

A Newsletter

From

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

403 McIndoe Street

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1986-1987

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President's Message

It has been a quiet winter for the FHAW, and spring-time (as always) is welcome. It is the time of year that might be the time of the "river drive" if it were a century ago. Certainly our winter was a mild one with a lack of snow everywhere in the state. It would have been as difficult logging the swamps a century ago as it was this winter having similar weather.

It still is amazing the amount of labor that was required by the early settlers to this state who were loggers in the winter, and probably farmers at other times of the year. They used every modern convenience available for the time, but by our standards that wasn't much. The double bitted ax, crosscut saws, horse skidding, cant hooks and caulked boots can't hold a candle to chain saws, feller-bunchers, and log trucks. As I come across old railroad and steam hauler roads in my county, I wonder about all the time and effort put into harvesting the virgin timber that was an "inexhaustible" supply.

Certainly the early Wisconsin logger cared for the woods as we do now... it was just a different period of time and philosophy that allowed it to be harvested so completely. That is why we are busy preserving our forests' past. The task is
sant one than a burden. We can
appreciate the closeness to our present-day woodlands as the early logger appreciated his pinery.

But it is an ongoing task that we must continue to work on and seek help from others. If we don't continue to collect artifacts, and information from older residents this history may be lost...forever. It's up to us to get this task done.

Tom Albrecht
President

Members In The News

Editor for the 1986 FHAW Annual Meeting Proceedings, **Randall Rohe**, assures us that progress is being made and distribution will be forthcoming.

Jim Hensel, American Pulpwood Association forester, was recently elected a Fellow by the Society of American Foresters. This is one of the most significant awards an SAF member can receive. This recognition for outstanding service to the profession and the Society will be presented June 4, 1987, at a joint meeting of the Wisconsin and Minnesota SAF state societies in Superior.

Kloppel Wins Scholarship

Brian Kloepfel, a forestry student at UW-Madison, has been chosen to receive the FHAW student \$200 scholarship. Brian submitted a paper entitled "The History of Holt Lumber Company", which

was chosen as the best paper among entries received. Brian is a junior, and hails from Hilbert. He ranks in the top 10% of his class academically.

Brian became interested in the Holt Lumber Company while browsing through collections at the State Historical Society. He reports of the Holt and Balcom Lumber Company purchased in 1862 which later became the Holt Lumber Company of Oconto. It lasted on its Oconto River site until 1938 when the white pine supply dwindled. Processed lumber was barged to Chicago lumberyards for retail sale.

Brian reports that the innovations Holt Lumber Company made before most of its competitors made it a sound, well-structured business that was well-managed.

Ervin Drott, 1918-1987

Ervin Drott, 68, of Minocqua, died January 12, 1987. Before retirement in 1978, he was head of the logging equipment division of the J. I. Case Company in Schofield.

Drott was well-known throughout the timber industry, both regionally and nationally. As an active member of the American Pulpwood Association, he was a frequent demonstrator of innovative wood harvesting and handling equipment that had been developed by the Drott Manufacturing Company, predecessor of the J. I. Case Company.

The Drott Manufacturing Company was a charter corporate member of the Forest History Association, and was represented by Erv Drott. Only last fall, he contributed to the program at the Association's annual meeting at Treehaven by showing vintage films of the early development of Drott equipment and conducted a tour of the nearby J. I. Case proving grounds.

By Frank Fixmer



Camp 5 Museum Foundation

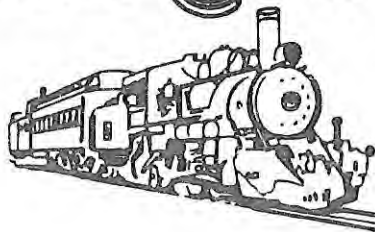
The Camp 5 Museum Foundation is undertaking a capital campaign in order to renovate its 1916 Vulcan steam engine known as the "Lumberjack Special".

Laona is home to the Camp 5 Museum, a replica of a former lumber camp and village. Its steam locomotive logging train ran for many years after its inception in 1901. The Executive Director of the Camp 5 Museum is **Mary Roddis Conner**, a past president and charter member of the FHAW.

Camp 5 promotes public understanding of Wisconsin logging history, multiple-use conservation, and man's relationship with nature. The "Lumber Jack Special" locomotive transports about 20,000 visitors to and from the museum and environmental complex. Multiple-use conservation is shown by a tour through intensively managed forests. An ecology walk and nature center provide environmental education. A company store, logging museum and blacksmith shop depict the logging history of early Wisconsin forests.

