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TIMBER BULLETIN

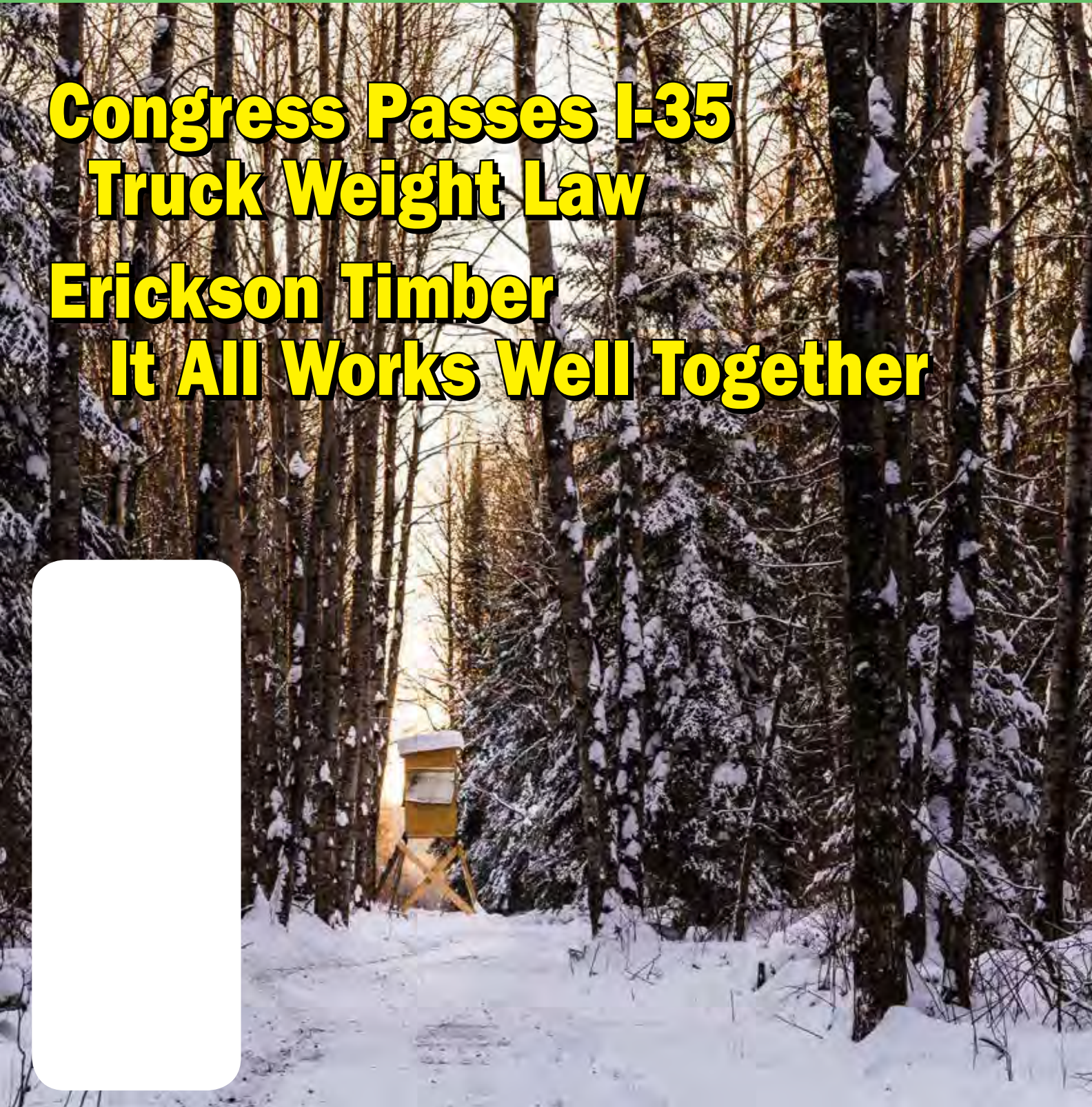
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

VOLUME 70

**Congress Passes I-35
Truck Weight Law**

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This winter is starting off to be a lot like spring break-up; the warmer temperatures and persistent moisture have made logging summer ground in December a real challenge. Lately I find myself a bit obsessed with the weather channel app on my phone, checking to see if the weather is going to turn more favorable for winter logging.

On a brighter note, a big victory for the timber industry, we can finally haul 99,000 on I-35 through Duluth to Hwy. 210. This

President's Column



should be a big improvement to our safety and efficiencies over hauling on narrow city streets and back roads.

The board of directors meeting was held in December in Grand Rapids. I would like to thank the Minnesota State Patrol and the DNR for their commitment to the TPA members. We appreciate their willingness to work through issues as they come up. I believe this to be a real asset for our members.

Pay special attention to safety, for long hours are a certainty as we try to make the most of the short winter season.

Scott Pittack

Executive Committee

Kit Hasbargen: 218-634-1628
 Scott Pittack: 218-259-8148
 Dave Berthiaume: 218-380-9783
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by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



VOL. III



VOL. II



VOL. IV



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Congress Increases I-35 Truck Weights for Logging

After a dozen years of lobbying, the U.S. Congress finally approved allowing logging trucks to run with increased weight on a 24-mile stretch of I-35 from Highway 210 in Carlton to London Road in Duluth.

