

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MAY/JUNE 2017

VOLUME 72



## Hasbargen Logging: National Loggers of the Year

North Star Expo  
Itasca County  
Fairgrounds  
Grand Rapids  
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# TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 72  
May/June 2017  
Duluth, Minnesota

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### ON THE COVER

Hasbargen Logging of Birchdale has been named National Logger of the Year. For more on this award, please see page 8.

The Timber Bulletin is published six times annually, in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, located at 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minn. Minnesota Timber Producers Association members receive the Timber Bulletin at an annual subscription rate of \$25 which is included in their membership dues. Periodicals postage paid in Duluth, Minnesota. Advertising rates and data on request. The views expressed in the Timber Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

**Postmaster: Please send address corrections to TIMBER BULLETIN, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802, Phone 218-722-5013.**  
Issn: 10973532 – USPS: 016208



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I hope this update finds our members having a safe and productive summer.

I was pleased to see such a good turnout at our Annual Meeting. Touching base with old friends and meeting new members was particularly rewarding for me. Developing friendships, and sharing ideas and concerns makes our organization more effective.

I was encouraged to hear Forrest Boe's report that \$1,000,000 in funding to the DNR for forest road improvement was approved by the legislature and DNR is currently in the planning stages of utilizing

**President's Column**  
the funding. It's well known that one of the best tools for forest management is good access to timber.



It was been a wet spring for many of our harvesting areas. I'm hoping for a bit of a dryer summer to increase production and allow us to get to many of our summer sites.

No matter where we are working, let's keep safety first. Remember, to spend time with family. The trees will always be there.

*David Berthiaume*

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**T**hank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting this year. We were back at Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids and they did a great job. If you haven't attended an Annual Meeting you should consider it next year. They are a great opportunity to learn, network and have some fun.



Congratulations to Dave Thomas on his retirement. Dave had a long career in the DNR's Division of Forestry, most recently serving as Northwest Regional Forester. Dave married into the TPA family as his father-in-law, Arvid Olson, was a long-time TPA member and a former president of our organization.

**Executive Vice President's Column**



Dave always had the strongest commitment to managing the forest and getting things done. He was always great to work with and found solutions to problems when they occurred. The only population at risk with Dave's retirement will be the fish populations in his neck of the woods.

Some things take time. Two years after the Energy Intensive Trade Exposed industry's energy legislation became law, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved Ottertail Power's petition for its customers. Specifically, the petition will lower electrical rates for Cass Forest Products, Norbord and Potlatch. This will help these facilities become more competitive in their markets.



In testimony before the PUC, Norbord showed that its Bemidji plant had the highest electrical rates of any of its twelve manufacturing facilities in North America. They further showed that the electrical rate at their Barwick, Ontario, mill was 26% less than Bemidji's. Making our industry more competitive is an everyday struggle.



It's nice to take a positive step forward.

Former TPA executive vice president Jack LaVoy is retiring. For the past decade Jack has run the Lake Superior Aquarium in Duluth where he did a great job. Best wishes to Jack in his retirement.



Who's not distracted? We're all distracted by many things every day. We see a lot of warnings and information about distracted driving which seems to be nearing epidemic proportions. Being distracted when working in a mill or in the woods has significant consequences. Those consequences, unfortunately, can be injuries. Use your leadership with your crews to help them keep focused and avoid distractions to keep safe. Sometimes awareness is good prevention. Make your crews aware of risks of distracted working.



The 2017 Minnesota Legislative Session ended with yet another Special Session. We had several big victories on long-term TPA priorities. State forest roads were appropriated \$1 million for maintenance. This builds on the \$500,000 pilot program for forest road maintenance that was passed two years ago. County forest road maintenance was also appropriated \$1 million. This marks the first time in decades that funding has been provided to the County Land Departments. Improving forest road maintenance has been a key TPA



priority for the past several years. The Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) program was reformed and improved. Landowners will now be able to enroll for 8, 20 or 50 years with increased payments for the longer term enrollments. A record level of funding for reforestation was also enacted. The total was \$5 million with \$4 million coming from the Forest Management Investment Account and \$1 million in bonding funds. We are grateful for these successes and appreciate those at the Capitol who helped us.



It was not all roses in St. Paul as Xcel Energy succeeded in its efforts to enact legislation that allows them to petition the PUC to terminate biomass contracts with Benson Power and Laurentian Energy. TPA continues to pursue legal options on this issue. We learned a few things in this fight. A deal, apparently, is not a deal. Xcel doesn't care a whit about our industry or our part of the state's economy. And, some legislators in our areas will vote to put their own constituents out of business.



On a more positive final note, mark your calendars for the North Star Expo. The show will be held September 15 and 16 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. Our committee is working on a lot of exciting things including a live demo at the show. You won't want to miss it!



Wayne E. Brant



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## Member Feature...



The crew of Hasbargen Logging, the 2017 National Logger of the Year

# Hasbargen Logging: 2017 National Outstanding Logger

By Ray Higgins

**C**harleston, S.C. – Hasbargen Logging of Birchdale has been named National Outstanding Logger for 2017 by the Forest Resources Association and STIHL Incorporated.

The award was presented to the Hasbargens at FRA's annual Meeting in Charleston, S.C.

"We're deeply honored by this award," said Kit Hasbargen, speaking on behalf of his family. "We accept it on behalf of all Minnesota logging companies who

do a wonderful job as stewards of our forests in this state."

Hasbargen Logging is owned by brothers, Clarence, Denton, and Kit Hasbargen, their sons Zach, Alvin, and Clinton, and a son-in-law, Derek Cook. The company received a wooden plaque and a \$1000 check from STIHL. The Hasbargens requested the cash award be donated to the Log-a-Load for Kids fund to benefit Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul.

It's the second time in seven years a Minnesota company has been honored by FRA as National

Outstanding Logger. Berthiaume Logging of Cloquet received the award in 2010.

