



"CHIPS and SAWDUST"

A Newsletter from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin
403 McIndoe Street - Wausau, WI 54401

VOLUME III - No. 3

September - 1978

ANNUAL MEETING TERMED SUCCESSFUL

The Association's annual meeting of members, held in Madison last September 9th, was attended by about 45 members and guests. A sampling of opinion after the session indicated a general appreciation and enthusiasm for the quality of the program that was presented. The entire proceedings will be published, as last year, and will be distributed to members as soon as they become available.

Five new directors were elected: GEORGE CORRIGAN (Saxon), retired logger, veteran industry leader and author; JAY CRAVENS (Stevens Point), former U.S. Forest Service regional forester and now professor at the College of Natural Resources, University of WI - Stevens Point; HOWARD LOVESTEAD (Rhineland) Consolidated Papers' regional forest manager; JOHN SAEMANN (Florence), retired University of WI extension forester and county forest administrator for Marinette County; and WALTER MAYO, (Eagle River), Vilas County Forest Administrator. Holdover directors are L.G. SORDEN and FRANK FIXMER.

A special meeting of the new Board is to be held October 3rd to elect officers and to take action on several pending matters. Board meetings are open to members at large. However, those wishing to appear for the purpose of presenting specific proposals should advise the Secretary to that effect so that time may be scheduled on the agenda.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Following the custom inaugurated last year, special awards were presented at the annual members meeting for distinguished service toward the preservation of Wisconsin's forest heritage.

Recipient of the organizational award was the Camp Five Logging Museum and Blacksmith Shop, recreated by Connor Forest Industries at Laona in cooperation with the Camp Five Museum Foundation, Inc. MRS. GORDON R. CONNOR of Wausau accepted the hand-carved plaque and engraved citation on behalf of the sponsors.

Winner of the award for individual contributions to the state's forest history was GEORGE A. CORRIGAN, author of "Caulked Boots and Cant Hooks" and newly-elected director of the Association.

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FUELWOOD PRICES 135 YEARS AGO

An article by WALTER SCOTT in 1977 edition of THE JOURNAL of Historic Madison, Inc. is titled "Some Madison Anecdotes from Territorial Days." One of the anecdotes relates that:

"In April, 1843, John Y. Smith, Superintendent of Territorial Property, called for sealed bids' for furnishing upon the capitol square for use of the legislature, two hundred cords of wood'. When the 15 bids were opened on April 18, they ranged from \$1.48 to \$2.10 per cord, but as low bidder Joshua Boyles was absent from Madison, the contract was given to the next lowest bidder, Peter H. VanBergen, at \$1.50."

Recently, we spotted an advertisement in a Wausau paper which offered to deliver and pile 16-inch firewood (one-third of a cord) for \$19.00 if hard maple and \$18.00 for mixed hardwood. Inflation also helps to grow money on trees!

COMMEMORATIVE EVENT SCHEDULED FOR OCONTO

The Holt Lumber Company sawmill in Oconto closed on October 28, 1938, ending the era of lumbering in that part of Wisconsin. In observance of that event, the community will stage a number of activities, contests and exhibits October 24 thru 29, climaxed by a Lumberjack Party on the 29th for any and all persons who were employed by sawmills anywhere in the Oconto River watershed. Further details can be obtained by writing to ROBERT J. GANNON, 142 McDonald Street, Oconto, WI 54153

"EASY GOING" in WISCONSIN'S NORTHWOODS

"EASY GOING" is the intriguing title of a little paperback book by MICHAEL J. DUNN, III of Manitowish Water, WI. It is as good a travel guide for visitors to Vilas and Oneida counties as any tourist could want.

But its attraction is not just the detail of places to see, recommended eating spots, lodging and camping facilities and other miscellany. What makes it of special interest to forest history buffs are the introductory paragraphs for each village or city that tell of the origins and early settlement of each community. Most of them, of course, started either as logging camps or sawmill sites, but the author has managed to avoid considerable repetition by having researched a variety of historic facts about each location that make for really interesting reading.

F.H.A.W. members familiar with Vilas and Oneida county geography will find this little book a storehouse of information and a worthwhile addition to their libraries. A reviewer for a Chicago magazine says "Travelers should pack "EASY GOING" right next to their money." It is published by Tamarack Press, P.O. Box 5650, Madison, WI 53705.

