

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME 61



Little Alfie Revisted
Rajala Adapts to
Changing World

TIMBER BULLETIN

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ON THE COVER

Regenerated white pine at Little Alfie.
Photo was taken at the recent Little Alfie timber sale.

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Minnesota
Timber Producers
Association



Hello -

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ray Higgins. Ray is the new MTPA field representative and brings a variety of talents that will fit

President's Column



nicely with our needs. Welcome, Ray! With the coming of cold weather, some of our members seem to be having problems with the mandate requiring a two

percent biodiesel component in our diesel fuel. The MTPA staff has been in contact with the proper authorities, including the governor's office. This is an issue the state needs to rectify in a hurry. Every day lost to plugged filters is very costly to loggers and the mills. MTPA staff will continue to monitor this problem and push for a speedy remedy. Your calls will help.

The fall round of timber sales is in progress. I hope everyone was able to get wood to operate on at a price they can live with. The general trend seems to be down from the unsustainable levels of the past year. MTPA staff continues to follow the stumpage issue and to work with the DNR on various problems regarding stumpage.

Finally, the MTPA is on solid financial footing. The coming new year and your dues contributions will continue to strengthen the association and enable us to be the strong advocate that the loggers, small mills, and landowners need.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dave A. Erikson

Time Inc. Endorses Minnesota Logger Education Program's New Master Logger Certification Program

"Today we are qualifying MLEP's Master Logger Certification Program as meeting the requirements of our CSF (Certified Sustainable Forestry) program," announced David Refkin, director of sustainable development at Time Inc.

Recently, Time Inc. endorsed the Minnesota Logger Education Program's (MLEP) Master Logger Certification Program. Logger certification



promotes sustainable forestry and provides an independent, third-party audit of a logging business's harvest, safety and business practices. It is a performance-based program for loggers that recognizes training, experience and the implementation of specific sustainable forest management and safety practices.

"Today we are qualifying MLEP's Master Logger Certification Program as meeting the requirements of our CSF (Certified Sustainable Forestry) program," announced David Refkin, director of sustainable development at Time Inc. "We look forward to working with MLEP to focus on continuous improvement of the program, similar to improvements we have seen in other qualified programs." Only two other state logger certification programs, Wisconsin and Maine, have received this recognition from Time. MLEP's logger certification program is the only program qualified by Time Inc. in Minnesota.

"Logger certification provides confidence to customers and the public that the person performing a harvest has the education and experience to do the job correctly" said Dave Chura, MLEP's executive director. "Certification is an independent and formal recognition of those logging

businesses who implement sustainable forest management practices and safe, professional operations."

Several mills in Minnesota and across the country have been asked to meet a target that 65 percent of the resource going into their product be certified by year-end 2005 and 80 percent by year-end 2006. Minnesota's has 15 million acres of timberland. Of that 15 million, 38 percent is controlled by family forest landowners and these family forests provide 45 percent of the timber harvested each year.

"Logger certification addresses this challenge by providing certified wood from family forestland to the market place. This means loggers and mills in Minnesota will be in a strong position to provide certified wood from family forestlands to customers like Time Inc.," stated Chura.

MLEP's Master Logger Certification Program was developed by a working group including representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Forestry Association, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Forest Industries, Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers of Minnesota, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, Izaak Walton League and Dovetail, Inc.

I am very pleased that Ray Higgins has joined TPA as our new Field Representative. Ray, a long time fixture in the Duluth media, has also been active in the community with his parish council and as event coordinator for the ALS fishing tournament in Duluth. He's already been out on a few logging jobs and will be heading to more as he learns our industry. Please join me welcoming Ray to our team.



Have you been to the TPA Annual Meeting in the past few years? Did it seem a lot like the last one you went to? Put that out of your mind. We are adopting an entirely new format and a new date for the 2006 annual meeting. It will be combined with the annual golf and fishing outing and a number of new activities. The dates will be Thursday, June 8 and Friday June 9 with the meetings being held at Breezy Point. Mark your calendars today and look for more information in the coming months.

Executive Vice President's Column



Jelling. And we're not talking about shoe inserts. The first several days of December found the telephones at the TPA office ringing off the hook with concerns about fuel jelling in truck and equipment filters. We hit this issue hard right away. Immediate contacts went to the MN Department of Commerce and the Governor's office. Additionally we contacted the MN Petroleum Marketers Association and our friends in the agriculture lobbies. Our belief was that the new bio-diesel mandate was causing or contributing to the problem. As of the writing of this column we haven't tracked it down completely but we're on the case.