In his acceptance speech at the award ceremony in Charleston, Kit Hasbargen paid tribute to his father Alvin, who formally started Hasbargen Logging in 1943 when he was just 17 years old. Alvin Hasbargen passed away in December 2015.

"He'd be so amazed by this," Kit told the audience. "He told us many, many times how proud he was of us. I'm thinking he'd have never guessed this would happen.



Our parents instilled in us the value of a good day's work, faith in the Lord, and we passed that along to our own children. We all appreciate what hard work made for us. I'd like to thank the committee for this honor. We greatly appreciate it, and I know our father would appreciate it."

It's been a whirlwind several months for the company. In April 2016 Hasbargen Logging was named Minnesota's Logger of the Year by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Committee. Then in September, the company was named FRA's 2016 Lake States Region Outstanding Logger. As a result, the Hasbargens became finalists for the national award, along with six other regional honorees from around the country.

In addition to the outstanding logger awards over the last year, in May 2016 Hasbargen Logging received a Joel Labovitz Entrepreneurial Success Award from the University of Minnesota-Duluth's Center for Economic Development. Hasbargen Logging was honored in the Mature Entrepreneur category for, "continuing to grow, increase revenues and provide steady employment despite mill closures in the region and market ups and downs."

"It has been an incredible year for our family and for our business," Kit Hasbargen said.

The Outstanding Logger Awards are based on several criteria, including commitment to sustainable forestry, outreach activities, business management practices, landowner/forester relationship, trade organization involvement, and peer recognition.

In nominating Hasbargen Logging for the Minnesota Logger of the Year award, Tim O'Hara, the wood procurement manager at Packaging Corporation of America's International Falls mill, wrote, "Hasbargen Logging's excellence may be most exemplified by its harvesting operations. The company has a keen focus on sustainability and environmental concerns, always taking the proper steps to take a close look at the timber sale prior to road building or felling to make sure that they have a good knowledge of the



Alvin Hasbargen

land before beginning the harvest operation. Yes, this can take a lot of time, but this diligence pays off in the excellent results they get on their harvests. Hasbargen Logging has continually upgraded its equipment mix to keep up with the changing needs in harvesting and land management."

Dave Hensel, procurement forester at UPM Blandin's Grand Rapids mill, has also worked with the Hasbargens and wrote a letter supporting the company's logger of the year nomination.

"In my 39 years in the forest products industry in Minnesota, few loggers have earned as much respect among foresters, landowners, public agencies, and other loggers as Hasbargen Logging has," Hensel wrote. "They are an excellent example of the finest in Minnesota logging."

While the current business started in 1943, the family's logging roots go back even further. Clarence's, Denton's, and Kit's great-grandfather lived in the central Minnesota town of Menahga, and logged in that area. Then in the 1930s, their grandfather moved his family to the Birchdale area along the Rainy River on the Minnesota-Ontario border and started logging there. That's where father Alvin eventually started the business called Hasbargen Logging. When



each generation of Hasbargen boys reached the age of 13 or so, they headed to the woods to join the family business. In 1986, Kit, Clarence, and Denton purchased the company from their father, Alvin. The three brothers have recently expanded the family partnership to Zach, Alvin, Clinton, and Derek, who represent the fourth generation of Hasbargens in the family business.

Through the years, the family has been active in logging industry groups. Kit Hasbargen served on the board of directors of the Minnesota Logger Education Program for fourteen years, including a stint as MLEP president. He's also been active in the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, including as a long-time board member, a ten-year stint on the executive committee, and he served as TPA president from 2012-14.

On top of that, Kit Hasbargen also represented the state's loggers on the steering committee that generated the 2014 Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry, which was used by Gov. Dayton, the state legislature, and state agencies to guide the decision-making process on forest policy.

The Hasbargens are also active in the local business community



Hasbargen Logging receives the National Logger of the Year award at the FRA National Conference in Charleston, S.C. (L-R): Tracy Cook, Derek Cook, Melany Hasbargen, Al Hasbargen, Kent Hall (STIHL Inc.), Sue Hasbargen, Kit Hasbargen, Clarence Hasbargen, Barb Hasbargen, Zach Hasbargen, Kristi Hasbargen, Deb Hawkinson (FRA President), Bill Johnson (FRA Chairman).

in a variety of ways, including playing an integral role in the re-development of the Community Hall in Birchdale. They are always available and enthusiastic about educating the general public about

forestry and logging, speaking to numerous school groups about the logging industry, even hosting students at their logging sites. Several Hasbargens have also served on their local volunteer

fire department.

The 5th generation of Hasbargens have now started helping in the office, a sign that the family business will continue the long-standing tradition of excellence resulting from a strong work ethic and family values.

"We've been blessed to have family and watch them grow up," Kit Hasbargen said in his acceptance speech, "and have been fortunate enough that these young men have stepped up (in the business), and they seem to enjoy the work, too. It's wonderful to have something to pass on to the next generation. I'm comfortable saying they're going to do well with it."

But most of all, Kit Hasbargen paid tribute to his father, Alvin, who continued to work for the company even after the 1986 sale to his three sons, driving the dozer to build forest roads at the company's various timber sales.

"He loved that dozer," Kit told the audience. "He'd drive us crazy, calling every night asking where he was going to go tomorrow. He just loved it. He'd be proud of this honor."

The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient,



Hasbargen Logging has a mix of equipment, including this John Deere 753 tracked feller buncher.



Hasbargen Logging utilizes several grapple skidders, including this Tigercat 620E.

and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent

logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

STIHL Incorporated serves as the sponsor of FRA's Regional and National Outstanding Logger Awards.



One of the loader/slashers utilized by Hasbargen Logging on its timber sales. This one is a Tigercat 234B.

# 2017 Legislative Session: Funding Gains

**W**hile biomass was the major topic of discussion at the Legislature (details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*), it wasn't the only one. TPA found success lobbying on other topics, including DNR funding for both forest management and for forest road maintenance.