"Chips and Sawdust"

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LOGGER-MEMBER ADDS TO FOREST HISTORY

As the inventor of the Polar Prehauler, F.H.A.W. charter member PAT CRAWFORD of Shawano has made his contribution to the never-ending story of Wisconsin's logging industry. An article in the July issue of THE TIMBER PRODUCER, monthly publication of the Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin, details the logging efficiency achieved by Pat and his woods crew.

Pat's organization operates as the Northwest Forest Products, Inc., primarily on Menominee Indian lands north of Shawano. Using his prehauler in conjunction with such other modern and self-descriptive units of equipment as a Drott feller-buncher, John Deere grapple-skidder, Hood slasher and Barko hydraulic loader, he produces an average of 10,000 cords annually, supplemented by another 4000 cords from two sub-contractors.

REMEMBER THE C.C.C.'s ?

If you have ever wondered what happened to the three million young men who served in the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933 to 1942, then you will be interested in the fact that there now is a National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni. About a year ago, some 500 former CCC members from 39 states met in Sacramento, California, and organized the NACCCA, a non-profit organization whose principal objective is to "revive and preserve the comradeship, nostalgia and history of the original CCC." Additionally, it is interested in participating nationally and locally in programs related to the conservation of the nation's natural resources.

Further information may be obtained from NACCCA at P.O. Box 883, Carmichael, California, 95608.

"Chips and Sawdust"

VOLUME III - No. 3

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THE SAGA OF QUEEN MARINETTE

Our last issue of "Chips and Sawdust" made mention of the numerous authors who we are privileged to count as members of F.H.A.W. We now learn that at least one other was omitted---PETER L. WEBBER of Porterfield, WI.

Peter authored "The Saga of Queen Marinette", which was published by the Peshtigo Times in 1972. This epic poem in blank verse concerns that legendary figure, Queen Marinette, and an historic meeting of the Menominee Indians with chieftains of the Sioux from the Dakotas. The story ends with reference to the land trade whereby the Menominees received the Wolf River tract they now occupy, in exchange for the Menominee River watershed along the Wisconsin-Michigan border:

"Thus the truth is at last recorded
Of the Menominee's trade of land
"Though they moved their tribes westward
Some did stay and also prosper,
Working for the lumber barons,
For logging soon came to the Northlands.
Fierce men dragging clanking chains,
Oxen straining the traces,
Break the long, majestic silence
Where the white pine stood for ages.
Every year there come the cruisers
Looking over tracts of white pine
Along the Menominee basin
And the tributaries of it,
To haul the big sticks to the river
And float them to big mills below."

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EARLY AND LATE FOREST HISTORY

With this issue, we set aside a special page to be devoted to excerpts and quotations from published literature dealing with logging, lumbering and forestry in Wisconsin.

The Association's exhibit at the Logging Congress in Green Bay included a display centered around "The Landlooker", a novel by William F. Steuber, Jr. of Madison (Bobbs-Merrill Company, New York, 1957). Among the artifacts were a Gurley wooden box compass, a four-rod Gunther chain, a leather-bound field note book, and a framed section of a witness tree that had been scribed by the original surveyor 125 years ago in Oneida County.

What was a "landlooker"? In his "Empire in Pine", Robert Fries describes him as an expert woodsman who examined forest land for others. He said "some were in the employ of a lumber or land company; others were independent businessmen who sold their information to the highest bidder. Ordinarily the independent timber cruiser also had some other occupation, such as running a logging crew, scaling timber, or guiding prospective settlers and sportsmen. In the Lake States, the estimation of timberlands became a highly skilled trade."

According to George H. Warren in his "The Pioneering Woodsman as He is Related to Lumbering in the Northwest" (1914), the landlooker "daily experiences hardships such as working his way up rivers with many swift waters, and crossing lakes in birch-bark canoes, in windstorms and in rain; fording streams....; building rafts to cross rivers and lakes; climbing through windfalls; crossing miles of swamp....; and travelling all day in an open and burnt country with his bed and board upon his back, the sun's hot rays pressing like a heavy weight upon his head, while myriads of black flies swarm about him and attack every exposed inch of his skin."

"But there were compensations in good health, buoyancy of spirit, and an opportunity to enjoy the solitude of the great unbroken forest. As a class, according to a member of Wisconsin's first Forestry Commission, the cruisers had "remarkable intelligence" and a "great stock of empirical information regarding such matters as fall within the immediate scope of their business".