A Newsletter

From

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

403 McIndoe Street Wausau, WI 54401

November, 1989

Officers & Directors 1988-1989

Thomas R. Albrecht
304 W. Richmond Street
Shawno, WI 54155

Joyce Bant - Vice President
Route 1, Box 62
Prentice, WI 54556

Karl Baumann - President
1119 Florence Street
Marinette, WI 54143

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

Eugene Harm
Route 2, Box 468
Cadott, WI 54727

Russell H. Roberts
363 W. Leather Street
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Michael Sohasky
1435 Neva Road
Antigo, WI 54409

Ralph G. Swanson
P. O. Box 361
Winchester, WI 54567

Jacque D. Vallier
100243 N. Westport Circle
Mequon, WI 53092

Editor's Notes

Our 14th annual meeting, held October 6-7 in Marinette, proved highly successful. Those in attendance heard papers on various aspects of the lumbering history of the area -- from the virgin forest, the transition from pine to hardwood, life in a boom and bust lumber town, salvaging deadheads, and the development of the county forest. Howard Emich, local radio announcer and historian, gave a slide-illustrated presentation on the history of Marinette.

Unfortunately one of our scheduled speakers, Wally Youngquist, was unable to attend. Wally suffered a severe stroke in early September. He is now doing fine, but will be in an intensive rehabilitation therapy program at Madison General Hospital for four to six week. Wally has been an active member of F.H.A.W. and received our distinguished service award to an individual last year. I'm sure Wally would appreciate a note or card from fellow members. They can be sent to his home address 201 Kensington Drive, Madison, Wi. 53704. Duncan Godshall, a close acquaintance of Wally, read his paper.

At the banquet Friday night, the association presented its annual distinguished service award to an individual to Walt Goldsworthy and its distinguished service award to a group to the Three Lakes Historical Society. Saturday, our second annual auction took place and was even more successful than last year. Karl Baumann, again, did an excellent job as auctioneer. The annual meeting concluded with field trips to the

Marinette County Logging Museum and Peshtigo Fire Museum.

In order that we might improve our annual meetings, the board of directors ask that all members fill out the survey enclosed with this issue of "Chips & Sawdust."

Please consider giving a F.H.A.W. membership as a Christmas gift to a relative, co-worker, or friend. A membership form is enclosed for that purpose.

Randall Rohe, Editor

Matching Gifts

Does your employer or past employer have a "matching gifts program?" F.H.A.W. has been the fortunate recipient of several donations that were matched by the donor's previous employer, thereby doubling the contribution. Such contributions are welcome additions to our capital fund account. Income from the investment of those funds goes a long way toward meeting the Association's annual operating expenses. Please contact Frank Fixmer concerning such gifts to F.H.A.W.

Paper for this issue of "Chips & Sawdust" was provided courtesy of Badger Paper Co., Peshtigo, WI.

More Menominee River Lumbering History

One of the major lumber firms that operated on the Menominee River was appropriately named the Menominee River Lumber Company. Its history as described by Bernhardt J. Kleven "Wisconsin Lumber Industry" PhD University of Minnesota, 1941, pp. 366-369 went as follows:

> The first steam sawmill on the river was one built near the bay in 1856 by the New York Lumber Company whose members were from Pennsylvania and New York. Before the large plant was in readiness for operations $50,000 had been expended on it. The machinery, which was placed on the second floor, included one circular saw, one relay, two gang saws, edgers, lath mill, and cut-off saws. The power units were placed on the first floor, and included five engines and four boilers. But the eastern capitalists were not successful, and were bankrupt by 1858. After changes in ownership, the New York concern passed into the hands of Jesse Spalding, N. H. Porter, W. D. Koughteling, O. R. Johnson, Colonel F. R. Stockbridge, and Philetus Sawyer. The firm name, Menominee River Lumber Company, was assumed. This firm was capitalized at $665,000.
>
> After the reorganization the firm became one of the strongest and richest lumber corporations in the state. The new membership included veteran lumbermen, such as O. R. Johnson and F. B. Stockbridge, who were the principal stockholders in the Saugatuck Lumber Company of Saugatuck, Michigan. Stockbridge was also a member of a lumber concern in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Sawyer was engaged in the lumber business in Oshkosh and vicinity; and Jesse Spalding had been in the lumber business in Pennsylvania.