## Forest Management Appropriations & Bonding

2017 was an excellent year for forest management funding. Unless otherwise noted, the amounts that follow are new or increases for the current fiscal year/biennial base budgets.

1. Reforestation - The 2017 legislative session produced record funding for reforestation. This funding breaks down as follows:
  - a. \$4 million (\$2 million per year) from the Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA). \$2.5 million was included in the base for FY 20-21.
  - b. \$1 million from Bonding.
2. Forest Road Maintenance - This has been a key priority as part of our strategies to gain access to more wood – particularly summer wood. Total funding quadrupled from the current biennial budget including an expansion to include county forest road maintenance. Counties have never before received state funding for forest road maintenance. The inclusion of this funding in the base for the next biennium was part of the strategy we followed. This strategy was to get a pilot program established on DNR roads during the current biennium, to get the funding included in base budgets, to expand total funding and include counties.
  - a. \$1 million (\$500k per year) was appropriated to the DNR from the FMIA.



The entire \$1 million was included in the base for FY 20-21.

- b. \$1 million (\$500k per year) was appropriated to counties from the General Fund. The entire \$1 million was included in the base for FY 20-21.
3. Forest Roads and Bridges - \$15 million is provided in the Bonding Bill for DNR asset preservation. A portion of this may be used for DNR forest road bridge replacement.
4. Private Forest Management - The \$500k of current PFM funding from the General Fund that was not included in the current biennial base was expanded to \$1 million (\$500k per year) and included in the base for FY 20-21.
5. Million Cord Study - \$500k from the General Fund was included for the study with a deadline of March 1, 2018, for completion.
6. Operating Adjustment - Funds were appropriated to cover increased salary and fringe costs. This limits the potential need to hold positions open to cover such costs.
7. MN Forest Resources Council - The council was

appropriated \$780k per year which is its current funding level.

## Forest Management Policy

There were a number of non-controversial changes that were enacted:

1. Responsible Bidders for Timber Sales – This section was rewritten to clarify that bidders with multiple corporate identities will be considered one bidder for state timber sales.
2. Notice of Timber Sales – This section adds a requirement that notice of timber sales must be posted on the Internet and eliminates a requirement that notice be published in newspapers.
3. County Over the Counter Timber Sales – Changes from \$3,000 to 500 cords the maximum size of county over the counter timber sales.
4. Sand Dunes State Forest – Language passed with the following provisions relating to the Sand Dunes State Forest:
  - a. Prohibits conversion of lands to oak savanna or to open lands unless it is a result of an existing contract.
  - b. Comply with MFRC visual management guidelines.
  - c. Notify adjacent residents if prescribed burning is going to be conducted.
  - d. Several other provisions.
  - e. This provision sunsets in two years.

## Forest Land Taxation/SFIA Reform

Reform of the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act was passed and signed into law. The reform creates a new tiered payment system based on a new formula. Landowners may enroll in SFIA for periods of 8, 20 or 50 years with the payments being greater for longer enrollment periods. Lands subject to conservation easements are eligible for enrollment at a

lower payment level. The eased lands that had been excluded from SFIA for several years are eligible for retroactive payments going back to 2014. A number of duties are transferred from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Natural Resources including increased oversight of the requirements for enrollment. \$215,000 for FY 18 and \$312,000 per year thereafter is appropriated to the DNR for this work.

**PILT**

PILT payments to counties are increased from \$1.50 per acre to \$2.00 per acre for both county-administered and state-administered (DNR) lands.

**Lessard/Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**

LSOHC appropriations included:

1. Laurentian Forest Acquisition \$2.4 million – a partnership between MN Deer Hunters Association/Conservation Fund/St Louis County to acquire certain parcels of land.
2. Forest for the Future - \$2.291 million for permanent conservation easements on forestland.
3. Forest Acquisition - \$1 million for fee title acquisition of land in the Richard Dorer Forest in southeastern Minnesota

**LCCMR**

LCCMR appropriations included:

1. Emerald Ash Borer Biocontrol - \$729k to implement and assess biocontrol of emerald ash borers using parasitic wasps
2. Camp Ripley Biomass – \$1 million to develop a 5 million BTU district heating system at Camp Ripley utilizing the camp’s forest biomass

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# Biomass Talk Dominates 2017 Session

**M**innesota's 2017 Legislative Session was marred by legislation that functionally removes Xcel Energy's mandate to generate electricity using biomass, delivering a severe blow to the state's timber industry not only economically, but also in terms of the ability of public agencies to manage our state's forests.

The language removing the biomass mandate was contained in the Omnibus Jobs and Energy Bill, which passed both the House and the Senate in the waning moments of the legislative session and ultimately was signed by Gov. Dayton.

The state biomass mandate was originally passed into law by the Minnesota Legislature in 1994, when Xcel Energy—then Northern States Power—wanted to store waste from its nuclear power plants at Monticello and Prairie Island in

casks along the Mississippi River. In return for permission to do so, the company agreed—among a number of things—to generate electricity from renewable sources, including biomass, and this agreement was written into state statute. As a result, biomass used by the Laurentian Energy Authority facilities in Hibbing and Virginia, and a similar plant in Benson, Minn., began generating electricity to help Xcel meet the mandate, and Minnesota loggers made investments in their businesses to meet this demand for biomass.

In arguing for removal of the biomass mandate, Xcel said it could save roughly \$70 million per year, savings that would presumably be passed on to its customers. In response, TPA told legislators that savings meant just 75 cents on a \$100 electrical bill. In

addition, at TPA's urging, the DNR researched the economic impact of biomass usage in our state and found that in 2015, the Benson and Laurentian Energy facilities had a \$75 million impact.