The winter logging season looks like it's off to a decent start. We've been having some cooler weather without much snow to keep the ground from freezing. Winter weights are being put into effect in a timely manner. We never know what the winter will bring but we'll keep our fingers crossed that this year will be as good last winter. Keeping our fingers crossed is about as much as we can do about the weather but it's not as much as we can do about safe operations on the job. Don't just cross your fingers when preparing for the toll that cold weather, longer days and more days can take on everyone in the woods or mills. Prepare your crews now, and every day to work safely. Don't just cross your fingers.



Little Alfie. Just the name brings back a lot of memories, both good and bad. I was heading from our area meeting in Ely to Orr and decided to take the Echo Trail. It was an unusual day because I had a little extra time. It seemed the logical thing to do to run down and take a look at the Little Alfie timber sale. As the pictures elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin* show, the timber sale was a highly effective silvicultural treatment. The regeneration was up high enough that I had to crawl up and stand on top of my truck to take some of the pictures.



If you haven't been around Ely in a few years the development will astound you. Everyone seems to want their piece of our great

northland. It reminds me of the discussions we had when the MN Forest Resources Council was debating the riparian guidelines. Some of us suggested that debating whether timber harvesting should occur in riparian areas was a folly given the development activities and pressures on these same lands. Landowners need to be able to manage their lands and derive income from the forest or the pressures to develop riparian zones will be even greater. Many folks agreed with us on this argument but it was not universal.



As another year draws to a close it doesn't hurt to reflect on the many blessings that we have all received in the past year. At TPA we've had our successes and we've had our failures. I am gratified at the support that our members provide the organization every year. 2005 marked an all time record in dues contributions. This has allowed us to move forward in a number of key areas. We're also seeing the ongoing transition as younger loggers and mill operator's step forward to provide the support and leadership necessary for TPA to continue to be the voice of the timber industry in Minnesota. One of the great strengths of TPA has always been the volunteer leadership of the organization. It is one of the things that separates us from other organizations.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2005

The Honorable Mark Rey
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Rey:

Since 1992, the annual production quotas for the lake states National Forests have not been achieved, and have fallen dramatically. The US Forest Service has recently spent a substantial amount of time and money preparing new management plans for national forests in each of our states.

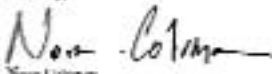
We are writing to request that full funding be provided for the levels of vegetation management through timber sales in current forest plans in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. Based on estimates of current unit costs for Fiscal Year 2005, an allocation of \$13.8 million is required for National Forests in Minnesota, \$19.7 million for Michigan and \$11.3 million for Wisconsin.

Full implementation of the goals and objectives of the new management plans is essential to assure healthy forests now and in the future. Additionally, the outputs from these forests are crucial to maintaining the local economies of our states. We are currently faced with some of the highest timber prices in the United States and the world. This is the case even with substantial amounts of raw wood being imported into mills in our regions from other states and Canada. As a result, many of our smaller saw mills are on the verge of shutdown, running at significantly less than capacity because logs are not available.

These forests have consistently ranked at the top of the National Forest System for their accomplishments and efficiency. We are proud of the work that the professionals in the U.S. Forest Service are doing in our region, and are pleased they have been able to update their forest plans and accomplish their vegetation management in difficult circumstances. Complete implementation of the new management plans including fully funding the levels of vegetation management through timber sales will only enhance and add to their efforts.

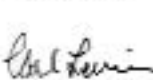
Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

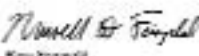
Sincerely,


Norm Coleman
United States Senator


Mark Dayton
United States Senator


Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


Carl Levin
United States Senator


Norm D. Fiorillo
United States Senator


Herb Kohl
United States Senator

Mark Your Calendar!

Please mark your calendar for June 8 and 9, 2006, for the TPA Golf and Fishing Outing and TPA annual meeting at Breezy Point. We're combining the two events this year and preparations are underway to make both bigger and better than ever. We'll keep you posted on our plans in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you at Breezy Point for this exciting event!