The mill burned in 1870, but a new and much superior one was built to the north of the old location, on what was actually part of the river. An island was formed by driving piling and filling in the enclosed area, providing ample yard space. Special features were added to the mill, among which were separate fire-proof boiler and engine houses. Fire-fighting equipment was installed. But this plant, fire-proof buildings and all, were destroyed in the great fires of 1871, when the villages of Peshtigo and Menekaunee were razed. A new mill was again put up. The two head saws in the new mill each had a fifty-four inch lower saw and a twenty-two inch upper circular saw. The gate of the gang saw, one of the largest in the Northwest, was sixty inches wide. The average capacity of the mill was 125,000 and 175,00 feet of lumber in a twelve-hour day, or 25,000,000 feet per season, and in addition several million lath. The gang saw alone could saw from 90,000 to 100,000 feet of lumber a day. To furnish power for the engines seven boilers were installed. To dispose of mill waste a large burner, such as was later used by all mills, was constructed. The superintendent of the plant was Michael Gerry. The lumber produced was sold by the Spalding Lumber Company, the T. M. Sheppard Company, and the Perley Lowe Company, all of Chicago.

The Menominee River Lumber Company dredged its own harbor and built its own docks to enable it to load lumber and other products directly onto the ships. Much pine land on the Menominee River was acquired by the firm, and it ran its own logging camps. The general merchandise store of the firm supplied the camps with equipment and food, which was one reason for conducting this "side line." The third mill was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1895. The fourth plant was built with band saw installations in place of the now rather outmoded circulars or rotaries. This firm, which had operated most successfully since 1860, completed its sawing at the end of the 1900 season, having sawed all its timber with the exception of a few thousand acres.

Recent Publications

- The Timber Producer, "Lumberjack: Shanty Boy and Timber Beast." *The Timber Producer* (April 1989), pp. 20-22.

Brief account of life in the lumber camps of the Upper Great Lakes in the nineteenth century, based on a special exhibit at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum, WI.

- Daniel D. Scrobell, *Early Times.* Minocqua: Heritage House Publishing, 1988 (Available from Heritage House Publishing, P. O. Box 1148 Minocqua, WI 54548)

The author presents the early history of the Minocqua area through the use of annotated articles from the Minocqua Times and other period newspapers. An excellent work with many fine illustrations, it includes much on the lumbering history of the area and such lumber towns as Hazelhurst, Arbor Vitae, Star Lake, Winchester, etc.

- Michael Williams, *Americans and Their Forests A Historical Geography.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989

In this scholarly, well-written account, Michael Williams tells us of the meaning of the forest in American history and culture; he describes and analyzes the clearing and use of the forest from pre-European times to the present, and he traces the subsequent regrowth of the forest since the middle of the twentieth century. The book includes a single chapter, "The Lumberman's Assault on the Forests of the Lake States, 1860-1890, pp. 193-273, on the Upper Great Lakes region.

Thanks

Our second annual auction proved even more successful than the first. We generated some $585.00 in much needed capital and even had some items left as "seed" for next year. A stamp hammer, donated by Malcolm Rosholt, brought the highest bid -- $65.00. Our thanks to the following persons who donated items for the auction. (I apologize if we've missed anyone): James Coughlin, Jacque Vallier, Eugene Harm, Joe Mills, Paul Brenner, Karl Baumann, Malcolm Rosholt, Wally Youngquist, Larry Easton, and Frank Fixmer. Special thanks are due Jacque Vallier and Gene Harm who each donated a large number of items.

Tall Timber

Reporter Ron Leys, in the *Milwaukee Journal* of 3 September 1989, told of his visit to the Cathedral Pines, a remnant stand of old-growth white pine in Oconto County.

> The wind sighed far above, 100 feet up in the crowns of white pine trees that were 200 years old when the first white person saw them, that are more than 300 years old now.
>
> It was perhaps a sigh for what had been, a sigh for a northern Wisconsin once covered by such magnificent trees as these, by towering white pines, red pines, hemlocks, maples, beeches, oaks.

The big cut, the rape of Wisconsin, began late in the last century and lasted into the 1920s. When it was over, the northern third of Wisconsin was a wasteland of slash and stumps. It has never recovered.

Here and there across Wisconsin, a little remnant of magnificence was saved. This grove, called Cathedral of Pines, is one of those remnants. The 40-acre tract is now owned by the federal government, and Larry Strecker, a district ranger in the Nicolet National Forest, is determined that this grove can be preserved forever.