TPA's message to lawmakers was simple: removing the biomass mandate would not only do great harm to those businesses with direct contracts with LEA and Benson Power, but it would also adversely affect all sectors of the forest products industry, including equipment and parts dealers and manufacturers, and also throw timber markets out of whack, not just for those who produce biomass.

TPA members assisted in the lobbying effort by making phone calls and sending faxes and emails to the governor's office and legislators alike—even visiting the Capitol to make our case right to lawmakers.

Passage wasn't easy. The objectionable biomass language suddenly appeared in the jobs and energy bill in March, only to be removed during a late-night committee hearing. It remained out of the bill until early May when the language suddenly reappeared in the Omnibus Jobs and Energy bill that was passed by both the House and the Senate. This first version of the bill was vetoed by Gov. Dayton, along with all other budget bills.

By the end of the session, the issue was part of a global



negotiation involving other bills on issues pertaining to transportation, education, healthcare, and other topics. Before adjournment, both the House and Senate again passed the Jobs and Energy Omnibus bill, including the language removing the biomass mandate. As part of negotiations with the legislature, Gov. Dayton signed the bill.

Xcel Energy will have to receive approval from the Public Utilities Commission before it can cancel its contracts with Benson Power and LEA. These facilities will continue to use biomass until Xcel receives PUC approval.

Among the provisions in the bill, the city of Benson is provided \$20 million from the Renewable Development Account if the Benson Power contract is cancelled and Laurentian Energy is provided \$34 million from the same account if its contract is cancelled. In addition, \$150,000 is appropriated to the state Department of Employment and Economic Development to conduct a study of the economic impact

of the termination of the Benson Power biomass electrical generation contract and report back to the legislature in February.

In a letter to the Legislature, Gov. Dayton explained that he signed the Omnibus Jobs and Energy bill because it funded several of his initiatives, including broadband development in rural Minnesota, a jobs provision that would help military veterans, and a youth skills training program to attract young people to careers in emerging sectors. But he also expressed concern for other provisions, including the biomass language.

"The bill also makes wholesale changes to the agreement reached in the 1990s that allowed nuclear waste to be stored in Minnesota," Dayton wrote. "This agreement created the Renewable Development Fund (RDF), as well as mandates for energy production from renewable sources, including biomass. This bill essentially rewrites that agreement by allowing Xcel Energy and the Legislature to have direct control

of the RDF, while significantly obligating these funds over the next several years for non-renewable energy uses. The latter is particularly concerning to me, because I sympathize with the concerns expressed by the Prairie Island Indian Community that the state and the utility will be less motivated to find a permanent storage solution for nuclear waste. These provisions effectively relieve the utility from having to meet the biomass mandate required by the agreement, to the detriment of much of Minnesota's timber industry and management of public and private forests. Because this policy was hastily written and passed, we do not yet know the full impact these provisions will have on the loggers, mills, and truckers that had planned business decisions on contracts intended to last for up to another 11 years. A meager effort to study the economic impact on this industry, after the fact of passing these policy provisions, is inadequate."

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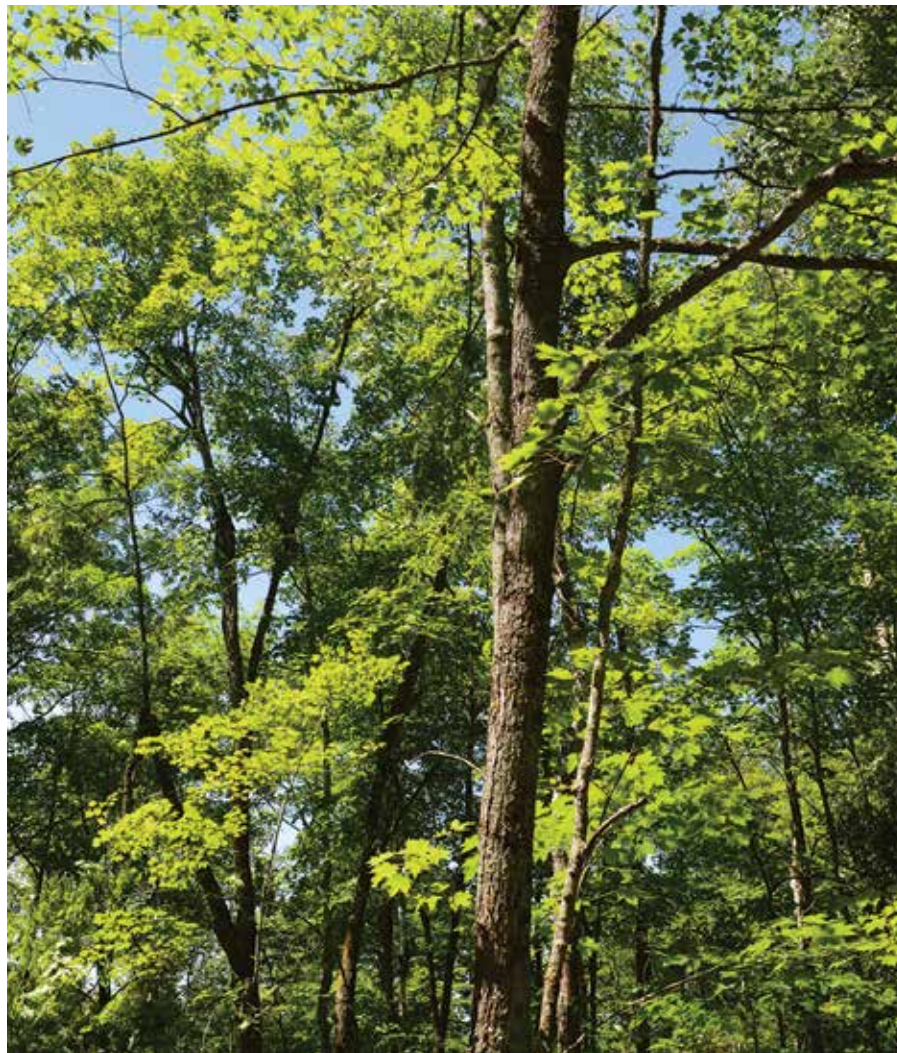
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# Lake States Healthy Forest Grassroots Effort Growing Fast

