



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

**Vol. VIII - No. 3 - November, 1985**

# Officers & Directors

## 1985-86

Thomas Albrecht, *President*  
103 Sunset Circle  
Shawano, WI 54166

Charles Twining, *Vice-President*  
141 Cedar St.  
Ashland, WI 54806

Frank N. Fixmer, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
604 9th Street  
Mosinee, WI 54455

Dean Einspahr  
2808 Crestview Drive  
Appleton, WI 54915

Walter Goldsworthy  
P.O. Box 321  
Three Lakes, WI 54562

Eugene Harm  
Route 2 - Box 46B  
Cadott, WI 54727

James Kaysen  
6765 W. Center Street  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Thomas Moore  
College of Natural Resources  
U.W. - St. Pt.  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Ellen Sabetta  
90 Cherry Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Jacque D. Vallier  
10243 N. Westport Circle  
Mequon, WI 53092

## From the Deacon Seat\*

I'd like to take a minute to review an enjoyable and successful Tenth Annual Members Meeting.

Everything went smoothly and the facilities at Treehaven were excellent. It was also a delight to visit with members, old and new. The papers that were presented were very well prepared, very interesting and quite stimulating. All evidenced considerable scholarly research, supplemented by personal experiences.

In addition to the presentations, our Association hosted the prestigious Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Inducted were M.N. "Mully" Taylor, Fred B. Trenk, and Calvin B. Scott. The proceedings were handled very well by representatives of the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters. It was inspiring to view Fred Wilson and Cal Stott, the only two living members of the Hall of Fame so far, standing together in animated conversation.

It was a privilege to congratulate our own Association's distinguished service award recipients for 1985, Gordon Sorenson of Drummond, WI., and The Wisconsin Newspaper Association, represented by its president, Robert Wills of Milwaukee. Both have made most laudable contributions to our state's forest history.

Not only were the facilities at Treehaven perfect, but the weather also cooperated. Members at the business meeting portion of the session requested that next year's meeting be held at Treehaven again. To those who did not attend for one reason or another, you missed a wonderful opportunity to share a long-to-be-remembered experience.

My personal thanks go to Jacque Vallier and Frank Fixmer for their planning and setting up of a fine event. Also, "thank you" to all those members who attended and whose presence made this annual get-together so much more enjoyable.

I'd like to remind once again those who have not yet remitted their membership dues for 1985-86 to please do so. We need that dues income to help pay the cost of publishing and distributing "Chips & Sawdust" and the "Proceedings of Annual Members Meetings."

Finally, congratulations to Board member Jacque Vallier and his wife, Dory, for the well-deserved publicity they received from a front-page article and color photo in the Milwaukee Sentinel on October 15th. Those who know Jacque and Dory personally will vouch for the accuracy of that article in its account of the considerable contributions they have made to Wisconsin conservation forestry and history.

Tom Albrecht  
President

\* The "deacon seat", according to L. G. Sorden's "Lumberjack Lingo", was the one classic piece of camp furniture, built in the outer end of the muzzle-loading bunks. Usually made of half a log, flat side up. The men sat around the fire before turning in, resting, smoking and talking.

## **Annual Meeting Termed Great Success**

Participants at the Association's 1985 annual members meeting at TREEHAVEN praised the September convention as "a great success". So enthusiastic were they about the quality of the program, facilities, food and general environment that they unanimously indicated a desire to return to the same place for the 1986 convention.

Highlights of the program were the induction ceremony by the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters that placed three more well-known personalities into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame and the honoring by F.H.A.W. of two contributors to the preservation and maintenance of forest history.

Hall of Fame inductees were the late F.B. Trenk, longtime state extension forester, the late M. N. "Mully" Taylor, co-founder of and guiding force behind Trees-for-Tomorrow, and C. B. Stott, "father" of the continuous forest inventory system widely adopted as a timber management practice.

