

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MAY/JUNE 2016

VOLUME 71

Adjusting Through the Years Dukek Logging Highlights of TPA Annual Meeting



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Volume 71
May/June 2016
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Adam Pula forwards harvested red pine for Dukek Logging. For more on the company, please see page 8.

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The industry is always changing; which is all the more reason to stay active, informed, and represented with TPA. I know in the past articles I have shared my thoughts on the importance of being an active member in TPA. This being my last article as president and new additions being welcomed I would like to thank the new board members; Aron Boreen, Mark Michalek, Rich Miska, Tim O'Hara and Adam

President's Column



Sutherland. Also Corey Lovdahl for taking the treasurer position

on the executive committee and Dave Berthiaume will do a great job as our new president. It's this kind of step up and get-it-done

commitment that is good for our jobs and is a testament to TPA's 79 years, something I'd say I'm proud to be a part of.

L. Scott Pittack

Executive Committee

Kit Hasbargen: 218-634-1628

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Thank you to all of the sponsors of the TPA Annual Meeting. We appreciate your support in making this a successful event and your support in making us a successful association and industry.

The Annual Meeting marked the completion of Scott Pittack's term as TPA President. I want to thank Scott for his service as President. One never knows what will come during a two-year term and I doubt

Executive Vice President's Column



that Scott thought we would see the demise of LUA which had written our TPA Workers' Compensation Insurance Program for over thirty years. Scott led us through successfully moving our program to

Bitco and retooling our operations. I enjoyed working with Scott who was an active and engaged leader, and who TPA was lucky to have during a difficult time.

Dave Berthiaume was elected President and I look forward to working with him for the next two years. The Annual Meeting also marked the completion of Kit Hasbargen's service on the Executive Committee. Kit has been a pleasure to work with all of these years.

And, the new kid on the Executive Committee block is Corey Lovdahl, who was elected to serve as TPA Treasurer. Corey is a great addition to TPA leadership.



No one has had a more profound impact on forest policies and practices over the past thirty-five years than Dr. Alan Ek, who retires as Head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources the end of June. Dr. Ek served as Department Head for thirty-three years, which I believe is a record for the U. His accomplishments as a Department Head are no better summarized than in noting that the widely respected Gorman Report ranked

the University of Minnesota's forestry program first in the nation under Alan's leadership.

Dr. Ek taught a generation of foresters who serve in the private and public sectors as well as academia. Many of them have gone on to distinguished careers in their own right. They manage forests, procure wood, provide assistance, do research, advocate for policies and teach the next generation. Alan's impact, through them, will continue for years to come.

Dr. Ek played the key role in assembling, managing and leading the team of scientists who did the analysis in the landmark Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Timber Harvest and Forest Management, under contract with Jaako Poyry Consulting, that was completed in 1994. This unprecedented report has served as a blueprint for forest policy and practices in Minnesota since its publication. There is not one of the six thousand pages in this document that Alan did not have a part of.

Throughout his tenure as Department Head, Dr. Ek was also

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deeply involved in his own research where he is recognized as the foremost expert on Forest Inventory and Analysis along with other disciplines. He regularly worked analyzing the competitiveness of the forestry sector and specific projects.

One of Dr. Ek's greatest influences on forest policy has been adding rigor to decision making. He brought information and data into the process to drive more informed decision making in both the public and private sectors. The data wasn't the decision but it led to a generation of better decisions when used.

Dr. Ek, his faculty and staff, have been regulars at the TPA Annual Meeting and North Star Expo for decades. They share their research, respect our work and genuinely enjoy being with us. No program has a greater commitment to the outreach portion of a Land Grant University's mission than the UM Department of Forest Resources under Alan's leadership. I can tell you this is not the case in other states and with other programs.

Minnesota and our forestry

community are a better place because of Dr. Ek's remarkable career. I wish him a long and happy retirement though I know he will continue to be active whether it's in the classroom, research or with a shotgun in his hand..



The 2016 Session of the Minnesota Legislature ended on May 23. Among things that did get passed and signed into law was a \$2.5 million General Fund appropriation to begin rebuilding DNR's capacity to assist private landowners in managing their land, bringing their wood to market. This money will be used for cost shares along with hiring PFM foresters and doing some contracting with private consultants. Hopefully this will result in more private wood on the market.

An additional \$1 million was also appropriated from the Forest Management Investment Account to the DNR for reforestation. State law requires the DNR to reforest its lands, so this funding is particularly

important. Their need is \$3 million per year, which has been funding through the Bonding Bill in recent years

The Tax Bill, which was vetoed by Gov. Dayton, included reform of the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act which we had been working on for several years. This was a great disappointment.

Also, with no bonding bill the DNR will continue to be short on money for forest roads and reforestation. And, no Transportation Bill was passed.

So it looks like it's on to the fall elections with these issues waiting until next year.



Be safe out there! You won't regret it!

Wayne E. Brant

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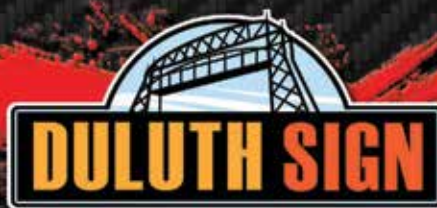
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Larry and Joe Dukek

Adjusting Through the Years

Dukek Logging of Bemidji has certainly encountered its share of challenges over the years. But the company has always found a way to survive and thrive.

by Ray Higgins

It's been a busy few days for 46-year-old Joe Dukek. On top of the 750-cord sale he's logging just northwest of Longville, his logging company has just taken delivery on its first cut-to-length harvester and forwarder.

The new machines are already going to work. The harvester is starting this morning on a job near Two Inlets, and the forwarder is helping finish a pine clear-cut east of Bemidji on the site of the old Ainsworth mill there. Meanwhile,

Dukek's conventional crew is in its second day of harvesting operations at the site near Longville.

For Dukek, the past 29 years in the logging business have been anything but routine: there's been a cancer scare for his father and



Jack Martine operates a John Deere 2154D stroke delimber with a 2100C Lim-mit at Dukek Logging's hardwood site near Longville.

business partner Larry, the loss of two major markets, and the restructuring of the family business. On top of that, Larry is stepping away from the company he built with his son, allowing Joe to take over. And yet today, thanks to some good old-fashioned perseverance, Dukek Logging is still going strong.