Corrections

In the July/August *Meet the Director* item it was incorrectly stated that Katie Kueber started in the business in 1965. She actually started in 1991 and Two Inlets Mill is owned by the Kueber family.

The weight of the truck and load in the Guess the Weight contest at the North Star Expo was incorrectly published in the September/ October issue.

We apologize for these errors.

UPM Acquires a Russian Logging Company

UPM has acquired 99 percent of the shares of the Russian logging company ZAO Tikhvinsky Kompleksny Lespromkhoz from 200 private owners. Through this acquisition, UPM aims to improve the availability of quality timber to UPM's own production plants in Russia as well as to the company's mills in Finland.

ZAO Tikhvinsky Kompleksny Lespromkhoz has a logging license for almost 200,000 hectares of forests in Tikhvin municipality, situated in the eastern part of the Leningrad province about 250 kilometers east of St. Petersburg. The company also owns two small sawmills. The company employs 500 to 700 persons, depending on the season.

Mr. Juri Vasilievits Orlov will continue as a managing director of the company. UPM aims to develop the know-how of the Tikhvinsky staff and to improve the efficiency of the company's operations. One part of this is a development project which will result in forest management and wood sourcing practices fulfilling the criteria of the international forest certification standards.

For further information, please contact: Mr. Jaakko Sarantola, Director, Forestry and Wood Sourcing, UPM, tel. +358 40 707 0221; Mr. Juhani Hongisto, Director, Forestry and Wood Sourcing, Russia, UPM, tel. +358 40 847 6730 or +7 921 920 8470; Ms. Aili Piironen, Corporate Communications, tel. +358 204 150 221.

UPM is one of the world's leading producers of printing papers and the clear market leader in magazine papers. The group's sales in 2004 were nearly EUR 10 billion, and it has 33,400 employees. UPM's main products include printing papers, converting materials and wood products. The company has production plants in 15 countries and its main market areas are Europe and North America. In Russia, the company has a

plywood and veneer mill in Chudovo, a sawmill in Pestovo, representative offices both in Moscow and in St. Petersburg and a wood sourcing organization in St. Petersburg.

UPM's shares are listed on the Helsinki and New York stock exchanges. Further information is available on the company's website at www.upm-kymmene.com.

Rajala Adapts to Changing World

by Dave Johnson

Reprinted with permission by Northern Logger and Timber Processor Magazine, Old Forge, New York.

In his 60-plus years, Jack Rajala has seen hard times and good times. His grandfather was a Finnish immigrant who tried to make it as a farmer on 160 acres in northern Minnesota. Failing that, he went into the logging and sawmilling businesses at the time when the big pines were being logged off. Not surprisingly, he went bust a couple of times. Jack says he's never known a sawmiller who hasn't had his ups and downs and he includes himself in that group. Right now, he and his company are in a "down," having watched their business decline by two thirds over the past few years.

Rajala is CEO of the company that includes his brothers and sons and has its headquarters in Deer River, Minn. Jack and his son, John, are open and frank about their problems. Like most forest products industries in this area, the Rajala sawmills depended on a steady supply of timber from the Chippewa National Forest. This stopped cold when the forest produced a new management plan that curtailed all logging except some thinning of red pine plantations. Down went the sawmill that was sawing 3-4 million board feet a year and employed 15 people.

Then, the Itasca County supervisors put the county under Forest Stewardship Council certification. The plan called for the prohibition of cutting any large trees. The Rajalas had two sawmills that depended on that timber, each running two shifts. Now they have one mill that runs one shift. This also eliminated about 15 jobs and reduced their lumber output by an additional three million board feet per year. These were major blows, but the family owns about 35,000 acres of forestland, so it was able to keep going. Currently, the company operates four sawmills in Minnesota and one in Ontario,



John Rajala outside the company's headquarters in Deer River.

Canada, employing a total of about 160 people in the mills and the various value-added activities.

The business has moved heavily into the value-added area, slicing veneer rather than the more traditional method of peeling. They have the process down and they are producing high-quality veneer, but John points out that it is barely breaking even. Much of the problem with it is marketing. The veneer market is a very competitive business, and it's been difficult for Rajala to break into it. They can use sawlogs for this veneer product, but they also use any veneer grade logs they buy, rather than selling them separately as many mills do. Until recently, furniture manufacturing was a major industry in this country and the Rajalas had a large share of the market supplying furniture companies with lumber. Now that that market has almost vanished Rajala is shipping lumber that would have gone to these companies to China, where most furniture sold in the United States is now made.