GORDON SORENSON, Drummond, was honored by the Association with the traditional plaque and citation for his authorship of the "History of Drummond" and prime motivator of the Drummond Museum. Also recognized was the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, represented by its president, Robert H. Wills, editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel, for its unique "Press Forest", an outstanding example of small woodland management for natural resource education purposes.

## **New Director Joins Board; Two Others Reelected**

EUGENE L. HARM of Cadott, WI, was elected to the Association's Board of Directors at the 1985 annual members meeting. He replaces MILTON E. REINKE, Madison, who declined to serve another term after four years in that capacity.

Harm is an active farmer in his Chippewa County community with more than a passing interest in the forest history of his area. Regular readers of "C & S" will recall that one of the letters in his collection of memorabilia of 100 years ago was published last spring, and gave some insight into the life of a pioneer farmer-logger of that period. Harm is also a collector of stamping hammers, as well as other artifacts of early day logging in the Drywood Creek area of his locality.

A companion action taken during the business portion of the annual meeting was the reelection of ELLEN SABETTA, Wis-

consin Rapids, and FRANK FIXMER, Mosinee, two-year terms as directors of the nine-member board.

## **Board of Directors Expanded**

As a followup action to that taken by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, the general membership approved a resolution expanding the nine-member board to ten. This will be a representative of a student chapter of the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters at either of the two forestry schools in the state. The resolution further provides that he/she will have full voting privileges.

The new directorship is expected to provide input into Association policies and programs which will attract more younger people into taking a more active interest in forest history and its preservation.

The present Board will appoint the student member at its November meeting. The appointment will be temporary until the 1986 annual meeting, at which time the general membership will vote a full two-year term for a director in the new category.

## **Lumberjack Statuette Donated to Association**

A surprise package was delivered to the doorstep of President Tom Albrecht shortly before the annual members meeting in September. Imagine his surprise upon opening it when he saw an 18-inch high wood carving of a black-bearded lumberjack in a bright red jacket leaning on his double-bitted axe.

The statuette proved to be the gift of RAY CLARK, presently located at the Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah, but whose roots are in the Green Bay area. In addition to his wood-carving hobby, his other interests include the collecting of antique animal traps, old logging books and log stamping hammers.

Clark suggested that the carving be auctioned off at the annual meeting, with the proceeds used for the Association's operating expenses. When President Albrecht brought up the subject during the dinner session of the meeting, the consensus opinion was that "Lumberjack Bill" should be kept as the Association's mascot and that a hat be passed around for contributions instead. After this was done, the happy announcement was made that the collection had amounted to an amazing \$65.00!

THANK YOU, RAY CLARK!

## Convention Sidelights

The display of published works by author-members of the Association attracted considerable interest. Authors present at the proceedings included "DOC" BROWN, Eau Claire, ELDON MARPLE, Hayward, MALCOLM ROSHOLT, Rosholt, GORDON SORENSON, Drummond, and WALLY YOUNGQUIST, Madison.

Royal Henson, president of the Merrill Historical Society, added to the interest of the general session with his model of a typical Wisconsin River lumber raft, built to scale in every detail.

"Lumberjack Bill", the Association's new mascot, had a place of honor at the speaker's table during the dinner program Friday evening. He is expected to be a regular attendee at future meetings.

"Early-bird" arrivals the evening before the general session began were treated to a special slide-tape presentation by JAY CRAVENS of the College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point. Titled "Daylight in the Swamp", the many early-day Wisconsin logging scenes were reproduced from original photographs that have been preserved in various collections.

Another presentation for the "early-birds" was a documentary film made about 1945 that recorded the industrial forestry practices of the former Consolidated Water Power & Paper Company, now Consolidated Paper Corporation. The film is the property of the Merrill Historical Society and had been salvaged from the tragic fire in February, 1984, that took the life of "Mully" Taylor.