"Even when things were going bad," Joe says, "we knew it would get better. Logging always goes up and down."

That attitude, coupled with the knowledge of the cyclical nature of the logging business means Dukek understands the need to not only persevere, but also adapt to changing market conditions. That hasn't always been easy.

Larry Dukek started in the logging business after graduating from Bagley High School in 1962. He could have stayed close to home and helped on his family's farm. His father Roy worked mainly in construction, but also grew some grain and raised beef cattle on the side.

"I never liked farming," Larry says. "I hated it. I just never liked driving up and down the field, row after row."

So he and a friend hatched a plan to head west to Montana and Idaho, where they found work driving truck for loggers. That lasted

around two years.

"The guys I ended up driving truck for," he says, "they ended up owing me more money than I made, I think."

In the meantime, the Vietnam War was heating up. Rather than waiting to be drafted, Larry returned to Minnesota to enlist. He never ended up in Southeast Asia, and when his hitch was up in 1967, he returned to Bagley.

It wasn't tough for Larry to decide what he wanted to do with his life at that point. He got a chain saw and a skidder and headed for the woods.

"It was just a little Mickey Mouse logging operation," Larry says.

"But I just always liked being in the woods. You get out in the woods, out there in nature, I don't know. I just liked it."

By 1979, Larry and his brother Richard decided to partner in Dukek

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Dean Cluff loads a waiting truck with aspen with a Prentice Loader. Dukek Logging utilizes three Prentice 384s, two of which are equipped with slashers. Cluff also serves as Dukek's conventional crew foreman.

Logging. Their father Roy would come and help with the falling, and they marketed their wood mostly to Boise in International Falls and to the Superwood plant in Duluth. But the brothers soon reached a crossroads.

"In those days, the markets were so up and down," Larry says, "you'd have a couple of good years, then three bad years. It was kind of a struggle. Dick and I decided we were either going to get out of it, or buy some newer equipment and do it right."

Do it right, they did, investing in conventional logging equipment. Both Larry and Richard had sons who liked to come to the woods and help out, either riding in the truck or skidder, or when they got older, helping out from time to time on weekends and during summer vacations from school. When Joe graduated from Bagley High in 1987, he joined the business full-time, just like his cousins Brett and Stuart.

In addition to adjusting to the ups and downs of logging, both families were tragically touched by cancer. Richard's wife Sharon passed away from cancer in the Spring of 1992. A couple of months later, Larry found a cancerous tumor in his neck. Thanks to some heavy duty radiation, he ultimately survived

the scare, however, was not able to work for about a full year at that time.

In time, it became apparent that the amount of wood being cut couldn't support all of the cousins and their families. It was time to make a business change. In 1994, they made the difficult decision

to split into two separate logging companies: Dick, Stuart, and Brett operated as Richard Dukek Logging, while Larry and Joe stayed with simply Dukek Logging.

Joe and Larry ran a conventional logging operation, just the two of them handling the woods equipment, with some drivers



Clint Schwartz drives a John Deere 648H skidder for Dukek Logging. The company also utilizes another 748H on this site, driven by Jeff Johnson.

handling the hauling and some of the slashing. The wood was being delivered to Norbord in Solway and the Potlatch OSB mill and sawmill in Bemidji. It was hard work, but things were working out.

Gradually the business grew. They saw opportunity in biomass markets and purchased a grinder for their tops and limbs. The resulting biomass was hauled to International Paper in Sartell. Minnesota Power and Laurentian Energy would eventually become biomass markets, as well.

"We just saw that it looked like biomass was going to be a good market," Larry says. "We talked it over and decided we were going to give it a try."

At the same time, the Potlatch OSB mill in Bemidji was among those sold to Ainsworth, and low home interest rates helped fuel a housing boom in the US. Ainsworth was hungry for wood for OSB production, and the Dukeks were ready to supply it.

But by 2006, that housing bubble was bursting, as was Ainsworth's business. Loggers who had been

big Ainsworth suppliers like the Dukeks, suffered.

"You could almost see it coming," Joe says. "You just don't believe a big place like that could go down."

But it did. Fortunately, the Dukeks had the biomass markets and turned heavily toward that product. Despite the loss of the huge Ainsworth market, the business survived.

Eventually the Sartell mill was sold to Verso Paper. And because of the Dukeks' relationship with the folks there, they began harvesting hybrid popple on Verso's private lands. The two companies liked doing business together, so they increased their dependence on one another. The Dukeks figure roughly 50%-60% of their production went to Verso.

"We had two chippers and a grinder at that time," Joe says. "One was dedicated just to Verso, and the others supplied our other biomass markets. Plus, we still had the conventional crew cutting roundwood"

However, what no one could see coming was the tragedy that

occurred at the Sartell mill on Memorial Day weekend of 2012: An explosion killed a mill worker, and the resulting fire gutted the entire facility. In an instant, the Dukeks had lost a major market for the second time in six years.

"Before that it was Ainsworth we were pretty hard into," Joe says, "and it was tough to get markets. Then we get through that, and Verso went down."

"Looking back," Larry says, "we weren't diversified enough."

But the Dukeks had been through this before with the Ainsworth closure. With their years in the business, they had a lot of contacts.

"I knew a lot of the foresters for the different companies," Larry says, "and they were good to us. We were fortunate to find new markets."

It worked. Today, the Dukeks deliver wood to nearly all of the major mills in the state, particularly Boise, Norbord, Sappi, Potlatch, Verso, and Blandin. The tops and limbs are chipped and hauled to Laurentian Energy and the Benson Power plant. Diversification of



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Harvested red pine on the site of the Bemidji Ainsworth mill waits to be hauled to either Potlatch or Cass Forest Products nearby.



Steve Loch runs Dukek's John Deere 643K feller buncher. Dukek also has a Timberpro 725 buncher that typically operates on hilly or softer ground.

markets has been critical.

As a result, Dukek Logging has grown. The Dukeks run 12 trucks, along with a full conventional crew, a second crew in the winter, and a crew that follows harvesting

operations with a chipper for the tops and limbs to make biomass. On top of all of that, last week they added the newly purchased cut-to-length equipment, which requires another crew.

"We did it because we're running into a lot of pine thinnings," Joe says. "Those slow down the main conventional crew. Cut-to-length lets us do a nicer job on the pine thinnings."