**T**wo years ago, a Lake States Chapter of the Healthy Forests Healthy Communities Coalition (HFHC) was launched to focus on grassroots support for federal action of our national forests. The HFHC coalition supports active, multiple-use management of our national forests to improve the health of our forests and to create jobs in rural America. This effort utilizes social media to engage all stakeholders who depend on our rural, forested areas like schools, counties, sportsmen and industry! The effort began with just a few hundred involved from across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Today, our grassroots network is over 9,000 in the Lake States and growing!! Keeping our forests healthy and supporting common-sense solutions in a bi-partisan way has really taken shape in the Lake States. If you are not yet involved, take a minute to join us by following the link below. This is an easy way to stay active on federal natural resource issues.

“Our communities across the Lake States have really responded to our coalition and its message” states Lake States HFHC Director DeAnn Stish. Stish added “We know our elected officials in Washington, D.C., want to hear from their constituents and this coalition provides that opportunity to everyone regardless of geography in the Lake States.” In addition, Stish travels to a variety of meetings across the region to provide updates on federal policy and what is happening in Washington, D.C., on federal forest issues impacting the Lake States.

Recently, a renewed effort in the House of Representatives called the “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017” (HR 2936) was introduced in the House which gives the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM better policy tools to make federal forests less vulnerable to wildfire, insects and disease. We are very proud to have as original co-sponsors of this bill, two Minnesotan’s – Congressmen Nolan and Peterson.



This bill will help streamline work on federal forests and provide more efforts to ensure our aging, dense federal forests are managed for the future. This helps provide valuable fiber supply for our forest industry and improves the environment in our region. Take a few minutes and check out our contact information below, and send a thank you note to our congressional delegation for prioritizing our federal forests in Minnesota and continue urging action on this important piece of legislation! It is also important that a Senate bill materializes and our “action center” at the below link can help you voice your support for this

effort. Sens. Franken and Klobuchar have been very supportive of our overall active forest management goal, but hearing from their constituents is key to bi-partisan ACTION in Congress this year on healthy forests legislation.

HFHC invites you to check us out at [www.healthyforests.org](http://www.healthyforests.org) or “like” us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/healthyforestshealthycommunities/> Lake States HFHC Director DeAnn Stish can be reached at 651/260-9271 or [dstish@healthyforests.org](mailto:dstish@healthyforests.org)



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# Presentations Highlight TPA Annual Meeting

**A**fter a two-year hiatus, the TPA Annual Meeting returned to the excellent facilities at Sugar Lake Lodge, southwest of Grand Rapids. The site proved once again to be a tremendous venue for TPA members to discuss the important issues in our industry, as well as attend presentations which contained “insider information on topics important to our state’s logging businesses.

Starting the day was Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt’s annual presentation on the association’s accomplishments over the past 12 months. Also appearing at this year’s annual meeting were DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe, speaking on current issues pertaining to the state forests; federal forest supervisors Connie Cummins and Darla Lenz, and representative from MnDOT, discussing road and bridge issues affecting loggers in northern Minnesota.

## Annual Report of Association Activities

In his yearly presentation, Brandt outlined the activities and accomplishments of TPA staff over the 12 months, including details of the recently completed legislative session as they pertain to the forest products industry:

- DNR Funding for management and forest roads
- SFIA Reform
- Transportation funding
- The biomass mandate issue.

A complete recap of these activities appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Timber Bulletin*.

Brandt also reviewed TPA’s interactions with county, state, and federal policy makers on a variety of topics. Among TPA’s activities highlighted in the report were the association’s work on 2017 spring load restrictions, and its participation in the DNR’s sustainable harvest analysis. Brandt also gave updates on the northern long-eared bat, the emerald ash borer, and on interactions with



TPA Members listen to informative presentations, including Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt’s annual Report on Association Activities, as well as reports from TPA’s various committees at the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting.

DNR forestry on a variety of topics, including its private forest management program, and timber sale issues.

## Featured Speakers

TPA members had a chance to hear from representatives of MnDOT’s two northern Minnesota districts: **Beth Petrowske** from

District 1, which covers northeastern Minnesota, and **Craig Collison**, the district engineer from District 2 in the northwest part of the state. Each discussed road projects in their respective districts, as well as how projects are funded. Collison also thanked loggers and other industry representatives



MnDOT’s Craig Collison, District Engineer for the agency’s District 2 (Bemidji) discussed a variety of topics related to roads with the TPA membership. He was joined by Beth Petrowske from MnDOT’s District 1 (Duluth).

for their actions during the spring thaw, demonstrating their good stewardship of the state's infrastructure by voluntarily curtailing deliveries during extra warm February weather.

In his presentation, DNR Division of Forestry Director **Forrest Boe** touched on a variety of topics of interest to TPA members, including additional funding received during the recently completed legislative session and how those funds will be utilized.

Boe gave an update on the DNR's private forest management program. The PFM program has gone from six field staff in 2015 to 19 folks today, thanks to funding provided during last year's legislative session. To date, 450 stewardship plans have been written, 30 timber sales have been completed by DNR foresters, and timber stand improvement stand work has been done on over 2000 acres. Going forward, Boe says DNR will focus its efforts on increased outreach to private landowners, encourage active management—including harvesting—and provide cost share funds for tree planting, stand improvement projects, and other activities.

Finally, the supervisors from Minnesota's two federal forests—**Darla Lenz** of the Chippewa and **Connie Cummins** of the Superior—gave updates on their timber programs. Lenz said the Chippewa's timber target accomplishment has remained in the 44 to 50 million-board-feet range. On the Superior, Cummins sees an opportunity to increase the harvest from its current 47 million-board-feet level to 53 million-board-feet next fiscal year, and ultimately 60 million-board-feet by FY2020.