The company used to sell lumber to European markets but that dried up when the Berlin Wall came down. John says there was – and is – a lot of good hardwood timber in the former Eastern block countries that came onto the market with the end of the cold war.

John had just returned from a trip to China when The Northern

Logger visited. Rajala ships lumber to China in containers. John says they can ship a full container load of wood to China cheaper than they can truck a load of lumber to Seattle. Overall, 25 percent of the company's business is exports.

Part of the way Rajala Companies has survived is by innovation and branching out into new markets. The mills have also become more efficient simply because it is easier to closely supervise a small operation than a large one.

For example, John says that much of his day is now taken up ensuring that the mills produce what they can sell immediately and only that. He says they can no longer simply saw up logs and stack the lumber waiting for a buyer to come along. He says that if the mill is sawing 8/4 red pine, for example, and a special order comes in for, say 4x4s or 3x16s, he will order the sawyer to switch to what is needed and then return to his regular work. This requires close communication and flexibility. This, "produce upon demand" philosophy is apparent from the highway. There is about a 40-acre field full of stacked lumber at the Deer River mill and all of it is bright; no "gray inventory" in sight.

Even though the company operates in an area that has the highest unemployment in the state, running about ten percent, Jack says that few applications are submitted for jobs at the sawmill. He says that not many of the ten percent are willing – or in some cases, able – to do sawmill work for sawmill wages. He says the sought-after jobs are in the so called service industry. These "positions" carry more prestige and are a lot easier physically than, for example, working the green chain in a sawmill.

While Rajala's workforce in the higher-paying, more skilled jobs is stable and consists mainly of older workers who have a history with the company, there is a large turnover in the lower-paying entry-level jobs. John wonders who will

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replace these older men when they retire.

He says that once a mill worker qualifies for a skilled job, that's where he will continue to work. He says they can't just create phony "supervisory" jobs to promote good people into as a reward for good service.

The Rajala family is also in the logging business with another son running two Ponsse units. Here the escalating stumpage prices are a concern, as they are to the milling part of the business. Jack says it is difficult to produce products that utilize material, the price of which fluctuates for no apparent reason, out of control of the producer. He says that the pulpmills have a group of preferred suppliers. When they are desperate, he says, they give these producers the go-ahead to pay what they have to in competitive bidding for stumpage contracts, and then the difference is made up by the mill. This makes stumpage artificially high. Jack feels this sort of cannibalizing will have to come to an end sometime, taking people who are riding high now down with it.

In northern Wisconsin, cut-to-length logging systems are being used successfully for first thinnings in red pine plantations using an innovative technique. Historically, these plantations were thinned after about 25 years by removing every other row, thus removing half of the trees, good and bad alike. The harvesting techniques, manual felling and forwarding with Iron Mule type forwarders, made this the only practical approach. It was just accepted that a lot of potential crop trees were taken. Later, as more mechanized



The company cuts a lot of 4/4 pine lumber.

equipment was introduced, foresters started specifying taking every third row. That still took a lot of good trees.

Now, with the long booms and high cabs on processors, the operators are able to see and reach into rows on either side and select trees for harvest. This has led to clearing every seventh row and, by reaching thru, to selectively thin the six rows in between, three rows on a side. The trees cut probably average about three sticks. There is some question whether the operator can see well enough to do a good job of selecting trees and, maybe most importantly, whether the logger can make a living using these machines in this manner. Jack did some quick calculations. He feels that, in order to stay profitable, units such as these must produce wood worth \$600 a day. As an example, with wood worth \$20 a cord to the logger, each unit must produce 30 cords a day to come out ahead. Apparently this is a realistic number since there are several operations in Wisconsin that are reportedly doing well.

As for forest certification, Jack is not opposed to the idea. He served on a committee that developed SFI,

but he feels it has so many "wrinkles" as it now stands it is of little value. His forests are not certified. He says that there are thousands of highly trained foresters in the U.S. who are doing a good job managing the nation's forests and he sees little need for a layer of bureaucracy over them. He says that way before any of this started, he took his customers out into the woods and explained what he was doing. These were generally not guided tours but hunting and fishing excursions. He says that, to a man, they were impressed and most of them stayed with his company – some because they respected good forest management, others simply because they could see that, through good management, they were assured a supply of wood down the line.