A John Deere 1210E forwarder, run by Adam Pula, operates on the site of the now-closed Ainsworth mill east of Bemidji. The forwarder, along with a 1270G cut-to-length harvester were recently purchased by the Dukeks.



Doug Jacobs carries tops and limbs with a Cat 525 to Dukek's chipper at the red pine harvest at Ainsworth, Bemidji.

Ironically, the first job for the new cut-length harvester was the pine harvest on site of the now defunct Ainsworth mill in Bemidji, where the Dukeks had committed so much of their business. They also occasionally deliver roundwood to the paper mill in Duluth, which now carries the same Verso Paper name they were so familiar with in Sartell.

There have been changes. Now 72, Larry is stepping away from the business, letting Joe run day-to-day operations: meeting with foresters, buying timber, and building roads when needed. At home, Joe's wife Leslie has taken over the bookkeeping from Larry's wife Judy. Both Larry and Joe agree that getting through the ever-changing

wood markets would not be possible without their reliable crews in the woods and dedicated truck drivers, some of whom have been with the company for about 15 years, one for more than 20. They are very thankful to have such a great group of employees to work with.



Mike Geller, chipping crew foreman, in another Prentice 384 loader—this one without a slasher—feeds Dukek's Bandit 3090 chipper at the Ainsworth red pine harvest.

DNR and Feds Partner on Good Neighbor Authority

In a move that will allow DNR foresters complete work on federal land, including timber sales, the U.S. Forest Service has signed a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) master agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The completed master agreement between the Chippewa and Superior National Forests in Minnesota and the DNR follows similar agreements signed by the national forests in Michigan and Wisconsin. These agreements are among the first signed GNA master agreements in the country.

The master agreement is a broad pact allowing the state to supplement the work being done by Forest Service staff on the national forests.

The agreement means the USFS will be able to utilize DNR forestry staff for a variety of work, including timber sales. Any resulting timber would not replace planned volumes but would represent an increase over existing timber targets for both agencies. Revenue generated from the sales is to be used by the Forest Service to pay the state (or others) for its work. The rest of the proceeds would be for funding projects on the forest which enhance forest health, restoration, habitats, water quality, and more.

The agreement allows clusters of tracts across differing ownerships to be sold more efficiently. Initially, the DNR and USFS are working on a pilot project on 100-acre cutting blocks in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests before adopting any large-scale GNA work.

"This agreement continues to foster a positive collaborative relationship between Minnesota and the U.S. Forest Service to address land management on a landscape basis. We very much appreciate the willingness of our federal partners to undertake this pilot program in Minnesota," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. "This program is a tribute to the



leadership of the U.S. Forest Service to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of forest management."

"We are fortunate to have the Minnesota DNR and its employees ready and willing to assist us in achieving important conservation goals on national forests, in addition to the important work they already do on state-managed, county and private lands," said U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson. "I am looking forward to working even more closely with the DNR on a variety of conservation projects."

Marked timber on a USFS timber sale, that was put up by DNR staff. The trees marked in yellow will be harvested, while the blue paint indicates the boundary lines of the stand.

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Hasbargen Logging Wins Labovitz Entrepreneurial Success Award

The UMD Center for Economic Development named Hasbargen Logging of Birchdale a recipient of a Joel Labovitz Entrepreneurial Success Award. The Hasbargens were honored in the "Mature Entrepreneur Category."

In its 24th year, the Joel Labovitz Entrepreneurial Success Award honorees were announced during a luncheon at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. UMD Chancellor Lendley Black welcomed attendees and Mark Labovitz, the award namesake's son, provided opening remarks before more than 400 business and community leaders from throughout northern Minnesota.

Hasbargen Logging is owned by brothers Clarence, Denton, and Kit Hasbargen, as well as their sons Alvin, Zach, and Clinton Hasbargen, and one son-in-law, Derek Cook. Hasbargen Logging was cited for "continuing to grow, increase revenues and provide steady employment despite mill closures in the region and market ups and downs," as the company transitions to a fourth generation of family loggers.

In accepting the award, Kit Hasbargen said, "We have a lot of people to thank for this, including the people of Lake of the Woods and Koochiching counties for supporting us, as well as Boise Paper and the other companies that have purchased our wood over the years. We share this honor with all of them. But most of all, credit goes to our father, Alvin Hasbargen, who helped start this company and provided the guidance to make it successful."



(L-R): Clarence Hasbargen, Zach Hasbargen, Kit Hasbargen, Alvin Hasbargen, and Sue Hasbargen with the Joel Labovitz Entrepreneurial Success Award presented to Hasbargen Logging.

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



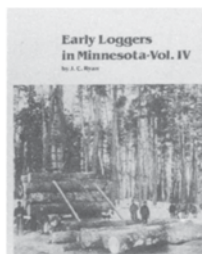
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Hoyt Lakes in the Running for LP Mill

The Minnesota Legislature and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board have approved financial incentive packages that could potentially total \$66 million, designed to lure a Louisiana Pacific SmartSide plant to the Laskin Energy Park near Hoyt Lakes.

LP is looking to build another SmartSide plant in North America. The proposed plant would cost an estimated \$440 million to build and ultimately would have two

Timber Talk

production lines, employing 250. If completed, the plant would receive 200 truckloads of wood and utilize up to 600,000 cords per year, according to media reports. The media also reports that Michigan and Canada are in the running as well.

The financial incentive package includes:

- Up to \$30 million from the 21st Century and Douglas J. Johnson Economic Trust

Funds, that are designed to attract business to the Iron Range. These funds will be used for site preparation work.

- Up to \$3 million per year for up to ten years. This incentive would be based on annual production outputs by the facility
- A \$6 million sales tax rebate for building materials.

LP's board of directors will make a preliminary decision on a site for the facility in late July, and make a final decision in February, 2017. Under the current timeline, the first production line would be completed in late 2018, and the second would come on line sometime in 2019."

Foss Lake Fire

High winds caused a 78-acre prescribed burn by the U.S. Forest Service to grow into a 1000-acre wildfire in May.

Dubbed the Foss Lake Fire, the incident was 10 miles west of Ely and caused the closure of a small portion of the Boundary Waters

Canoe Area Wilderness near Burntside Lake.