The business meeting Saturday morning concluded with a slide review by RUSS ROBERTS, Tomahawk, of the founding and development of the profession of forestry through the Society of American Foresters.

After years of having had no contact with each other, former forest firefighters NEIL LEMAY, Tomahawk, and BILL EMERSON, Milwaukee, had an opportunity to renew old acquaintance.

The only two living Forestry Hall-of-Famers, FRED WILSON, 98, and CAL STOTT, 83, also had much in common to reminisce about.

## Association Members in the News Media

MARY LAGERBLOOM, former librarian at the T. B. Scott Memorial Library in Merrill, presided as chairperson for the

regional convention of the Wisconsin Council of Local Historical Societies.

PAT CRAWFORD, president of the Timbco Hydraulics Company at Shawano, has put a new feller-buncher to work on a logging project in the Nicolet National Forest north of Mountain, WI. The new Timbco Timberjack is equipped with a chain saw cutler rather than a shearing blade, which created problems for lumbermen due to cracked and splintered ends of logs.

RICHARD THIEL, RESEARCH BIOLOGIST FOR the Department of Natural Resources headquartered at Tomah, has been engaged in a field study for the past six years to determine the status and distribution of the timber wolf in Wisconsin.

JAY CRAVENS, professor at the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, was given the John A. Beale Memorial Award by the Society of American Foresters at its annual convention. Cravens earned the prestigious award for his involvement at the chapter, state and national levels of the Society.

## **Bizarre Incident in Rusk County Still a Mystery**

A stranger-than-fiction story appeared some time ago in a column of the Norman County Index of Ada, MN and forwarded by an F.H.A.W. member to "Chips & Sawdust". The date of the occurrence was not mentioned in the story, but presumably happened in the early part of this century since the periodical mentioned, the Rusk County Journal, no longer exists. The bizarre incident was described as follows:

"An investigation is underway at the University of Wisconsin to determine the historical value of a find recently made in the woods near Ladysmith. Two men hurried into Ladysmith, a city in northern Wisconsin, last week in the height of excitement, vowing that they would return to their homes near Owen and never return to the vicinity of Ladysmith again, says the Rusk County Journal. These two men, who gave their names as A. Chapin and Walter Latsch, were sent to Ladysmith a week ago by a Chippewa Falls firm which had purchased stumpage on a tract of land lying somewhere west of the Floyd Graves farm in the Township of Murray. There in a rough shanty, these men had "batched" while getting out logs and cordwood for their employers.

Among other trees selected, they notched a big basswood and felled it, for though it had a large hole some thirty feet

above the ground they considered it good for a several foot log. They struck their saw into the basswood at a point where they expected a cut would give them a 20-foot log. All went well until they were almost through the big tree when their saw evidently struck a rock. A cautious second attempt proved the futility of trying to saw through the log.

Curious to know the reason of the rock in the tree. Chapin got a 'cant hook.' After some labor, the tree trunk was turned over and a cut began, from the other side. Before long the same difficulty was encountered, but by turning the trunk several times the cut was completed and the log rolled away, revealing what threw the two men into a bad fright, for there, staring up at them, was the ashen face of a man.

After much deliberation and delay they finally summoned enough courage to drag the body of the man from the hollow trunk and, their worst fears verified, hastily set out for town. At first the men's story was laughed at, but finally it got to an official who, perceiving the state of 'nerves' which the men displayed, decided that there must be something to their story. A party of four men was secured and made the trip to the small clearing and there what they witnessed was the ancient tragedy. There, encased in the living trunk of a tree, was the entire body of a man, fully clothed in homespuns and buckskins that fell away when touched and the head had been covered with long hair which was tucked under a coon skin cap.

With the mummified body in the hollow tree was an old muzzle loading pistol of fanciful design. In the pocket of the man's clothing, which was like ashes, was found several decayed bits of paper and a few French gold coins, one of which dated back to 1164. The only clue to the man's identity was a scrap of official looking paper bearing the name 'Pierre D' Artagnan' signed 'Jacques Marquette.'