He feels that little is gained by having outsiders come in and make rules he must abide by. He doesn't feel they are extreme environmentalists, by and large, but rather people who are out to make a profit and who often fail to take local conditions into account. It seems strange to him that, while this concept was developed under Third World conditions where the needs of indigenous people were one of the prime considerations, little or no weight is given by the people doing the inspections to the effect that the rules they make have on the local population in this country. He cites a nearby town where there used to be two factories turning out wood products where there are now none. He is skeptical of some of the claims made for certification. He feels that too often, being certified is simply an advertising gimmick that does little to improve forest management.

Instead of certification under one of the existing programs, Rajala is introducing a line of wood products under the name of "True North Wood." The line will emphasize "North woods beauty, sustainability and hard working people." One goal is to market flooring from previously ignored species, such as Tamarack. Tamarack is a heavily grained species and it has not been shown that it will sell well against bland flooring such as maple.

In 1998, Jack wrote a book, "Bringing Back the White Pine." It



Rajala utilizes this LeTourneau yard machine.

documents his efforts in reforestation on his own acres and lays out a plan to reintroduce the white pine to the area where it once grew but has now been replaced by lesser species. In the forward he acknowledges the role his own ancestors played in bringing that great forest down and indicates that he feels a special responsibility for trying to restore what is now gone.

It's not just words with Jack Rajala. The company has planted thousands of its own acres with white pine, planting 250,000 trees in a single year. He says that some people feel that it should be easy to restore the white pine to an area where it once grew in abundance, but conditions have changed so much over the past century that it requires much effort and patience. He says that if he is to be remembered for anything he would wish it to be for his efforts in restoring these magnificent trees to northern Minnesota.

The "lumber barons" clearcut their way across the top of the United States at around the turn of the century, eliminating much of the white pine that grew there. Many of them ended up on the West Coast where companies bearing their names still operate. A classic case is the company started by Frederick Weyerhaeuser. He built his last sawmill in Minnesota in 1910. It produced a million board feet of white pine lumber a day. Those are production statistics you don't see anymore – at least not in white pine.

The company office sits right on a main highway and there is a steady stream of logging trucks moving on this highway. Jack notices all of these out of the corner of his eye. He can tell where the trucks are coming from and he tends to evaluate each load as it passes. He knows where the logs are going by the type of wood and the appearance of the trucks. Hopefully, in the future, more of these trucks will be pulling into Rajala sawmills with more lumber trucks pulling out.

The Rajalas have been thru many of the trials other companies have yet to face. These trials are not over yet, but if the past few years are any indication, the company is well positioned to weather the storms.

Minnesota Timber Producers Association *Meet the Director*



Lowell Pittack recently retired from Pittack Logging, Inc., which he began in 1979. But his retirement from business hasn't meant a retirement from TPA Board duties at all. Lowell is extremely dedicated to the TPA, serving as chair of the membership committee. He has also served on the transportation and insurance committees, and is a founding member of MLEP.

Lowell says TPA has contributed to the success of his business by providing "a forum for common interests of loggers.

Membership has reduced insurance and other operating costs, provided drug testing services, and educational opportunities. TPA also gives loggers the opportunity to collectively speak with one voice in the community and in the legislature." Plus, Lowell adds, it's a way to make lifelong friends.

Lowell is also involved in the Itasca Development Corporation, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Forestry Affairs Committee, the Blandin Paper Company Environmental Advisory Board, and the Blandin Expansion and Retention Committee.

He is a Community Presbyterian Church trustee, and helps with the University of Minnesota North Central Endowment Fund.

Lowell and his wife, Judy, have three children, Sandra, Susan and L. Scott, and six grandchildren. Lowell enjoys hunting, fishing, traveling and working in the wood shop.



Thick new growth follows the timber sale.



Before and after – the stump is surrounded by vigorous white pine growth.

Little Alfie Revisited

Little Alfie. Who can forget that name? It was one of the epic battles waged by environmentalists against timber harvesting in Minnesota. Fortunately for the forest, the environmentalists lost.

Little Alfie was a timber sale on the Superior National Forest southeast of Orr. It was purchased by TPA member Cusson Camp Company (Tony Vukelich) and was harvested by Gregg Olson.