The provision was included an amendment submitted by U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan (D-Minnesota 8th) to the House version of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in November. Because the Senate had passed a different version of the bill that didn't include the I-35 amendment, a House-Senate conference committee had to approve the final version, and the increased weights for logging truck had to survive those negotiations. On December 3, both the House and Senate passed the bill with the I-35 provision, and President Obama signed the FAST Act into law.

"I never thought this would happen," said Duluth logger Tom McCabe, a past TPA president. "We've been fighting this battle for a long time. It's great it's finally been accomplished."

Previously, logging trucks – which can legally carry 90,000 pounds on state highways if a 6th axle is added – were forbidden from carrying the extra weight on federal interstate highways. That maximum weight increased to 99,000 during colder months when winter load increases were in effect. This forced logging trucks off of I-35 and onto routes like Becks Road, Superior Street in downtown Duluth, and through downtown Carlton. With the new legislation, loggers are allowed to haul on I-35.

Nolan's provision was also supported by Minnesota senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken. It covers trucks "transporting raw or unfinished forest products, including logs, pulpwood, biomass, or wood chips."

Another proposed amendment to the FAST Act would have increased weights on all federal interstates for all commodities, but that amendment, offered by Wisconsin



TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt (L) spent time with U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan in his Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C., on the day his amendment to the FAST Act passed the U.S. House. The amendment allows increased weights for logging trucks on I-35 from Carlton to Duluth. The amended bill with Nolan's provision passed both the House and the Senate and was signed by the president.

Rep. Reid Ribble (R-Neenah) failed in the House.

Once the bill received the president's signature, logging trucks

hauling 90,000 pounds of timber to the Sappi mill and Cloquet and to Verso in Duluth began immediately using the 24-mile stretch of I-35.



A logging truck loaded with 90,000 pounds of aspen legally drives on southbound I-35, headed to the Sappi mill in Cloquet, after passage of the Nolan amendment. The truck belongs to Tom McCabe Forest Products of Duluth.

Hallelujah! Yes, for the Christmas season too. But, Hallelujah for finally getting an exemption to allow logging trucks carrying state permitted weights on Interstate 35 from Highway 210 south of Cloquet to the northern terminus of the Interstate at 26th Avenue East and London Road in Duluth.

A big thank you to Rep. Rick Nolan, with assists from senators

Executive Vice President's

Column



Franken and Klobuchar, for getting this provision included in the Surface

Transportation Reauthorization Act.

TPA succeeded in getting weight laws changed in Minnesota for forest products a dozen

years ago. The change has been good for our industry and good for Minnesota's roads. The sixth axle trucks with the additional weight do less damage to roads and are safer due to the increased excess braking capacity that has been proven with sixth axle. When the state legislation was passed, TPA

demonstrated that there would be a 15 percent savings in transporting wood with the additional payload per truck.

No matter the facts, this has been a long, tough fight that's not over. It still makes no sense that trucks with additional weight and additional axles are not allowed on the entire Interstate Highway system. In a TPA study a dozen years ago, we showed that the interstate system is riddled with exemptions from the "phantom" universal 80,000 pound weight limit. We found weight limits of over 100,000 pounds in many states in addition to exemptions for specific routes and specific commodities.

Louisiana has an exemption for hauling 100,000 pound loads of sugar cane. There is an exemption in Iowa for carrying higher weights that are allowed in South Dakota and Nebraska to a hog processing plant. I could go on and on with the exemptions.

This was a tough fight because the railroads fight any change in interstate truck weights. They spend huge amounts money lobbying this issue year in and year out and will continue to do so. Fortunately, the facts and common

sense are on the side of increased weights to improve economic efficiency, decrease road wear and increase safety.

In addition to Rep. Nolan and senators Klobuchar and Franken, thanks are in order to Duluth Mayor Don Ness, Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsey, the MN Department of Transportation, the Greater Duluth Downtown Council, Carlton County officials and many others for their help and support passing this provision.



The passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act and our Interstate 35 provision was a shining example of how the U.S. House of Representatives used to work, when it worked. It's also a great example of a member of Congress, Rick Nolan, knowing how to get things done and getting them done.

For too many years the U.S. House and Senate have crafted legislation behind closed doors, brought it to the respective floors with either agreements or rules to not allow any amendments, and then simply jammed legislation through. This stifles debate, throws

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good ideas to the side and has, in my opinion, been a significant contributor to the toxic climate and gridlock in Washington.

With this bill the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up a bill in both subcommittee and the full committee. It was then brought to the House floor with an "open rule," which allows full debate and amendments. Nearly 60 amendments were offered and debated over several days.

Some of these amendments passed, some failed and some were withdrawn after presentation and debate. Most of the votes on these amendments were bipartisan whether they passed or failed. But, the people that we and others across the country elected were allowed their say.

Rep. Nolan, who also served in the Congress more than 30 years ago when it was a functioning institution, used his experience and skill to build support for the I-35 provision. He did it by building bipartisan support, the facts and some good old-fashioned shoe leather in convincing his colleagues that this was a good provision and worthy of

their support.

And he succeeded. Thank you!



The Minnesota Forest Resources Council passed its 20th anniversary this year. The council is charged by state law with the development, monitoring and periodic review of the site level guidelines, the landscape program and additional responsibilities. TPA has played an active role in the council from its inception.

