

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2017

VOLUME 72

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Volume 72
July/August 2017
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Tony Filipiak operates a cut-to-length processor on a timber harvest near Warba. For more on Filipiak Logging, please turn to page 8.

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As the summer logging season nears an end, I hope you have had a good season logging. It has been a "hit and miss" summer, with some of our members having endured a lot of rain while others have had a dryer summer with good logging opportunity.

The North Star Expo is coming September 15-16 in Grand Rapids. I hope to see a great turnout this year. It is always a great opportunity for our membership to gather and get caught up with old friends and make new acquaintances in the logging

President's Column



business. It's a valuable opportunity to share industry concerns

with our leadership and representatives.

As each of us knows, there is strength in numbers. The more voices we

have, the more we can accomplish to make our livelihood more viable. If you know someone in our industry who is not a TPA member, please ask them to consider becoming one. It's up to us to forge our future.

Take time to enjoy your families! The trees will always be there.

David Berthiaume

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Live harvest! Yup. This year's North Star Expo will feature a live harvest to benefit Log-A-Load For Kids at the show in the stand just west of the Itasca County Fairgrounds. With a great spread of equipment and vendors already reserving space you won't want to miss this year's Expo September 15 & 16 in Grand Rapids at the Itasca County Fairgrounds.



Executive Vice President's Column



My thanks to Gary Bergstrom, Bergstrom Wood Products, who has completed his service as Chair of the TPA Audit Committee. Gary has a sharp eye for numbers and procedures and

made sure that they were followed in TPA. It's members like Gary and so many others who give their time and talents that make TPA a great organization.



Tina Hegg, Vice President of Finance for Hedstrom Lumber, replaces Gary as committee chair and we look forward to her service.



It's always nice when they ask. DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr recently held a listening session in Grand Rapids with folks from the forestry community including myself. We interact with the DNR nearly every day on one issue or another. Sometimes they call us and frequently we call them.

This was a little different as the commissioner convened an open discussion that allowed folks to express what was on their mind. As you can imagine a robust discussion ensued.

One of the things that Commissioner Landwehr highlighted was their work to get the right people into the right positions to lead this large agency. I think that he and his team deserve a lot of credit for this. Too often organizations focus on process and procedure when it's really the people that provide the leadership and environment to get the work done.

My thanks to Commissioner Landwehr for initiating this open, small group discussion and including us in the meeting. I'm sure that he, and many in the group, would rather have been out in the woods or on a lake on a beautiful August afternoon.



Changes are underway at the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. Executive Director Calder Hibbard returned to his previous role as Policy Analyst for the Council. Former Executive Director Dave Zumeta, who retired two years ago, has graciously returned as Interim Executive Director. Dave will do an outstanding job as he always has.

This means that the Council has again embarked on a search for a new Executive Director. I'm serving on the Search Committee and we are hoping to have a new leader in place by the end of the year.

Whomever is chosen will step into an important role and will need to lead the Council into the future.



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Relationships. Good friends and fun times that enrich us are an important part of the fabric of each of our lives. Eight of us, a.k.a. the Willmar Boys, graduated from high school over forty years ago. We get together every other summer to catch up, eat, drink, golf, tell old stories and make a few new ones.

This was the first time we hadn't gone back to Willmar as we'd always done in the past. These trips used to be a two-fer, see your parents and spend some time with the boys. As these things go, and us not being real young, other than at heart, only one of us has a living parent in the old home town.

So we packed up and headed to Nashville where one of the guys lives. As a group we range from the fairly liberal to the fairly conservative. Nobody posts crazy Trump stuff on social media nor did anyone post crazy Obama stuff. We can have a spirited discussion about politics and the day's issues and then move on to sports or family. No hardened lines.

We're all on social media of one kind or another but we're more apt to read a book, watch a movie or go to an event than keep our noses in our phones.

As a group, we're a long way from perfect as are most people. But I think we'd all be better off, and I know our country would be better off, if folks spent a little more time reading a book, helping a neighbor or making a new friend than obsessively focusing on whatever has happened in D.C. or St. Paul or was posted by someone else on a social media site.



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Member Feature...



