logging crews from different camps tried to out do each other and haul the largest load of logs. The *Eagle Star* (10 March, 1905) reported:

Largest Load of Cedar Poles

"The largest load of card poles, I believe, that ever was hauled in this country, was hauled at one of the Crawford

& Sons Camps near Cedar River last week," said Mr. Chas. H. Crawford, the president of the company, in the Stephenson Hotel, "and I have been in the cedar business as long as any man on the river. I saw the load hauled, and counted the poles, and there were one hundred and fifty poles, ranging between forty and fifty feet in length, loaded on a sleigh with sixteen foot bunks, and I believe that it was the largest load ever put on a sleigh.

Rivalry Makes Record

This load was certainly a record breaker. Telegraph poles from forty to fifty feet in length, are very heavy poles, and it takes a vivid imagination to even conceive of one hundred and fifty of these loaded onto one sleigh, but Mr. Crawford is the surest kind of guarantee of the truth of the story. He says that the poles were not peeled, but simply cut down and trimmed, and were being hauled from the woods to the landing. For several weeks there had been intense rivalry between two of the camps to see which could make the record of hauling the biggest loads, and they kept piling the poles higher and higher every day, as one load eclipsed the other.

Two Immense Loads

The day the record was hauled, the record was broken twice. One camp hauled a load that was counted by Mr. Crawford, and there were 138 poles on the load, which broke all records, and then desperation seized the other crew, and they piled on a load of 150 poles, and hauled it to the landing without losing a pole on the way. Mr. Crawford says that the load looked like a mountain, and the wide bunks and wide roads, and the perfect ice roads, were the things that made it possible for such a load to be hauled.

Mr. Crawford says that his men are hauling night and day, working two shifts, in order to get in the timber that

has been cut, and take advantage of the ice roads as long as they last.

About a month later, the paper (18 April, 1905) wrote further.

All the Camps Made Big Loads

Samuel Crawford, the manager of the Crawford & Sons Company, of Cedar River, says that the article which appeared in March in the *Eagle-Star*, telling of a big load of cedar poles that was hauled in one of the company's camps during the month, created the biggest kind of a contest in the company camps. The paper reached every one of the camps, and the story of the big load incited the men to greater efforts, and the result was, that there were several loads hauled before the winter was over, that even outshone the load that was spoken of.

Never in the many years that the company has been getting out cedar, have loads of such size been hauled in the woods, according to Mr. Crawford, and the cedar poles were heaped house high for the rest of the winter.

Historic Notes

This continues our series of recollections and reminiscences of former lumbermen and lumberjacks. This one comes from the *Antigo Journal*, February 20, 1929.

Antigo Man Saw First Drive of Langlade County Timber Made on Eau Claire River

Thirteen years before Antigo was founded, which takes us clear back to the closing days of the Civil war, the first log drive was made on the Eau Claire river in what is now

Langlade county, and Joe Casterline, now approaching his eightieth birthday, was on that drive, Mr. Casterline, whose appearance and activity do not show his years, says this drive was made in the spring of 1865, and it was started at Ackley's place near where the mill village of Heineman passed its brief history. The drive was composed of white pine cut in the neighborhood and made a scant million feet. It was cut for and delivered to W. P. Kelly, son of the man after whom the village was named, and to Dr. Schofield at Schofield.

Later, Charles Hazeltine logged on Black brook. Fred and Ben Gillan had the contract to put in the logs and drive them to Schofield. When they got ready for the drive the logs could not be started for lack of sufficient water. It was necessary to build a dam just above the mouth of the stream where it empties into the west branch of the Eau Claire river. Mr. Casterline helped to build this dam, the remains of which are still to be traced. He accompanied the drive as far as it went, for it was hung up at the Eau Claire Dells until a summer freshet started in on its way again. All driving had to be done on natural water as there were no control dams then. A summer freshet was usually to be depended on in June, but sometimes it was necessary to take the drives through in three stages of water.