Countless hours and thousands of travel miles have been spent by Alan Knaeble, Dick Walsh, Dale Erickson, Tom McCabe and Rich Holm representing loggers on the council. All five of these people have served on the TPA Board of Directors and Knaeble, Walsh, Erickson and McCabe served as TPA presidents.

Many other TPA members have served on countless council committees and task forces. Thank you to all for being willing to give of their time and talents to make sure that loggers were well represented in council programs.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin* you will find a story

highlighting council activities over the past 20 years.



Lots of thank yous in this column and appropriately so. TPA's successes for our members are built on our members and staff pulling together, working hard and trying to make things better for our members.

Another thank you goes to everyone for keeping safety a top priority! Let's keep it that way for this winter's logging season and all of our operations in 2016.



A final thank you to the TPA Executive Committee and Board of Directors for allowing me the privilege of serving as your executive vice president for another year. This is a great job working for great people in a great industry and I'm thankful to part of a great organization like TPA.

Best wishes to each of you and your families during this Christmas season and for all of 2016.

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Member Feature...



Cameron and Dale Erickson

It All Works Well Together

It's a time of transition at Erickson Timber Products in Birchdale.

by Ray Higgins

Growing up in Birchdale, and the far northern reaches of Minnesota along the US-Canadian border, Dale Erickson has spent a lifetime in the woods. That's where he likes to live and work, and where he likes to stay.

So he never considered the possibility of standing in a St. Paul courtroom, as one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the State of Minnesota and the DNR over the state government shutdown of 2011.

Nor did he consider coming face-to-face with Gov. Mark Dayton's personal attorney, David Lillehaug, who now is a justice on the Minnesota State Supreme Court.

"I walked out of that courtroom and there's David Lillehaug standing there," Erickson says of the current Supreme Court justice. "And he shakes my hand and he introduces himself. And I'm thinking, 'they're bringing a sledgehammer out to take care of

these flies.'"

Erickson figured his life as a logger would be spent in the woods, and most of the time that's where he is, just the way he likes it. Dale's father, Gerald, had his own logging company, and like most boys in logging families, Dale and his brother, Gib, were helping out in the woods from an early age.

"That was a typical boyhood in this country," Dale says. "We'd help out in the woods on weekends,



Cameron Erickson operates a Tigercat 822D feller buncher on Erickson's timber harvest 20 miles southwest of Baudette.

during vacations, and after school. Then we'd go play hockey at night."

Dale graduated from Indus High School in 1974 – which included a turn as the goalie on the Trojans hockey team – and went right to the woods to join his dad and brother. In 1975 the family started a sawmill on property just southeast of Baudette, and the following year, Dale and Gib joined their dad in forming Erickson Timber.

"When I got out of high school, there were a couple of things I would have gone to college for," he says. "The study of people – psychology, human nature – interests me. But I enjoy the outdoors. I always have. So I just went to the woods."

Over the years, the business has included three parts: the logging operation, the sawmill, and a woodyard, which utilizes property adjacent to the Baudette site.

"We unload or process wood for Norbord Ontario (across the Rainy River in Barwick)," Erickson says. "The last couple of years Boise has yarded wood here too, and we've brought it to them in the spring. This will be the second year."

Being located so close to the Canadian border has presented an opportunity for Erickson.

Timber headed to Barwick stops here because he has experience jumping through hoops necessary to get wood through customs and across the Canadian border. Minnesota loggers deliver the wood to Erickson, and he makes sure it gets the rest of the 40 miles to the Barwick mill.

The logging side of the business has two conventional operations and a set of cut-to-length equipment. Typically, all three operations only run at the same time in the fall of the year, when conditions allow. Some of the employees are seasonal, so in the summertime, those guys are farming or working elsewhere. In the winter, Erickson doesn't utilize the cut-to-length equipment. But oftentimes it's the fall of the year when weather and ground conditions are perfect so that production can be ramped up and all three crews can work.

Not this year. What started out to be a great fall turned soggy in late October, and now in December, the winter freeze-up isn't materializing. The cut-to-length crew, with its light-on-the-land tracked equipment, is working on a thinning in a white spruce plantation over in Roseau County. They can harvest

there, but won't be able to haul from the site until the ground freezes. One conventional crew is working 20 miles south of Baudette, but it's been too wet to work on the lower ground, so they're doing what they can on the higher areas of the site. That makes it less efficient because they'll have to go back there to finish the job once winter finally arrives.

"Right now we're cutting and skidding, but there are areas where we can't skid," Erickson says. We have a tracked buncher so we can get in and fall, but we'll see what we're able to get done. Everybody I know is in the same boat. We're all going to have to go back and finish in spots. We're all working right now on what we can work on. But we're going to cover the same ground twice, most of us.

The lack of frigid temperatures is going to be a problem for most loggers around the state. Even here, in the northern reaches of Minnesota, it just hasn't been cold enough up to this point in time.

"Typically in this northern tier country," Erickson says, "the aspen gets produced in November, December, and January. And in January when you have to have roads frozen to get across those little



Erickson's John Deere 848H skidder is operated by Brock DeBilzan.

sloughs, that's when that wood gets produced. When that's done, the guys move to the deeper swamps, the bogs. The spruce and tamarack, that's when that wood is produced, from the middle of January, on. Well we're in early December and so we're probably two or three weeks late on good-going in the aspen. We're not there yet, so every bit you take off this end of the season is going to put it on the other end to get that aspen produced. Not having cold weather cuts into the time when guys would be cutting the deep swamp wood."