The environmentalists sued to halt this timber sale. Ultimately U.S. District Court Judge Jack Tunheim ruled that the sale could go forward.

The silvicultural purpose of the sale was to naturally propagate white pine by removing an over story of red pine pole wood. This



White pine regeneration at Little Alfie.

site had excellent advanced white pine regeneration in the under story that needed space, sunlight and nutrients to grow. And grow it has.

The pictures that follow show the site as it looked on a cool October day of this year. They show the power of careful, scientific forest

(continued on page 18)



Seedlings become saplings as the forest grows.



New growth on what had been a haul road.

Introducing: TPA Merchandise



Cotton Polo Shirt \$23.00
Taupe with Green TPA logo
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Taupe with Green TPA Logo
Unisex Sizes: S-5XL, XLT, 2XLT



No Shrink Fleece Crew \$21.50
Pine color with cream TPA logo
Unisex Sizes: S- 3XL

Please Fill Out Entire Form:

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Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Shipping Address (if different from above):

Please Fill out and Include with Check:

Men's Cotton Polo Shirt: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Ladies Cotton Polo Shirt: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Windshirt: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Fleece Crew: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Checks made out to: TPA Services, Inc.

Add: \$3.00 S&H

Total enclosed in check: \$ _____

Send Checks Only to TPA Office:

324 West Superior St., Suite 903, Duluth, MN 55802

No Credit Cards or Cash!

(continued from page 16)
 management. The white pine have flourished after the U.S. Forest Service's project and the careful logging done by Gregg Olson and his crew.

This is the nicest natural white pine regeneration that is likely to be found anywhere in Minnesota. And, it exists because of a timber sale.

The pictures also demonstrate the folly of the environmental litigants and protesters. On the one hand they pine away for more pine in our state. In reality, what they wanted was conflict. The pictures are truly worth a thousand words on how to grow more white pine in this area.

TPA Announces New Staff Person

Ray Higgins has joined the TPA staff as field representative. Ray, a long-time Duluthian, has spent



over 20 years working in the local media. Most recently he has been managing editor at WDIO TV. Prior to this he served in

various capacities for WDIO, KDAL Radio and KDLH TV in Duluth as well as with KSTP TV in Minneapolis.

Ray has also been active in the community, serving as event coordinator for the ALS Walleye Tournament in Duluth which has raised over one million dollars in the past decade. He has also served on the ALS board of directors and on his parish council.

TPA is very pleased that Ray has joined our team and is looking forward to the benefits that his skills and energy will bring to our members. "The position of field representative is vital to meeting the needs of our members and I know that Ray will do an excellent job," said TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt.

"I am looking forward to working with all of our members to help achieve our goals and grow Minnesota's economy," Higgins said.

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I

VOL. II

VOL. III

VOL. IV

First hand recollections by storyteller 'Buzz' Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swampers, wood butchers and bul-ricks who used the woods in the hey-day of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

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 Note: Existing subscriptions will continue at their current rate until they expire.

Where are the ATVs to go?

There are a lot of opinions about ATV use in the forest. Some view them as a fine recreational activity. Others view them as a natural

to be designated, developed and paid for. And, there needs to be education and training for riders and enforcement of laws on bad

actors. Blanket decisions to restrict ATV use on seemingly appropriate corridors do not make sense.



resource pariah. One thing is certain though, ATVs and their recreational and business use are here to stay.

Given this, there need to be places where people can ride ATVs. As the following pictures show, this place is not on U.S. Forest Service roads that branch off of the Echo Trail.

The U.S. Forest Service certainly has its reasons for posting these roads as closed to ATV use. But many think that these postings help drive ATV use onto state, county, and private roads and lands as well as into the woods and off of already developed corridors themselves.

There will be many more twists and turns to the ATV debate in the future. Ultimately areas, corridors and trails for riding need

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Who Logged Here"

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*



The questions most often asked of forest rangers today go about like this: What company logged in this area? Or who ran that old camp by such and such a trail or creek? Or how many years ago was the virgin timber cut on a certain area?

Today there are many people out in our forests each weekend in search of artifacts of the old logging days and asking for information on locations of old logging camp sites—and they think that the rangers know where all the old camps were located. And while rangers who have been on a district a number of years do get to know where many of the old camps were, every trip a ranger makes into a 40 acre tract he has not been out before is liable to show up evidence of some sort of a logging operation having been there.