"We think we'll be able to sustain that level," Cummins told TPA members.

Both Lenz and Cummins said they hoped to be able to increase the amount of timber offered through the Good Neighbor Authority program with the Minnesota DNR. Longtime forester Kent Jacobson was hired by the Superior NF to work on the Good Neighbor Authority program after retiring from the Minnesota DNR earlier in the year.



Justin Sawyer of Sawyer Timber (L) and Potlatch's Brian Bignall (R), provide feedback to DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe on the agency's timber sale program and other topics. Boe gave a presentation at the TPA membership meeting.



Josh Hull of Hull Forest Products (L) speaks with Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins (C) and Chippewa National Forest Supervisor Darla Lenz after the TPA Annual Meeting. Both Cummins and Lenz gave updates on their respective forests to the TPA membership.

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## Raven and Schara at TPA Banquet



Award-winning writer and TV personality Ron Schara was the featured speaker at the TPA Annual Meeting banquet. Joined by his dog Raven—who he called, “the star of the show,”—Schara has become Minnesota’s premier outdoor story teller. He shared stories from his decades in the outdoors around our state.

## TPA Thanks Our Sponsors!

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# TPA Safety Awards

**O**ver the past year, TPA members again showed their leadership in safety issues through the annual TPA Safety Contest. Each quarter, members report whether they had lost-time accidents, and at each Annual Membership meeting, those who remained accident-free over the previous 12 months receive plaques for their company's achievement. The following is a list of TPA members with no lost-time accidents from April 2017 through March of this year:

## 2017 SAFETY CONTEST WINNERS

### Logging Division

- Berthiaume Logging, LLC, Cloquet
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Gerbracht Logging, Inc.
- Bagley
- Greg Cook Logging, Inc., Bigfork
- Junker Logging, Inc., Littlefork
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking Corp., Lake Nebagamon
- Lundberg Forest Products, Inc., Solway
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Third Generation Logging, Bigfork
- Tim Kelm Logging, Inc., Bemidji
- Timberline Trucking, Inc. Onamia

### Trucking Division

- Berthiaume Logging, LLC, Cloquet
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Gerbracht Logging, Inc.
- Bagley
- Greg Cook Logging, Inc., Bigfork
- Junker Logging, Inc., Littlefork
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking Corp., Lake Nebagamon
- Lundberg Forest Products, Inc., Solway
- Mannco Trucking, Inc., Int'l Falls
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Third Generation Logging, Bigfork
- Tim Kelm Logging, Inc., Bemidji

### Sawmill Division

- Bergstrom Wood Products, Inc., Int'l Falls
- Cass Forest Products, Cass Lake
- Johnson Logging Inc., Cannon Falls
- Two Inlets Mill, Park Rapids
- Wagner Sawmill LLC, Ada

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# TPA Members Golf and Fish

**A**fter a day of meetings, TPA members headed out to either Sugar Lake for some fishing, or to Sugarbrooke Golf Course for a round of golf with fellow industry members. And the weather cooperated, offering perfect conditions for golfers and anglers alike.



(L-R): Scott DeLack, Ryan Milette of Ziegler Cat, Andy Michalek, Andy Shermoen from RBC Wealth Management, Cam Hardwig of Northern Timberline, Clinton Cook, Eric Schram of Sappi, and Erik Lunemann of Lunemann Equipment Co. enjoy a day on the links at TPA's golf outing.



Jerry Demenge gets a 'thumbs up' for this 30-inch northern pike, the largest fish of the day at TPA's fishing outing on Sugar Lake.



(L-R): James Scheff, Jim Berkeland, Doug Hustad, and Dave Scheff venture out onto Sugar Lake for an afternoon of fishing.

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# Additional Tariffs on Canadian Softwood Lumber Announced

In June, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced the agency will impose preliminary antidumping duties from 4.59 percent to 7.72 percent on Canadian softwood lumber imports.

The Commerce Department determined that exporters from Canada have sold softwood lumber at less than fair value based on factual evidence provided by the

## Timber Talk

interested parties. Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to collect

cash deposits from importers of softwood lumber from Canada based on these preliminary rates.

These preliminary AD rates are in addition to the preliminary countervailing duty rates that the Commerce Department assessed on softwood lumber in April. When combined the applicable duty rates range from 30.88 percent to 17.41 percent.

"The United States is committed to free and fair trade, as seen today with the preliminary decision to exclude softwood lumber from the Canadian Atlantic Provinces in the ongoing antidumping and countervailing duty cases," said Secretary Ross. "While I remain optimistic that we will be able to reach a negotiated solution on softwood lumber, until we do we will continue to vigorously apply the anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws to stand up for American companies and their workers."

The U.S. government is expected to open discussions with Canada and Mexico in August regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement. A new softwood lumber agreement could be in the works, either before the NAFTA

negotiations reopen, or as part of those talks.

"What we would like to see, and this probably facilitates that, is a new agreement between the U.S. and Canada on softwood lumber," TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt told the International Falls Journal. "That's really the most productive thing to happen — the two countries arrive at a mutually beneficial agreement. We don't want the U.S. and Canada having a trade war. Wood products move both ways across the border. We hope this will bring people to the negotiation table and result in a new agreement."


The Department of Commerce is currently scheduled to announce its final anti-dumping determination on September 7, 2017.

## Tim Kelm, 1961-2017

Longtime TPA member Tim Kelm passed away in May after a long battle with colon cancer.

Kelm entered the logging business in 1980 after graduating from Bemidji High School, working with his older brother Rich. The brothers worked together throughout Tim's life. Kelm also spent time farming, raising cattle and tending the crops.

Kelm is survived by his wife, Deb, and sons Trevor and Dallas. He was 55.