For all that it seems the height of incredibility, it is thought on good authority that in Rusk County has been found the body of Captain D'Artagnan, who was lost from Marquette and Joliet's party on a trip down the Mississippi in 1667. The solution to the body being found in the old basswood is advanced in the theory that D'Artagnan, pursued by the Indians, crawled into the hollow tree to hide and being unable to crawl out died there. The peculiar action of the sap of the live basswood petrified the body and preserved it for these men to discover.

The body was brought to Ladysmith where it was shipped to the state university."

*Editor's Note: Inquiries several months ago to both the State Historical Society and the Rusk County Historical Society have brought no response, or even an acknowledgement of our inquiry. Can any of our readers enlighten us as to the facts of this strange tale and what the results of the reported investigation may have been?*



## Rare Memorabilia Presented to Association

We usually do not accept donations of artifacts or memorabilia as they are more appropriate in a permanent museum collection, but an exception was made at the recent annual meeting.

Following his paper on the history of forest fire protection in Wisconsin, NEIL LEMAY presented the Association with two posters. One warned of fire precautions to be taken by "All hunters, trappers, fishermen, campers, surveyors, land locators, travelers or other persons", as required by Section 4405a, Statutes of 1898. The second poster announced the need for burning permits to be obtained from town fire wardens whenever they declared that hazardous conditions existed in their towns. Penalties were also cited for the willful setting of fires, or for any failure to control fires set on land other than a person's own.

What was unusual about these posters? Only that they were printed on cloth, were Forms Number 1 and 2 of the State Board of Forestry and were orders issued by (first) State Forester E. M. Griffith in 1911!

Both posters have now been mounted on decorative hard-board, covered by a clear plastic sheet, and placed in the Association's archives.

## Sequel to a Quest

The August issue of "C & S" included an item about the interest of member CAROL MAKI of Stillwater, MN in obtaining any information about the Caskinette brothers, pioneer loggers in the Glidden area.

One response came from Sagami-hara, Japan!

The respondent was charter member, CYRIL J. ERNEST, a civil servant working for the Department of the Army in Japan. Ernest's maternal grandparents settled in Marengo, WI about 1908, he was born in Ashland and grew up in the Summit Lake area between Morse and Glidden. It was therefore not entirely coincidental that Ernest had in his possession several photographs taken by his father between 1911 and 1915 which showed Joe Caskinette and other members of his family. Copies of those photos were sent by Ernest to Miss Maki, along with other information about the Caskinettes.

How true is the familiar phrase "It's a small world"!

## **Bibliography of Forest History Available at Reduced Price**

Are you one of our members who does not own a copy of the Association's earliest publishing efforts, the "Bibliography of Wisconsin Forest History Literature"? Containing over 1,000 titles of books, articles, manuscripts and even college theses, this soft-cover, 8" x 10½", booklet was published early in 1980 and distributed, free of charge, to Association members at that time. Public libraries and local historical societies were also provided with free copies.

Subsequently, copies were available at \$4.00 per copy. In order to clear out the remaining inventory of this publication, the only one of its kind known to exist, they will now be priced at \$2.69 each, including postage. Now is the time to add this valuable reference work to your personal library. Send your requests to the Secretary of the Association, 403 Mc Indoe St., Wausau, WI 54401

## **Welcome, New Members**

### **DONALD L. HAVERSON**

Route 1 - Box 44  
Boulder Junction

### **SALLY ROBERTS**

Route 2 - Box 203A  
Phillips, WI 54555

### **FLOYD SCHMIDT**

2754 N. 70th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

### **NORBERT J. SCHOENMAN**

3174 South 57th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53219

### **RICHARD N. SMITH**

1128 Oxford Road  
Waukesha, WI 53186

### **TREEHAVEN**

2540 Pickerel Creek Road  
Tomahawk, WI 54487

## Ghost Lumber Towns Information Sought

DR. RANDALL ROHE is doing research for a book on the former lumber towns (ghost towns) listed below. He would appreciate the help of other Association members with the loan of any photos, manuscripts, or newspaper clippings on any of the towns listed below, or information on where he might obtain them. He will also welcome material on any lumber ghost towns not listed.