The prescribed burn was designed to improve wildlife habitat and promote forest regeneration. It was also intended to remove fuel for future wildfires.

Richard "Hap" Johnson, 1929-2016

Longtime TPA member Richard "Hap" Johnson, of Culver, passed away in May at the age of 87.



Hap was a self-employed logger for over 40 years. He enjoyed traveling, wintering in Cape Coral, Florida and Lake Havasu, Arizona, deer hunting, spending time at the hunting shack, and was a very successful elk hunter. Hap was always willing to donate his time and equipment for various community projects.

Among Hap's survivors is his son and current TPA member Dave Johnson.



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TPA at the Capitol: 2016 Session Report

Although the 2016 Minnesota Legislative session was the shortest in memory—running only from March to May—it was long on frustration. Legislators did manage to pass a Supplemental Appropriations Bill that included spending for private forest management and for reforestation, but the House and the Senate failed to reach agreement on Bonding and Transportation bills, and the Tax bill both houses did pass was vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton.

Here is a rundown of measures pertaining to the forest products industry and their outcomes this year:

The **Supplemental Appropriations Bill**, signed by the Governor, contained several provisions helpful to forestry:

- \$2.5 million was appropriated in to increase the DNR's private forest management activities. In addition, \$2 million per year was included in the DNR's base budget for subsequent years. DNR will hire PFM foresters with plans of increasing the amount of timber on the market in the state.
- \$1 million was appropriated from the Forest Management Investment Account for reforestation on state lands. This funding was included in the bonding bill, but when TPA staff became fearful the bonding bill wouldn't pass an effort was made on the second-to-last day of the session to get this language into the Supplemental Appropriations bill. Without this language, the DNR could have been forced to reduce the sale of red pine, jack pine, spruce and any other species requiring planting or seeding. This provision in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill prevents that.
- Language was included in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill that allows the DNR to utilize the Forest Management



Investment Account for appropriating the costs and receiving the revenues from Good Neighbor Authority or other joint powers agreements. This new authority will allow the DNR to administer subject timber sales—including on U.S. Forest Service Lands—without taking time away from state timber sales.

- A provision was included in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill that prohibits the DNR from conducting any new harvests in the Sand Dunes State Forest for the purpose of converting lands to oak savanna until July 1, 2017. The provision also requires the DNR to work with local landowners and stakeholders and to submit a report to the Legislature. It does not affect current timber sale contracts or timber sales whose purpose is not to create oak savanna.
- School forest programs were funded.
- Research for biological controls of white nose syndrome was funded, in an effort to combat the demise of the northern long-eared bat.

Also in the Omnibus Supplemental Appropriations bill, several provisions were included relating to the potential development of a siding plant:

1. A direct production subsidy of up to \$3 million per year for ten years;
2. The 21st Century Minerals Fund was renamed and provided with \$10 million for infrastructure grants, loans and investments; testimony provided during hearings indicated that this may be used as part of a package for a siding plant.

TPA sent a letter to both legislative leaders and the governor indicating the organization didn't support the siding plant subsidy provisions, "unless and until there is enough wood on the market to supply current and future demand." The subsidy provisions were ultimately included in the bill.

The **Tax Bill**, which was vetoed by the governor, contained language that would have reformed the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act. The reform would have created a new tiered-payment system based on a new formula. Landowners would 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 would be eligible for enrollment at a lower payment level. 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. \$600,000 per year was to have been appropriated to the DNR for this work. Additional technical and administrative changes were made, many of which resulted from a report and recommendations by the Legislative Auditor. The language could be revived in the event of a Special Session.

No agreement on a **Bonding Bill** was reached by the House and the Senate before the constitutionally mandated adjournment in May. Similarly, the **Transportation Funding Bill** died due to a disagreement between the House and the Senate over funding the Southwest Light Rail Transit Line.



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Presentations Highlight TPA Annual Meeting

The conference center at Black Woods in Proctor was the setting for the 2016 TPA Annual Membership Meeting, which once again provided the venue for TPA members to discuss a variety of issues affecting Minnesota's logging community. In addition, meeting attendees heard a variety of presentations that provided "insider information" on various topics.

The agenda for this year's session at Inn on Lake Superior in Duluth included Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt's annual presentation on the association's accomplishments over the past 12 months; DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe on current issues pertaining to the state forests; a panel discussion pertaining to the various wood markets in Minnesota; and Dr. Ben Bagdon of Minnesota Forest Industries, who shared data on the state's timber supply.

Annual Report of Association Activities

In his annual presentation, Brandt reviewed the activities and accomplishments of TPA staff over the past 12 months, including details of the recently completed legislative session as it pertains to the forest products industry:

- DNR Funding for private forest management
- Reforestation on state lands
- Provisions in the vetoed tax bill
- Subsidies for a proposed siding plant

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 federal legislation allowing increased logging truck weights on a segment of I-35, and continued work on the northern long-eared bat as it pertains to the industry's ability to perform forest management. TPA will continue to work on both



TPA Members (L-R): Chad Lovdahl, Ron Beckman, Corey Lovdahl, and Dale Erickson listen to informative presentations, including Wayne Brandt's annual Report on Association Activities, as well as reports from TPA's various committees at the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting.

issues: attempting to extend the amount of I-35 where increased weights are permissible, and monitoring the listing status of the northern long-eared bat on a variety of fronts.

Featured Speakers

In his presentation, DNR Division of Forestry Director **Forrest Boe** touched on a variety of topics of interest to TPA members, including how the division plans to utilize the \$2.5 million of funding for private forest management during the recently completed legislative session. These funds will be used for DNR staffing, but also to utilize consulting foresters through cost share, and also improved Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) of forest lands across ownerships. According to Boe, the DNR at one time had 45 full-time equivalents dedicated to PFM, but today that number is 7.5. He hopes to add 10-15 PFM foresters with part of the new funding.

Boe also outlined the Section Forest Resource Management Plan (SFRMP) process, currently



DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe discusses a variety of topics with the TPA membership, including timber availability, private forest management, and the northern long-eared bat.

underway. Work on the two SFRMPs currently underway will affect timber supply for the next ten years. TPA has monitored the process closely, already filing comments on the process earlier this year.