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# On the Markets

**T**he 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

April 27 — Oral Auction

Aspen	\$47.10	\$28.26
Red Oak	\$19.10	\$39.08
Birch	\$20.20	\$22.20

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Koochiching County

May 3 — Oral Auction

Aspen P&B	\$44.18	\$40.07
Tamarack P&B	\$ 6.12	\$ 5.64
Spruce P&B	\$31.40	\$20.93
Balsam P&B	\$11.86	\$14.05

All 38 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Carlton County

May 4 — Oral Auction

Aspen	\$35.75	NA
Nrthn Hdwds	\$17.33	NA
Balsam Fir	\$15.00	NA

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Cloquet Area

May 4 — Oral Auction

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$30.57	\$25.48
Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$25.76	\$36.16
Paper Birch		
(WC)	\$ NA	\$10.34

8 of the 12 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### St. Louis County

May 11 — Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$36.82	NA
Black Spruce		
Pulp	\$36.12	NA
Balsam Fir Pulp	\$21.21	NA
Red Maple Pulp	\$ 6.47	NA
Birch Pulp	\$13.46	NA

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

### DNR—Park Rapids Area

May 16 — Oral Auction

Trembling

Aspen (WC)	\$56.89	\$47.92
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Oak Species (WMP)	\$41.89	\$31.70
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Pine Species (WMP)	NA	\$34.47
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Norway Pine (WMP)	NA	\$44.10
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All 24 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Pine County

May 17 — Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$51.54	NA
Maple Pulp	\$21.44	NA
Birch Pulp	\$22.47	NA

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Aitkin County

May 22 — Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$31.47	\$31.50
Basswood		
(WMP)	\$16.56	\$14.83
Norway Pine		
(WMP)	\$45.37	\$27.49
Ash (WMP)	\$11.99	\$10.50

28 of the 30 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Baudette Area

May 24 — Oral Auction

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Species (WC)	\$44.07	\$22.91
Black Spruce (WC)	\$40.96	NA
Norway Pine (WMP)	NA	\$45.21
Trembling Aspen (WC)	NA	\$35.11

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Backus Area**  
May 25—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$32.89	\$41.45
Aspen Species (WC)	\$53.65	\$51.66
White Spruce (WMP)	\$43.73	\$35.72
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$80.21	\$99.90

16 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**Cass Wing County**  
May 25—Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$20.25	\$46.44
Red Oak	\$15.95	\$64.36
RP Bolts & Pulp	\$86.22	NA

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Hibbing Area**  
June 1—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$29.58	\$44.81
Pine Species (WMP)	\$62.62	\$69.55
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$63.54	\$69.06
Black Spruce (WC)	\$49.54	\$16.47

16 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**Itasca County**  
June 2—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$39.01	NA
Red Pine	\$47.07	NA
Balsam	\$18.83	NA
Paper Birch	\$13.53	NA

44 of the 50 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Tower Area**  
June 6—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$33.33	\$27.39
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$33.42	\$22.85
Pine Species (WMP)	\$16.18	\$22.95
Nrthn Hdws (WC)	\$11.40	\$ 8.81
Black Spruce (WC)	\$22.82	NA

17 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Littlefork Area**  
June 7—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$29.39	\$42.39
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$31.62	\$59.43
Pine Species (WMP)	\$49.74	\$46.80
Nrthn Hdws (WC)	\$10.90	\$11.76
Mixed Spruce (WC)	\$44.99	\$43.82

19 of the 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Two Harbors Area**  
June 7—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$39.53	\$21.63
Pine Species (WMP)	NA	\$34.75
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$21.68	\$10.37
Mixed Spruce (WC)	\$21.68	\$17.85

5 of the 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Backus & Deer River Areas**  
June 8—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$40.53	\$31.87
Aspen Species (WC)	\$28.01	\$49.06
Ash (WMP)	\$15.59	\$15.76
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$15.79	\$20.53

23 of the 28 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Sandstone Area**  
June 9—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$48.79	\$35.21
Paper Birch (WMP)	\$29.19	\$13.28
Maple Species (WC)	\$24.18	\$12.08
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$57.72	\$36.82

9 of the 17 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—NE Region**  
June 13—Sealed Bid

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$36.40	\$43.75
Aspen Species (WC)	\$40.50	\$48.77
Pine Species (WMP)	\$26.56	\$64.07
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 7.04	\$ 9.06
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$22.14	\$31.57

35 of the 56 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Bemidji Area**  
June 14—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$44.48	\$50.89
Aspen Species (WC)	\$40.98	\$54.23
Pine Species (WMP)	\$48.39	\$43.09
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$56.97	\$78.56
Black Spruce (WC)	\$11.90	\$42.25

25 of the 28 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**Lake County**  
June 28—Sealed Bid

Aspen P&B	\$24.48	NA
Birch P&B	\$11.94	NA
Maple P&B	\$11.10	NA
Balsam P&B	\$ 8.25	NA

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

**Cass County**  
June 29—Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$52.73	\$43.80
Red Oak	\$35.03	\$40.37

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

# Entertainment in the Camps

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*



Whenever there is a discussion of the camp life of the Minnesota lumberjacks, the question, “What did they do for entertainment?” is asked. The fact is that they did very little in the form of entertainment other than listen to some of the old timers tell of their experiences.

Younger jacks were always interested in hearing the old timers recall some memorable events. When an old timer had several young listeners, he enjoyed telling about a large load of logs that had been hauled, about the swift water on some of the streams he had driven, the largest tree cut some winter in a camp, some of the cold winters he had put in, how a team broke through the ice on the lake with a load of logs and how they got the horses out, the poor food some camps had or the

good food furnished by some other camp, and who might be the best cook. He might also tell tales about some of the ladies he had met up with while spending his stake in town. At any rate, both the teller and the listener seemed to get a big kick out of these tales and this furnished much entertainment.