These pines were saved from the crosscut saws of lumberjacks, Strecker said, because the wife of the original timber baron who controlled this corner of Wisconsin often came to the grove to meditate. She called it her cathedral, and she asked her husband to save it.

It was a sunny day when Strecker drove west from Highway 32 on Archibald Lake Rd., between Lakewood and Townsend, perhaps 75 miles northwest of Green Bay. Cathedral Dr. took us north from Archibald Lake Rd. to a Forest Service sign that marks the edge of the grove.

That's it. In keeping with the informality of national forests, there are no further signs, no marked trails, no cute names on the trees. Visitors are free to walk the open forest floor, to enjoy the eternal cool shade that keeps underbrush from growing under the dense canopy.

Perhaps, if visitor traffic increases, some measures will be taken to protect the great blue herons that nest in the tops of the tallest trees in spring and early summer.

Which is the biggest tree in the grove? No one knows, because no one has taken the time to try to measure the trees.

Strecker picked out a white pine he thought was the biggest of all, estimated the diameter of the fissured trunk at three feet and thought the first living branches began at about 70 feet above the ground.

The top of the tree was hidden by its branches and those of its neighbors, so there was no easy way to estimate the height, but certainly it was more than 100 feet.

Using a forester's formula, Strecker estimated the usable wood volume of the tree at 2,500 board feet, each board foot being one foot square by one inch thick. It would take about seven such trees to build a typical house.

But Strecker, although he is a commercial forester by training and occupation, hopes these trees never feel the bite of a saw.

The trees in the cathedral have a higher use. They will remain to remind us of the beauty of nature, and perhaps to remind us to be more careful in the future.

A visitor remarked to Strecker that he had once been in another grove of virgin pines, this one on the Bois Brule River estate of another former timber baron.

Strecker laughed and said: "Yes, they knew how beautiful the trees were."

When the timber kings ordered the cutting of Wisconsin's forests, they saved a few remnants for themselves. This particular grove is now available for all to see and marvel at.

But perhaps we are not at the end of the story in this virgin forest.

Some foresters believe that the magnificent white pines that covered much of northern Wisconsin before the big cut were not a true climax forest. They theorize that beeches and hemlocks, if given enough time, will grow in the shade of the pines and eventually choke them out and take over.

According to that theory, great fires that swept northern Wisconsin about 300 years ago destroyed the original beech-hemlock forest and created the temporary white pine forest.

Among the plants growing today in the shade of the Cathedral of Pines are hemlocks and beeches. Perhaps, if humans can keep their hands off things for another couple of hundred years, these little evergreens and hardwoods will prove to be the real kings of the forest.

But for now, the wind sighs in the pines.

Thompson On the Peshtigo Fire

When Gov. Tommy Thompson visited Peshtigo last July, he noted the pioneering efforts of the 1871 fire victims. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* of July 25, 1989 gave this accounting of his remarks.

Thompson praises pioneering efforts of 1871 fire victims

Peshtigo -- Gov. Tommy G. Thompson Monday wove his economic development theme into a memorial to victims of the famous Peshtigo fire of 1871.

Thompson, in his first full day of a week touring the state's northeastern and eastern regions, laid a wreath on the monument to an estimated 350 unidentified victims of the holocaust of Oct. 8, 1871.

The fire killed about 1,200 people -- 800 from Peshtigo -- the same day as the famous Chicago fire.

Officials said Thompson's tribute, the laying of a floral wreath, was the first by a visiting dignitary -- certainly the first by a governor -- to memorialize the victims of the fire that scorched to ashes the pioneer lumber community.

But Thompson said those who made history in 1871 had not died in vain, but were pioneering people looking for a better life through enterprise in America.

The community of immigrants had been built around a mill that employed 800 men and sawed 150,000 board feet of lumber a day.

"They gave their lives in the name of economic development," Thompson said in prepared remarks.

"This village was just taking on permanent form," Thompson told a crowd of about 200 people who gathered

for the memorial. "Then came the drought ... and the fire that literally exploded around the city."

Stella Van Bogart, curator of the Fire Museum that has attracted 24,000 visitors so far this summer, said no official had stopped to perform such a rite as Thompson did Monday.