Despite the concerns, Erickson is hopeful a quick cold snap can turn the season around in a hurry.

"We've got wood piled up at different spots around the area," he says. "We need some cold weather. A couple of days around zero, and we're good."

Once they're able to haul, the wood will have several destinations. Aside from Norbord's mill in Barwick, Boise – Erickson's largest

customer – will get a lot of the aspen. Potlatch in Bemidji will get the bolts, and the spruce and other softwoods will be headed to either UPM in Grand Rapids or Verso's mill in Duluth.

Then there's Erickson's own sawmill in Baudette, which is also a market for the wood the company harvests.

"My dad always wanted a sawmill," Dale says. "It was pretty rudimentary when it started. But you just keep your head down and keep working, and pretty soon you look up and you have equipment all over the place, guys all over the place."

Part of the attraction was to provide a market for their own harvested timber. They also buy wood from area loggers, using aspen and a lot of pine. The mill doesn't manufacture a finished product, but provides crating material for the company that makes the crates for Arctic Cat snowmobiles. They also saw some hardwood grade lumber that ends up in pipeline skids and pallet parts – including at Savanna Pallets in McGregor – and some even gets shipped to Asia to be made into furniture.

But things are changing on the mill side of the business. Gib

retired earlier this year, and he'd always been responsible for the mill operations. About two years ago the Ericksons began planning for life after Gib left.

Meanwhile, close family friend Jake Hasbargen was looking for an opportunity. He also grew up in the woods around Birchdale, working for his father, Clarence, and uncle Kit's logging business. When Jake decided he wanted to try something new, and he realized the Ericksons were looking at a transition, it became a perfect fit. This month, the mill becomes Jake's Sawmill Products Inc. with the closing of the sale of the mill to Hasbargen.

"It was just a different opportunity to work with my family and friends in the same community, doing pretty much the same thing," the 40-year-old Hasbargen says. "It was just a good opportunity to also help the local community, something right here in this area, by keeping this mill going."

"Basically it's too much for me to handle," Erickson says. With Gib retiring, my concern is being able to keep all the balls in the air, because when everything works well, the mill, the woodyard, and the logging, they all work best together, and you have to have somebody that can do all of that. I need to delegate

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Brian Loughry operates a Link-Belt 210 delimer, with Denharco boom for Erickson Timber.

responsibility, because I can't do it all anymore. So I'll supply the wood – and others will, too – and he'll supply a good market."

"It's scary, but I'm excited," he says. "I have a lot of confidence because a lot of guys – including Dale – have had a lot of confidence in me and that really helps. And I'm excited about creating more jobs up here. We have 10 people working here now. We didn't realize it, but there are a lot of guys actually looking for jobs. We put an ad in the paper and we received more applications than we expected."

The sawmill has already been undergoing changes since Hasbargen started working there. The Ericksons had a building that produced chips but that market dried up about five years ago. They eventually sold the equipment, including a chipper, ring de-barker, stationary loader, a chip screen, and some blowers while they figured out what to do with it. They decided to convert it to a re-saw facility with a scrag mill to feed it. Jake has overseen the conversion.

"It's not a finished product yet," Erickson says, "but Jake will get it finished up. He's made significant improvements and he's ready and

willing to go and it'll make us both stronger. I have complete faith in him. I couldn't do the job that needed to be done. He's better with people than I am, that's for sure."

Not that Erickson won't have anything to do. He was Minnesota's Logger of the Year in 2012 and also Lake States Regional Outstanding Logger that year. The honors were

due not only to his excellent logging practices and adherence to the Forest Management Guidelines, but also to the leadership roles he's taken in the logging community. Erickson has served on TPA's board of directors and executive committee, as TPA president, and also as a member of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, representing all loggers in the state.

On top of all of that, he also served three-plus terms on the South Koochiching / Rainy River School District that includes Indus High School, his alma mater.

"I'm naturally curious as to how things work," he says of his community activity. "I think you should be paying attention. I've always felt that way, if you're taking something out you should be putting something back in. I guess I'd feel guilty if I didn't. I have good neighbors, and I'm doing what I want to do. I've been blessed.

It was that attitude that led him to that courtroom in St. Paul. That year, the legislature couldn't reach a budget deal and without funding, the state government was going to close on July 1. That included the DNR, so loggers who had purchased timber permits weren't going to be allowed to operate on those sales. So he and the Hasbargens took the state to court on behalf of all of Minnesota's loggers.

"What the DNR wanted to do

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was just wrong,” he says. “I bought wood and I paid for it. Why can’t I cut it? Just because they can’t get their act together.”

After an initial favorable ruling in Koochiching County Court that kept loggers operating on their state permits, the state took the case to a different judge in St. Paul who wound up throwing the first judgment out. But by that time, the legislature had reached a budget deal, and for all intents and purposes, the Hasbargen/Erickson litigation meant no logger had to stop working in state forests.