Tony Filipiak

Continuing the Legacy

As a fourth generation Minnesota logger, Tony Filipiak is following in the family's footsteps

by Ray Higgins

Grand Rapids logger Tony Filipiak was pleasantly surprised.

A private landowner contacted him and asked if he'd be interested in harvesting a site just southeast of Warba. The landowner had just purchased the tract adjacent to his property and wanted the hardwoods managed for recreation, including deer hunting.

Typically a hardwood site in that

area would have heavy clay soil. But when Filipiak went to look at it, he found lots of sandy soil instead, which is a bonus when summer-accessible wood can be hard to come by, particularly with the cut-to-length equipment the company began using a decade ago.

"Part of the reason we went to these cut-to-length machines is so we can access more sites in the

summer time," Filipiak says. "As dry as it's been, we can tolerate quite a bit of rain here."

Plus, the harvest is just 17 miles from home, a nice short trip each day, and a quick trip to the UPM Blandin mill in Grand Rapids, where the balsam and aspen from the harvest will be hauled.

Filipiak's relationship with Blandin goes back nearly forty



Tony Filipiak operates a John Deere 803MH cut-to-length processor to harvest timber. The Filipiak purchased the machine a year ago and it still has less than 2000 hours on it.

years, to when his father, Bill, and uncle, Richard, ran the business. They were third generation loggers, following in the footsteps of their father and grandfather. Tony would eventually come to represent the fourth generation in the family trade, but was still a teenager when Bill and Richard secured the family's first contract with the Blandin mill for their harvested timber back in the late 1970s.

At the time, Tony was a typical teen in a logging family, helping out in the woods while going to high school. But when he graduated from Grand Rapids in 1982, he didn't go to work with his father and uncle. At least not right away.

"Right after I graduated, I worked in a small upholstery shop for a while," he says. "And then I got offered a job to go work for a logger in the Black Hills, so I worked there for a year and a half, harvesting ponderosa pine. I was working with a guy that was originally from here. He'd gone out there to work for St. Regis Post and Pole. They had a logging crew and a sawmill.

After a year and a half of that, Tony decided to return to Cohasset to work with his dad and uncle.

"It was a chance to get back in the family business," Filipiak says. "Everyone I knew was back here,

so any time off I had I was coming back here anyway, so I might as well come back. Logging's just what I grew up doing, I guess. I don't know anything different."

The three Filipiaiks worked well

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Richard Castile piles harvested aspen on the landing with a John Deere 1110 forwarder.

together, utilizing conventional logging equipment. Bill handled the slashing and hauling, while Richard and Tony bounced between the feller buncher, delimeter, and the skidder. In addition, they'd hire another trucker to help with the hauling during the higher-production winter months.

"We made it work," Tony says.

By 2004, Bill was ready to reduce his role in the business. Tony purchased his portion of the company, while Bill continued on for a few years driving truck for an hourly wage.

It wasn't long after that before Tony and his uncle Richard decided to transition from conventional logging equipment to cut-to-length, which better suited their two-man operation.

"There was a big learning curve," Tony says. "It took a while. Nortrax was very helpful. They let us use a simulator to help us get used to the new machine. But we knew it was

going to take around three months to get our load count up to where we could make money."

That was ten years ago. These days, Richard has joined Bill in retirement, so while Tony operates the John Deere 803 MH cut-to-length processor, Rich Castile drives a Deere 1110 forwarder. Greg Anwiler of Jobe Trucking hauls the timber to the mill, while Tony's wife, Sandy, helps out with the bookkeeping and office work.

Working on non-industrial private land isn't a regular occurrence for Filipiak. He may purchase one such sale per year. Normally he's working on Blandin land, or else on public timber the company has purchased. But no matter what, Blandin foresters are a good resource for him when working with landowners on accomplishing their management goals.

"I brought in Quinton Legler from Blandin and we threw some ideas out there," Filipiak says. "The

landowner wants to get the most value for it because he just bought this particular forty. We're leaving some reserve patches and certain trees. Then on the north forty which he already owned, we're going through and picking out the maple and leaving the second-growth aspen for next time."

Filipiak figures he'll harvest roughly a total of 400 cords across several species, including aspen, maple, basswood, balsam, and birch. Some of the site is being clear-cut, while other parts are being thinned, according to the wishes of the landowner.