Camp Five

Mike Savage of the *Milwaukee Sentinel* recently (September 27, 1989) wrote an extended article, "Little nook is big stop for tourists, on the Camp Five Museum and Farm.

LAONA -- This little nook in the Nicolet National Forest is home to one of the most highly regarded tourists stops in the state.

Camp Five and the Lumberjack steam train have won several awards from state and national organizations such as the State Historical Society and the Arbor Foundation. And the American Automobile Association calls the educational tourist facility "one of the best" in Wisconsin.

It's also a neat place to visit.

The tour starts on the edge of this small mill town, near the junction of Highways 8 and 32. At the depot of the Laona & Northern Railway, a hissing 1916 Vulcan steam engine known as 4-Spot is ready to pull red passenger cars and yellow cabooses through the woods to an old logging camp farm known as Camp Five.

For $8.50 per adult and $3.75 per child, the family boards the antique train for a rocking, squeaking train ride into the past.

The train goes past the old mill pond where, in years past, thousands of logs floated toward the old Connor sawmill for processing.

Next, the antique, red railroad coaches and popular yellow cupola cabooses pass over the picturesque Rat River, which was named for the abundance of muskrats available for trapping. In late summer and early fall, the river's wild rice grows 4 to 5 feet tall and turns a beautiful golden hue.

Just before pulling into Camp Five, the railroad also passes the camp's farm fields, which support 200 head of Hereford cattle and a dozen or so huge Belgian work horses. The train then pulls into Camp Five.

The atmosphere is laid back. And because of the spread-out nature of the clean grounds, about 500 people can be present without apparent crowding.

There are three guides and a working blacksmith to answer questions. According to one visitor's description, the pastoral setting is "like magic" because of the leisurely pace.

Tickets are good for a full three hours at Camp Five.

The first departure is 11 a.m., the last train leaves at 2 p.m. The traveler can take one or three hours to enjoy all the camp has to offer.

There are several interesting buildings to tour at Camp Five, including the logging museum, blacksmith shop, cook shanty, Cracker Barrel store and domestic animal petting corral.

The Choo-Choo hut on site offers food and drink. Picnic tables are available for those who pack their lunches.

Another option, requiring an additional fee, is a float trip on a pontoon boat down the Rat River.

Yet another option and one of the outstanding features of this tourist stop is the Green Treasure Forest Tour.

The half-hour surrey ride through a working forest (the tour cooperates with the Connor Industrial Forest which occupies adjacent land) is packed full of educational and environmental information. A driver/guide relates hundreds of interesting facts about the intricacies of a working Wisconsin forest.

Did you know that basswood flowers yield a succulent honey and aroma that fills the summer air with fragrance? Did you know that basswood is the only hardwood that doesn't stain chicken meat? It's important because the lower grades of basswood lumber are used to make chicken crates.

Did you know yellow birch is known as "Wisconsin Mahogany?" Did you know that tapping sugar maple trees were discovered by Indians tasting frozen icicles hanging from maple trees damaged by squirrels?

After a Camp Five Green Treasure tour, you'll know these facts and many more.

It becomes obvious before long that the operators of Camp Five and the Lumberjack Special are making a concerted effort to integrate the apparently divergent worlds of environmental protection and the logging/lumber industry.

Not only is the camp enjoyable, it presents forest history and environment as an integrated part of today's social and economic dynamic.

Passing of the Lumberjack

The lumber industry saw many changes between the turn of the century and the First World War. The *Merrill Star-Advocate* described many of them in a March 26, 1916 article.

> Mild and snowless weather is not appreciated in the logging camps of the Northwest, as it brings a stagnation in the movement of the fallen timber toward the saw mills. Snow drifts and below zero temperatures are welcomed, for then snow and ice tracks may be constructed. Over these the pine logs are hauled to the railroads which in turn transport them to the mills and they furnish the initial stage

in the manufacture of articles from pine lumber that in the due course of time reach the ultimate consumer.

In hauling the pine logs from where they have been felled to the trains which transport them to the saw mills -- after the ground is covered with snow -- huge sleds having a wide tread are used. Ruts the exact width of the sleighs are made, and these are flooded with water, which, in cold weather, freeze and form a glass-like track. Even in the absence of snow, the roads are flooded, and if the temperature is of sufficient frigidity an ice track is formed that makes the transportation of the timber a matter of comparatively minor consideration.