Boe also touched on the DNR's plan for the FY2017 timber plan, and also a change to how the division determines which sales will be offered during sealed bid auctions: The sealed bid tracts will be selected randomly, and instead of each area holding sealed bid auctions, they'll be conducted by region. So, the northeast, northwest, and central regions will each have sealed bid auctions in the spring and the fall. The division will offer a third of its volume via sealed bid auction, with the volume split evenly between regular and intermediate auctions.

Finally, Boe also shared the latest on what's being done to deal with the threatened listing of the northern long-eared bat. The division is in the process of working on a habitat conservation plan (HCP) with the states of Wisconsin and Michigan. In the event the NLEB populations continue to decline and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changes the listing to "endangered," a HCP will be needed to "take" bats into account in forest management activities. The HCP process can take several years, so the three Lake States are beginning the process now in the event that the listing changes.

"It's all about managing risk," Boe told TPA members in regard to the development of the HCP.

Representatives of four segments of the forest products industry gave presentations to TPA members: Verso mill manager **John Bastian** and Sappi wood procurement manager **Gary Erickson** spoke about paper markets, Norbord's



John Bastian



Gary Erickson



Jack Wallingford



Tina Hegg



Incoming TPA President Dave Berthiaume (R) presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing President Scott Pittack for his years of service to the organization.

Jack Wallingford discussed the engineered wood products segment, and **Tina Hegg** of Hedstrom Lumber talked about lumber markets.

"It gets me agitated when people say paper is dying," Erickson said. "Yes, some segments might be down, but paper is not going away. Sappi's paper production has increased, and we expect it to continue to increase."

Erickson talked about the various products Sappi makes, including those from those from specialized

cellulose. He pointed out that the Cloquet mill is the newest paper mill in North America and very competitive around the world.

Bastian echoed Erickson's comments about the viability of paper, particularly in the advertising papers that Verso manufactures.

"Paper is cost-effective for advertising," he said, "and will remain a significant part of how folks will advertise in the future."

Bastian said the Duluth mill is the only remaining super-calendered paper mill in the U.S., and its



TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt gives his annual "Report on Association Activities" at the TPA Annual Meeting.

cost-structure and low distance to markets helps the mill be competitive.

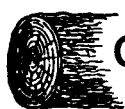
Wallingford said he anticipates Norbord's markets to improve. With the acquisition of Ainsworth, Norbord is the largest producer of oriented strand board in the world. Wallingford said housing starts are in year six of a multi-year recovery, and he expects that to continue due to pent-up demand that continues from when the housing market bottomed-out in 2006.

Hegg also said the uptick in housing starts helps lumber markets in our state. She said business remains strong for industrial segments such as doors, windows, and pallets. Among factors affecting this segment are the US/Canadian lumber trade agreement, and forest forest in Canada. Among the great unknowns is how big a role China will play in all of this, as well as the strength of the US dollar.

Finally, Bagdon outlined a variety of current factors affecting timber supply in Minnesota, as well as potential barriers to increasing those outputs by various agencies and stakeholders.



Dr. Ben Bagdon, director of forest policy for Minnesota Forest Industries, shared a variety of data on the state's timber supply to the TPA membership.



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TPA Members Cruise the Harbor

After a day of meetings and fishing on Lake Superior, the day was capped with a dinner cruise in the Duluth/Superior harbor aboard the Vista Star. Members enjoyed great food and drink, the terrific scenery of the harbor and, of course, each other's company. It was a the perfect ending to a fun and informative day for TPA members and their guests.



(L-R): Dale Erickson of Erickson Timber and Dan and Matt Lundberg of Lundberg Forest Products.



(L-R): Garrett and Ashley Campbell of Waste Wood Recyclers.



(L-R): Jim Scheff, Tammy Hammerlund, and Dave Scheff of James Scheff Logging and Trucking.

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TPA Safety Awards

Over 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 2015 through March of this year:

2016 SAFETY CONTEST WINNERS

Logging Division

- C & M Walsh Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Dean & Bob Walsh Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Greg Cook Logging, Inc., Bigfork
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Junker Logging, Inc., Littlefork
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Northwoods Chipping, Inc., International Falls
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Simcoe & Habisch Logging, McGrath
- Third Generation Logging, Bigfork
- Weijo Logging, Ely

Trucking Division

- C & M Walsh Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Dean & Bob Walsh Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- DeMenge Trucking & Forest Products, LLC, McGregor
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking Corp., Lake Nebagamon, WI
- Mannco Trucking, Inc., International Falls
- Northwoods Chipping, Inc., International Falls
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Two Inlets Mill & Bldg. Supply, Park Rapids

Sawmill Division

- Bergstrom Wood Products, Inc., International Falls
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Two Inlets Mill & Bldg. Supply, Park Rapids

















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On the Markets

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

Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency **Regular** **Intermediate**

Cass County

April 28—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$43.26	\$47.80
Red Oak	\$38.68	\$55.38
Birch	\$26.45	\$30.24

All 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

May 4—Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$40.94	\$42.56
Spruce P/B	\$35.46	\$33.56
Balsam P/B	\$12.06	\$13.35
Birch P/B	\$ 5.62	\$ 7.44

All 29 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Carlton County

May 5—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$41.26	NA
Nrthrn Hdws	\$18.20	NA

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Cloquet Area

May 5—Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$34.59	\$44.18
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$49.65	NA
Mixed		
Spruce (WMP)	\$19.44	\$41.45
Paper Birch		
(WMP)	\$25.24	\$20.13

13 of the 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

St. Louis County

May 12th—Oral Auction

Aspen		
Pulpwood	\$34.48	NA
Black		
Spruce Pulp	\$36.06	NA
Birch		
Pulpwood	\$12.23	NA
Balsam Fir Pulp	\$22.52	NA

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

Aitkin County

May 16—Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$43.53	NA
Mixed		
Hdws P/B	\$19.94	NA
Balsam Fir Pulp	\$38.36	NA
Maple Pulp	\$15.90	NA

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

DNR—Park Rapids Area

May 16—Sealed Bid

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$55.40	NA
Mixed Hdws		
(WC)	\$14.58	NA
Red Oak (WMP)	\$50.32	NA

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Park Rapids Area

May 17—Oral Auction

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	NA	\$33.73
Aspen		
Species (WC)	NA	\$36.04
Nrthrn Hdws		
(WMP)	NA	\$15.76
Pine Species		
(WMP)	NA	\$47.64
Norway Pine		
(WMP)	NA	\$61.27