Jake Hasbargen

These days, Erickson is looking forward to his new working relationship with Jake. And now that he’s pushing 60, Dale is already looking forward to the next transition. His 29-year-old son, Cameron, is already working in the woods, running feller buncher. It’s hard to imagine Dale ever retiring, but turning the reins of the logging operations to him is a possibility.

“When he was in school, he wanted to be in the woods,” Dale says. “He’s always been an operator. He can operate anything. There’s some key personnel but he’s growing into the right hand man. He handles a lot of the stuff that I used to.”

Erickson’s wife, Deedra, stays heavily involved in a variety of ways throughout the community, and at home where the Ericksons raise purebred polled Hereford cattle. In fact, over the years the Ericksons have tripled the size of their farm.

Then there’s the rest of the family, daughters Karla and Calli



Pine salvaged from the Palsburg Fire in the Beltrami State Forest in Roseau County earlier this year is sawed into 5x6s and will wind up in Thief River Falls and re-sawed and made into crates for Arctic Cat snowmobiles.

and son Grant, as well as their spouses and now grandchildren (Everett Norman Erickson, Cameron and Brandie’s son, was born in December), also add to the duties and responsibilities. So eventually stepping back from the logging side of the business is looking more and more attractive.

“It lightens the load for me,” he says. “Each one of these parts – the

woodyard, the mill, and the logging – will do better if they each have somebody that is a lot more hands on, instead of one guy that’s trying to look over everything. I mean it’s getting to be time to let go of it. Jake’s quite capable of handling the sawmill. Cameron’s getting capable of handling the logging. And I’m quite capable of going home and watching SportsCenter.”



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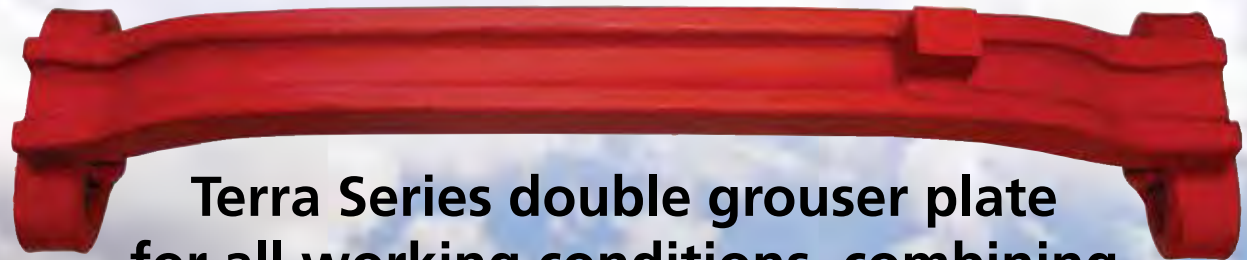
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MLEP Office Moves to Cloquet

The Minnesota Logger Education Offices are moving in January from downtown Duluth to downtown Cloquet.

The new address is 1111 Cloquet Ave., Suite #7, and will feature free onsite parking, much easier access to the office and greater flexibility in training availability for MLEP members. In fact, training scheduled for Cloquet in 2016 will take place at the new location.

Timber Talk

In a memo to MLEP members, Executive Director Rachel Peterson said the new office is, "functional,

easily accessible, and offers us greater flexibility."

MLEP plans an open house at the new location once the transition is completed.

Hibbard is New MFRC Head

Calder Hibbard has been named new executive director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. He replaces Dave Zumeta, who retired earlier this year.

Hibbard has worked for the council staff since 2006 as a policy analyst. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota. He holds Ph.D. from the U of M in natural resource science and management.

Proposed Biochemical Facility Gets IRRRB Pledge

Sweetwater Energy, Inc., a Rochester N.Y.-based renewable biochemical producer, has received commitment for \$26 million in long-term loans from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to construct a biochemical production facility near Mountain Iron. If completed, the proposed \$52 million facility would use local timber to produce high-value

industrial alcohol and activated carbon.

The proposed site is next to the Laurentian Energy woodyard, just off Hwy 169 in the Mountain Iron Renewable Energy Industrial Park. Sweetwater will have to come up with another \$26 million in private financing in order to secure the funding from the IRRRB. The project already has received a zoning variance from the city of Mountain Iron, as well as a chunk of tax-forfeited land from St. Louis County.

"We can't say enough about how thrilled we are to work with the great people in Minnesota," says Arunas Chesonis, chairman and CEO of Sweetwater. "Right from the start they've been welcoming and energetic, and we're looking forward to offering solid employment in the region and expanding there as we grow."

"This project places northeastern Minnesota into the leading edge of the growing green biotechnology industry," said IRRRB Commissioner Mark Phillips. "It's an innovative process that makes use of our region's natural resources, creates new well-paying jobs, and helps diversify the region's economy."

The facility will use Sweetwater's patented biomass processing technology, which would split Minnesota's local timber and waste wood into valuable sugar and lignin. The sugar is used to create industrial alcohol – a key ingredient of many products, such as cosmetics and detergents – while

the lignin is processed into activated carbon, used to purify municipal drinking water and power plant air emissions.

If completed, the facility would start with roughly 35 workers, and the plan is to ultimately provide more than 100 jobs in the region as it is built out over four years. The site has been selected and construction is planned to begin in spring 2016, with completion and operation anticipated for summer 2017.