However, many large logging crews are at work in the pineries felling timber which will later on find its way to the sorting skids, for a winter wholly without snow or freezing weather has no place in the memory of the oldest lumberman or operator in the pine forests.

The days of the "lumberjack" as the picturesquely clad figure in brilliantly-hued mackinaws is familiarly known, are practically numbered, so far as old-time lumbering in the northern woods is concerned. No longer will the hardy woodsman return in the spring time from a winter's sojourn in the fastness of the pine timber, his pockets lined with from $100 to $300 hard earned money, and proceed to cut a wide swath in the midst of the clusters of tall buildings which intercept his progress southward.

In few localities will the foremen of logging crews assemble his men and teams and set out for unlocated camps in the pine woods of the north, building wanegans and stables for the accommodation of man and beast during the terms of wresting building material from the bosom of the virgin forests in the midst of a frigid winter season. In few localities will the woods resound with the sharp "spat" of the axman's implement as it bites into tree after tree, from the rising to the setting of the sun, and in few camps will be heard the familiar and always welcome call of the cook, "Chuck's ready."

Things have undergone a change in the pineries.

In the old days the men were at the call of the camp foreman long before the opening of the logging season, and many remained in tentative employ -- or at least had the refusal of position -- the year round. Competition was keen and spirited for the acquisition of axmen who had attained reputations for skill in their particular line of work, while teamsters, canthook men, brushmen and cooks were also sought according to their efficiency in their respective capacities.

And wages were pretty fair in those days, too. Axmen received all the way from $60 to $75 a month and board, and were not unduly anxious to dispose of their services even at those figures. The ordinary "jacks" were paid from $25 to $35 and $40 a month and board, while the cook -- he was the forerunner of the baseball holdout star of the present day. A good man who had the reputation of being able to provide the most satisfying lumber camp ration, at a minimum of expense to his employer was able almost to name his own figures -- $100 a month, with one and sometimes two assistants "slush cooks," being willingly paid to many of these food jugglers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

Today the scene is changed. The ax is supplanted by the saw, and by this mode of procedure the pine monarchs are felled in a fraction of the time required formerly. The huge trunks are denuded of their branches, and the logs are scaled and whisked to sorting skids where they are loaded on freight trains and transported to the mills in less time than was formerly necessary to get them to the river where they were formed into brails and made up into rafts to be transported in tow of a steamer to the saw mills.

The axman is no longer lord of the realm. He is succeeded by brawny armed wielders of the saw, the work of which is far from requiring a knowledge of the niceties of tree felling chip at a time, and the serrated steel bands trim the tree off neatly, close to the ground.

When the timber cutting industry was in its prime in the dense pine forests, little care was paid to economy in

cutting. Often snow drifts were encountered, ten or more feet in height. The axmen felled the trees close down to the snow, and after the spring thaws had come and gone, tall stumps containing in the aggregate many thousands of feet of valuable lumber were uncovered. After the demands of the pine lumber barons resulted in denuding the vast northern areas which were the scene of operations for many years, these lands were sold for the stumpage they represented, and crews of sawyers removed the valuable stump-logs which were transported to the saw mills and box factories as their size warranted.

And the logging camps -- no longer are they represented by the temporary structures known as "wanegans," built from rough pine boards and devoid of ornamentation or comforts save as represented by bunks filled with straw and topped with blankets beneath which the weary woodsman crept shortly after consuming his evening meal.

It is now the bunk car, if you please -- a palace on wheels compared with the institutions which they have supplanted. The interior is well lighted and ventilated, and a double row of bunks -- upper and lower berths -- occupy each side. The bedding is substantial, comfortable, clean and neat, and includes pillows -- real ones, too.

Accompanying the bunk cars are kitchen cars, in place of the old and well-remembered cookshanties, hastily thrown up at the most convenient spot in camp, and the "major domo" often proves to be a woman. In many instances she is the wife of the cook and officiates as a sort of assistant.

Down one side of the accompanying dining car is a roomy serving table, while on the opposite side of the car is the dining table, on each side of which are seats for the men. Dishes supplant tin cups and plates, and the well-lighted, roomy interior is in marked contrast to the former prevailing order of affairs -- a contrast which will forcibly appeal to those who are acquainted with the conditions obtaining in the old-time camps.

