



## "CHIPS and SAWDUST"

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

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### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The first meeting of the newly-elected board of directors was held early in October, with the first order of business being the election of new officers for the 1979 fiscal year. Elected to the two-year terms provided by our by-laws were JOHN H. SAEMANN as president and HOWARD S. LOVESTEAD as vice-president. John is retired and formerly served as a University of Wisconsin extension forester and forest administrator for Marinette County. Howard is regional forest manager for Consolidated Papers.

The Board also decided to combine the offices of secretary and treasurer, as permitted by corporate law, and elected FRANK N. FIXMER to that post for a one-year term. Frank has served as treasurer since the initial organization of the Association early in 1976.

### ANOTHER LIFE MEMBER

Our fourth life member was added to the roster when JOHN C. JENKIN of Mineral Point sent his \$100 check. John says he is also a life member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, American Forestry Association, Organization of American Historians and the Western History Association, among others that he belongs to.

In addition to being a tree farmer, John also operates an "emporium" where he buys and sells antiques, books, firearms, and other "collectables".

Some of our members may be interested to know that he has a number of copies of LOG TRANSPORTATION IN THE LAKE STATES LUMBER INDUSTRY, 1840-1918, by William G. Rector (1953). These are first editions and out of print. They are available at \$17.50 each, including tax, postage and handling.

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#### WISCONSIN ACADEMY PLANNING SPRING EVENT

Because we are an affiliate of the Wisconsin Academy of sciences, Arts & Letters, F.H.A.W. members may wish to plan to attend that organizations annual meeting April 20-21, 1979 at Carthage College, Kenosha.

One of the numerous conference events, planned for the Saturday session, will feature presentations from the organizations affiliated with the Academy reflecting the unique concerns of each. L.G. SORDEN has volunteered to make such a presentation for F.H.S.W.

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO BE ESTABLISHED

One of our Board of Directors' more significant recent actions was to approve the establishment of an annual scholarship grant prior to the beginning of the 1979-80 academic year. No specific sum was allocated, but recommendations in this regard will be made by a special committee appointed by President JOHN SAEMANN. Also to be determined by the committee will be rules for eligibility and guidelines for determining the eventual winners of the annual awards.

The proposal was made by DR. R. C. BROWN of Eau Claire and received favorable consideration because it will aid in fulfilling part of F.H.A.W.'s basic objectives.

#### FOREST HISTORY CENTER IN MINNESOTA

The intense interest of Minnesotans in their forest heritage was evidenced this past summer by two events: a \$500,000 grant to the Minnesota Historical Society by the C.K. Blandin Foundation and the appropriation by the state legislature of \$700,000 for the construction of an interpretive building and exhibits. The \$1,200,000 Forest History Center is being built at Grand Rapids, Minnesota, adjacent to the Mississippi River in a forest area containing just about every major timber type in the state.

It is predicted that the center will become "an important educational facility as well as a major tourist attraction for northern Minnesota".

Wisconsin's seven major logging museums are mostly privately endowed; two are partially funded by local municipalities. To the best of our knowledge, none derive any support from any state bureau.

### HISTORIC SITES

The Wisconsin State Historical Society initiated an historical markers program in 1942, an historic sites program in 1952 and later began its registered landmarks program. Although several hundred such sites have been officially marked and registered in the intervening years since, the number that relate to our forest heritage is woefully small.

Do you know of any site with an historic forest background that might merit inclusion into the official record for the enlightenment of future generations? If so, let us know the details and we will assist in every way possible in the processing of a formal application for such recognition.

Additionally, we would like to know about such sites for a map guide that F.H.A.W. plans to eventually print and distribute to the travelling public interested in forest history. Just send us a brief description of the point of interest and its significance, along with a map showing its location.

### NOMINATIONS WANTED

As most members must now be aware, an annual award for distinguished service is made to both an individual and an organization for outstanding contributions to the preservation of forest history. The committee charged with the responsibility of making those selections would like some input from the general membership as to potential candidates. In submitting your nominations, please include a brief biographical sketch of each nominee, along with the listing of his accomplishments.

### WISCONSIN PRESS FOREST

A 78-acre forest near Eagle River in Vilas County is unique because it is the only demonstration forest in the United States that is owned by newspapermen.

The Wisconsin Newspaper Association, consisting of publishers of 235 weeklies and 37 dailies, purchased the tract in the late fifties, subsequently planted many thousands of trees on the open areas and made improvement cuttings on the natural stands. Christmas tree sale helped to pay the mortgage and to provide scholarships for journalism students.

The Press Forest is being managed in cooperation with the staff of the Trees-for-Tomorrow Environmental Center. In 1974, it was certified as a member of the American Tree Farm System.

EARLY AND LATE FOREST HISTORY

In 1925, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture issued Bulletin No. 67, titled "Wisconsin's Wood-Using Industries". This publication reported on the trends developing in the industry at that time, as well as the current status of lumber production in the state. It is interesting to note that the author of this important report was not a staff member of the Conservation Commission, nor of a legislative study committee, nor some professional forester at the University, but the "Director of Immigration", B. G. Packer. This is not to infer that it was any less authoritative or expert in its factual content.

Among the many nuggets of information in this treatise were such as these:

"In 1923, Wisconsin cut 1,007,414,000 board feet of lumber, of which 39 mills contributed 610,125,000 bd. ft. or about 60 percent. In 1924 the same 39 mills sawed 609,517,000 bd. ft..."

"...all products made wholly or largely of wood... amount to a little more than 14 percent of the total of the state's manufacture; creamery butter, cheese and condensed milk amount to 12 percent."

"According to Mr. C. L. Harrington, Superintendent of State Forests and Parks, the latest and most authentic information for Wisconsin on timber supplies indicates that there are at least 14,000,000,000 feet of merchantable saw logs in the 25 counties containing 30,000,000 or more board feet per county...."

"The highest amount of pine cut from a section of land in the '80's was said to have been 15,000,000 bd. ft. and the lowest 1,000,000. An authority of the time therefore takes one-third of the larger estimate, or 5,000,000 bd. ft. for every square mile of land, and concludes (from the 20,000 square miles of forest in which pine was estimated to predominate) that there was a total of 100,000,000,000 feet of pine alone in the state before cutting began. The estimate may have been high or low, but nevertheless, from 1846 to 1905, 85,000,000,000 bd. ft. of pine were sawed into lumber."