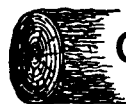
The Sweetwater plant is similar to another project proposed for Hoyt Lakes in 2014. Segetis had received a commitment of \$28 million from the IRRRB at that time, but the company was unable to find private investors to match the public funding.

Foster Purchases Duluth GP Site

Duluth's former Georiga Pacific/Superwood site has been purchased by Jeff Foster Trucking.

The site had been idle for more than three years, since the 2012 shutdown of the GP plant. The facility made Superwood, a thin hardboard product used in the auto industry. Its closure resulted in the layoffs of 140 employees, as well as the loss of a market for Minnesota loggers.

Foster said he plans to use the 19-acre site as a warehouse and logistics center and also is exploring new manufacturing and industrial opportunities at the site.



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Legislators Visit Logging Site



TPA Board member Brad Rootkie (4th from left) gives a tour of his Pine County logging site to members of the Greater Minnesota Economic & Workforce Development Policy Committee of the State House Representatives, as well as committee staff. Committee members spent several days touring the state looking at various segments of the state's economy. Among those on the tour were Rep. Jason Rarick, R-Hinckley (2nd from left), Committee Chair Bob Gunther, R-Fairmont (3rd from left), and Rep. Kim Norton, DFL-Rochester. Also attending were Futurewood forester Quinton Finley and TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt.

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North Star Expo Returns to Grand Rapids in 2016

The North Star Expo is returning to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids for its 2016 event.

The 63rd annual Expo will be held Sept. 16 and 17, and will again include the latest in logging equipment from all of the region's top vendors. The Expo was last held in Grand Rapids in 2013. The event was held at Bemidji's Sanford Center the past two years.

"We're thrilled to be back in Grand Rapids," said TPA Expo committee Chair Corey Lovdahl. "Bemidji did a great job with the Expo the last couple of years, and I'm sure we'll be back there someday."

"The Itasca County Fairgrounds is a picturesque setting for the Expo, and the community has always given us a warm welcome. We look forward to being back in a place so rich in logging history."



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20 Years of the MN Forest Resources Council

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council was created in 1995 to advise the state, federal, and local governments on forest policy issues, and includes members representing the DNR, the University of Minnesota, county land departments, environmental groups, organized labor, the US Forest Service, and wildlife groups, as well as the forest products industry and loggers. To recognize 20 years of accomplishments, recently retired Executive Director Dave Zumeta provided the following history of the council.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC), formed after passage of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA) of 1995 by the Minnesota Legislature, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The MFRC was created following the rapid expansion of the state's primary forest products industry in the 1980s, which culminated in the half billion dollar Boise expansion in 1989. A citizen petition resulted in the state's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) ordering a Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Timber Harvesting and Forest Management in Minnesota (GEIS) in late 1989.

The EQB order ultimately led to a \$1 million study that was completed by Jaako Poyry, the largest forestry consulting firm in the world, between 1990 and 1994. This study assessed the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of timber harvesting and forest management at three levels of timber harvest: four million, five million, and seven million cords. To help convert the GEIS findings into state legislation, a 25-member GEIS roundtable met for nine months between 1994 and 1995. The Minnesota legislature included most of the roundtable's recommendations in the SFRA of 1995, which created the MFRC.



Dave Zumeta

Dr. Paul Ellefson, professor of forest resources, University of Minnesota, chaired the 13 member MFRC from 1995 to 1999. Between 1995 and 2001, Dr. Mike Kilgore served as executive director. Accomplishments during this critical formative period included developing MFRC protocols, the first set of comprehensive site-level guidelines, and the framework for a landscape planning and coordination program.

Under the leadership of former Minnesota Senator Gene Merriam, who chaired the MFRC between 1999 and 2003, the SFRA was revised to expand the MFRC to 17 members and the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act of 2001 was passed with significant MFRC involvement. Dr. Dave Zumeta was hired as executive director in 2001.

From 2003-11, Dr. Al Sullivan, emeritus dean, College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, chaired the MFRC. At the request of Gov. Pawlenty, forest industry competitiveness task force reports were completed in 2003, 2006, and 2007; landscape plans were completed for all six major forested landscapes between 2003 and 2005;

site-level guidelines were revised in 2005; and the first woody biomass guidelines in the U.S. were completed in 2008.

Dr. Bob Stine, associate dean, University of Minnesota, College of Continuing Education, chaired the MFRC between 2011 and 2015. Accomplishments during this period included revising the site-level guidelines in 2012; revising the SFRA in 2014, thereby reauthorizing the MFRC through 2021; completing updates of the Northeast and Southeast regional landscape plans in 2014; and, at DNR Commissioner Landwehr's request, updating the forest industry competitiveness task force report in 2014.

In 2015, Gov. Dayton appointed Kathleen Preece as the first female chair of the MFRC, and Dr. Calder Hibbard was hired as executive director. Thanks to bipartisan legislative support for the governor's request to restore the MFRC budget to \$780,000 per year in 2016 and 2017, the council is in a strong position to address the challenging issues that face Minnesota forests, forestry managers, and the forest products industry in coming years.

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On the Markets

The *Timber Bulletin* publishes information regarding results of a sampling of recent timber sales and other market indicators, as well as other market-related news items.