"Maybe call it a shelterwood," Filipiak says. "We're trying to leave certain stuff for him here.

"The aspen and balsam are going to Blandin," he says. "The maple is going to Sappi, and the basswood is going to Savanna Pallets. Then we're taking the white birch, and we're leaving the yellow birch. We're also leaving the burr oak



Greg Anwiler of Jobe Trucking leaves the Filipiak harvest site just southeast of Warba with a load of maple and heads for the Sappi mill in Cloquet.

stand and the cedars.”

Tony started harvesting this site about a week ago, and he and

Castile will be here another couple of weeks before moving on to the next job. And there will be more

wood to cut after that, just as there has been for decades, through four generations of Filipiaiks.



Harvested aspen waits to be hauled to the mill.

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Logging Trucks and Electronic Logs: Minnesota Loggers Exempt in Certain Situations

The following information was gathered through consultations with personnel from the Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, as well as the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

While new federal regulations require most U.S. commercial trucks and passenger buses to be equipped with Electronic Log Devices (ELDs) by the end of this year, most Minnesota logging trucks are exempt from the provision, thanks to state statute.

An ELD automatically records driving time, and monitors engine hours, vehicle movement, miles driven, and location information. The device replaces paper logs long used by truck drivers.

However, Minnesota law has long exempted the transportation of "pulpwood, cordwood, mining timber, poles, posts, decorator evergreens, wood chips, sawdust, shavings, and bark from the place where the products are produced to the point where they are to be used or shipped," from hours of service regulations. The exemption applies only for truck travel within Minnesota (INTRA-state commerce).

If a logging truck leaves Minnesota and enters into INTER-state commerce, different regulations apply. Federal statute allows exemptions from hours of service for log trucks that include staying within a 100 air-mile radius, and working no more than 12 hours. However, other federal requirements kick in when hauling from Minnesota into another state, including unified carrier registration (UCR), fuel tax payments, etc. For more information on hauling into one of our neighboring states or Canada, contact the TPA office.

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), on the days a driver leaves the state and exceeds 100 miles or 12 hours, a paper log will suffice and be required as it has in the past. If the paper log is needed more than eight times in any 30-day



period, an ELD will be required.

Though not required for logging trucks in INTRA-state commerce, some truck owners may find ELDs useful, including for fleet management reasons. The federal rule regarding ELDs strictly prohibits "commercial driver harassment," by including both procedural and technical provisions designed to protect commercial truck and bus drivers from harassment resulting from information generated by ELDs.

In some cases, ELDs have been installed in trucks in which the person operating the vehicle is in an exempt status from hours of service. An example of this is an owner-operator who leases on with a company, but also is a farmer and uses his/her own truck in the fall to haul their own grain. Similarly, a logger who one day a week travels to Wisconsin and is required to log his/her hours, but isn't required to log hours the other days he/she is operating. Federal statute (CFR 395.28, subdivision 1 and 2) states that a motor carrier may

configure an ELD to authorize a driver to indicate that the driver is operating a CMV under special driving considerations, including personal use and yard moves. The driver is responsible for using the applicable special driving category when allowed, and describing the activity. It is important the driver use the federal exemption, [395.1(r)], and not the Minnesota exemption (unless the driver is only intrastate). Minnesota statute wouldn't be recognized in Wisconsin or any other state.

More information on ELDs is on TPA's website at www.mntimberproduces.com. FMCSA's website on ELDs is at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/hours-service/elds/electronic-logging-devices.

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NORTH STAR EXPO

64th NORTH STAR EXPO 2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 15

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Equipment Displays Open |
| 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Log-A-Load For Kids Harvest |
| 9:30 am | Display Contest Judging |
| 10:00 am - 11:00 am | Loader Contest (sign up at site) |
| 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Celebrity/Media Loader Contest |
| 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm | Loader Contest (sign up at site) |
| 5:00 pm | Equipment displays close |
| 5:00 pm | Cash Bar Social Hour begins |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner and Door Prizes- Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que |