The arrival of the bunk and kitchen cars was almost simultaneous with that of the logging railway which superseded to a large extent the rafting of the logs to the mills. The arguments in favor of the cars against the conditions which they succeeded are so potent as to necessitate little comment. The ease and rapidity with which the scene of operations can be shifted, almost on an hour's notice, has proved a satisfactory reason for their adoption in the modern logging camp.

But to the old habitues of the logging camp there is always one feature which possesses an irresistibility all its own, and that is "chuck time." True, the work was fatiguing, but with an appetite sharpened to the ravenous point by the dry, sweet air and the odor from the needle-laden pine boughs, the lumberjack ate his fill and waxed "fat and sassy." The frills and fancy dishes of the city cafe were missing, but to the hungry woodsman the provender set before him outclassed in enjoyment that with which Lucullus was wont to entertain Lucullus.

Hugh dishes of meat, potatoes and other vegetables, flanked by good bread and steaming hot coffee, formed a feast which needed no urging, rough though the fare was, it was provided only by hours of toll on the part of the cook and his assistants, often hours after the other occupants of the camp were wrapped in repose.

The cook was a hard worker; his hours were long, from 4:30 in the morning until 9 at night. His duties were many; for instance, besides his cooking he had to cut his own wood, which was about a cord a day, go after the water and all that. And for this work he was compensated by comparatively large wages.

Nowadays it is all much different; the cook is quite functionary; he has the latest utensils to work with and can get up meals that compete well with those provided at the country hotel. The dining room, with "home, Sweet Home: over the door, the handy kitchen -- it's all as fine as everything. The shanty itself is a very respectable building -- but in the old days! Well, the shanty was merely four logs for

the base with slabs run up to a point for the walls. A big camp fire in the center served for the stove; here also was baked the bread -- in tins that faced the fire. The bed was made by placing a timber about six feet from the wall and filling the intervening space with boughs. The quilts were sewed together so that no one would be tempted to monopolize protection from the cold. At that it was cold enough and often when the cook awoke he found an extra covering of two or three inches of snow on the bed. The bean hole was a beloved institution in the old days; therefrom was drawn the steaming pot of beans that had remained covered with coals all night. "Dunderfunk" was a fine dish, too; it was usually afforded on Sunday. It was made of parboiled bread, salt pork and molasses, deposited in alternate rows in the kettle, and when cooked made delicious pudding. They used to have pies and such dainties on Sunday, too. But in the main the diet was good solid food, and plenty of it; the men had appetites, got away with it, felt fine and made lots of work for the cook. Those indeed were the happy days. It is so different now.

For dainties there were none, and biscuits were an unheard of delicacy. Fancy baking a sufficient number of biscuits to appease the hunger of 50 or 75 husky laborers, each with an appetite of buzz-saw destructiveness! The nearest approach to biscuits was to be found in what was termed "bannocks." These were in reality overgrown baking powder biscuits, though. They contained the same ingredients, but were baked in loaf form and by the wholesale quantity.

But the piece de resistance of the lumberman's fare was baked beans. And who can gainsay the statement that there is no more enjoyable and satisfying dish -- properly prepared -- after having attended the formal opening of the camp "bean hole?"

Beans were a staple article of diet, but they never appeared to pall on the men in camp. A hugh kettle of this favorite ration was placed to boil early in the day, and allowed to simmer for hours. At last, having been

pronounced done, preparations for the baking were made. A large hold was dug in the ground and lined with thick stones. In this opening a roaring fire was kindled and kept going until the stones and surrounding earth became thoroughly heated. Then the salt pork was carefully distributed among the contents of the kettle, the cover put in place and the kettle was lowered into its waiting receptacle. Earth was then placed over the top of the kettle to the depth of several inches, and on this a roaring fire of pine boughs was kindled and kept going until just before breakfast time in the morning, when the kettle was again brought out of its resting place and the cover removed.

Stories may be written of delicious viands, but no poem, be it ever so exquisite in construction and sentiment, could do justice to the feeling aroused by the aroma which arose from the bean kettle and smote upon the olfactory organs of the hungry men awaiting the feast.

For a number of years there has at different times circulation been given to a report that the supply of timber is nearing exhaustion. This is an error. True, in some districts, which have been the scene of heavy operations for many successive years, about all the valuable standing pine has been cut, but these areas by no means represent the supply as a whole. There are still vast tracts virgin pine timber in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. This is being cut into lumber by large concerns and the product marketed in increasing quantities. It is estimated that it will still be a great many years before the pine resources of the northern section of the states named will be exhausted.