While snuff jars seem to be the most desired of all logging artifacts, these searchers find old bottles from liniment, vegetable compound, extract, Hinkley bone liniment and whiskey as well as all types of metal objects that were used around a camp. All the old camp clearings and sites that they have found have been pretty well dug up, and they have turned up many very interesting objects of the old logging days. It is a very appealing hobby and one that has brought about considerable interest in the history of the old logging days.

This brings me back to the first question: What company logged here and when?

From the time the first logs were cut along the Rum River in 1837 to the taking out of the last log drive on the Littlefork in 1937, the 100-year period brought camps to house men in every part of the timbered area of the state. Just how many there were would be only a guess, but the number would run in the thousands.

As a rule, logging companies would walk men up ten miles and a half to work, and most loggers tried to keep the distance from the camp to work within one mile. When the distance became greater a new camp would be built. When you apply this rule to the vast area of the state that was logged off, you can readily see that there had to be a great number of camps. However, in later years when transporta-

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Above: Early log camp buildings along the Rum River. Below: Chose time in an early camp on the Mississippi River



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tion became better and men were transported to work by railroad in some cases, the camps were a little farther apart.

In the early days, camps were situated along rivers and on lake shores in most cases for easier transportation of supplies by water. For a water supply for horses and cattle and because in many cases the logs were landed along the shorelines. When camps were located inland, they often were on a small creek where a water supply would be available.

Some camps remained in the same location for a number of years or until the logging company had completed cutting all its holdings in a given area. Sometimes several companies would use the same camp location. I know of one case in 1917 where the Cloquet Tie and Post Co. built a camp and logged ties in 1916, and in 1922 the Northern Lumber Co. built a large camp on the same site and logged the pine. Then in 1925 the John Kusinarrik Co. built a camp on the same site and cut Duluth and Iron Range Railroad timber in the general area.

I know of many cases where two different companies had camps on the same site. This was very common where one company cut the logs and another cut the ties, cedar and pulpwood. For example, the American Cedar Company cut cedar the year after the Crookston Lumber Co. cut the logs, the Cloquet Tie and Post Co. followed operations of the Cloquet and Northern Lumber Co., National Pole followed the International Lumber Co.—and many other cutters of ties and cedar followed the logging companies by a year or so.

Different ownerships of timber stands in the same general area also might bring a second camp to a site—the second company taking advantage of some of the improvements, such as a well and roads, that had been made by the first.

Camps built along rivers probably were used as log driving camps for many springs, being occupied for only a month or so while the drive was in progress.

Early camps built of logs were never torn down and usually stood for a number of years if not destroyed by fire. Many of them were victims, however, of early forest fires. In later years when camps were made of lumber, they were torn down and the lumber was used to build new camps. And some lumber probably was used in several camps before being discarded. Even when camps were torn down, a small huddle usually was left intact to mark the site.

Evidence of these camps is found all over the forested area of the state. Camps that stood for a year or more usually are surrounded by a grassy area and the bottom of these buildings are easily found and identified by their dimensions with the kitchen having the root cellar attached. Buildings were all hunked with



Most early camps were made of logs, as this one under construction.



These two are very early camps—built about 1880. Note there are no windows in the one above. Below: Kitchens and bunk houses were cedar and log.





Above: Two early camps in northern Minnesota. Below: The whole crew as well as the camp got into one early picture near Blackduck



earth, and the trenches where the banking was dug along the sides of the buildings are often the most evident sign that a camp was there.

These grassy areas of a camp site remain for many years, although there were many camps used only during the winter months that soon grew up to brush and trees. We find trees up to 100 years old growing in the middle of buildings. This type of camp is usually found only by cruisers or rangers or in the relogging of the second crop of timber. While planting trees with a tree planter, we have turned up evidence of old camps that we did not know existed. It is the camp sites along the rivers, lake roads and railroads that are discovered most and better known.

We are often asked "Where was camp 2?" Or camp 3? In fact, there were many a camp 4 and camp 5. Every logging company had several of them. The system was to number the camps annually, and a company might have five camps numbered 1 to 5 each year. In later years, however, many of the larger companies numbered their camps consecutively and had numbers running well up in the hundreds.

Now to get back to the question of "Who logged here?"

The logging companies and contract loggers also ran into the thousands, and I can only mention a few of them along with their general areas of operations.