Donations may be sent to the Camp 5 Foundation, 1011 Eighth St., Wausau, WI 54401.

CAMP 5 FIVE



Norway Emigration Request

The FHAW recently received a letter from a group in Troms County, Norway. This group has been collecting information on emigrants from Troms County to the United States and to parts of Wisconsin. By collecting letters written since 1900 to Norwegian friends and relatives, 52 Wisconsin cities have been documented as having immigrants from this Norwegian County. These cities include Appleton, Black River Falls, Eau Claire, Freen Bay, Hayward, LaCrosse, Manitowoc, Marinette, Milwaukee, Shawano, Stevens Point, and Wausau.

The group wishes to learn more about individuals and families that emigrated, and would like to collect printed information on family histories that may be available. There is also a Norway Tour and Festival planned from June 23rd to July 6th, 1987 for descendants of Troms County, Norway to visit their home area celebrate the heritage of the area, and learn of their family's history.

Those who may know of, or who have interest in those families may write Akson Americabrev, c/o Jon Thoresen, Postboks 125, 9062 Furufalten, Norway.

Reading Resources

Publications that may be of interest to members. If you have information on a publication that could be mentioned in this column please forward it to the newsletter editor.

Works cited in A Bibliography of Wisconsin Forest History, by Bonnie C. Loduha, published by FHAW in 1980, will not be repeated here.

Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History, 1986, edited by Helen Hornbeck Tanner. This atlas contains 33 maps in its 224 pages tracing the movement of Indian communities from 1640 to 1871, when the last treaty between the government and tribes was enacted. The illustrated text provides an informative history of the land and the Indian people. Hardcover costs \$57.50, paperback \$24.95.

Aldo Leopold 1887-1948

On April 24, 1948, Aldo Leopold died of a heart attack while helping neighbors fight a grass fire that threatened his sand county farm. Many organizations are planning celebrations and events to honor the memory of Leopold in this centennial year of his birth. Known as the "Father of Game Management", he was noted as a philosopher, scholar and sportsman who founded the environmental ethic. Leopold served as Associate Director of the US Forest Products Laboratory in Madison and chaired the Department of Game Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

If you would like to receive the Year of Leopold - 1987: Newsletter of Events, contact the Bureau of Information and Education, DNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Keeping The Past

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps' Burnett County crew recently transplanted a piece of north woodlands history into Wisconsin. The crew traveled to Ely, Minnesota for a week with volunteers and Burnett County officials to dismantle a 70 year-old log lodge and return it to the Burnett County Historical Society's Yellow River trading post site. Snowbank Lodge was donated to Burnett County by the Superior National Forest after the building sat empty for eight years. The WCC crew was mostly responsible for removing the roof of the building according to crew leader Bryon Lund. Crew members also helped with other tasks as a crane later plucked the logs off the walls.

The building will be used as a museum to house exhibits and information on the fur trade, the history of the Yellow River trading post, the results of archeological digs at the site, and other history. Archeologists and historians believe the Yellow River trading posts were operated around the year 1805.

From On Corps!
(The newsletter of the WCC)

Historical Prints

FHAW member, **Ray Clark**, who lives in Dugway, Utah, has come across old magazine prints and drawings of logging scenes dating back to the late 1800's. He has printed sets of 20, and donated a set of these prints to the FHAW.

The scenes are a variety of river drives, logging camps, log jams, logging, sawmills, and other wignificant events such as flods caused fy dams giving. Nost of the scenes depict the Wisconsin landscape, though Maine is also shown. The majority of these prints are taken from Harper's Magazine dated 1880 to 1903.

Mr. Clark is offering sets of these prints for sale at \$25 per set of 20. His address is 519A Gonafin, Dugway, UT 84022.

From Tom Albrecht



Welcome To Our New Members

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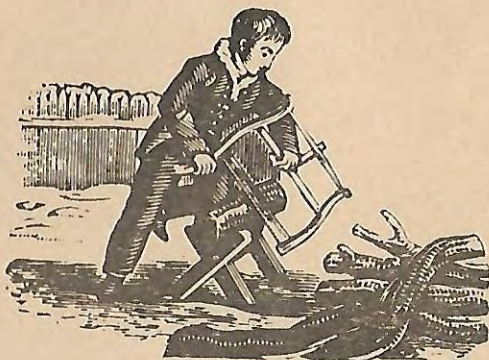
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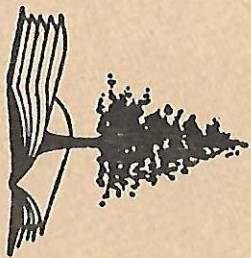
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