All 24 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Baudette Area

May 25—Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$36.63	\$31.99
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$25.10	\$32.16
Black		
Spruce (WC)	\$11.90	\$13.59
Norway Pine		
(WMP)	\$33.27	\$28.95
Jack Pine		
(WMP)	\$30.86	\$28.07

All 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Backus Area

May 26—Oral Auction

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$51.76	\$39.28
Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$27.15	\$19.79
Nrthrn Hdws		
(WMP)	\$18.70	\$19.79
Basswood		
(WMP)	\$16.70	\$15.52

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

Cass County

May 26—Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$39.74	\$30.91
-------	---------	---------

Red Oak \$35.65 \$21.30

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Hibbing Area

June 2—Oral Auction

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$49.96	\$34.62
Mixed		
Spruce (WC)	\$37.40	\$28.07
Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$57.28	\$40.30

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



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Itasca County*June 3—Oral Auction*

Aspen	\$36.78	NA
Red Pine	\$51.64	NA
Paper Birch	\$17.74	NA
Balsam	\$24.35	NA

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

DNR—Littlefork Area*June 7—Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$53.60	\$46.87
Black Spruce (WMP)	\$37.86	NA
Black Spruce (WC)	\$16.61	\$29.04
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 5.84	\$ 7.84
Balsam		
Fir (WC)	\$30.67	\$15.74

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

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

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$27.80	\$38.73
Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$22.52	\$36.23
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$48.28	\$46.14
Balsam		
Fir (WC)	\$12.58	\$16.62

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

DNR—Sandstone Area*June 8—Oral Auction*

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$25.37	\$31.95
Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$55.82	\$26.84
Nrthn Hdws (WMP)	\$29.64	\$11.36

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

DNR—Little Falls Area*June 9—Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$20.94	NA
Red Maple (WMP)	\$10.01	NA
Oak Species (WMP)	\$10.00	NA

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

DNR—Aitkin Area*June 13—Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$32.35	\$35.26
Nrthn Hdws (WMP)	\$10.43	\$21.21
Basswood (WMP)	\$24.03	\$10.57

Paper Birch

(WMP) \$25.43 \$12.83
19 of the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Tower Area*June 13—Sealed Bid*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$62.73	\$21.26
Nrthn Hdws (WC)	\$10.20	\$ 9.27
Balsam		
Fir (WC)	\$36.90	\$11.97

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

DNR—Tower Area*June 14—Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$60.28	\$53.21
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$21.68	\$35.79
Pine Species (WMP)	\$41.15	NA
Mixed Spruce (WMP)	NA	\$12.75

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

DNR—Bemidji Area*June 14—Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$45.56	\$36.15

Trembling

Aspen (WC)	\$42.35	\$32.10
Aspen Species (WMP)	\$51.77	\$34.21
Pine Species (WMP)	\$63.70	\$40.92
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 4.50	\$ 9.50

45 of the 46 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Two Harbors Area*June 16—Oral Auction*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$16.93	\$24.28
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$21.89	\$13.80
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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Reign of the Logging Railroads I

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*



In September of 1941, a Chicago firm started dismantling the last logging railroad in Minnesota — the Duluth and Northeastern Railroad, that ran from Cloquet to Hornby, a distance of 57 miles. (Although the Duluth and Northeastern still operates a short line from Saginaw to Cloquet, about 10 miles, this is used mainly for switching around the mills at Cloquet.)

With the removal of the rails of the Duluth and Northeastern, there vanished one of the enterprises that played a major part in the logging of our vast virgin timber stands.

Prior to 1900, most all the logging in Minnesota was carried on by draying, skidding and sleigh hauling the logs to our rivers and lakes, and then driving and rafting them to the mills. Even under the best conditions, the sleigh hauling reached back only about 10 miles from the shores of our lakes and streams, and as this timber near the water was logged off, a new method had to be found to move the remaining timber to the mills. The answer was the logging railroad.

Some of the larger companies built railroads north into the timbered areas for the sole purpose of hauling out logs and moving in men and supplies to the lumber camps and small lumbering towns. Railroads of this type were extended every few years to help create some new camp or community, and eventually they became railroads of considerable length.

Some of these roads were made “common carriers” — and some of them are still

in existence today, doing business as freight hauling railroads. The Minnesota and International, running from Brainerd to International Falls is an example. Other roads were built as common carriers, but when the logging came to an end, so did the railroads.

One of the common carriers that did not last long after logging ceased was the Minnesota and Rainy River Railroad (also known as the Gut and Liver Line) which ran from Deer River to Wirt. It was one of the longer lines in miles of main line and spurs and was as colorful as its nickname suggests.

Another common carrier was the Duluth and Northern Minnesota Railroad (also known as the Alger Line) running between Knife River and Cascade, which, with all its spur lines, probably had the greatest total miles of track.

Some of the railroads were built by logging companies and later taken over by railroad companies. In some cases the larger logging companies became heavy stockholders in the railroad companies. These lines became, more or less, the main line railroads of the logging industry.

Probably second only to the Duluth and Northern Minnesota in total miles of track was the Duluth and Northeastern and General Logging Company system, combining all the lines of the Weyerhaeuser companies operating out of Cloquet.

The Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company, operating out of headquarters at Cusson, had an extensive system of main line and spurs, and during the life of the

company operated nearly a thousand miles of tracks — though much only temporary spurs.

The Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin (Brooks Scanlon Line) did a flourishing business in southern St. Louis County, but had less than a hundred miles of tracks — including main line and spurs.

The Crookston Lumber Company of Bemidji, while operating many miles of spurs in the Kelliher, Mispah, Northome, Funkley, Blackduck, and Hines area, never had a main line railroad.

Some of the companies and contractors that operated with logging railroads in the eastern part of the state included:

Virginia & Rainy Lake Co. and Cooke & O'Brien in the area north of Virginia to the Canadian border.

The Northern, Cloquet and Johnson Wentworth Companies, Campbell and Williamson, Brooks Scanlon Lumber Co. and Scott Graff Co. in the area south of the Range and north of Duluth and Cloquet.

The Alger Smith Co., Radcliff Lumber Co., Merrill & Ring, Nolan Brothers & Laird, and the Drummond Lumber Co. in Lake County and the area adjacent to Two Harbors and the North Shore.