Any new man arriving in camp brought the jacks up to date on what was going on in town and they welcomed a new arrival and his news of the outside.

On Sundays, in the early days when most of the men spent the entire winter in the camps, if there was a violin in camp some of the younger men might pair up, one dress as a girl by tying an empty feed sack around his waist, and dance a waltz or square dance. The rest of the jacks

would clap their hands and enjoy the affair. However, this was rare and done only after they had enjoyed an extra good Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.

Other games similar to “Button, button, who’s got the button?” might be played by a few of the younger jacks, but again this type of game was rare.

However, the jacks did enjoy music and were happy to have someone in camp who could play a violin or mouth organ or another musical instrument. They also enjoyed singing and would sometimes join in and sing with someone leading. The lumber companies and foremen in the camps liked to see entertainment that would keep the men happy.

In the early days in the Bemidji and Deer River areas, there was a lumberjack by the name of Hank Underwood who had a beautiful voice. Many a tale has been told about how he held the whole bunkhouse spellbound with his songs. Some of the logging companies put Hank Underwood on the payroll and had him travel from camp to camp singing for the boys several winters.

Card games were played each night until the lights went out at nine o’clock. Cribbage and poker were popular, but gambling was never very heavy because of the lack of cash in the camps.

Occasionally there would be games of strength like wrist-wrestling or turning, but wrestling itself was not allowed because one might get hurt.

On warm Sunday afternoons, the younger jacks would gather outside in the sun and try their luck at two main types of skills. One was “tossing the caber,” an old Scottish sport where they would pick up an eight-foot-long stick of wood, run to a given line and throw or toss it as far as possible. Another one that was more popular was throwing an axe. They would stand back 40 or more feet and throw an axe from over their shoulder and make it stick in the end of one of the logs in the camp building or another log set up on blocks for this purpose. They would put a six-inch circle on the end of the log as a target and try to stick the axe in the circle.

Also, late in the spring after the snow

These three ladies were logging camp visitors about 1905.





Above: A sleighing party visited the Howard Camp just north of Duluth in 1898.  
Below: A camp cook feeds a pet deer and a typical crew poses in camp.



This nice four-horse load was photographed in the Burnside Forest in 1910.





Camp visitors: a group of businessmen and their ladies (above) and a few of the local girls and their boyfriends at a Brimson camp (below).



Six nice pine logs made a load for this team of six oxen.



had melted, they would put up stakes and play horseshoes as there were always lots of horseshoes available at the blacksmith shop. Occasionally on a Sunday toward spring when the weather was warm, a group might gather at the blacksmith shop or sleigh repair yard and try out other feats of strength such as bending a horseshoe or lifting heavy weights. However, this was rare.

I remember coming into camp one soft day and seeing several snowmen that the boys had built all dressed up in lumberjack clothes. Even the lumberjacks recalled their childhood days, but again this was rare as most of their spare time was spent resting up, washing clothes and sharpening tools.

Visitors in camp were rare, other than people connected with the camps or the lumber companies. The camps near towns, such as landing camps, would have some of the townspeople visit now and then but the camps back in the woods seldom had any visitors. Visiting of camps by outsiders was not encouraged as it would interrupt the routine and slow down the work.

The cooks did not like to set up an extra table for visitors who might want to eat at the camp. However, occasionally, some relatives of the camp owners, including ladies, might make a visit to the camp and be served a meal. This was a treat for the jacks as they would get a chance to view some real ladies.

The Sisters visited the camps regularly selling their hospital ticket and holding services. The "sky pilots" made their regular visits, also. They were both well accepted by the jacks as well as the camp foremen.

I remember representatives of orphanages visiting the camps soliciting funds and while they were tolerated in some camps, other camps did not encourage them.

There was one man who was always

"Sky Pilot" Frank Higgins made regular visits to preach in camps.





welcomed and that was the man who sold and repaired watches. Lumberjacks, like most working men of the period from 1870 to 1925, all carried a good watch. They felt that having a good watch in their pocket was like having money in the bank. If they were broke in town, they could always sell their watch for a few meals or a few drinks to get them over a drunk. Besides that, they took pride in having a good watch.

There were several watchmen who traveled the camps. I remember one from the Barker Company in Bemidji who traveled the camps along the M.&I.R. Railroad and one from Virginia who covered camps of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Co. The Eastern Jewelers of Duluth had a man who made the camps throughout the northeastern part of the state.

They would arrive in a camp carrying a pack full of watches. If the jacks' watches were in need of repair, they would take them or trade another watch for them. Most of the time they traded another watch for the one in need of repair, but there were some jacks who wanted their own watch repaired and the watchman would have it repaired and sent to them or bring it back on the next trip to camp. There were also men who had lost their watch in town and wanted a new one.

These watch salesmen were honest men and were approved by the companies to do business in the camps. As a rule, they would spend only one night in camp, but would make several trips during the winter. They seldom sold anything but watches and occasionally pocket knives as jacks also liked to carry a good pocket knife.

The camp foreman would give his permission to the clerk to let the men draw money from their wages to pay for watches or pocket knives.

During the later days of logging in the Virginia and Rainy Lake camps and the camps of the Alger Line and Weyerhaeuser Company, a tailor by the name of E.H. (Clicky) Clark was allowed to make trips to the camps and take orders for tailor-made suits. He only made about one trip a year to a camp and because the regular run of lumberjacks were not much for tailor-made suits, the orders were confined pretty much to the foremen, clerks and supervisory personnel.

In the early days, Indians would sometimes visit the camps to exchange fish, venison or moose meat for coffee and sugar.

Where the camps were near settled areas, settlers would make an occasional visit.

Logging camps were not set up for entertaining visitors, but rather were designed for the work of getting logs out for the mills that provided lumber for the development of our great nation.



Above: an Oliver Mining Co. camp about 1912.



Above: cutting with a two-man saw. Below: haircut time in camp.



# Classifieds

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