Buswell (Vilas Co.)	Morris (Shawano Co.)
Chippewa City (Chippewa Co.)	Morse (Ashland Co.)
Coolidge (Price Co.)	McKenna (Jackson Co.)
Cotter (Lincoln Co.)	Mineral Lake (Ashland Co.)
Dexterville (Wood Co.)	Nashville (Forest Co.)
Donald (Taylor Co.)	Ostrander (Waupaca Co.)
Emerson (Iron Co.)	Parrish (Langlade Co.)
Elm City (Lincoln Co.)	Pineville (Polk Co.)
Garth (Onedia Co.)	Peshtigo Harbor (Marinette Co.)
Goodyear (Jackson Co.)	Petersville (Oconto Co.)
Harrison (Lincoln Co.)	Porter's Mills (Eau Claire Co.)
Heineman (Lincoln, Langlade Co.)	Ruby (Chippewa Co.)
Holt (Marathon Co.)	Romadka (Clark Co.)
Jeffris/Bundy (Langlade Co.)	Shanagolden (Ashland Co.)
Ingersol (Marathon Co.)	Star Lake (Vilas Co.)
Kimball (Iron Co.)	Wall (Forest Co.)
Knox Mills (Price Co.)	Wildwood (St. Croix Co.)
Little Sturgeon (Door Co.)	Woodboro (Oneida Co.)
March Rapids (Marathon Co.)	Zeda (Jackson Co.)

Send your information to:

Dr. Randall Rohe  
Department of Geography  
Univ. of Wis. - Waukesha Co. Center  
1500 University Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53186

## Tote Roads

As I walked along the tote road  
With alders evergrown,  
There came to me the memories  
Of the logging days I'd known.

And once again as in the past  
I walked beneath these trees  
Whose lofty-crowns had been the harp  
Of the minstrel midnight breeze,

I heard again, repeated clear  
And ringing as of yore,  
The lumberjack's cry of "Timber!"  
Which alas, I'll hear no more.

And down the hill awinding,  
Again I saw a load  
Come sailing in the moonlight  
Along the ice-rut road.

I heard her top chains clanking,  
I watched her roll and ride  
Along the ice-paved highway,  
Like a ship that takes the tide.

And braced against the ribbons there  
I saw my old pal standing  
Atop the swaying ship just as  
He swung her to the landing.

Oh, days now gone forever,  
Oh, scenes that used to be,  
Why must you still be calling  
To the very heart of me!

I know you're gone forever—  
And still when stars do shine,  
I often hear that harp so clear  
That hung amid the pine.

Farewell to thee, O scenes long sped,  
To me so much a part;  
How deep you've wound your trails around  
The Tote Roads of my heart!

Edwin M. Johnson

*Editor's Note: The above was submitted by William D. Johnson, Sr., of Hayward, a former director of F.H.A.W. Edwin Johnson was his father, a logger but obviously also a poet at heart.*





## **Committee Chairmen 1985-86**

### **1986 Annual Meeting**

To be appointed

### **Student Awards**

John Saemann  
Route 1 - Box 309  
Florence, WI 54121

### **Distinguished Service Awards**

Frank N. Fixmer  
604 - 9th Street  
Mosinee, WI 54455

### **Annual Proceedings**

William Sylvester, Editor  
211 Green Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

### **Publicity**

Thomas Albrecht  
103 Sunset Circle  
Shawano, WI 54166

### **Newsletter**

Frank N. Fixmer, Editor  
604 - 9th Street  
Mosinee, WI 54455



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