Swallow and Hopkins, the Trout Lake Lumber Co., St. Croix Lumber Co., and William O'Brien in the area around Ely and Winton.

The International Lumber Co. (Backus & Brooks) in most of Koochiching County and the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

The Crookston Lumber Co., Bemidji Lumber Co., and J. Niels Lumber Co. in the Bemidji and Cass Lake area.

The Walker and Akley Co. around Walker.

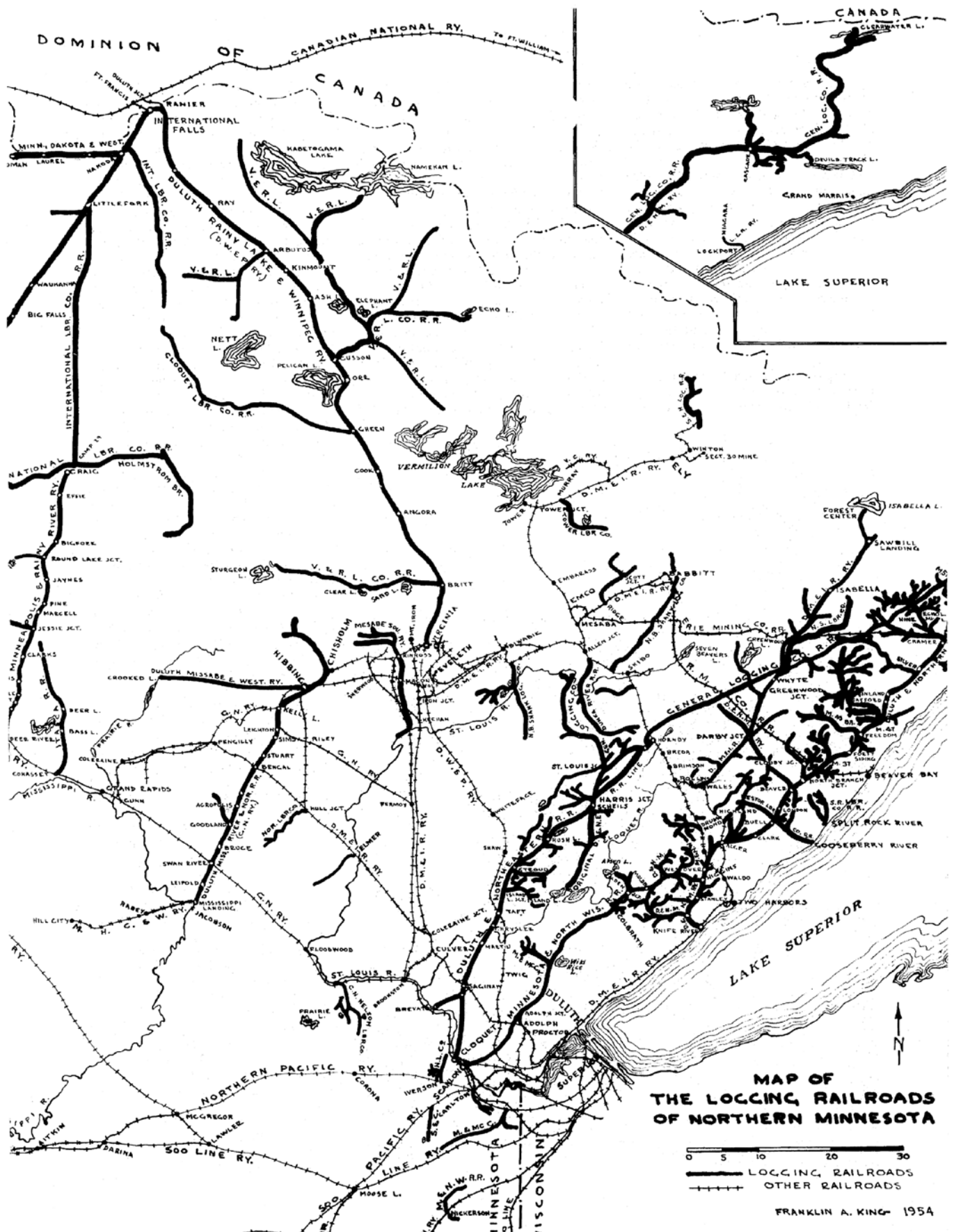
The Nichols & Chisholm Co. and the Red River Lumber Co. west of Itasca Park.

The Pine Tree Lumber Co. and the Northland Pine Lumber Co. between Walker and Brainerd.

By no means a complete list, these names tell us the size and extent of railroad logging at its height of activity. Most of these railroads were short lived and by the 1920s all were out of the picture.

However, one which started a little later than the rest and which continued to operate a bit longer was the Minnesota Dakota

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and Western (Backus Line). Just how they arrived at the name I don't know, unless it was from their only western spur – the Loman Line – that ran from Nakota on the Bigfork and International west to Loman. However, the main line of this railroad ran almost straight south from the Big Fork and International and Little Fork to Craigville, or Camp 29.

Camp B, about a quarter mile south of Littlefork, was the headquarters camp for this railroad, where trains were made up and dispatched. Their trains moved over the Big Fork and International Railroad to International Falls, however. A spur of the Minnesota Dakota and Western, known as the Bear River Branch, ran straight west from Camp B to Bear River, and another spur ran south from

Camp B for many miles and crossed quite a swampy area.

Much of the logging here was done in the area east of Northome along what is known as the Park Avenue Road, where Camp 53 was the headquarters camp, along with Camps 56, 48 and more. Most men working these camps traveled to Northome on the M.D.W. southwest spur. This spur was intended to extend into the Chippewa National Forest, but due to a misunderstanding with the people in Kinghurst Township, an injunction against the company ended this branch at the Popple River and logs were hoisted out of Round Lake.

An eastern branch, known as the Holmstrom spur, ran south and east from Camp 29 and was the last spur to be taken up.

Another spur, known as the Net Lake Branch, ran southeast from Nakota to the Nett Lake Indian Reservation.

While the Minnesota Dakota and Western was known as the Backus Line, most of the logging was done in the name of the International Lumber Company.

Though not part of the Minnesota Dakota and Western Railroad, the International Lumber Company built a logging spur off the Minneapolis, Red Lake and Manitoba south of Redby and running west on the south side of the Red Lake. Logs cut from this area were hauled south to Bemidji, then north over the Minnesota and International to International Falls for saving. For years all log traffic on the Minnesota and International had been south, and it was odd to see train loads of logs going north.