Saturday, September 16

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 7:00 am - 9:00 am | Free Pancake Breakfast (Sponsored by Nortrax) |
| 9:00 am - 2:00 pm | Equipment displays open |
| 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Log-A-Load For Kids Harvest |
| 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Loader Contest (sign up at site) |
| 11:30 am | Coloring contest winners announced |
| 1:00 pm | Winners announced for Loader, Master Loader, and Best Load contests |
| 1:30 pm | Winners announced for Guess the Weight, Big Cookie, Vendor Drawing, Wood I.D. and Big Cookie contests |
| 2:00 pm | Equipment displays close |

CONTESTS

Guess the Weight - Guess the weight of a fully loaded truck

Wood Identification - See how many tree species you can identify

Loader - Test your skills against the clock

Masters Division Loader - Loader contest for those 50 and over - sign up at site

Best Load - Come and see the Best Loads of Wood on Display

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Expo Returns to Grand Rapids, features Log-A-Load Harvest

For the second consecutive year, the North Star Expo is returning to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. Minnesota's largest logging equipment show is in its 64th year and will be held September 15 and 16. As always, there will be lots to see and do, including the latest in logging equipment from all of the region's top vendors.

Back by popular demand at Friday night's dinner will be Famous Dave's Barbecue. The menu will feature ribs, baked beans, cole slaw, and a cornbread muffins. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 each for adults and \$10 for kids 8 and under. They can be purchased in advance from the TPA office or at

the door.

Continuing the Expo tradition of great food and fellowship, Nortrax will again provide a free pancake breakfast on Saturday morning.

"Grand Rapids always gives the Expo a warm welcome," said TPA Expo Committee chair Chad Lovdahl. "Attendance at last year's Expo was the biggest we've had in years, both in terms of vendors and people showing up. We look forward to a bigger and better show this year."

In addition to the usual Expo events, TPA is partnering with a variety of organizations, including Log-A-Load For Kids, on a live harvest during the event, with all proceeds going to benefit the

Gillette Children's Hospital in the Twin Cities. More information on the Log-A-Load harvest is elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.

Like at any Expo, there will be plenty of competitions:

The Best Load contest is taking place again this year. Only the wood will be judged, not the truck it is hauled on. Points will be scored on the timber quality, product quality, product manufacturing, load appearance, and load securement. Monetary prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

The Loader Contest will also be held again this year, as well as the Master Loader contest.

The Coloring Contest will take place this year as well. In the last



Expo vendors put a lot of time and effort into making sure their displays look their best. Last year, Ziegler Cat received the blue ribbon in the Best Large Equipment division.

issue of the Timber Bulletin, you'll find a pull-out poster for the little ones to enter. Just have them color the poster and either bring it to the Expo or mail it to the TPA office. Entries will be posted at the Expo for all to enjoy. We also have poster to be colored at the expo.

Don't forget to bring in your wood cookies for the Big Cookie Contest. Remember to attach a list indicating species, where taken, company name and *register at the Registration Desk first!*

Test your visual skills and Guess the Weight! Entry forms will be available near one of the Best Load trucks.

We'll have fun for the whole family. See you September 15 and 16 in Grand Rapids!

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The Expo is known for great food. Last year, Famous Dave's provided the ribs and more for Friday night's barbecue, and the restaurant's tasty fare will be back in 2017!



A highlight of every Expo is the Best Load competition, in which loggers and truckers show off the best of the best of Minnesota's wood. This is a bird's eye view of three of last year's outstanding Best Load entries.

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Log-A-Load Harvest Comes to the Expo

For the first time in the North Star Expo's 64-year history, the event will feature a live timber harvest, thanks to the Log-A-Load For Kids program.

A stand of red pine adjacent to the Itasca County Fairgrounds was due to be thinned. Itasca county Land Department staff and the Log-A-Load For Kids Committee have coordinated the harvest to coincide with this year's Expo. As a result, folks attending this year's Expo will be able to see an active timber harvest.



Scott Pittack of Pittack Logging will be performing the Log-A-Load For Kids harvest at this year's North Star Expo.



"It's a great opportunity for our industry," said TPA's Expo committee chair Chad Lovdahl. "The Expo is always a great event to show the public what our industry is all about, and the opportunity to include a harvest greatly enhances that. We're thrilled that the kids and families in the Log-A-Load program will benefit from it, as well."