Recent Timber Sales Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency **Regular** **Intermediate**

Cass County

October 29 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$34.62	\$24.36
Basswood	\$20.21	\$24.48
Ash	\$26.80	NA
Birch	\$20.71	\$24.33

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

St. Louis County

November 5 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
pulpwood	\$38.20	NA
Birch		
pulpwood	\$13.02	NA
Balsam Fir		
pulpwood	\$10.95	NA
Norway Pine		
pulpwood	\$49.08	NA
Red Maple		
pulpwood	\$ 6.73	NA

19 of the 20 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

November 18 – Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$40.62	\$43.49
Spruce P/B	\$34.92	\$24.59
Balsam P/B	\$10.55	\$13.31
Norway		
Pine P/B	\$39.26	\$31.91

32 of the 33 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Baudette Area

November 23 – Sealed Bid

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$39.37	NA
Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$39.79	NA
Tamarack (WC)	\$11.37	NA

All 3 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Baudette Area

November 24 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$39.66	\$25.90
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$39.26	\$35.72

Black Spruce (WC)	\$24.68	\$28.49
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Norway Pine (WMP)	\$33.97	\$11.90
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9 of the 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

November 25 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$32.80	\$41.83
Basswood	\$16.51	\$27.07
Red Oak	\$32.14	NA
Tamarack	NA	\$11.33

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

December 1 – Sealed Bid

Aspen pulp	\$40.10	NA
Red/White		
Pine Bolts	\$58.50	NA

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Littlefork Area

December 1 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$57.31	\$33.22
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$32.50	\$39.66

Black Spruce (WC)	\$25.43	\$25.16
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Jack Pine (WMP)	\$38.49	\$20.97
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Pine Species (WMP)	\$47.61	\$42.49
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22 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

December 3 – Oral Auction

Aspen pulp	\$36.88	NA
Balsam P&B	\$11.96	NA
Tamarack pulp	\$20.82	NA
Red Pine bolts	\$75.82	NA
Black Spruce	\$27.60	NA

10 of the 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus and Deer River Areas

December 3 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$37.63	\$37.25
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$41.12	\$53.49
Norway		
Pine (WMP)	\$48.08	\$42.99

All 17 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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Itasca County*December 4 – Oral Auction*

Aspen	\$31.01	NA
Red pine	\$38.66	NA
Balsam	\$19.80	NA
Paper Birch	\$13.09	NA

41 of the 42 tracts offered during the sale were purchased. Regular and intermediate auctions were held, but the county report combines the price/cord averages.

Aitkin County*December 7 – Oral Auction*

Aspen P/B	\$36.05	NA
Ash P&B	\$13.81	NA
Maple pulp	\$13.65	NA
Maple P/B	\$12.50	NA
Basswood P/B	\$13.27	NA

26 of the 31 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Aitkin Area*December 7 – Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$35.91	\$41.53
Aspen Species (WMP)	\$38.73	\$21.68
Northern Hdwds (WMP)	\$11.01	\$13.42

Norway

Pine (WMP) NA \$44.99

20 of the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Tower Area*December 8 – Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$42.40	\$36.92
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$28.29	\$22.75
Mixed Spruce (WMP)	\$15.82	NA
Balsam		
Fir (WC)	\$14.23	\$11.88

16 of the 26 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area*December 9 – Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$16.54	\$21.91
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$19.15	\$30.73
Pine Species (WMP)	\$20.44	\$25.28
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$39.19	\$20.45

32 of the 35 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Carlton County*December 9 – Oral Auction*

Aspen	\$53.44	NA
Northern Hdwds	\$13.59	NA

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Products:

- PB = Pulp and Bolts
- WMP = Woodsrun mixed Products
- WC = Woodsrun cordwood
- ST = Sawtimber
- WST = Woodsrun Sawtimber
- PW = Pulpwood
- SLV = Sawlogs/Veneer

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"State Log Scalers"

by J. C. Ryan

This story is reprinted from an earlier *Timber Bulletin*—one of the first of "Buzz" Ryan's ever-popular contributions to these pages. The *Bulletin* will continue to reprint selected stories from the memories he recorded for us.—*Editor*



During a presentation of slides on early loggers or during any conversation about logging history in Minnesota, "state scalers" are mentioned and I am asked, "What do you mean by state scaler?" I will try to cover this subject as it applies to the logging industry.

The scaling of logs was the process of determining the amount of lumber that could be sawed from a log. On straight and sound logs this was quite simple, but with logs having defects, crooks, rot, etc., it took considerable knowledge of logs and lumber to determine the amount of usable lumber in a log. A number of log rules were developed, including the Wisconsin Decimal C, the Doyle, the International and the Minnesota Standard — all somewhat different.

In Minnesota, the Minnesota Standard rule was the official one for scaling all state-owned timber. However, the other rules were used by private companies in buying and selling logs. The scale of each scaler would also differ some in the scal-

ing of faulty timber. Disagreement often occurred and lawsuits developed.

The Minnesota office of Surveyor General of Logs and Lumber was created by law as an official and neutral department for scaling. When a contract would be made to sell or buy logs it would require that the scaling be done by a state scaler and the amount of lumber in the logs as determined by him would be official.

Besides the scaling on private contracts, the Surveyor General had other duties such as the recording of all stamps and bark marks and the scaling of all timber cut from state land. The Surveyor General would try to obtain the best qualified scalers possible.