During the winter of 1919, my father and I were cruising Rock Island Railroad lands in Koochiching County and rode many a day over the M.D.W. We would leave International Falls at 6:00 a.m. and the conductor would drop us wherever we chose along the tracks and pick us up again on the return trip at night. One night we were late getting back to the tracks and it got dark on us, but the train stopped, blew its whistle and waited for us. All the trainmen on these logging railroads were very good in offering whatever help they could to travelers.

As logging companies moved their camps through the woods, there were miles and miles of spurs built right in to the logging operations, and these miles of spurs greatly exceeded the miles of main lines. In most cases the spurs were well graded and graveled and used the year around.

In rough country, these spurs often wound in and out among the hills in order to make use of the minimum grade.

Others spurs were laid and used only during the winter months. These consisted on only the ties and rails laid on frozen ground and were known as "skeleton tracks."

Almost all of northern Minnesota was covered with a network of these spurs, and after they were abandoned many were used as secondary roads. Most all of our early wagon roads followed old spurs and a number are still being used. Others have been maintained as Forest Service roads. However, on many of these spurs, pine trees 15 inches in diameter are now found growing in the middle of the grades.

Railroad logging was done by a great many companies and contractors, but as a whole, the equipment used throughout the state was quite similar. Standard gauge track was used by most all companies. Locomotives were small, ranging from 50 to 75 tons, and were mostly the "rod" type. In hilly country and over crooked, winding spurs, the "Lima" was popular. However, I know of one company that used the



Blasting up a steep grade, a Duluth and Northeastern engine moves one flat of logs at a time, as steam jammer at the end of the spur loads another car. Unballasted track and fill work in the deep cut where typical on these temporary spurs.

“Hysler” type.

While the locomotives were similar, log cars and “jammers” were different. In the hilly area of the eastern part of the state, the short, one-tier car known as the Russell car was used. It maneuvered around short bends much more easily than the longer cars that held two tiers of logs. The Russell car was also known as the “skeleton car,” as it had no deck – only log bunks.

Prior to 1910, most log cars were equipped with chains known as “corner binds” on the outside logs near the bunks, as well as two sets of chains to hold the logs in place when the train was in motion. One was known as the “center chain” and the other the “wrapper.” Even with these chains, great care had to be used in placing logs on the cars. The top loader – the man who worked on top of the load – had to be thoroughly experienced,

and he was the highest paid man in the loading crew.

By about 1912, a new type of “stake pocket” was placed on all cars, and with stakes, only a single chain was needed across the top of the load. This made the job of the top loader less important and lessened the danger of injuries when logs were rolled off the cars by cant hooks, because these “new patented pockets” were tripped from the side of the car opposite the side where the logs rolled off.

When logs were loaded directly from the water to cars, chain or endless chain hoists were used.

On smaller jobs, logs were loaded by horse jammers, and on larger jobs steam powered jammers were used. The Clyde Jammer, which could move along the track on its own power as it passed over the cars, was used almost entirely in the eastern

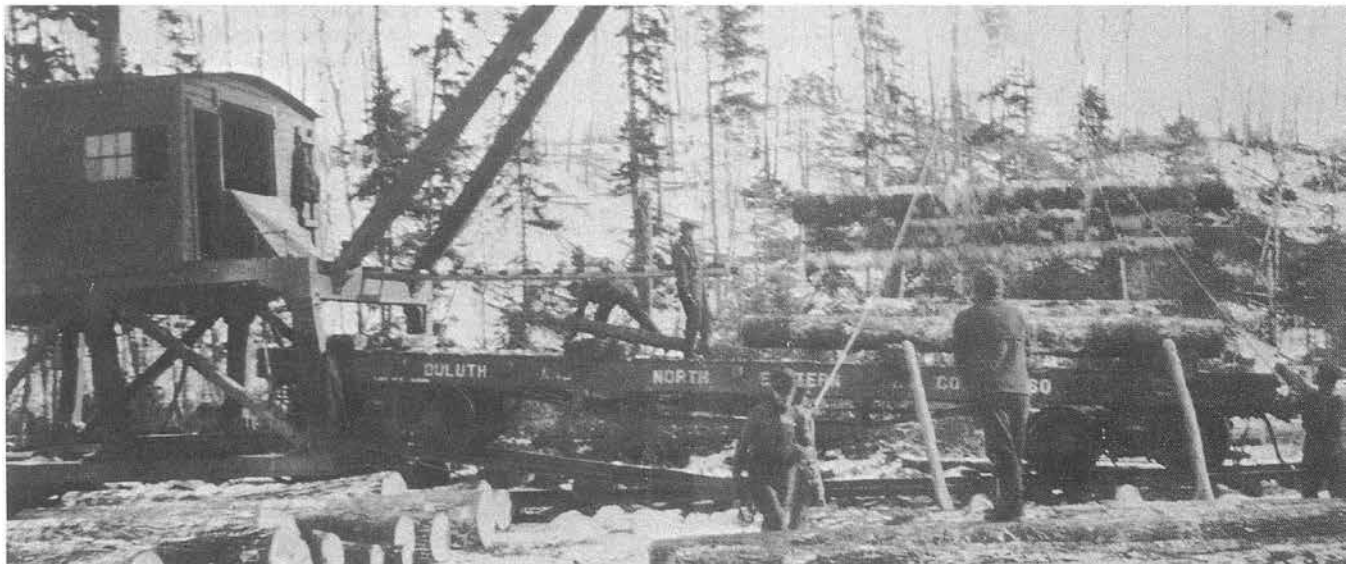
part of Minnesota. In the western part of the state a jammer that slid along the top cars was used.

A loading crew consisted of two “hookers” – men who hooked the logs – two men with cant hooks rolling logs to the hookers (tailing down), a top loader and an engineer who operated the jammer. All members of the loading crew were usually the highest paid in the operating end of railroad logging. It was always a treat to watch a well trained loading crew at work.

Many companies had special cars for hauling pulpwood, known as “rack flats,” with stakes at each end of the cars. Cedar poles were loaded on flat cars; ties and cedar posts in box cars. Most of the log cars were 40 feet long and some of the pulp cars only 36 feet in length.



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