Facilities Primitive

How few and primitive the facilities of these early river drivers were is shown by the fact that they did not even have cant hooks or peavies. The only tool they had to attack a jam was a hand-spike about six feet long. Joe Casterline and Billie Burns, who is still living at Mosinee, owned the first peavies used on the Eau Claire river. They were made by hand by Benone Dickey at Schofield, and he charged \$5 apiece for them. On those first log drives the rivermen had no boat to aid them on their work. The only boat in use was the cook boat.

First Drive Lost

The drive from Ackley's in 1865 was not the first on the Eau Claire river. The first was made by Charles Kelly, son of Milo Kelly, just before the Civil war. It was started a short distance above the Eau Claire Dells. Kelly had the misfortune of losing it. The drive lodged solidly in a hole at the Dells and stayed there several years until it was carried away in a period of very high water. By that time the logs were worthless.

The Last Drive

The last drive on the Eau Claire, Mr. Casterline says, was made by John Manser, and went as far as Kelly. Mr. Casterline worked for him about ten years, but it is about twenty years since he was on a drive. He is so familiar with the Eau Claire river that he believes there is hardly 200 acres of its bottom that he has not stuck a pike pole into.

Log driving was full of danger for the men as well as rich in hazards for the man who had his investment in logs. Mr. Casterline broke one leg while jumping with a peavey, peavey going through the ice. Later he broke his other leg while driving a team of factious oxen near where Spring Brook empties into the Eau Claire.

Mr. Casterline worked as an ox team driver and woodsman when not employed on the drives. He worked one winter for Ackley driving a team on the west branch of the river. It now lies in Langlade county, but then it was in Marathon county, which extended clear up to the Michigan line. At that time a winter fare of salt pork, wild rice and rutabagas was not considered a hardship. Of course these rations were frequently supplemented with wild game. Working hours were long. One winter while driving an ox team Mr. Casterline walked six miles to work every morning, and as it was dark and the trail hard to follow it was necessary to carry a lantern.

Worked on Wisconsin River

The experience Mr. Casterline had driving logs on the Eau Claire river afforded him good training for later work on the Wisconsin. He traveled to St. Louis and other Mississippi river cities with rafts half a dozen times. There were several treacherous places on the Wisconsin river for the log driver. Mosinee Falls had the worst repute, several drownings having taken place there. Grand Rapids was another difficult place. At Mosinee Falls the logs would strike an eddy and the whole outfit would submerge. As Mr. Casterline says, "I could drink standing up."

Lumbermen returning from St. Louis could buy a special riverman's ticket to Wausau for \$11.

Some years earlier, the *Journal* (April 10, 1914) copied the following note from a Wausau paper on the end of log driving on the Wisconsin.

Floating of Logs to Wausau Ended

There are no logs coming to Wausau by the river this spring and it is an epoch in Wausau's history, as it is the first year since mills were built here but what logs have not been driven to our booms. From now on booms and piers in the Wisconsin river at this point will disappear, as all logs are brought to the various mills by rail. During the past seventy years, it has hardly been possible to go up the river in a boat without having to drag it over a lot of logs. -- Pilot.

Lumbering & Lake Michigan

The *Milwaukee Journal* (8 January, 1989) contained the following article:

The Manitowoc Maritime Museum will open an exhibit on Wisconsin's early lumber industry Saturday. Titled, "Timber! Lake Michigan's Lumber Adventure," it promises to chronicle the frenzied heyday of lumbering, including the use of Wisconsin's waterways and the Great Lakes to transport lumber.

Steamships, introduced to the lakes in 1869, encouraged the harvest of trees, because steam freighters could carry 1,000 tons of cargo, twice the capacity of sailing vessels. Suddenly outmoded, many sailing ships were converted to barges. By using one steamer to tow three barges, up to 2 million board feet of lumber could be moved at one time.

The exhibit will run from January 14, 1989 through December 1990. The museum's hours are 9 - 5 daily.



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- **Adventure** for the whole family and more; two floors of full size, 3 dimensional exhibits to explore and enjoy!
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