Probably some of the first camps in Minnesota were along the St. Croix and lower Rum, with William Atkins, Henry Sibley and Lyman Warren being some of the first loggers. They were followed by Henshey and Singler, Caleb Cushing and others. The early loggers of the lower Rum and Snake were so numerous I would take a small book to list them. The first logging camp we have a record of was at the junction of the Snake and St. Croix Rivers in 1882 when John Boyce carried on logging with 11 men and 6 oxen. Then Scandinavia built the first camp on the Rum River in 1847.

From this time until 1914, when most river driving ended, loggers spread up the Mississippi and all its branches in great numbers. The Mississippi Logging Co., the Chippewa Logging Co., the Lord Norton Co. below Atkins and the Delatours above, "Len" Day, W. W. Hais, the Swan River Lumber Co., Sunson and Dwyer and many others.

With the coming of the logging railroads, other companies sprang up all over the area, with the logging spurs running in to most of the pine stands. Some of the loggers by areas are: around Brainerd and north to Coosh Lake, the Gull Lake Lumber Co., the Cross Lake Lumber Co., Sam Sunson, the Northland Lumber Co. and the Pine Tree Lumber Co.

In the area around Walker and west was the Walker and Akley Co. West of

Haseo Park, the Nichols and Gisholm Co. and Wild Rice Lumber Co. West of Bemidji were the Great Water Logging Co., the Crookston Lumber Co. and the Grand Forks Lumber Co. North along the M. & N. Railroad to Northome were the Bemidji Lumber Co., John Moberg, Blakley Brothers & Farley, J. Niels and Joe Brevne.

North from Northome to International Falls was Hackes & Brooks. Around Hamette, the Engler Lumber Co. Around Cass Lake, J. Niels. Along the railroad of the Itaska Lumber Co. from Deer River to Craigville there was Jim Reed, and "Buswire" O'Connell. East from Grand Rapids were Powers and Simson, the Swan River Lumber Co. and C. N. Nelson.

Out of Cloquet and up the St. Louis and Cloquet and Whiteface Rivers and in the area south of the Range were the Cloquet Lumber Co., Northern Lumber Co. and Johnson and Wentworth Co. North of the Range, Cooke and O'Brien, Virginia Rainy Lake Lumber, Moon & Keer, Numakun Lumber Co., Shevlin Clark and R. R. Bailey.

Around Ely were the St. Croix Lumber Co., Swallow & Hopkins, Knok Lumber Co. and Trout Lake Lumber Co. Along the Iron Range Railroad north from Two Harbors were Scott Graff, Colbrath, Ducker River Lumber Co., N. H. Shark, Jack Paasi, North Star, Oliver Mining Co. and then the Alger Line of the Smith and Alger Co. running from Knife River to the Canadian boundary, and the General Logging Co. line a little farther north with camps along it.

Up the North Shore of Lake Superior were the Redcliff Lumber Co., Split Rock and Thomas Nester. In the area adjacent to Duluth were the Assure Lumber Co. and Mitchell McClure, and the Brooks Seardon Co. railroad running 40 miles from Searden to just north of Duluth had many camps all along it. Other camps in the area just north and west of Duluth were Howards, Whitesides Marcell and King, and Rehbein and Vincent.

While this is but a very small part of the companies and contractors that were scattered by the thousands all over the pine regions of Minnesota, it will give you some idea of "who logged here" when you run across the remnants of some old camp while hiking or traveling through our forested area.

If, in your search for artifacts, you happen to find an ox shoe, the camp probably was there prior to 1880, and if you find a snuff jar you can be quite sure the camp was there prior to 1912.

And as you discover the remnants of these many lumber camps, you can realize the great numbers of men and animals and the effort it took to log our vast virgin timber stands and bring out lumber and material for the homes and cities of the early settlers who developed the Midwest.



Two good examples of later camps. Above: Oliver Mining Camp 24 in 1888. Below: Camp 6 of the Cloquet Lumber Co. in the Big Lake District in 1909.



Classifieds

To serve our readers better, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all members and associate members of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. All ads must be submitted in writing to the Association office. The MTPA assumes no responsibility for ad contents and accepts free ads on a first-come, first-served basis within space limitations.

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FOR SALE

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TJ 240.....	P.O.R.
TJ 350.....	9,500
1970 JD 440A.....	10,500
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