GIVE A F.H.A.W. MEMBERSHIP FOR XMAS.

In Memoriam

Delayed word has been received that **Lennart A. Erickson** of Fargo, N.D., an Association member since 1986, passed away on June 20, 1989.

Mr. Erickson was born in Ashland, WI., and spent his boyhood days around Chequamegon Bay during the 1920's and '30's. He had an intense interest in the history of the lumbering industry of that area. Despite his advanced years, his interest led him to take several university graduate courses at Fargo, which led to the writing of a paper on the effect of immigration on the Ashland area.

The Association's collective sympathies go to Mrs. Erickson on her loss.

Get Well Wishes

Carl Rhody of Ogema, WI had a hip replacement on October 9th, the second such surgery. Our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery, so that he can return to work on his latest literary effort, a turn-of-the-century logging novel. Carl is the author of five previous books on the "Sage of Spirit Valley," a history of his pioneer family and autobiography.

Tom Albrecht of Shawano, WI and past president of the Association has had a leg in a cast for a couple of months already and is hoping that the ligament problem will heal without surgery. We all hope so too; he gets back to helping

woodland owners practice good forest management on Shawano County's timberlands.

Members in the News

At the 1989 annual convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History on November 10 & 11, **Patricia Schroeder** of Park Falls and the Price County Historical Society will be a guest speaker on "Teaching History in the Public and Private Schools."

Frank Klobuchar, West Allis, was elected president of Chapter 134 (Milwaukee-Great Lakes Area) of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni. Frank was a C.C.C. boy in a northern Wisconsin camp back in the 1930's.

Log on Sleighs During Summer

Perhaps one of the most far fetched attempts to improve log transportation was the use of an ice preservative by Langley & Alderson on their ice roads in 1909. Our thanks to Larry Easton who found the following article in the *Greenwood Gleaner,* March 18, 1909.

> It is said that Langley & Alderson, one of the veteran logging concerns of the northern part of the state, experimented with the new patented Rinelander ice preserving compound on their logging roads during the recent thaw

with most satisfactory results, says the Rhinelander New North. It is further reported that they have ordered fifty tons of the preservative to be coated over their ice roads and will haul logs on sleighs all summer.

The preservative is said to act on the roads like a charm. No matter how penetrating are the rays of the sun they have absolutely no effect upon the ice. Another thing in favor of the compound is the fact that horses are able to pull loads over roads thus treated with more ease. Flies and mosquitoes will not bother horses during the heat of the summer as the coolness of the ice roads keeps the insects away. The preservative will enable Langley & Alderson to do double the hauling during the coming summer to that of heretofore. Other big lumbermen in Northern Wisconsin will adopt the use of the preservative and it is safe to guess that within two years the high wheels now used for summer logging will be a relic of the past.

Have any members ever heard of similar attempts by other lumber compnies?

Medical Care in a Lumber Town

FHAW member Dr. Carl Krog of UW Marinette has published numerous articles on the lumbering history of Marinette and the surrounding area. One of them, "Germs, Lumberjacks, and Doctors in Nineteenth Century Marinette," (*Transactions, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters,* Vol, 61, 1973, pp 87-93) deals with the medical services available in Marinette during the lumber era. The following is excerpted from this article.

Both lumberjacks and sawmill workers followed hazardous occupations and accidents were frequent. There was a high rate of turnover in the lumbering industry, and young inexperienced crews increased the accident potential. Falling trees, drownings in the river during log drives, and lack of protective screens and guard rails in the sawmills took their toll. (Drunkenness does not appear to have been a major contributing factor.) It was reported that 120 men were injured in the woods of Menominee River pinery during the winter of 1898-1899 alone. The close, unhygienic conditions of the lumber camps made epidemics a constant threat. Lumberjacks, welcomed in small towns for the money they spent on services, spread their camp-bred diseases to the urban population. Smallpox remained a continuous scourge to lumbering towns down to the early years of the 20th century.