Log-A-Load For Kids is a nationwide campaign through which loggers and other forest industry professionals donate the value of a load of logs, or any amount they can, to help make hospital stays easier for children. The generous donations of stumpage, equipment use, labor, and trucking brings monetary support that enables Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in the Twin Cities to help Minnesota children who have disabilities. Nationwide, Log-A-Load for Kids



raises more than \$2 million each year through golf tournaments, fishing events, dinners, and truckloads of log donations.

"We are very excited to see this harvest come together," said Minnesota's Log-A-Load Committee chair Chris Martland. "It has taken a great amount of work and

coordination from all parties involved. I would like to thank the North Star Expo Committee for working with us to get this project up and running in tandem with the Expo."

For this year's harvest, Pittack Logging of Bovey will handle the harvesting, and Rieger Logging of Northome will take care of the forwarding of the timber. Both companies are donating their time, equipment, and labor. On top of that, UPM Blandin is paying Itasca County for the stumpage, so Log-A-Load for Kids will receive all proceeds of the harvest.

Another of Log-A-Load's missions is to reach out to school children and teach them about the logging industry. For this year's harvest at the Expo, Log-A-Load is partnering with a coalition of groups to bring more than 200 high school-aged students to the event. Once there, kids will learn about a variety of topics, including logging, sustainable forestry practices, jobs available in the industry, and the industry's economic impact in our state. Among those involved in this coalition are the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, the regional economic development organization APEX, the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, and the Applied Learning Institute, which strives to enhance technical education in northeastern Minnesota.

"We're excited to have the chance

to talk to high schoolers from our region about opportunities in the logging industry," said Tamara Lowney of APEX. "Logging and the forest products industry are critical to the fabric of our way of life here in northeastern Minnesota, and we're proud to have the chance to help tell that story to students at the Expo."

The Minnesota DNR, Itasca County Land Department, Blandin Foundation, the Health Forests-Health Communities program, Itasca Community College, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Logger Education Program are among the groups helping to organize the learning opportunities for the high school students.

"This will be a great learning opportunity for the students and teachers and public to see how our industry works and impacts the state," Martland said. "On behalf of Log-A-Load For Kids, a special thanks to goes to all of the logging companies and industries that will be supporting the harvest this year. Their donations will go a long way in helping the Gillette patients of Minnesota."

The Log-A-Load harvest will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 15, at the site just west of the Itasca County Fairgrounds and will continue throughout the day, as well as during the hours the Expo is open on Saturday.



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On the Markets

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

DNR Year-end Timber Numbers

With the end of the state fiscal year on June 30, the DNR numbers show that it sold less timber than the previous two fiscal years. In addition, while the average yearly stumpage prices rose for most species, the average price for aspen actually showed a decline of nearly 13 percent as compared to FY2016.

In FY2017, the average sold price for aspen was \$31.80 / cord, down from \$36.45 / cord in FY2016. The average sold price for black spruce also fell in FY2017, while prices for birch, jack pine, red pine, and balsam fir all rose (see the accompanying chart).

In FY2017, the DNR sold 866,810 cords of timber, down from 892,400 cords in the previous fiscal year.

| | FY 2017 | | FY 2016 | | FY 2015 | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Cords Sold</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>Cords Sold</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>Cords Sold</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> |
| Aspen | 445,000 | \$31.80 | 430,800 | \$36.45 | 415,400 | \$34.76 |
| Birch | 25,000 | \$14.78 | 24,300 | \$14.29 | 35,600 | \$13.46 |
| Jack Pine | 17,800 | \$37.78 | 19,200 | \$27.82 | 28,200 | \$27.99 |
| Red Pine | 89,900 | \$42.50 | 82,500 | \$35.82 | 106,700 | \$37.53 |
| Balsam Fir | 34,400 | \$18.60 | 35,200 | \$17.19 | 41,000 | \$16.62 |
| Blk Spruce | 63,500 | \$23.87 | 78,900 | \$27.45 | 94,600 | \$20.33 |
| Total Cords | 866,810 | | 892,400 | | 951,900 | |

Notes: Timber sold under Good Neighbor Authority is not included.
 "Aspen" includes aspen species, trembling aspen, and largetooth aspen.
 "Birch" includes paper birch. "Red pine" includes Norway pine and pine species.
 "Total Cords" includes all species sold, not just those listed.

Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency Regular Intermediate

Hubbard County

July 10—Oral Auction

| | | |
|-------------|---------|----|
| Aspen Mixed | \$50.97 | NA |
| Aspen Pulp | \$48.43 | NA |
| Birch Pulp | \$18.03 | NA |

All 109 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Warroad Area

July 20—Oral Auction

| | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Aspen | | |
| Species (WC) | \$17.51 | \$13.37 |
| Pine | | |
| Species (WMP) | NA | \$44.51 |
| Trembling | | |
| Aspen (WC) | NA | \$34.17 |
| Mixed Conifers | | |
| (WMP) | NA | \$16.38 |
| Spruce-Balsam | | |
| (WMP) | NA | \$24.40 |

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

Cass County

July 27—Oral Auction

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Aspen | \$30.02 | \$42.31 |
| Birch | \$13.99 | \$34.69 |
| Red Oak | \$41.40 | \$42.41 |

5 of the 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

August 2—Oral Auction

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Aspen P&B | \$37.95 | \$38.39 |
| Spruce P&B | \$18.98 | \$24.24 |
| Red Pine P&B | \$50.60 | \$44.73 |
| Balsam P&B | \$14.23 | \$ 8.69 |

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

Beltrami County

August 8—Sealed Bid

| | | |
|---------------|---------|----|
| Aspen Pulp | \$65.30 | NA |
| Tamarack Pulp | \$ 9.18 | NA |

All 3 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

August 11—Oral Auction

| | | |
|--------------|---------|----|
| Aspen Pulp | \$48.12 | NA |
| Red Pine P&B | \$14.21 | NA |
| Balsam P&B | \$18.84 | NA |
| Birch Pulp | \$15.93 | NA |

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

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Aitkin County

August 16—Sealed Bid

Aspen P&B \$37.38 NA

Mixed

Hdwd P&B \$16.48 NA

Paper

Birch P&B \$15.17 NA

Oak P&B \$26.60 NA

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

St. Louis County

August 17—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp NA \$31.08

Balsam Fir Pulp NA \$19.23

Black Spruce

Pulp NA \$30.91

Birch Pulp NA \$12.05

Sugar Maple NA \$ 4.36

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

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Before First Aid Kits Came to Camp

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*



Today with all the logging companies and loggers setting rigid accident prevention and control programs, I can't help but look back to woods safety in the old days.

Accidents were rare then. I can recall clerking in a 175-man lumber camp where I didn't report an accident during an entire year. In the many years I was associated with my father's logging jobs, I only remember reporting two lost-time accidents.

One was when a group of men were trying to lift a sick horse to its feet and it struggled and fell back on one of the men's feet, breaking it at the ankle. And this was not really a lost-time accident, as the man was back in camp with a cast on his foot within 24 hours. He spent the rest of a winter as night fireman.

The other accident occurred when a top-loader slipped on the frost atop a load and fell on a man's shoulder, breaking his upper arm. It was nearly spring, and he was unable to return to work for several months.

Axe cuts as well as saw cuts were rare. And head injuries due to falling limbs or dry tops were very few. Most injuries came during loading or breaking down skidways of decked logs — occasionally a man would be caught by a fast rolling log as high-decked logs were broken down.

Prior to 1919, a first aid kit was never found in a lumber camp. It was only after workmen's insurance laws were passed that insurance companies insisted first aid kits be in every camp. If a man got a scratch or cut, he would apply balsam pitch or a chew of Peerless tobacco to it; and it would heal in a few days. The only medicines sold in the camp commissary were Hinkleys bone liniment, Davis Vegetable pain killer, castor oil, Prunia, Vaseline, Jamaica Ginger, Cascara pills, carbohic salve, and in later years, aspirin tablets. Most camps had more medicine on hand for the horses than they had for the men.

Why there were fewer accidents in the old days, I do not know. But it was probably because men were better trained. It was a bad mark against a man if he allowed himself to get hurt. No one wanted to hire a careless man, and no one wanted to work with a careless man. Men took great pride in being able to do a job without having or causing an accidents.



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