During the peak years of logging, the Surveyor General may have had as many as a hundred scalers working on private contracts alone. On private contracts, the parties involved paid for the scaling costs. Just which party — buyer or seller — was to pay the cost of scaling would be in the contract. Not all logs were sold on or sub-

ject to state scale, but many were.

In the early days, much of the scaling was done during the winter months or on the sorting works and booms on the rivers in the spring. Some scalers would be laid off during the summer, but many worked the year around and would be shifted from job to job.

It was during the days of the river drives, with the sorting works on the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, that the demand for scaling on private contracts was at its peak. However, the scaling on private contracts did continue clear through the logging on the original pine stands. It was only during the final days of white pine logging that the request for state scaling of private contracts declined.

However, the scaling of state-owned timber increased as the cutting of smaller products such as ties, pulpwood and cedar, which was plentiful on state swamp lands, came into demand. This continued to be done by Surveyor General scalers until the office of State Surveyor General of Logs and Lumber was abolished by law in 1967 and the duties of that office were turned over to the Division of Forestry.

The Surveyor General had several Deputy Surveyor General offices set up around the state so as to better serve the logging industry. One of these offices was in Duluth in the old Manhattan Building and continued operations up into the early 1920s.

As demand for state scalers on private contracts became less, these deputy offices were dissolved and the work was handled from the St. Paul office of the Surveyor General. State scalers then were assigned to State Timber Appraisers districts and from there the state timber permits. Here again some of these scalers worked for private companies when not employed by the state.

As a rule these scalers were older men who had scaled for private companies for many years before being hired by the state. In later years some younger men were hired for the scaling of smaller timber products such as ties, posts and poles. Smaller timber products did not require the experience as did log scaling.

For many years the law required that

A nice, sound log being scaled at a sawmill. Logs like this would be easy for a state scaler.



all state timber be scaled on the grounds where cut. For logs, this meant scaled as they were skidded to the skidways or when they were loaded onto sleighs. Smaller timber would be scaled in the strips or on the side of the log road where it had been skidded.

In later years the law was changed so the timber could be moved to a central landing for scaling after a request for a landing had been approved by the division in charges of timber permit supervision.

Sometimes the buyer or seller on private contract scaling would be dissatisfied with the scaler and would request another. This was done in rare cases. On logging operations where only state-owned timber was being cut, a scaler would be assigned to one camp during the entire logging season. However, most camps cut some private timber as well as state-owned, and in this case a scaler of state timber might be assigned to scaling in several camps in the same general area. He would then keep in touch with the logging operation in these camps and scale as needed to keep the operation moving.

Where state timber permits were small or inactive he might scale for a number of operators. The state appraisers or rangers in charge of the state permits would work very closely with the scaler in having all permits scaled so as not to hold up the logging operation.

In some cases where the logger was selling his logs to a mill on scale, the mill operator accepted the state scaler's decisions, but in others insisted on scaling all logs purchased himself, and a difference in scale – which always existed – sometimes was cause of dissatisfaction.

Besides the regular scalers, the Surveyor General had check scalers or scaler supervisors who called on scalers to keep the scaling as uniform as possible. These check scalers were very well qualified and knew all the problems. In making a check scale, they would scale up to 200 logs and then compare with the scaler's scale and make adjustments if needed.

All logs were numbered and recorded by number. On small products such as pulp, the piles were numbered. Ties were counted and recorded as to small or standard. Posts, poles and mine timbers were counted and recorded as to length. Mine lagging was scaled by the cord. Piling, which was usually sold by the lineal foot, was recorded as to lengths.

Having been raised in the Bemidji area and having worked along the Minnesota and International Railroad as timber checker, camp clerk and camp foreman in this area where considerable state-owned timber was cut, I became very well acquainted with many state timber scalers. Many of these men were old when I was a young man and had acquired their experience in scaling on the St. Croix, Rum and Mississippi Rivers when pine

logging was at its peak. Most of these older men preferred the scaling of logs rather than small products and they took great pride in their log scaling ability.

These older scalers were very well qualified and I had great respect for their competence. Some of the ones I knew best were Jimmy Brennen of Stillwater, who would fight at a drop of a hat if anyone questioned his ability to scale; the Carroll brothers, John and Dan; Alex McNeil, John Fiarity, Jack Morrissey, John Dufall, Jim Hogan and others.

I also knew many of the latter-day scalers, including Clyde Johnson, William

Kenely, Wally Sutherland, Oscar Anderson, Carl Freeberg, Rusty Willis, Fred Letourneau, Art Miller and many others.

While the Division of Forestry is still carrying on the scaling of state-owned timber, the demand for different types of timber products has brought about many new scaling methods which no doubt will change further as different uses for wood fibers are developed.

But when we look back on our forest history, we must salute the early state log scalers – all great men who played a large part in bringing our vast virgin pine stands to market.



Above: Clyde Johnson, a state scaler in the Big Fork area, 1917. Below: Dan O'Connor looks over a defective log; logs like this called for experienced scalers.



Logs scaled in the water at the sorting works were scaled with a caliper.





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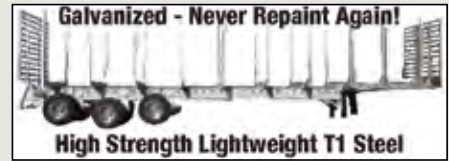


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