Unlike many frontier communities Marinette had the services of physicians from the very beginning of settlement. Dr. Jonathan Hall, who came to Marinette from upstate New York, owned and operated a sawmill during the 1840's and 1850's. His mill failed during the late 1850's, but he remained providing medical services for the growing community during the 1860's. A second New Yorker, John Sherman, worked for Hall as a timber cruiser and bookkeeper unil the 1860's, when with Hall's encouragement he went to Chicago to study medicine at Rush Medical School. The first school teacher, community historian, founder of the first church, Pioneer Presbyterian, organizer of the first Masonic Lodge in the region, reform mayor, "Old Doc Sherman" was one of the most influential members of the settlement in converting what was once a lumbering camp into a permanent village.

The Chicagoans and Milwaukeeans who owned most of the large Marinette lumber companies regarded the growing settlement on the south bank of the Menominee river as a kind of unwanted byproduct of their sawmills. The community grew from a population of 400 in 1860 to 4,000 in 1880, and quadrupled in population during the last

two decades of the nineteenth century, attracting merchants and professional people. Both groups suffered from outside competition; the merchants from the lumber company stores and the village doctors from itinerant physicians who like many of their lumberjack patients were transients, interested in making a few dollars as they passed through the community.

In July, 1886, citizens learned that a Dr. Edward Fishblatt was coming to Marinette. Former professor of Atlanta Medical College and present editor of the New York Medical and Surgical Review, Fishblatt specialized in chronic diseases. Among his credits were curing patients suffering from ruptures, piles, tumors, and kidney infection, as well as helping the lame to walk, and young men troubled by impotency. Physicians like Fishblatt visited the community about once every six weeks and appear to have attracted a number of patients.

Medical practices and facilities in Marinette gradually improved during the last decade and a half of the nineteenth century. As early as April, 1875, the Marinette Eagle announced plans for a workers' hospital. The plans called for a program whereby a worker would pay one dollar the first month and fifty cents each month thereafter for hospitalization. Nothing came of the plan, though the need for hospitalization remained.

The Menominee River Hospital was organized in 1886, and three years later, a branch was opened in Menominee. The Marinette and Menominee Hospital Company was incorporated the same year with Dr. H. E. Mann, president, and Dr. J. A. Somerville, secretary and treasurer. Hospital confinement, except in very serious cases, was rare in the late nineteenth century, yet by the early 1890's the two hospitals were treating over five hundred cases annually. Because of the high number of accidents in the lumber camps, the Marinette hospital reported that it had an average of 25 patients daily.

The first hospital quarters were primitive. A boarding house served as the first hospital building. Injured lumber-

jacks sometimes arrived in railroad baggage cars, hand cars, and in one case, strapped to a log which served as a splint and stretcher for a man with a broken thigh. Patients were hand-carried by physicians and attendants to the hospital operating room. Chloroform and ether were the only anesthetics and lysol the major disinfectant. In spite of the primitive working conditions and equipment, difficult and serious operations were performed from the beginning. A Caesarean section was done a few months after the hospital opened. Several months later, a young man entered the hospital with typhoid fever. He remained for the next half century. To pay his hospital bill, John E. Boren began working for the hospital. Shortly, he was made superintendent of the hospital. A number of his descendants became physicians and have continued to serve the community. Successful in detecting the ever-present typhoid germ, he helped lead the community fight to suppress the disease.

To provide medical service and insure payment from the notoriously improvident lumberjacks, the Menominee River Hospital organized a hospital insurance program. Under its jovial salesman, James J. Stephens, who visited the lumber camps, the hospital provided a dual program for medical protection. In exchange for a five dollar annual ticket, a lumberjack received all the hospital care he might need, including physicians's service and surgery. For ten dollars a year the ticket holder received the same hospital care, plus a dollar a day while hospitalized.

The city of Marinette with 16,000 people spent $472.55 on its health department in 1900. To match the expenditures of Denver that year, Marinette would have had to spend $4503 and to match Milwaukee, $5271.

Nonetheless, the death rate in the city compared favorably with the national rate, which was 17 per 1,000 in the first year of the 20th century.

Committee Chairmen 1988-1989

1989 Annual Meeting
Karl Baumann

Distinguished Service Award
Frank M. Fixmer

Publicity
Russell Roberts

Student Awards
John Saemann
Mike Sohasky

Annual Proceedings
Randall Rohe

Newsletter
Randall Rohe

Forest History Association
of Wisconsin, Inc.
403 McIndoe Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Forest History Association
of Wisconsin, Inc.
403 McIndoe Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Nonprofit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mosinee, Wis.
Permit No. 26